

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome back to Ysgol Dyffryn Aman to all our students after nearly completing their first month of the new academic year. It has been an exciting start to the year, and I would like to share some important updates and developments with you.

First and foremost, I am delighted to have welcomed our new Year 7 to Dyffryn Aman and it's been great to see them settle in quickly to school routines. I also want to mention the return of Y12 students to our thriving 6<sup>th</sup> Form, making it our largest cohort in recent times, with nearly 140 students joining our school community. This is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our students and staff, and we are thrilled to support them on the next steps of their academic journey. Exciting developments are on the horizon for our new "Canolfan y 6ed" (6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre) with a student-informed revamp imminent, creating a conducive and inspiring environment for our senior students. For further information on 6<sup>th</sup> Form related aspects, please see this [letter](#) from Mr Hagget, shared earlier this term.

### **Rugby Academy**

In the realm of sports, our new rugby academy program has kicked off with tremendous enthusiasm. The team had the privilege of receiving well-wishes in this [video](#) from none other than Jac Morgan, the captain of the Welsh National Team and proud past pupil of Dyffryn Aman. The team recently played against Newport High, and despite conceding a couple of late tries, they displayed outstanding sportsmanship, making us all proud. Be sure to support the boys in our first home game on 4<sup>th</sup> October against Neath and Port Talbot College.

### **Facilities**

Our commitment to providing top notch facilities is unwavering. I am pleased to report that the progress on our state-of-the-art 3G pitch and synthetic track is right on schedule, set to be completed in time for the next half-term. Installation of the artificial grass pitch and spray for the track will be starting soon. This means pupils at Ysgol Dyffryn Aman will have access to the latest and best sporting facilities, further enhancing their physical education experience.



### Standards

Our school target is to strive for 90+% pupil attendance. We have been hit recently by a bout of illness which means our attendance figure so far this term is slightly below our target. As always, if pupils are able to come to school, please ensure they attend. I have been immensely proud of walking the school site and visiting classrooms over the past few days, seeing pupils wearing the school uniform with pride. I would like to thank you all for your continued support with this and a reminder to view the recent [video](#) shared by Mr Myers, outlining our expectations as we strive for excellence.

### Year 6 Open Evenings

A reminder of our upcoming open evenings on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October for prospective Year 6 pupils. This will be an excellent opportunity to engage with our teachers, explore our facilities, and learn more about the educational journey we offer at Ysgol Dyffryn Aman. For more information, please refer to this [letter](#) shared last week.

Finally, a reminder of our future INSET days for the remainder of this year. The school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Durbridge'.

James Durbridge

**Headteacher**