

October 2019

Dear parent/ guardian

The first half term of this new academic year has flown by and much has been achieved by all. I thank you again for your continued support to your child's progress in school. I have some points of information to share with you.

1. Settling in evening

It is lovely to see how well our new Year 7 pupils have settled in. They are a wonderful cohort of pupils and already seem very comfortable in their new surroundings. Our Year 10 and Year 12 pupils are also well in to their new courses. There will be a settling in evening on November 7th to discuss with you as families how our Year 7, 10 and 12 pupils are progressing. Further details to follow!

2 Attendance

I wish to remind you of the importance of an excellent attendance record for your child. Statistics show that pupils who constantly miss their lessons underperform, therefore please make every effort to get your child to school every day. Please follow the school's protocol and contact us every morning if your child is absent. Can I also remind you that school term holidays are noted as unauthorised absence.

3. Pupil drop off and pick up protocols

As you are aware, the area around the main school gate becomes very busy at the beginning and end of the school day. To help alleviate congestion and improve the health and safety of our pupils, could you please refrain from dropping off/picking up your child at the school gate. Please drive up to the car park to do this. Please do not park at the side of the road off Margaret Street because a large number of pupils use this as their entry/ exit route to and from school.

4. Parental Improvement Programme (PIP)

One of the highlights of this half term has been the parental workshops held in school as a result of a survey sent to parents last academic year. The first workshops held in September prioritised discussing our strategies on bullying. The second set will look at how we communicate with you at home. These workshops will be held on October 22nd at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m with refreshments provided. A warm welcome to all. We have exciting news for you! We have released a new SIMS Parent app with a wealth of features designed to improve home-school communication. SIMS Parent app replaces the previous Xpressions app for parents. If you have not yet received an activation code by email or require further information on how to download the app, please visit the homepage of the school website (www.dyffrynaman.org) for full details. Alternatively, please do not hesitate to contact the school for support.

5. Estyn visit.

We look forward to welcoming a team of Estyn inspectors to school on November 4th -7th 2019. We hope you had an opportunity to respond to the parental questionnaire online. If not, there will be another opportunity for parents/ guardians to meet with inspectors on November 4th at 5 p m in the school hall.

6. The School Development Plan (SDP)

As a school we have evaluated last year's performance and have created a list of priorities for the 2019-20 academic year. Please read the priorities below. If you wish to see the full plan please contact the school. If you have any comments, please contact me.

1. Improve progress of all pupils particularly in KS4 and KS5 resulting in improved performance in key performance indicators.
2. Develop the wellbeing and attitudes to learning of all pupils.
3. Pilot elements of the new curriculum for KS3 learners in-line with the new curriculum for Wales 2022.
4. Develop the quality of learning & teaching, providing purposeful opportunities for learners to improve their numeracy and digital competency skills across the curriculum.
5. Develop a tracking system to identify learner skills deficits to better support the needs of all learners
6. Develop the quality of leadership to increase levels of accountability and improve self-evaluation processes

Enjoy the half term break!



Nerys Nicholas
Headteacher