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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Happy New Year

I hope you all had a pleasant Christmas. Here we are again at the beginning of another new year - which is bound to be equally as busy as the last. May I wish you all a happy and successful new year. Kind regards,

Dylan Minnice (Headmaster)

This bulletin is available on the school website - <http://ysgolbotwnnog.org/eng/newyddion.html>

SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD

The end of last term was even busier than usual with everyone preparing for the Eisteddfod. It was a pleasure to see nearly every pupil competing in at least one competition - either on stage or homework. The evening came to a climax with the competition between the three house choirs - each of which had over a 100 members singing on stage. This year Mellteyrn won the Eisteddfod under the leadership of their captains - Dei Owen and Gwenlyn Williams. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Eisteddfod and thanks to them for their hard work and commitment. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have sent messages expressing your enjoyment of the evening.

HOLIDAYS AND TRAINING DAYS

The dates for half term holidays are **February 23rd - March 3rd**.

Easter holidays' dates are **April 13th - April 28th**.

PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS

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 8	Year 9 (including year 10/11 choices) Extended meeting 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Year 10	Year 11
January 22	May 14	April 30	February 19

YEAR 10 AND 11 INTERNAL EXAMINATION DATES

Year 11 mock examinations February 6 - 13

Year 10 internal exams April 8 - 12

YEAR 11

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 receive a personalised draft timetable for the May/June exams during the parents' evening on February 19. The general GCSE timetable is available on the school website on the '**Pupils**' page.

JANUARY 2019 - YEAR 11

Science Practical ExaminationJanuary 23 - 25

Welsh Language (oral - set 1)January 30

FEBRUARY 2019 - YEAR 11

Physical Education (GCSE - practical - terminal assessment).....February 1

Physical Education (GCSE - external moderation).....February 20

MARCH 2019 - YEAR 11

Art exam (* see below)..... March 21 and 22

Food and Nutrition Practical Examination..... March 12 and 19

Welsh - Literature (Unit 3) April 8 (Foundation) / 9 (Higher)

Welsh Second Language Oral April 8/9

* Pupils have already been given the Art exam paper and have started on the preparation work for the final exam which takes place on the above dates. The preparation work is worth 40% of the exam mark.

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.

MOCK EXAMINATIONS - FEBRUARY 6 - 13

Year 11's mock exams will take place in the period **February 6 - 13**.

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 Resources Room where they can get support from a staff member if they are struggling with their work.

YEAR 11 PARENTS' MEETING

A parents' meeting has been arranged for Year 11 on February 19th. This will be the last official opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's work with the teachers including the mock examination results.

YEAR 11 - NEXT YEAR...

Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor/Menai's prospectus has been handed out to Year 11 pupils this week. 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:

www.gllm.ac.uk/events

where you can register your interest in attending.

Summary:

Information Evening **Pwllheli**: January 30 (17:00-19:00)

Information Evening **Bangor**: January 22 (16:30-18:30)

Information Evening **Dolgellau**: January 24 (17:00-19:00)

Information Evening **Llangefni**: January 29 (16:30-18:30)

Information Afternoon Glynllifon June 26 (13:00 - 16:00)

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 HughesDeputy Headmaster / Welfare Officer

Mrs Eurwen Jones..... Special Education Needs Coordinator

Mrs Ann James..... Learning Coach / Mentor

Mrs Carol Pilling..... Learning Coach / Mentor

Ms Bethan Jones..... School Nurse

Mrs Wendi Jones Counsellor

Mrs Carys HughesAuthority'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.

SUPPORTING YOUR SON/DAUGHTER WITH SCHOOL WORK

- Show an interest in your child's school work and give support according to what he / she needs. Remember that good attendance is essential - do not organise holidays during the school term.
 - 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/her 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 the work, giving enough time 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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ATTENDANCE

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 35% of the pupils missed less than one day of school last term and that 76 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.

100%	97%+	96%+	93%+	90%+	85%+	Less than 85%
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

APPLICATION FOR FAMILY HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Directives from the Welsh Assembly via the Local Authority regarding the authorisation of school holidays during term time has been issued to all schools.

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.

ABSENCE—INFORMING US

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.

ADVERSE WEATHER AND CLOSING SCHOOL

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

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).

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

CRAFT FAIR

The Parents' Association have, once again this year, been busy organising the Craft Fair. The Fair was very successful and over £1500 was raised.

MONEY RAISING CLUB

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.

CLOTHES RECYCLING

Antur Waunfawr's Clothes recycling bin has also been successful raising over £150 last year. Remember, if you have any clothes to recycle that you can put them in the blue recycling box by the school's car park.

A big thank you to everybody who has supported these ventures. All money raised goes towards purchasing educational resources for the benefit of the pupils.

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

Officials: Chair - Mrs Glesni Owen; Secretary - Mrs Carys Evans.

YEAR 11'S COFFEE EVENING

Year 11's annual Coffee Evening was once again a huge success this year. In order to raise money a variety of events, including a Halloween Disco, were organised.

£6000 was raised and has been distributed to charities chosen by the committee including:

Wales Air Ambulance, Cancer Research/Ward Alaw (Ysbyty Gwynedd), Cronfa Efan, Dystonia Dwyfor, Hafod Hedd (Dementia), Young Persons' Mental Health.

The committee would like to thank everyone who donated items for the coffee evening and to everyone who supported the night in any way.

NUT FREE ZONE

For serious medical reasons, no nuts or products which contain nuts are allowed at school.

A nut allergy is a very dangerous condition that can lead to serious illness.

Therefore, we kindly ask you to be careful when preparing any packed lunches or snacks for your children to make sure they do not contain nuts or nut products (such as chocolate bars / energy bars / biscuits / cakes).

Thank you very much for your cooperation with this important matter.



CONTACTING SCHOOL

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**