



Ysgol Gymraeg Gymraeg Pontybrenin

Heol Casllwchwr, Gorseinon, Abertawe, SA4 6AU

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Parents' Focus Groups 2024/25

Summary of issues raised by Parent Focus Group members – Spring term 2025

Lower School meeting date - 8/4/25

Parents Present: Miss Danielle Clayfield & Mrs Ceri Metcalfe - Day

Staff Present: Mrs Griffiths, Mrs D Williams, Mrs Owen & Mr Scourfield

1. Are there plans to hold a Parents Evening for the parents of Nursery pupils?

Response: The daily contact that the majority of Nursery parents have with the staff allows for regular, open and honest dialogue between the school and home. This summer term will see the parents of our 'Rising 3s' meeting formally with staff to discuss their child's progress and for the first time from September, the parents of all Nursery pupils will be invited to school for a Parents Evening to discuss their child's 'on-entry assessment'.

2. Can the dates of the sports days be shared with parents as soon as possible as many parents, including those who work shifts, need plenty of advanced notice?

Response: The dates of the sports days will be shared with parents in the termly overview which will be sent out during the first week after Easter. This will give parents approximately 6 weeks' notice.

3. Do parents of pupils in the Nursery run the risk of being fined if they take their children on holiday during term time?

Response: Whilst attendance is compulsory for pupils aged 5 to 16 and schools can issue Fixed Penalty Notices to the parents of pupils with regular, unauthorized absences, Nursery pupils are not subject to these. However, regular attendance at nursery is important for a child's development, particularly in respect of the Welsh language, and the school encourages parents to take their holidays outside of term time if possible.

4. How long do pupils in Year 1 have to eat their fruit and why can't pupils eat cereal bars during snack time?

Response: Following changes to the structure of the day in the Lower School, all pupils, including those in Year 1, have the freedom to eat their fruit and drink their milk or water at any time. Pupils are encouraged to eat fruit as

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opposed to cereal bars as these often contain nuts (due to pupils with allergies, we are a nut free school) and sugar. We are officially a 'Healthy School' and whilst children are taught that enjoying sweet treats occasionally is fine, eating a healthy and balanced diet can be achieved by substituting sugary snacks with fruit and vegetables.

*Please ensure that grapes are cut in half.

5. Is it possible to arrange specific parents' evenings for pupils with Additional Learning Needs as the regular parents' evenings are often too short to discuss everything?

Response: The school is proud of its open door policy and parents of all pupils, be they children with ALN or the general school population, are welcome to make an appointment to speak with their child's class teacher at any point during the year. This could be to discuss their progress, behaviour issues,

Upper School meeting date - 9/4/25

Parents Present: Mrs Abi Hobson

Apologies: Mrs Meryl Probert & Mrs Helen Gibbons

Staff Present: Mr Scozzi, Mrs Sartori & Mr Scourfield

1. Can the class pages on the school's website be updated regularly to show what the children are doing?

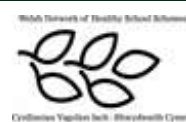
Response: There is clearly a disparity on the school's website, with some class pages having a lot of photos and examples of pupils' recent work and others having far less. The school will look to ensuring a consistent approach in what is shared on the website and ensure that each class updates their class' page regularly.

2. Can this year's Christmas concerts be scheduled to avoid Fridays in December?

Response: Whilst I appreciate that nobody would choose a Friday to hold a Christmas concert (the staff included), we are governed to some extent by the limited availability of the venues the concerts are held in. I'm pleased to say that we have succeeded in securing the use of Loughor Welfare Hall for all of this year's concerts, but Friday, December 12th is one of the dates we've had to agree to. However, with two concerts for each year group, hopefully

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everyone who wishes to attend their child / grandchild's concert can do so.

3. Will there be any opportunities for pupils in Year 3 to participate in rugby or cricket activities this year?

Response: As the weather improves and the playing field dries out, pupils in the Upper School will be partaking in more games such as cricket and rounders during the summer term. However, the vast majority of sports festivals and tournaments are targeted at pupils in Years 5&6 and even when we do have the opportunity of joining in a Year 3&4 activity, the sheer number of pupils across these year groups (131 children) result in Year 3 missing out. That said, we are looking to arrange some friendly matches with our neighbours at Pontybrenin Primary over the coming months which will give these pupils some competition.

4. Whilst there is a lot of school uniform without name tags / labels, even those items that are labelled are going missing and not being returned to pupils. Can anything be done to solve this problem?

Response: The school has eight Year 6 'Gang Gwisg Ysgol' (School Uniform Monitors) whose role is to return all lost items to their owners. Where the uniform has no name tag or label, it is placed on a hanger and put on a clothes rail which is situated outside the gate at the front of the school at the end of each day (weather permitting). Parents are encouraged to take these items, free of charge, as we are left with a mountain of unclaimed uniform at the end of the school year which has to be bagged and given to the clothes bank. Whilst we can't guarantee that clothing won't go missing, parents can minimise the chances of this happening by writing their child's name on everything.

5. The pedestrian gate at the bottom of the turning circle (not the gate to the school yard) is closed in the afternoon and whilst the bus drivers open the larger, vehicular gates, they don't open the pedestrian gate. Can this be rectified?

Response: Whilst the pedestrian gate is closed during the day, it's only locked overnight. It can be opened and closed with a simple pull of a spring loaded barrel bolt. Parents and grandparents arriving at the end of the school day to collect children can open the gate freely.

6. A number of Year 6 pupils have expressed their dissatisfaction that some of their peers run in from the yard and are always the first in the queue for dinner. Can this be stopped, with a fairer system put in place?

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Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pontybrenin

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Response: Following feedback from the autumn term Parents' Focus Group, pupils in the Upper School have both a timetable of which year groups go first, second etc but also a rota of which classes within these year groups line up first, second and third for dinner. Taking it further to an individual level would be far too time consuming, bearing in mind that we have almost 300 pupils eating lunch in little over an hour.

Thank you to everyone who contributed comments to these Parent Forums. We will try our best to address the concerns you've raised and hope that you'll notice improvements in these areas soon. If, however, you continue to have concerns or have any further comments or suggestions to make, then please do contact me at the school to discuss these.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ceri Scourfield
Headteacher

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