



Starting Secondary School



Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin

GENERAL INFORMATION

How are the classes formed?

Pupils will be placed in one of five, mixed ability classes of equal size in the first year. This will be done, based on advice from head teachers and teachers in the primary schools, in addition to information regarding a pupil's additional learning needs. When arranging Year 7 registration classes, the school understands the pupils' wish to be placed in a class with their circle of friends and the Head of Year will try to respond to those requests. However, parents and pupils need to be aware that this is not always possible, especially when taking into consideration a pupil's learning needs and the number of pupils transferring from primary schools during that year.

What subjects will my child study?

Your child will study the following subjects in Year 7:

- Languages, literacy and communication (Welsh, English and French); Humanities (History, Geography, Religious Education); Expressive Arts (Music, Art, Drama); Mathematics and Numeracy; Science and Technology (Science, Information Technology, Design and Technology); Health and Well-being (Physical Education).

One lesson every fortnight will also be allocated for Personal and Social Education. In addition, pupils will attend one Health and Wellbeing lesson.

How will my child be assessed?

At the beginning of the school year, pupils will be assessed to find out their learning needs. Throughout the year, teachers regularly assess the children's work, based on work completed for homework, class work and tests. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's work at a parents' evening during the year and a written report will be provided at the end of the summer term.

What about homework?

Each pupil will be provided with a personal organizer at the beginning of the school year. There is no charge for the organizer. Since September 2023, the school has been using a new digital system called Edulink One which acts as a digital organizer for pupils, as a record for homework tasks by teachers. It will also be a way of keeping in daily contact with parents in terms of behaviour and attendance. An app can be downloaded for the system which is a quick and accessible way of receiving information about your child e.g. trips, homework and end of term reports. Accounts will be available to pupils and parents and details will be shared with you in the new term.

What about homework?

The amount of homework set in the secondary school can come as a shock to pupils. In Year 7, your child may be expected to spend between 45 – 60 minutes per day on it.

You can help your child with this homework by:

- Checking Edulink to see what work needs to be done.
- allocating time away from the television for homework.
- helping to find a homework routine that's suitable for your child.
- talking to your child about the task.
- checking and signing your child's personal organiser on a weekly basis.
- encouraging your child to use various resources: library/web/lunch time homework club in the school: whichever suits your child best.
- praising your child for working hard.
- ensuring that your child has some homework free time every week.
- talking to the school about any issue relating to your child's homework.
- checking tasks that can be set digitally on Google Classroom.

Language medium

We would like to remind you that the official language of the school is Welsh. **We expect pupils to speak Welsh together at all times. School rules expect that pupils speak Welsh socially, in the classroom and during extracurricular activities.**

How can I stay in touch with the school?

Once your child transfers to secondary school it is possible that you will feel more isolated and out of touch with other parents and the school. You can stay in touch and learn more about the school's day-to-day activities by:

- download and check the Edulink app. The login details have been shared with you by email so that you can register your account. *We will be introducing a new system called Bromcom to replace Edulink during the Autumn Term. You will receive more information closer to the time.*
- looking at the school's social websites to have details of forthcoming events and attend as many as you can.
- contacting the school office 01267 234 829.
- contacting your child's Head of Year (Mrs Tracy Jenkins) to discuss any problems.
- looking at messages that are shared by email and on ParentPay. You will have new details for your child's ParentPay account at school but if you have a child in primary school or an older child in Pro Myrddin, they can all be combined into one account.

We also ask that you:

- follow the school's Facebook and Instagram pages.
- register with ParentPay in order to pay for your child's school dinner and trips.
- make sure that the school is aware of any changes in your home circumstances and that contact details are always up to date. You can inform the school of any changes via email to swyddfa@bromyrddin.org.

Why is regular attendance important?

The school maintains a very high level of attendance, with the support and co-operation of parents. We strongly believe that this is the way to develop attainment and to promote the academic success of every pupil in the school.

Therefore, we ask you:

- not to arrange holidays or family activities during the school term. If there is a specific event that is unavoidable, you can submit a written request to the Headteacher, asking for permission for your child to be absent from school, but we cannot guarantee that this will be granted;
- not to make medical appointments, where possible, during school hours. You will have to make a written request if your child has to attend such appointments and your child will have to ensure that a member of the Senior Leadership Team signs this.

If your child is absent from school due to illness, we ask that you, either phone the school on the morning of the first absence, or send a letter via your child to the form tutor on the first day they return to school. If this is not done your child will be registered as absent without permission.

We ask you to remind your child, if they are ill during the school day, that they go to the Health and Wellbeing Officer who will contact the home if necessary. Only members of the Senior Leadership Team, Head of Year or the Health and Wellbeing Officer who can give your child permission to go home if they are ill. **Pupils are not permitted to phone home themselves to arrange to be collected from school during the day.**

The school has a full-time Inclusion Officer on site who will deal with absences.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Ysgol Bro Myrddin prides itself on the standard of our pupils' uniform. We ask you, as parents, to support us in maintaining these high standards by ensuring that you buy your child a school uniform that fully complies with the school uniform rules and also to encourage your child to respect and follow these rules at all times. The items listed below are the only ones acceptable to the school.

- Black skirt, knee length (or at least 18 inches long). Short, tight, lycra skirts are not allowed
- Classic style black trousers. **NO BLACK JEANS, FLARES OR SKINNY FIT TROUSERS**
- Black tailored shorts in summer
- Official lilac blouse / shirt – long or short sleeves, regular or fitted style
- Official school tie
- Official school jumper – plain V-neck with school badge sewn in
- Thick black tights with a skirt. In the Summer term black / white ankle length socks (optional)
- Black / white socks with trousers
- Plain black shoes – trainers and canvas shoes are not allowed
- Dark coloured coat for outside wear
- Apron for technology lesson

SPORTS KIT

All items of your child's PE kit must be official school uniform.

- Black skirt or light shorts (very short and tight lycra shorts are not allowed);
- Rugby shorts;
- Sports shirt with lilac stripe;
- T-shirt with lilac stripe;
- Sports socks;
- Black leggings (optional);
- Sweatshirt (optional);
- Rain coat (optional);
- Trainers (trainers);
- Hockey / football / rugby shoes;
- Shin pads;
- Gum shield.

Pupils will be expected to change into PE / Sport kit for each sports lesson, even though there may be a letter to excuse them from the lesson's activities for medical reasons.

All your child's belongings must be labelled with their name.

BUYING SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform is available in the following places;

Evans & Wilkins company for all items of clothing. Clothes are sometimes available in charity shops in town. Online shopping is a possibility e.g. Amazon for the shirts, Trutex for skirts and trousers. Jumpers and skirts/school trousers can be purchased from Marks and Spencer and place a badge on the jumper by contacting the following companies;

Calon Custom Clothing – 07873 592 204 / caloncustomclothing@hotmail.com

Schoolwear 4 U – 07756 618 206

The price for putting a badge on a school jumper is between £4 and £5.

A ¼ zip hoodie or sweatshirt can be purchased for September via the following website;
<https://www.conquerteamwear.com/clubshop/ysgol-bro-myrddin>

The shop is open throughout the year but the window for ordering is open occasionally during the year.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

What equipment will my child need?

1. **SCHOOL EQUIPMENT** – pens, pencils, coloured pencils, calculator, ruler, protractors, compass, sharpener, glue, school bag of a **sensible size** etc.
2. **SCHOOL SPORTS KIT** – Your child will need to bring a sports kit for every sports lesson.

SCHOOL RULES

1. **JEWELLERY** – Items of jewellery such as rings, bracelets, chains, brooches are not permitted. Earrings must be in the form of one small, gold/silver stud in each ear. We suggest that the piercing of ears be done early in the summer holidays only, since earrings have to be removed for sports lessons. Pupils are not allowed to wear earrings in any other piercings. Members of staff have the right to ask a pupil to remove these if they break the rule.
2. **HAIR** – Extreme hair styles are not permitted, including shaving parts of the head or patterns into the hair/eyebrows. Hair colour should be natural, and any dyeing should correspond with that natural. Any hair slides or bands must conform with the school colours of lilac, grey or black.
3. **MOBILE PHONE** – Years 7-11 pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones or expensive items e.g. iPads or tablets to school. If for some reason it is essential that your child brings a phone to school, then it should be handed in at the main office and left there until the end of the school day. You should be aware that the school insurance will not pay for any damage or loss on the school site. Neither will the school accept any responsibility for loss or damage if your child chooses to wear an expensive digital watch to school.

All children understand that they have the right to put their phone at the start of the day in a dedicated box in the office and then collect it at the end of the day if they must have their phone for safety on the way in and home from the school. We have a zero-tolerance mobile phone policy. If a phone is found on your child, we will not return the phone to them until you come in to collect the phone in person from the school. You are asked to remind your child that the phone can be kept in a box in the office.

FURTHER INFORMATION

School activities

School activities are organised during the course of the year, and we expect all pupils to contribute to the best of their ability. Several of these activities are associated with Urdd Gobaith Cymru, therefore we hope that all pupils will become Urdd members during the Autumn term.

Travelling to school

If you have any difficulties please contact the Transport Officer for Schools and Colleges, Block 2, Parc Myrddin, Richmond Terrace, Carmarthen, SA31 1HQ (Tel No. 01267 234567).

School dinners

Lunches and snacks are provided at school. A full meal costs about £3.00. The Catering Department have been working on a plan to create a 3 week menu – more information will be shared with you closer to the time.

Pupils may choose to bring sandwiches, but no pupil is permitted to leave the school premises during the lunch hour except under special circumstances, after we have received a letter from parents. The school

uses the ParentPay system to enable you to pay for your child's school meals. You will need to activate your account before being able to start using it.

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin

**FOLLOW US ON OUR
SOCIAL
WEBSITES**



www.yggbm.org



facebook.com/yggbm



instagram.com/ysgolbromyrddin



Have you claimed all the support you can get with school costs?

The Welsh Government offers support with Free School Meals and School Essentials such as uniform, kit and stationery.

Make sure you've checked your child's eligibility for Free School Meals. Even if they receive Universal Primary Free Schools Meals, **more help** could be available!

If eligible:

- ☒ you can get up to **£200 per child** for School Essentials
- ☒ your school will get at least **£1,150 of extra funding**

Search "Get Help with School Costs"



HYSBYSIAD PWYSIG

Prydau Ysgol am Ddim ac Amddiffyniad wrth Pontio

Beth yw Amddiffyniad wrth Pontio?

Rhoddwyd Amddiffyniad wrth Pontio i bob disgybl a oedd yn derbyn prydau ysgol am ddim rhwng 2019 a diwedd 2023 i'w hamddiffyn yn ystod y newid yn y system fudd-daliadau i Gredyd Cynhwysol.

A yw eich plentyn yn destun Amddiffyniad wrth Pontio ar gyfer Prydau Ysgol am Ddim?

Os yw eich plentyn yn symud o ysgol gynradd i ysgol uwchradd a'i fod yn cael Amddiffyniad wrth Pontio ar gyfer prydau ysgol am ddim, bydd hwn bellach yn dod i ben ac ni fydd eich plentyn/plant yn cael prydau ysgol am ddim mwyach.

Beth sydd angen i mi wneud?

Os ydych yn credu eich bod yn gymwys i hawlio Prydau Ysgol am Ddim i'ch plentyn/plant, yna gwnewch gais nawr drwy fynd i [Brydau Ysgol am Ddim](#).

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Free School Meals and Transitional Protection

What is Transitional Protection?

Transitional Protection was given to all pupils on free meals between 2019 and the end of 2023 to protect them during the changeover in the benefits system to Universal Credit.

Is your child Transitionally Protected for Free School Meals?

If you child is moving from Primary to Secondary school education and they are Transitionally Protected on Free School Meals, this will now end and your child/children will no longer get a free school meal.

What do I need to do?

If you think that you are eligible to claim for Free School Meals for your child /children then apply now by going to [Free School Meals](#).

