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- ... AND MORE

A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER



Mr Gareth T.M. Jones

A warm welcome back to school to all our pupils after the long summer holidays. A special 'croeso' to the 63 pupils in Year 7. There are 380 pupils this September at Ysgol Botwnnog. Our wish is for a happy and successful year for all our pupils.

This is the first bulletin of the new school year. It is intended to provide information for parents / guardians and contribute towards an effective close partnership between the school and home.

Expect a bulletin at the beginning of each term.

STAFF

Welcome to the new staff

Mr. Cai Boardman – Physics; Mr. Gareth Hodgson – Physical Education.

Changes

Mrs. Melissa Minnice – Head of English;

Mr. Geraint Williams – Maths (Autumn Term);

Mrs. Angela Rhydderch – Welsh (during Miss Awen Griffith maternity leave).

We wish Miss Iola Jones (Maths, Business Studies) and Mr. Ieuan Williams (PE) a long and happy retirement.

Best wishes also to Mrs. Mair Evans (Science). We thank them for their contribution to the school.

PROBLEM? QUESTION? COMPLAINT?

Please contact the school on 01758 730220 should you wish to discuss any matter concerning your son / daughter. A meeting with the Headmaster can be arranged at short notice. We aim to deal with any query within 24 hours.

SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Matters of safety are of paramount importance. Parents of course are welcome to visit the school but should contact the school beforehand to arrange a meeting. **All visitors should report to the main office on arrival at school.** Visitors are then given identity badges. Please contact the Headmaster rather than attempt to contact the teachers directly.

Our aim is to provide a safe working environment for our pupils and staff whilst continuing to ensure an **effective relationship with parents and visitors.**

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We thank you as parents for supporting our school uniform policy.

At the start of a new school year it is pleasing to report that all our pupils are wearing the proper school uniform and are tidy and smart. Every pupil in school now wears either black shoes or trainers - thanks to your support and co-operation. (Black trainers are on sale in 'Llyn Sports' and in Abersoch).

For the boys—black trousers (not black denim or cords).

For the girls—black tailored trousers or plain black school skirt of a reasonable length **with black tights.**

As we head towards Autumn and Winter we would like to emphasise that pupils should not wear any jacket or coat within the school building as a replacement for the official school sweatshirt. Black coats should be removed as pupils enter the school buildings.

Pupils are not permitted to wear

(i) **bracelets, arm bands or necklaces / chains.**

(ii) **silver or brightly coloured belts.**

Please contact the school should you need information concerning the county school uniform grant.

We always aim for high standards in work and behaviour at Ysgol Botwnnog. Only by working together - teachers, parents and pupils can we properly achieve these aims.

Thank you for your co-operation and for supporting the school.

School uniform is available from the school office at any time during the year. Please contact Mrs. Nerys Williams, the School Secretary.

REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Regular attendance is essential if pupils are to take full advantage of the educational opportunities presented to them. In order to improve overall attendance in school, we have adopted a **first day contact system.** We ask you to take the following steps when your child is absent:

We would like you to phone the school on 01758 730220 or e-mail to pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk between 8.00 and 9.15 a.m. on the first morning that your child is absent.

If the school has not received a call by 9.15 a.m. explaining why your child is not in school, we intend to contact the home or work place. Full attendance can make a real difference to your child's educational achievements.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS DURING THE SCHOOL TERM

We have received guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government on the issue of family holidays from school. The school does not support the removal of pupils during the school term. Could you please try to avoid doing so. The school is also aware that many parents because of the tourism industry in Llyn ar are unable to take holidays during the official school holidays. To discuss this matter please contact the school.

Pupils in year 10 and 11 should not go on holidays during the school term. **They should not miss school to go on holiday in such a crucial year.** If parents take year 10 or year 11 pupils from school during the term then the absence will be marked as 'Unauthorised Absence'.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the pupils listed below who had a 100% record for attendance last school year.

- 8 Madrun –** Fflur Parry-Hughes.
- 8 Meillionydd –** James Brookes, Cerys Jones, Tomos Siôn Jones, Now Williams.
- 8 Mellteyrn –** Eiliw Jones-Evans.
- 9 Madrun -** Cadi Jones, Gwawr Williams, Lleucu Williams.
- 9 Meillionydd –** Hari Fitzpatrick, Nathan Miller, Osian Morgan.
- 10 Madrun –** Joseff Jones, Lois Thomas.
- 10 Mellteyrn –** Finn Evans.
- 11 Madrun –** Laura Brookes.
- 11 Mellteyrn –** Jac Jones.



Pupils received a £10 prize. 7 Madrun were the class with the best overall attendance rate for 2013 / 2014.

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE
Some pupils receiving a certificate and prize for their excellent attendance last year.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PUPILS

The school / County Council / press from time to time may want to take photographs of pupils / school activities. These may be printed in **Llanw Llŷn** or local newspapers or shown in school publications or on school / county council website, or for assessing oral and practical work. **Could you please inform the school if you do not want your child to be photographed in school.**

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2014

Good results yet again this year. 83% (89% in 2013) of Year 11 pupils passed 5+ GCSE's grades A* - C. 100% passed 5+ GCSE grades A* - G (99% in 2013)

These percentages are considerably higher than county and national percentages. Congratulations to all the pupils for their hard work. A special thanks also to teachers and parents for preparing pupils so thoroughly and supporting them for the last two years. Thank you cards sent by the pupils and parents were much appreciated.

HOMEWORK

You will receive the Homework Policy / Timetable. Your support in ensuring that your son/daughter completes homework is essential. **The pupils that keep to the Homework timetable usually succeed in the GCSE examinations.**

HOMEWORK CLUB

Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon 3.30 - 5.00 in the Library and IT Resource Centre. An opportunity for pupils to complete Homework, coursework, Projects, and have extra lessons (e.g. Maths, English). The majority of pupils who took advantage of this service last year gained a C grade (rather than a D grade!). The school mini bus provides a free taxi to the home.

SCHOOL PRIZES 2014

IDRIS WILLIAMS SHIELD - "Model Citizen"

Demi Davies and Wil Chidley, Year 11.

SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

Magi Hughes, Year 11

GLYN JONES MEMORIAL CUP - RUGBY

Iwan John Griffith, Year 11

GOLF SHIELD

Tom Froom, Year 10.

LEWIS ROBERTS MEMORIAL PRIZE

Excellence in Science, Maths, Technology – James Pearson, Year 11

LIVERY GUILD AWARD Outstanding Pupil

Mari Evans and Lois Llywelyn Williams, Year 11

DEWI WYN TROPHY - Year 7 Football

Meillionydd Hotspurs



SCHOOL GOLF CHAMPION
Tom Froom (Yr 11) with the Golf Shield. Tom is tasting success on a national level as well as locally.

SCHOOL PUPIL COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected to serve on the Pupil Council for this school year:-

Bl.	Madrun	Meillionydd	Mellteyrn
7	Keirion Williams Elin Owen	Tomos Dobson Megan Lily Jones	Angharad Hughes Tomos Hughes
8	Huw Jones-Evans Mari Lois Evans	Beca Hughes Ioan Parry	Ela Parri Jack Scott
9	Ruben Chorlton Owen Mari Elin Jones	Harri Fitzpatrick Cari Fuller	Rhydian Rees Jones Eluned Hughes
10	Tara Thomas Tomos Davies	Rebeca Rice Hughes Ifan Siôn Hughes	Non Owen Mathew Alan Jones
11	Tomos Turtle Mirain Brady	Bedwyr Williams Gwenllian Evans	Lea Pugh Heledd Huws

CALENDAR - IMPORTANT DATES

AUTUMN TERM (2014) **September 2 - December 19**

Half Term Holidays October 27 - 31

Christmas Holidays Dec 22, 2014 - Jan. 2, 2015

SPRING TERM (2015) **January 5 – 27 March, 2015**

Half Term Holidays February 16 - 20

Easter Holidays 30 March – 10 April

SUMMER TERM (2015) **April 13 – July 17**

May Day- Monday 4 May, 2015

Half Term Holidays 25 – 29 May, 2015

Summer Holidays..... July 20, 2015

INSET TRAINING DAYS (No school for pupils)

Monday, 6 October, 2014.

Friday, 24 October, 2014.

Friday, 30 January, 2015.

PARENT / TEACHERS MEETING

TUESDAY EVENINGS—4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Year 7..... November 4, 2014

Year 9..... January 13, 2015

Year 11..... January 27, 2015

Year 10..... March 3, 2015

Year 8..... March 17, 2015

EXAMINATIONS

OFFICIAL EXTERNAL

Mathematics, Set 2, Year 11 November 5, 2014 & November 10, 2014

Biology (resit) January 7, 2015

English Lit. (Yr 11)(resit)..... January 8, 2015

English Lang. (Yr 11)..... January 12, 2015

Chemistry (resit) January 13, 2015

Physics (resit)..... January 15, 2015

Year 11 (Art) 9 – 13 March, 2015

Year 11 (GCSE)..... May 11, 2015

Year 10 (Rel. Studies) May 11, 2015

Year 10 (English Lang)..... May 18, 2015

Year 10 (Business)..... May 20, 2015

Year 10 (Biology) June 9, 2015

Year 10 (Chemistry) June 12, 2015

Year 10 (Physics)..... June 15, 2015

Year 10 (History) June 16, 2015

INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Year 11 (Mock GCSE's)..... December 15 – 19, 2014

Years 7,8 9 and 10 June 22 – 26, 2015

Work experience for year 10 June 29 – July 3, 2015

Further information about examinations to follow. Dates are subject to some change during the year.

COUNSELLING SERVICE

This professional and confidential service is available to all pupils facing emotional difficulties. This

service makes it easier for young people to ask for help when they are upset, worried, confused or afraid, and responds to the diversity of issues and challenges faced by young people. The pupils, parents or staff may refer pupils to this service. Mrs Vida Kennedy is the School Counsellor in school every

Tuesday. To arrange appointments please contact Mr Geraint Hughes, Deputy Headmaster.

LEARNING COACH/PERSONAL ASSISTANCE /EXTRA HELP

Should your son / daughter need help with Homework and / or managing school work or help with school work in general please contact school. Professional help is available in school.

SCHOOL BOOKS

If you have books belonging to the school could you please return the books to school. (Library books or text books).

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR ON SCHOOL BUSES

We reiterate the importance of good behaviour when travelling to and from school.

Pupils must:

- Stay in their seat and not stand in the aisle or between seats
- Not throw anything in or from the bus
- Never damage or vandalise any part of the bus
- Not smoke
- Not bully other pupils
- Not distract the driver
- Wear a seatbelt if one is provided
- Never cross the road in front of or close behind the bus

Inform the school about any poor behaviour or bullying. The school has the authority to exclude pupils who misbehave from travelling to school on school buses. When a pupil is excluded from using school buses it is the parents responsibility to arrange transport to and from school.

A reminder - The Abersoch and Llanbedrog / Pwllheli buses are school buses and not service buses. These buses are for the use of pupils who travel daily from Abersoch or Llanbedrog / Pwllheli.

A copy of the Travelling Code can be obtained by contacting the school.



AFTERNOON OF ENTERTAINMENT

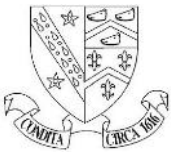
One of Yr 10's BAC groups putting on an afternoon of entertainment for pupils fro HAfod Lon School



EUROPEAN LANGUAGE DAY

Some pupils taking part in a special assembly to celebrate European Language Day and giving a warm welcome to Felipe—a new pupil who has joined us from Spain this year.

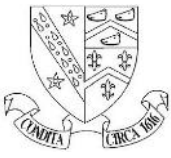
Bienvenido Felipe!



PUPIL QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMER 2014 RESULTS

THESE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE THAT WAS COMPLETED BY ALL THE PUPILS BEFORE THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

		☺	☹
1.	<i>I normally feel safe in school.</i>	99%	1%
2.	<i>I normally feel happy in school.</i>	93%	7%
3.	<i>The school deals well with any bullying.</i>	90%	10%
4.	<i>The changes to the changing rooms in the gym have made them more private and comfortable</i>	92%	8%
5.	<i>Staff treat me fairly.</i>	90%	10%
6.	<i>School buildings and equipment are clean and safe.</i>	92%	8%
7.	<i>Pupils are not provoked for being different.</i>	72%	28%
8.	<i>If you were worried about something to whom would you turn for help / advice?</i>	Teachers, Headmaster, Mr Geraint Hughes, Mr Minnice, Mrs Japheth, Miss Ffion Jones, Classroom assistants, Parents, Ms Kim Williams, Mrs Healy, Friends, School Nurse	
9.	<i>If you had a complaint you would go to see....?</i>	Headmaster, Mr Geraint Hughes, Mr Minnice, Mrs Japheth, Teachers, Classroom assistants, Miss Ffion Jones, School council, School Nurse	
10.	<i>Where would you locate the Complaints Box?</i>	Office, Hall, Library, In classrooms, Corridor, Gym,	
11.	<i>What is the code on the door locks?</i>	93% remember the code	
12.	<i>What do you think of the door locks?</i>	Good idea - 76% A nuisance but safer – 18% Unnecessary – 6%	
13.	<i>Any suggestions as regards Health and Safety issues in school?</i>	No climbing trees, Zebra crossing, Astro fence, Astro in the winter, everything's safe, metal frame in the hall, masks when burning sulphur, Nurse to be here more often	
14.	<i>During a normal school day does anything worry you, e.g. during registration, in lessons, during break of dinner, on school bus...</i>	Before tests and exams, on the bus home sometimes, astro fence - crooked, everything is good, some lessons, lessons involving oral work, I feel fine every day	
15.	<i>What are the best things about Botwnnog?</i>	Friends, Welsh is spoken naturally, problems are dealt with, a happy place, not much bullying, good lessons, dinner time, good teachers, extra help available, good lunch, kind staff, Astro, Library, rules, safety, it's quiet here, house games, good education, good results, tidy uniform, technology block, everything, classroom assistants are helpful, sports clubs	
16.	<i>Can you suggest any improvements to the school?</i>	The odd coat of paint is needed, locks on girls' toilets, less chewing gum, bullying on the buses sometimes, more buddies, basketball court, nothing, drain the playing field, more variety of food, less/no homework, bins & locks in toilets, rugby posts, shorts in the summer, school tie, different coloured socks, new toilets, new buildings, more lunchtime activities, rugby field, more trips, paper and soap in toilets, taps working, new computers, more footballs, more pupils' work on the corridors, "bring back sausage rolls", no black shoes, better heating in some rooms, foreign trips, clean plates, more food at the end of lunchtime, Year 8 buddies for year 7 – less intimidating	



SUMMER 2014 PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE RESULT

THESE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE COMPLETED BY OVER 140 PARENTS DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

		☺	☹
1.	<i>My child is happy at school</i>	98%	2%
2.	<i>Overall I am satisfied with the school.</i>	100%	0%
3.	<i>My child is making good progress at school.</i>	97%	3%
4.	<i>Staff treat my child fairly and with respect.</i>	98%	2%
5.	<i>My child is safe at school.</i>	99%	1%
6.	<i>The school deals well with any bullying.</i>	96%	4%
7.	<i>School buildings and classrooms are safe.</i>	99.5%	0.5%
8.	<i>The changes to the changing rooms in the gym have made them more private.</i>	96%	4%
9.	<i>I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, suggestions or a problem?</i>	98%	2%
10.	<i>If my child has a problem he / she is aware who he / she should contact.</i>	96%	4%

Further comments

- 8 Mad – *My child is very happy in school. She has improved and developed in her first year in safe environment. Good support from all members of staff.*
- 9 Mad – *Since I have not seen the changes to the changing rooms I am unable to comment.*
- 9 Mell – *Very happy with school / home contact, the positive emphasis on education, the opportunities, standard of teaching and the fact that my child is eager to learn.*
- 10 Mell – *(Answer to question 4) – Not all members of staff. Not every time.*
- 11 Mad – *I would appreciate information on the results of the recent language review.*

We wish to thank all the pupils and parents who completed the welfare questionnaires.

The results were very positive for all questions.

The questions listed below had a very positive response but not as positive as the other questions.

Please read the school's response:-

"Staff treat me fairly"

This is a priority throughout the school. Staff strive to treat pupils fairly and with respect. Should parents feel that this is not the case please contact the Headmaster or Mr. Michael Strain (Chairman of Governors).

'Pupils are not provoked for being different'.

In Personal and Social Education Lessons and in assemblies the staff will remind pupils of the main criteria of the school Equality Policy and Anti Bullying Policy. The vast majority of our pupils respect their fellow pupils.

Please contact the school to report any incidents of pupils disrespecting other pupils or bullying.

SUGGESTIONS BOX COMPLAINT BOX

Boxes for the use of the pupils are kept in the main office and in the Library.

We welcome suggestions from parents as regards further school improvements. As we continually strive to improve all aspects of school life and school performance we look forward to your suggestions – by telephone to the Senior Management Team – Gareth Jones, Geraint Hughes, Dylan Minnice (01758 730220) or send a note / letter to the school or to Mr. Michael Strain, Chair of Governors, or send e mail to:

pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk

We look forward to printing your suggestions in the Spring Bulletin.

‘EVERY CHILD COUNTS, EVERY DAY COUNTS’

During the past year at Ysgol Botwnnog we have been reviewing two aspects of school life and developing and improving our policies.

1. Attendance

Regular attendance (96%) is considered very important and without it all our efforts to provide high quality education would be futile. If a pupil is not present at school he / she can not learn or reach their true potential. Children who are not in school are missing education, social opportunities and experiences essential to develop life skills. Eventually, research has proven that this will lead to poorer results in the examinations.

Our attendance policy states that we can not authorize term time holidays for any pupil in Year 10 or 11, and only for 5 days, when in receipt of a written application letter in advance, in years 7, 8 and 9. Otherwise the absence will be recorded as unauthorised on your child's report.

All pupils have a target of 96% attendance over their 5 years at school. If attendance during this period falls only to 90% this is equivalent to missing half a year's lessons!

When your child is sick they must be kept home but only for the minimum time required to recover, otherwise if suffering from minor ailments such as colds or headaches they should be sent to school. Remember that the County Council have both a duty and responsibility to monitor your child's attendance and to act accordingly if it is deteriorating.

2. Equality

The right of each pupil to the best education without prejudice is core to our belief and at Ysgol Botwnnog we oppose all kinds of prejudice and differentiation and recognise that everyone has differing needs and aspirations.

At Ysgol Botwnnog we respect individuals whatever their:-

- Ethnic background
- Sex
- Age
- Marital Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability
- Religion (or atheism)
- Language
- Nationality
- Dependants

Our aims are to:-

- Create an ethos of safety and appreciation
- Create a feeling of self-respect
- Set high expectations of students and parents
- Give due consideration to learning needs
- Recognize clear strategies in response to incidents of differentiation
- Challenge stereotypes and prejudiced behaviour
- Promote positive images
- Reduce bullying year on year.

This is true of the Governing Body, Senior Management Team, all staff, visitors and contractors working at the school

A full copy of our policies on Attendance and Equality is available on the website, www.botwnnog.org or contact the Deputy Headmaster, Mr. G.O. Hughes, for further information.