



# Ysgol Gymunedol Llangatwg Llangatwg Community School

Main Road | Cadoxton | Neath | SA10 8DB

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your family are well and that you've had a good week.

This week's letter is slightly different to usual, as I feel it is important that we clearly reinforce our expectations for pupils in order to uphold the high standards we hold at Llangatwg Community School. I am writing to ask for your continued support with a number of key priorities. As always, our shared aim is to ensure that every pupil feels safe, supported and able to make the best possible progress in their learning.

Before outlining these expectations, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the many pupils who attend school regularly, work hard in lessons, wear the correct school uniform and consistently show respect to staff and their peers. These pupils uphold our values every day and are a real credit to both the school and their families.

However, there are currently some pupils who are not meeting these expectations. This includes irregular attendance, truanting lessons, wearing incorrect uniform, or showing a lack of respect towards others. In order to maintain a positive, safe and purposeful learning environment for all, it is essential that we address these issues together.

With the start of a new year comes the opportunity for a fresh start. This week, I spoke to pupils in assembly about the importance of making positive changes, setting personal challenges and understanding that it is never too late to improve. I have been encouraged by the number of pupils who have shared their New Year's resolutions with me and the thoughtful goals they have set for themselves.

Below is a reminder of our **core expectations as a learning community**. We ask that you support us by discussing these with your child at home.

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## Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital for pupils' academic progress, wellbeing and personal development. Every day matters, and even small amounts of missed learning time can quickly add up over the course of a year.

Next week, every pupil will receive a letter outlining their current attendance percentage. We kindly ask that you read this letter carefully and discuss it with your son or daughter. Where attendance is lower than expected, early conversations and support can make a significant difference.

If you are experiencing any difficulties that are affecting your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Mrs Irene Brown is our new Attendance Officer and will be happy to offer support and guidance. As a school, we are always willing to work in partnership with families.

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## Internal Truancy

We are currently seeing an increase in internal truancy, where pupils are present on site but do not attend their scheduled lessons. This has a serious impact on learning and pupil safety.

From this point forward, if a pupil truant a lesson, a **half-day fixed-term exclusion** will be issued. In these cases, parents and carers will be required to make arrangements to collect their child from school. It is vital that we tackle this together so that pupils do not miss out on learning opportunities and we can ensure everyone's safety. Your support in reinforcing the importance of attending all lessons is crucial.

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## Uniform Expectations

At Llangatwg Community School, our uniform policy is deliberately more relaxed than many other schools, recognising that pupil comfort supports effective learning. We do not require pupils to wear shirts, ties or blazers. However, we do expect pupils to wear the agreed school uniform correctly and with pride.

Recently, there has been an increase in pupils arriving at school wearing hoodies. Please note that hoodies are **not permitted** as part of the school uniform.

Moving forward, if a pupil attends a lesson wearing a hoodie and refuses to remove it when asked, the item will be confiscated in line with our uniform and

behaviour expectations. Full uniform details can be found in the '**Notices**' section of this letter. We appreciate your support in ensuring pupils arrive at school appropriately dressed each day.

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### **Mobile phones**

Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones during lessons. Currently, pupils may bring mobile phones into school and are allowed to use them **during break and lunchtime only**. At all other times, mobile phones must be switched **off or set to silent** and kept **out of sight in bags**.

If a pupil refuses to put their mobile phone away when instructed during a lesson, the phone will be confiscated and can be collected by the pupil at the end of the school day.

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### **Working Together**

We greatly value our partnership with parents and carers and believe that working together is the most effective way to support our young people. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to maintain high standards and provide a calm, safe and purposeful learning environment for all pupils.

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### **Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening – Monday, 19th January**

On Monday, 19th January, Year 9 parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet with their child's teachers to discuss progress and subject option choices for next year.

An **options talk** will take place in the hall at **4.00pm** and will be repeated at **5.00pm** to allow as many families as possible to attend.

The booking system is now live. For option subjects, selected members of staff from each subject area will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Currently, around **67% of Year 9 parents and carers have booked to attend**. If you have not yet done so, we strongly encourage you to confirm your attendance, as this is a vital opportunity to support your child at an important stage in their education.

Please use the link in the **'Notices'** section of this letter to book your appointments. Messages regarding this have also been shared on ClassCharts.

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### **ClassCharts Superstars**

Once again, we're incredibly proud of our pupils who have displayed our values this week, with a fantastic number of positive ClassCharts points awarded across every year group. It's been wonderful to see so many pupils recognised for their hard work, positive attitude, and contributions to school life. A special congratulations goes to our **ClassCharts Superstars**—the pupils who earned the highest number of points this week. Well done to each of you for setting such a brilliant example!

#### **Year 7** ★

Carli Rai, Bailey Williams and Maisie Thomas

#### **Year 8** ★

Ariana Davies, Kye Elliston and Mason Lewis

#### **Year 9** ★

Georgina Holden, Sophia Millward and Finley Phillips

#### **Year 10** ★

David Baker, Natalia John and Macey Roberts

#### **Year 11** ★

Harley-May Pitman, Mia Johnson and Tilly Davies

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### **Notices:**

1. Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening – Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January. You will have the opportunity to speak with your child's teachers about the progress they are making and option choices. There is also an options talk in the hall at 4pm and repeated at 5pm. The booking system is now live. For the

option subjects, selected members of the subject will be available for you to speak to. The link to book is below and has been sent out on ClassCharts:

[SchoolCloud - Llangatwg Community School](#)

2. **Year 11 Science Practical examinations: January 20<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>** – please ensure your son/daughter attends school during this period as these examinations count towards their final GCSE grade!
3. **Year 10 English group Discussions: January 22<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>** - please ensure your son/daughter attends school during this period as these examinations count towards their final GCSE grade!
4. **Uniform Reminder:** All pupils are expected to arrive at school in full and correct school uniform. If this is not the case, you will be contacted and asked to bring the appropriate uniform to school. Uniform expectations are as follows:
  - Plain white polo shirt (with or without the school badge).
  - Green V-neck or round-neck jumper with the school badge.
  - Plain black trousers, long length plain black shorts or thick black leggings (no motifs). Skirts may also be worn.
  - Plain black school shoes or plain black trainers.
  - Coats of any colour can be worn around the school site but must be removed in class.
  - *Note:* Hoodies are not permitted.

**Uniform Supplier:** Branded uniform can be purchased from Sportec (opposite Dŵr-y-Felin School) or online via:

👉 <https://www.sportec.co.uk/products/school-uniform-shop/secondary-schools>

5. **Facebook page:** If you haven't already done so, please follow us on Facebook by searching for Llangatwg Community School:

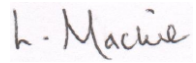


We'll be using this page to celebrate our pupils' achievements both in and outside of school. If your son or daughter has accomplished something special outside of school—whether in sports, the arts, volunteering, or any other area—we'd love to hear about it! Please feel free to get in touch and share their story.

We always enjoy celebrating the successes of our pupils and showcasing their talents.

Thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Mackie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Lauren Mackie  
Headteacher  
Llangatwg Community School

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