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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER



Mr Dylan Minnice

### Happy New Year (Just a little late!)

I hope you all had a good Christmas.

Thank you for your support last term and your willingness to contact the school if you have anything to discuss.

Please remember you are welcome to contact us at any time.

## 1616 - 2016 CELEBRATIONS



2016 is a very important year in Ysgol Botwnnog's history as we celebrate the school's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

There will be numerous events during the year, including a Show, Concert and Gig. A book chronicling the school's history will also be published during the year - you can preorder the book at a reduced price by contacting school. More information about events will be published in the press and on the school website

Commemorative souvenirs including mugs, tea towels, shopping bags and notebooks can be bought from school.

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## YEAR 11

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The next two terms are crucial for Year 11 pupils as they prepare for their GCSE examinations and as they plan their future.

### EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Year 11 will be sitting EXTERNAL examinations (which WILL count towards their final grades) during the two terms.

You have already received a copy of January's timetable during the parents' evening in October. Here are the dates, just to remind you:.

#### JANUARY 2016 - YEAR 11

English Literature (Unit 1 - resit) .....	January 6
Biology (resit).....	January 7
Business Unit 2 (resit).....	January 7
English Language Unit 1—All Year 11 GCSE classes .....	January 8
English Language Unit 2—All Year 11 GCSE classes .....	January 12
Chemistry (resit) .....	January 12
ICT Unit 1 (Year 11 ICT class) .....	January 13
Physics (resit).....	January 14
Welsh Language Unit 1—All Year 11 GCSE classes.....	January 15

#### FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016 - YEAR 11

Catering Practical .....	February 1 and March 8 or 15
Art exam .....	March 7 and 8
English—Entry Level Certificate (Some of set 4 - Yr 10 and 11).....	March 14
Mathematics - Entry Level Certificate (Some of set 4 - Yr 10 and 11) .....	March 18

Summer GCSE timetable will be available on the school website on the 'Pupils' page.

### CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS (Coursework)

Controlled Assessments (previously called coursework) are important in most GCSE subjects. They count between 20% and 60% of the final mark in almost every subject. These are held throughout Years 10 and 11 in various subjects - from first lesson in Year 10 until May in Year 11. Most of these have to be completed within a specific number of hours under the supervision of a teacher - so if your son/daughter is absent from lessons then they will have to catch up, at lunchtime or after school.

### HOMEWORK CLUB

Every Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:00 there is an opportunity for pupils to stay at school in the Library and Resource Centre to complete work. A member of staff will be available to help them if needed.

Arrangements can be made for your son / daughter to stay in the homework club by contacting the school .

### WORK / COACHING ROOM

Pupils can take the opportunity to work at break / lunch in the Library or the Resource Room. They can also go to room 7 where they can get support from a staff member if they are struggling with their work.

### YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S PROGRESS

Year 11 pupils will receive a full report by the end of January - if you have any concerns regarding you son/daughter's progress then please contact us.

### YEAR 11 PARENTS' MEETING (PROGRESS MEETING)

An extra parents' meeting has been arranged for Year 11 on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## NEXT YEAR...

Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor/Menai's prospectus has been handed out to Year 11 pupils last term. A representative from the college will be in school in February to help the pupils complete the application forms. There will also be an opportunity to apply for apprenticeships

In the meantime, if they are unsure about their options, your son/daughter can request an appointment to discuss next year's options with Mrs Nia Parry - the school's Careers Wales Advisor.

You should have received information about open events at Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor and Menai directly from the colleges. Further information about these events are contained in the prospectus and also on their website:

<https://www.gllm.ac.uk/events/>

Summary:

Information Evening **Pwllheli**: ..... January 27 (18:00-20:00)

Information Evening **Dolgellau**: ..... January 25 (18:00-20:00)

"After GCSEs" evenings **Bangor**: ..... Jan 28, Mar 10, Apr 21, Jun 23 (16:30-18:30)

"After GCSEs" evenings **Llangefni**: ..... Jan 26, Mar 8, Apr 19, Jun 20 (16:30-18:30)

## SUPPORT FOR YOUR SON / DAUGHTER

At Ysgol Botwnnog we strive to provide the best care to every pupil and if your son/daughter is having a difficult time or have difficulties with work or welfare problems then we have a number of experts who can help them:

Mr Geraint Hughes ..... Deputy Headmaster / Welfare Officer

Mrs Alaw Jones Japheth ..... Girls' Welfare

Mr Dafydd Owen ..... Mentor / Assistant

Mrs Ann James ..... Learning Coach

Mrs Carol Pilling ..... Learning coach / Mentor

Mrs Vida Kennedy ..... Counsellor

Mrs Carys Hughes ..... Authority's Education Welfare Officer

If you would like us to refer your son/daughter to one of the above then please contact Mr Geraint Hughes.

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## SUPPORTING YOU SON/DAUGHTER WITH SCHOOL WORK

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- Show an interest in your child's school work and give support according to what he / she needs. Remember that good attendance is essential.
  - Discuss what has been going on every day and how you can help.
  - Look at your child's books to understand what work is being done. Help with learning by asking questions about the work.
  - Ask about your child's work/homework and set rules regarding its completion.
  - Talk with your child about expectations, what are their hopes regarding grades, and where would they like to continue their education/training. Encourage your child to do his best and to aim high.
  - Make sure your child has a quiet place to do schoolwork. Try to make sure that things like phones/computers/television don't disrupt your child doing schoolwork.
  - Help your child to organize his/her work, giving enough time for him/her to prepare for tests and examinations.
  - Try to understand the importance of controlled assessments and examinations to the structure of the GCSE courses. Make sure you know when there are tests, assessments and examinations.
  - Attend parents' meetings to discuss your child's work with the teachers.
  - If you are unsure about anything, or need advice please contact the school to talk to Mr Dylan Minnice or Mr Geraint O. Hughes.
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## SOME OF LAST TERM'S EVENTS

- Visit to Neuadd Dwyfor to see 'Drych' - a drama by Llŷr Titus Hughes (former pupil)
- Yr 11 Catering class filmed for 'Heno' programme on S4C
- Pwllheli Rotary Club Cookery Contest (Rounds 1 & 2) - Helena Griffith won and will represent the school in the North Wales finals held in Deeside in February
- Duke of Edinburgh Course - Plas Menai
- Year 7 trip - Getting to know Llŷn
- Guitar workshop at Plas Glyn y Weddw
- Visit to Art Exhibition at Plas Glyn y Weddw
- Duke of Edinburgh Course - Beacon Climbing Centre
- Parents' Association Craft Fair - over £1300 raised.
- 'Relationships' workshop - Cats Paw Theatre
- Year 11 Coffee Evening - £5000 raised for charity
- Visit to Teens4U centre with Christmas shoe boxes (over 50 were collected)
- Lab in a Lorry (Science workshops)
- 'Maximize Your Potential' workshops for Year 11
- Year 6 visits
- Ice skating at Deeside
- Christmas fair trip to Llanelwedd
- Music Department's Christmas Concert



S4C filming the Catering class



The winner of round 2 of Pwllheli Rotary Club's Cookery Contest, Helena Griffith, receiving her prize from Chris Chown (Judge) and David Watson (Pwllheli Rotary Club)

### Physical Education Successes

- Hockey team (U-16) 2<sup>nd</sup> in Meirion-Dwyfor Tournament  
3<sup>rd</sup> in Eryri Tournament
- Yr 9/10- Football team 3<sup>rd</sup> in Urdd 5 a side Tournament
- Rugby Team (U-14) Meirion-Dwyfor Champions
- Yr 7 Football Team Gwynedd Semi-finals
- Gymnastics Yr7 novice team 1<sup>st</sup> in Eryri Tournament
- Gymnastics Yr8 novice team 2<sup>nd</sup> in Eryri Tournament
- Eiliw Evans Yr7 1<sup>st</sup> Gymnastics (Novice)
- Jamie Ollerenshaw, Rhys Thomas and Cian Williams chosen for under 15 North West Wales rugby squad.
- Gwen Hughes, Lois Thomas and Alice Williams—members of Gwynedd under 16 hockey team.

A big thank you to every one for providing so many varied experiences for our pupils.

## THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association have, once again this year, been busy organising the Craft Fair. Despite the weather, the Fair was very successful and we raised £1284.15. The Association also organised the raffles for the Music Department's Christmas Concert rising a further £337, a big thank you to everyone who contributed towards the hampers for the raffle. All of this money will go towards buying educational resources that will benefit the pupils. The Money Raising Club is drawn once a term with a chance of winning up to £100. Are you a member—£12.00 a year (cheque made payable to school or direct debit order). Details available from Mrs Nerys Williams, the school's secretary - 01758 730220.

Antur Waunfawr's Clothes recycling bin has also been successful raising £308.70 last year. A big thank you to everybody who has supported these ventures.

If you would like to help the Parents' Association, then please contact school or one of the officials.

**2015/16 Officials:** Chair - Mrs Glesni Owen; Secretary - Mrs Carys Evans.

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## YEAR 11'S COFFEE EVENING

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Year 11's Coffee Night was a great success again this year. To raise money, we organized many different activities so that there would be something to suit everyone. We organised an activity which is always popular and entertains the whole school, namely 'Botwnnog's Got Talent'. There was keen competition with many of the pupils displaying a range of talents, but only one could win. This year the winner was Chloe Munnery who sang 'Love Song'. Congratulations to her.

This year, because of the weather, we only managed to hold two events outside, the five a side football tournament and the boys versus girls hockey game for Year 11. Well, that was what you call competitive! We held a number of activities in the gym including an obstacle race, waxing Year 11 boys and teachers' legs, and drinking horrible drinks challenge. Many pupils and staff took part in the activities and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for supporting us.

On the night, we were all nervous. We did not know how many people would turn up on a cold, wet night in November. But despite our concerns a large number of people attended - we could not believe it. Thank you very much to everyone who supported the evening and the earlier events. We were very lucky to have a former pupil - Anni Llŷn, now Wales' Children's Poet Laureate and presenter on S4C, to open the night. Many thanks to her.

We raised over £ 5,000 and all the money has gone towards charities or local projects.

We would like to thank all the committee, Year 11 pupils and the rest of the pupils, school staff and parents for supporting us on the night and in the run up to the night. Good luck to the next year's committee!

**Siwan Fflur Williams and Gruffydd Ifan Roberts**

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## PARENT / TEACHER EVENINGS

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Parent/teacher evenings have been arranged on the following dates, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. We will contact you before each meeting to see if you intend to be present. These are very important meetings in order to check on your son/daughter's progress.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 10	Year 11	Year 9
January 12	February 2	March 8	March 22	April 12

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## CONTACTING SCHOOL

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You can contact school in several ways:

 **01758 730220**

 **pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk**

or use the online contact form on the school's website

 [www.ysgolbotwnnog.org/eng/cysylltu.php](http://www.ysgolbotwnnog.org/eng/cysylltu.php)

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## STAFF

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### Best wishes

We wish Mr Deio Parri Jones all the best as he embarks on a new career. Many thanks to him for his hard work teaching Design and Technology and ICT at Ysgol Botwnnog since 2008.

All the best to Mr Dafydd Eurgain Jones in his new job with Gwynedd Council's Inclusion Department.

Thanks also to Mr Alan Wyn Jones for teaching English for a term during Mrs Sioned Medi Parry's maternity leave. Best wishes to him in his new job, teaching English at Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle.

### Welcome to new staff

A warm welcome to Mr Dion Bee who is teaching Design and Technology and ICT.

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## ATTENDANCE

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You have received a report on your son/daughter's attendance for last term with the interim report. It gives me pleasure to report that 41% of the pupils missed less than one day of school last term and that 86 pupils didn't miss a single day—well done!

Everyone's target for the year is attendance of at least 96%. This means not missing more than 8 days of school during the year.

<b>100%</b>	<b>97%+</b>	<b>96%+</b>	<b>93%+</b>	<b>90%+</b>	<b>85%+</b>	<b>Llai na 85%</b>
Excellent	Very Good	Good	Adequate	Causing concern	Needs attention	Unsatisfactory
0	No more than 6 days	No more than 8 days	No more than 13 days	No more than 19 days	No more than 29 days	More than 29 days

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## APPLICATION FOR HOLIDAY FAMILY DURING THE TERM

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Following guidance from the Welsh Government, the County Council has recommended that their schools authorize no more than 5 days holiday / visits for Key Stage 3 (Years 7,8,9 ) pupils and not to authorize any holiday at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11 ) during the school term.

We will adhere to this guidance at Ysgol Botwnnog. Any absences outside these limits shall be recorded as unauthorized absence. The Authority's Education Welfare Officer monitors unauthorized absences weekly and if there are 10 or more of them this could result in a fixed penalty notice .

Before going on vacation or other visits during the term parents should contact the Headmaster to receive permission to remove the child from school.

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## ABSENCE—INFORMING US

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To ensure that everybody who should be in school is present please contact the school on the first morning of absence so that we know if your son / daughter should be here or not.

We ask you to let us know if your son / daughter is absent by calling 01758 730220 between 8:00 and 9:15 .

If the school hasn't received a call by 9:15 telling us why your child is not in school, then we will contact your home or workplace.

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## ADVERSE WEATHER AND CLOSING SCHOOL

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If a situation arises that we have to close school for reasons beyond our control—weather, no electricity or water, etc; we will try to send a text message to every home to inform you. We can text message every home within minutes—so long as we have a valid mobile phone number.

We will also make an announcement on Radio Cymru between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and on the Council website - [www.gwynedd.gov.uk](http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk)

If we have to close school during the day and have to send pupils home for health and safety reasons we will follow these procedures:-

- i. pupils should return home on the school bus (if that is how they come to school)
- ii. pupils should then return to their home or the house of a relative or friend (according to your instructions).

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## ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

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There are major changes in this field on both Local and National levels—further information is available in the [Additional Learning Needs Newsletter—Christmas 2015](#). A paper copy is available from school should you require one.

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# **BEHAVIOUR CODE FOR PUPILS TRAVELLING ON SCHOOL BUSES**

## **— PART OF A NATIONAL POLICY**

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Your safety is very important. You must behave responsibly and safely when travelling to and from school or college, whether you go there by bus, train, taxi, bicycle, walking or any other way. If you get a bus to school or college, you must also follow the rules in the School Bus Travel Behaviour Code.

If you do not follow this Code, for your own safety, and other people's, local authorities, schools and colleges can take action against you. This might involve taking away your right to school transport and even excluding you from school.

### **School Bus Travel Behaviour Code**

- When at the bus stop, always wait sensibly, off the road.
- Make an agreement with your parents what to do if the bus does not arrive or if you miss it.
- When the bus arrives, wait for it to stop. Never push or rush for the door.
- Show your bus pass (if you have been given one) when you get on the bus.
- On a school bus stay in your seat for the whole journey.
- On a public bus find a seat if one is available.
- Never block the aisle with your bag or other belongings.
- Always wear a seatbelt if one is provided.
- You must not distract the driver when he or she is driving.
- Never eat or drink on the bus.
- Never throw anything in or from the bus.
- Never damage or vandalise any part of the bus.
- Never operate the bus doors or exits, except in an emergency.
- Always follow the instructions of the driver or passenger assistant at all times.
- If there is an accident, stay on the bus until you are told to leave. If it is unsafe to stay on the bus then leave by the safest exit.
- Never try and get on or off the bus until it has stopped.
- Always get off the bus sensibly, taking all your belongings with you.
- Never cross the road in front of or close behind the bus.

The complete policy can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Contact the school if you are concerned about behaviour whilst travelling to and from school.

**MISBEHAVING WHILST TRAVELLING ON A BUS COMPROMISES EVERYBODY'S SAFETY  
AND CAN LEAD TO YOU BEING BANNED FROM TRAVELLING ON THE BUS.**