



[www.ysgolbotwnnog.org](http://www.ysgolbotwnnog.org)



## IN THIS TERM'S BULLETIN

- ✓ CONTACTING US
- ✓ YEAR 11, 2017
- ✓ ATTENDANCE
- ✓ TERM TIME HOLIDAYS
- ✓ EXAM DATES
- ✓ OTHER IMPORTANT DATES
- ... AND MORE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER



Mr Dylan Minnice

A warm welcome back to a new school year to everyone. An especially warm welcome to the 76 pupils who have started in Year 7.

We will be sending you a bulletin every term to keep you informed about school activities.

If you have any queries please contact us.

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## CONTACTING SCHOOL

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If you have any concerns about your son/daughter's school life then please contact us:

 **01758 730220**

 **[pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk](mailto:pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk)**

Or use the online contact form from our website

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

We will try and respond to your concern within 24 hours.

## Visiting School

For security reasons all visitors must report to the main office as they arrive in school.

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## CONTACTING HOME

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We will send information to our pupils' homes quite frequently - information about important dates, activities, etc.

### E-mail

Whilst we still send paper letters, it is sometimes more convenient and reliable to send an e-mail or, in the event of an emergency, a text message.

To do this as conveniently as possible we would like you to check that the office has your correct email address.

If you have an email but didn't receive this bulletin on email then please could you send a message to - [pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk](mailto:pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk) to inform us. Please include your child's name and class.

### Text Messages

You should have received a text message from school informing you that this bulletin was on its way. If you didn't receive a text message then please call Mrs Nerys Williams or email [pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk](mailto:pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk)

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## STAFF

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### A warm welcome to new staff

To Miss Mared Huws who is joining the Welsh Department.

To Mr Hari Burford who will be teaching Science during Miss Catrin Davies' maternity leave. Congratulations to Miss Davies on the birth of a baby girl.

And finally to Miss Sioned Thomas who will be teaching History during Mrs Gwenllian Hughes-Jones' maternity leave.

### Best wishes

Best wishes to Mr Gwyn Hughes who has finished with us as ICT technician to concentrate on a career with Mad Sound. We thank him for his work over the past 14 years.

Best wishes also to Ms Kim Williams as she starts on her maternity leave - and welcome back to Mrs Lona Roberts during her absence.

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## MEDICATION POLICY

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If you want your son/daughter to take any medication in school you will need to **fill a consent form 3B**. Please remember that any medication is to be kept in the school office apart from an asthma pump (on occasions). The full policy and consent form can be downloaded from the school website (PARENTS - DOCUMENTS) or you can contact us to request a paper copy.

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## ADVERSE WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSURE

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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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## BULLYING

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When bullying occurs staff will strive to prevent further bullying. The school has an Anti Bullying Policy with strategies to deal with victims and bullies. We want our pupils to be happy and safe in school. We will not tolerate bullying. Pupils are aware that they can talk to Year 11 Buddies or members of staff to report on bullying.

As parents / guardians you can contact me or the deputy to discuss bullying or report on any incidences of bullying (bullying in school, on the bus, or through mobile or social networking such as Facebook, Twitter.)

**Bullying is not accepted in Ysgol Botwnnog** and dealing with bullying is a priority for staff. Posters by pupils on school walls remind pupils that bullying is wrong and not acceptable. Pupils and staff are responsible for maintaining a safe environment in the school.

You may also like to visit [www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk) or many other similar websites for further advice—links to these and other sites can be found in the Parents section of the school website <http://www.ysgolbotwnnog.org/eng/gwefannau-defnyddiol.html>

See also the article about police support on the back page of this bulletin.

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## ATTENDANCE

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Good attendance remains a priority. Your support helped us achieve 95% last year—our ambitious target is to improve upon this again this year.

**Regular attendance is essential for pupils to take full advantage of all chances provided for them.**

Congratulations to the following pupils who achieved an outstanding 100% attendance in 2016/17. A £10 prize was presented to each of these.

- 7 Madrun -** Josh Cullen\*, Kaitlyn Harper-Smith\*, Elain Jones\*
- 7 Mellteyrn -** Anni Roberts\*
- 8 Madrun -** Lisi Chidley\*
- 8 Meillionydd -** Elwood Mewes\*
- 8 Mellteyrn -** Morgan Parry
- 9 Madrun –** Erin Morgan\*, Elin Owen\*, Keirion Williams
- 10 Madrun -** Huw Jones-Evans
- 10 Meillionydd -** James Brookes, Morgan Jones, Tomos Sion Jones
- 11 Madrun –** Steffan Kelliher, Lleucu Williams
- 11Meillionydd -** Osian Morgan\* (100% attendance whilst at Ysgol Botwnnog)
- 11 Mellteyrn -** Nicole Loughrie

\* - hasn't missed a day of school since starting at Ysgol Botwnnog

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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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## APPLICATION FOR FAMILY HOLIDAY DURING THE TERM

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Directives from the Welsh Assembly via the Local Authority regarding the authorisation of school holidays during term time has changed.

In order for us to authorise any holiday during term time parents need to make a **written** application to school **before going on holiday**.

The school's Governing Body has discretionary powers, which have been deputed to the management team, to authorise term time holidays. This will depend on:

- the length of the absence and any previous holidays,
- the pupil's current attendance rate,
- the time of year,
- the effect on the pupil's educational progress,
- any disruption to assessments / examinations

If we are unable to authorise holidays beforehand then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised on the pupil's record.

**PERMISSION TO MISS SCHOOL DURING YEARS 10 AND 11 WILL ONLY BE GIVEN IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AS IT IS BOUND TO HAVE AN EFFECT ON YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S PROGRESS**

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## MOBILE PHONES

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There is permission to use mobile phones, in the hall only, during break time and lunchtime - to listen to music or play games. Mobile phones should NOT be used anywhere else. There is no permission to use them to accept or make calls or messages during school time. The phones should be kept in the pupils' bags, or, if desired, they can be kept securely in the office.

If any pupil breaks this rule the phones can be taken from them - they will get it back from the office at the end of the day. If a pupil continually breaks this rule then we will ask you to come to collect the phone.

The school does not accept any responsibility for damage or loss of mobile phones.

We strongly suggest that pupils do not bring their phones to school unless there is a real need - and to keep them safe at the office. If you need to contact your son / daughter during the day you can phone the office to get a message. In the same way, pupils can call home from the office in case of an emergency.

# YEAR 11 - 2017

## RESULTS—SUMMER 2017

This year 11's results were very good. 100% of Year 11 pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs. It's pleasing to hear that the vast majority have been able to move on to the next step of their career.

**Congratulations and best wishes to the pupils for their future. Thanks to the teachers and parents for preparing the students so thoroughly and supporting them over the last two years.**

**The cards and gifts that came from pupils and parents thanking the school are very much appreciated.**

## PROM 2017

Year 11 were given a chance to relax after exams at the Prom held at Nant Gwrtheyrn. A very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all and the school awards were presented.



PROM 2017

Everybody looking very smart before leaving for Nant Gwrtheyrn

## SCHOOL AWARDS 2017

### IDRIS WILLIAMS MEMORIAL AWARD - Good citizen award

Year 11 Coffee Evening Committee led by Hari Fitzpatrick

### SPORTPERSON OF THE YEAR

Gwen Hughes

### GLYN JONES MEMORIAL TROPHY- Rugby

Steffan Kelliher

### LEWIS ROBERTS MEMORIAL PRIZE

Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Technology

Llinos Tye

### URDD LIFRAI CYMRU AWARD - Most promising student

Luned Hughes



Llinos



Luned



Gwen



Steffan



Coffee Evening Committee

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## YEAR 10 AND 11

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The work accomplished during these two years could steer the course of the rest of your son/daughter's life. We are here to try, with your support, to ensure that every pupil is moving in the right direction.

### EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Year 10 and 11 pupils will be sitting EXTERNAL exams (which **WILL** count toward their final grade) at various times during the two years:

See Important Dates page for more details.

### CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS (Coursework)

Controlled Assessments (previously called coursework) is 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.

### WELSH BAC

The BAC course is followed by everyone in years 10 and 11. In year 10 pupils have to complete 3 challenges which will be assessed and marked under control at school. In year 11 an individual research project will be completed by all, based on the pupil's future aspirations. On completion of the four pieces of work a grade will be awarded - this is the Skills Challenge Certificate, which is equivalent to a GCSE and has similar grades.

To gain the BAC qualification pupils must also pass 5 GCSE or equivalent qualifications including Maths and a Language.

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## HOMEWORK

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Homework is an important tool to improve the standard of your son/daughter's work. The Homework policy and timetable will be sent to you in due course. Keeping an eye over your son/daughter as they complete their homework is a good way to keep track of how they are doing in school. Homework is recorded on a form that is glued in each book.

If a pupil fails to complete homework then they will be punished:

- The subject teacher will give them a warning at first instance;
- If the work is still not completed after the warning then the pupils can be kept in at break / lunch;
- The teacher can refer a pupil who continues not to complete work to the attention of head of department and will lead to the pupil being monitored or kept in for longer;
- If this does not solve the problem, the pupil is referred to the Deputy or Headmaster who will liaise with parents/guardians of the pupils to discuss the way forward. This may include the pupils staying in the Homework Club after school or not being allowed to go on trips or visits.

The same actions are followed if a pupil misbehaves in any other way in lessons or around the school.

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## WORK / COACHING ROOM

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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.

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## EXAMINATIONS / ASSESSMENTS

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### OFFICIAL EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS— **COUNT TOWARDS THE FINAL GRADES**

Mathematics Numeracy - Paper 1.....	November 6
Mathematics Numeracy - Paper 2.....	November 8
Mathematics - Paper 1 .....	November 10
Mathematics - Paper 2 .....	November 13
English Language - oracy .....	December 4 -13
English Literature (Unit 1).....	January 9
Business Unit 2 (Yr 11 resit + Yr 10).....	January 10
ICT Unit 1 .....	January 11
Welsh Literature (unit 1) .....	January 15
Welsh - Oracy.....	April 16-18

### **GCSE SUMMER EXAMINATIONS ..... May 8 - June 15**

### **CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS WHICH COUNT TOWARDS THE FINAL GCSE GRADE WILL BE TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT YEARS 10 AND 11**

#### **YEARS 7,8,9**

NATIONAL READING AND NUMERACY TESTS—YEARS 7,8,9.....April 23 - May 4

#### **YEAR 10 - assessments which count towards the final grade:**

Welsh Bac Assessment (Yr 10)..... Dates to be confirmed

English Oral Assessment.....June 18-27

### **INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS**

Year 11 (GCSE MATHEMATICS) Mock exams ..... September 22 and 29

Year 11 (GCSE mocks).....February 5 - 9

Year 10 exams..... April 23 -27

Years 7, 8, 9 ..... June 25 – Gorffennaf 6

**Further information about Year 10 and 11 exams to come - Some changes could happen during the year.  
Each pupil will receive a personal timetable indicating their exams prior to each examination period.**

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### **APPEAL—SCHOOL BOOKS**

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Please can you take a look to see if you have any books that belong to school. Some pupils forget to return textbooks or library books. I would appreciate if you could return any such books to school please. Thank you for your help with this.

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### **FOLLOW THE WELSH DEPARTMENT**

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The Welsh Department has a Twitter account. Follow us to get information about our activities and learn more about the day to day work of the Department. We will share any departmental successes on this account.



@CymraegBotwnnog

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## SOME IMPORTANT DATES

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**AUTUMN TERM 2017** ..... **September 5 - December 21**

Half term holidays ..... October 30 - November 3

Christmas holidays\* ..... December 25, 2017 - January 5, 2018

**SPRING TERM 2018** ..... **January 8 – March 23**

Half term holidays ..... February 12 - 16

Easter holidays ..... March 26 - April 6

**SUMMER TERM 2018** ..... **April 9 - July 20**

May Day ..... Monday, May 7

Half term holidays ..... May 28 - June 1

Summer holidays begin ..... July 23

### **STAFF TRAINING DAYS (No school for pupils)**

Friday, September 1, 2017

Monday, September 4, 2017

Friday, September 29, 2017

- Friday, December 22, 2017 (extends Christmas holiday for pupils)
- Monday, March 19, 2018

### **PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS**

TO DISCUSS PUPILS' WORK ON TUESDAY AFTERNOONS - 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Year 11 ..... October 24

Year 7 ..... December 12

Year 8 ..... January 23

Year 11 (second meeting) ..... February 27

Year 10 ..... March 20

Year 9 (including an opportunity to discuss Year 10 options (3:45 - 7:00)) ..... April 17

## **GCSE RESULTS' DAY - AUGUST 23, 2018**

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### **TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF PUPILS**

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Occasionally the school/Council/Press want to take pictures of school activities. Some of the pictures are sent to the newspaper, Llanw Llŷn or are used in publications or on the school or the Council website or for the purpose of assessing oral and practical exams.

**If you do not wish your child to be included in photos please contact the school.**

## 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  
Mrs Ann James..... Learning Coach / Mentor  
Mrs Carol Pilling..... Learning Coach / Mentor  
Mrs Wendi Jones ..... Counsellor  
Mrs Carys Hughes .....Authority's Education Welfare Officer  
Mrs Sian Hughes ..... School Nurse

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

## POLICE LIAISON OFFICER



PC Dewi Owen is the Police Liaison Officer for the School. He is responsible for organising regular workshops with each year group mainly on personal safety issues. He will also support pupils on a one-to-one level as required.

The Police schools' service also produces a seasonal newsletter that is available online - **SchoolBeat.org** with all kinds of up-to-date information about the service and how to keep safe.

There are also links to twitter and facebook pages (see below) and events such as the open day to the public on Saturday 16/09/17 at Headquarters in Colwyn Bay. It will be of interest to the pupils (or parents).

The day will take place between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and is free of charge. There will be a number of different Police Departments including the Department of Roads, Firearms Department, Cyber Crime Department, Countryside Crime Department, Forensic Department, Dog Section, Helicopter Department, Diving Department, Recruitment Department and many more. There will be an opportunity to chat with officers from different departments and several departments will host displays.



NWP Cyber Crime Team



@NWPCybercrime

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING

One of our main objectives is to keep our pupils safe. If you have any concerns regarding a child's safety or welfare you could contact the School's Designated Child Safeguarding Officer - Mr Geraint Hughes or contact the Authority's Child Safeguarding Officer in Caernarfon by phoning 01286 679552