

# CROESO I FLWYDDYN 13

## Year 13 Welcome Evening

Information and guidance for parents and carers

**Supporting students through a successful final year**

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What Year 13 is really about

## Academic progress

- Completing courses and preparing for final assessments
- Independent study becomes increasingly important
- Meeting deadlines and acting on feedback

## Independence

- Students take greater responsibility for their choices
- Planning ahead is essential
- They should ask for help when they need it

## Next steps

- University, apprenticeships, employment or other pathways
- UCAS and applications need careful attention
- Results Day is the final milestone

**The aim: strong results + a clear plan for what comes next.**

## UCAS

- Students research courses and make informed choices
- Personal statements are now structured around key questions
- Applications, references and deadlines need careful attention
- Parents can discuss options — not choose for them

## University

- Courses vary in content, assessment and entry requirements
- Consider location, accommodation and costs
- University involves greater independence
- Open days and course information are valuable

**Encourage your child to compare courses carefully and choose what suits their interests and goals.**

## **Tuition fees**

- Tuition Fee support is available through Student Finance Wales
- Students normally apply before starting university
- Check the current arrangements for the year of entry

## **Living costs**

- Accommodation, food, travel and everyday spending
- Budgeting becomes an important life skill
- Discuss realistic costs with your child

## **Support**

- Student Finance Wales provides official guidance
- Universities also offer financial advice
- Use official information rather than social media

**The important message: understand the costs before making a decision.**

## **What is an apprenticeship?**

- A job combined with structured learning
- Students earn while they learn
- Training can lead to recognised qualifications

## **Degree apprenticeships**

- University-level study combined with employment
- Available in a range of sectors
- Competition for places can be high

## **Parents can help**

- Research opportunities early
- Check entry requirements carefully
- Consider employer, role, training and location

**University and apprenticeships are different routes — neither is automatically right for everyone.**

## What works?

- Regular, short revision beats last-minute cramming
- Past papers and exam questions are useful
- Revisit difficult topics and act on feedback
- Build revision around a realistic timetable

## Parents can support

- Provide a quiet space where possible
- Protect study time and routines
- Encourage sleep, food, breaks and fresh air
- Ask 'How is revision going?' rather than constantly checking

**Support the routine — the student must still own the revision.**

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Practical ways parents and carers can make a difference

## Encourage

- Talk positively about goals and next steps
- Praise effort, organisation and progress
- Encourage students to ask teachers for help

## Keep an eye on

- Attendance and punctuality
- Deadlines, applications and appointments
- Changes in motivation or routine

**The most useful support is often calm, consistent encouragement.**

## Attendance matters

- Every lesson contributes to learning and preparation
- Good attendance supports progress and routines
- Punctuality is part of being ready for learning
- Concerns should be addressed early

## Looking after wellbeing

- Year 13 can feel demanding
- Encourage healthy routines, sleep and breaks
- Keep communication open
- Encourage students to speak to someone if they are worried

**Asking for help is a strength, not a failure.**

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Results Day and moving on

## Results Day

- Collect results and check what they mean
- Have a plan — but be prepared to adapt
- Speak to school staff if advice is needed

## If university is the plan

- Confirm the place if requirements are met
- Clearing may provide other opportunities
- Seek advice and check options

## If plans change

- Apprenticeships, employment, further study or a gap year may be options
- A change of plan is not necessarily a setback
- Focus on the next sensible step

**The goal is not one particular destination — it is a positive, realistic next step.**

## Questions to ask your child

- What are you working towards this year?
- What are your plans after Year 13?
- What deadlines are coming up?
- What support would help you?

## Useful reminders

- Keep in touch with school communications
- Encourage attendance, organisation and revision
- Use official UCAS and Student Finance Wales information
- Talk to us early if you have a concern

**Thank you for your support of our Year 13 students.**