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Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe
Heol Gwyrosydd
Penlan
Swansea
SA5 7BU

10/03/2026

Dear leaders and staff,

Interim Visit: February 2026

Thank you for your support during the interim visit to the school on 5th and 6th February 2026. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, your staff and pupils and hear more about the improvement work the school has undertaken since the core inspection.

During the visit, we had an opportunity to:

- hold discussions with leaders and staff about their self-evaluation and improvement work and their work to improve pupils' oral standards
- talk to pupils and listen to their feedback about the school
- visit a small sample of lessons in subjects across the curriculum
- scrutinise a sample of pupils' work
- scrutinise a sample of relevant school documentation
- undertake work scrutiny activities and lesson observations jointly with leaders and discuss the main findings of these activities

Focus 1 – How effective are self-evaluation and improvement planning processes?

During our visit, it was good to hear about the way in which leaders have continued to maintain and strengthen further the self-evaluation processes which are embedded firmly in the culture of the school. We saw that the school has a clear procedure for evaluating its work through activities such as lesson observations, scrutiny of work, seeking pupils' views and considering data. We heard from leaders how they triangulate evidence from

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the different sources to gain a clear picture of the school's strengths and areas for development.

It was encouraging to hear from middle managers about their full involvement in evaluation processes, giving specific examples of how changes following these evaluations have led to improvement. It became clear that leaders at all levels evaluate the school's work according to its effect on pupils' progress and achievement. As a result, this enables leaders to act more strategically and take ownership of ensuring improvement in their specific areas.

It was also good to hear that middle leaders value meetings with their line managers as useful opportunities to discuss departmental improvement plans and pupils' progress. It was interesting to hear about the regular professional meetings, 'Timau Academaidd' (Academic Teams), where core and non-core leaders discuss standards and outcomes with senior leaders.

We saw that there is a link between the findings of the school's self-evaluation processes and the main whole-school and area priorities. We heard that leaders conduct beneficial training on important aspects of teaching and learning and that there are regular opportunities for staff to share good practice. Staff value the professional development opportunities and the choice of offer that is specific to their areas of development.

It would be useful for the school to consider:

- Are the areas for improvement detailed enough to enable teachers to identify the specific skills that pupils need to improve?

Focus 2 – How has the school approached raising pupils' oral standards?

During the visit, it was useful to hear how leaders have placed an emphasis on raising pupils' oral standards across the school. It was interesting to hear that developments in this area have been informed by the findings of members of the oracy research team.

We heard how teachers have benefitted from the training of the 'Tafodau Tawe' programme, which provides strategies they can use to support pupils to improve their oral standards. Strategies include using a variety of resources, such as discussion mats, for pupils to structure their oral responses. In the lessons visited, we saw teachers giving pupils sufficient time to think and to share ideas with a partner before responding in a class discussion. It was also good to hear pupils talk positively about this development and the fact that they feel more confident to contribute orally as a result.

It was interesting to hear about the way in which leaders identify those pupils who need support to communicate orally and provide interventions for them. The school has also

worked on developing reading aloud within the class to increase pupils' confidence in their oral work further.

It would be useful for the school to consider:

- To what extent do teachers further develop and enrich pupils' oral standard?

Thank you once again for all of your support in planning and organising our visit. We wish the school well.

The school's most recent core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:

<http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6704078>

Yours sincerely



Lowri Jones

Acting Assistant Director