



www.ysgolbotwnnog.org



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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 89 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.

CONTACTING SCHOOL

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

☎ 01758 730220

✉ pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk

Or use the online contact form from our website

💻 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.

STAFF

A warm welcome to new staff

Miss Bethan Priestley - Head of Mathematics

Mr Owen Llywelyn Williams - English

Mr Alan Wyn Jones - English

Welcome back to Mrs Alaw Jones Japheth and Miss Awen Griffith following their maternity leave and a huge thank you to Miss Sera Bailey and Mrs Angela Rhydderch for their hard work during their absence.

Best wishes

Best wishes to Mrs Heulwen Lloyd Brunelli, Mrs Ellen Wyn Jones and Ms Marian Roberts on their retirement.

Also, thank you to Mr Daniel Roberts for teaching Electronics to Year 11 and all the best to him on his lecturing career.

Best wishes also to Miss Delyth Hughes and Miss Llinos Hughes as they start on their new jobs.

Many thanks to all of them for their hard work over the years.

CONTACTING HOME

We will send information to our pupil's 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 to tell 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

MEDICATION POLICY

As part our medication policy we will be sending out a form for you to fill if you want your son/daughter to take any medication in school. Please remember that any medication is to be kept in the school office apart from an asthma pump. The full policy can be seen on the school website or you can contact us to request a paper copy.

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).
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BULLYING

Bullying is not a serious problem in Ysgol Botwnnog. However 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 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>

ATTENDANCE

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 2014 / 2015.

- 7 Madrun** – Helena Griffith*, Erin Morgan*, Elin Owen*
- 7 Meillionydd** – Guto Brady*, Tomos Dobson*, Ffion Kelliher
- 8 Madrun** - Huw Jones-Evans, Gruffudd Pozzi, Owain Siôn Roberts
- 8 Meillionydd** – Morgan Jones, Now Williams*
- 9 Madrun** – Mari Elin Jones, Steffan Kelliher, Gwawr Williams*, Lleucu Williams*
- 9 Meillionydd** - Osian Morgan*
- 10 Meillionydd** – Chloe Munnery
- 10 Mellteyrn** – Finn Evans*, Steffan Roberts

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

A £10 prize was presented to each of these along with £5 for everyone in the registration class with the best attendance— 7 Madrun.

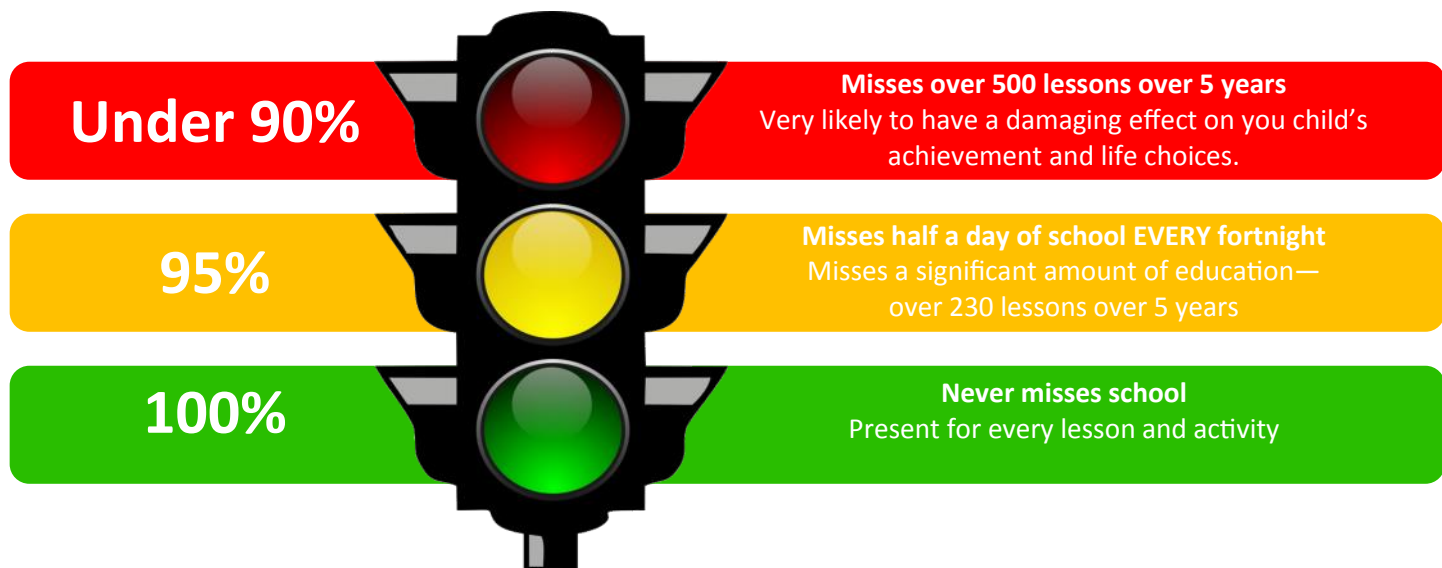


OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE

Some of our pupils who received a certificate and prize to reward them for their excellent attendance last year

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?

90% sounds good (such exam mark would be very praiseworthy). However the same isn't true for attendance.



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.

APPLICATION FOR HOLIDAY FAMILY DURING THE TERM

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 Headteacher to receive permission to remove the child from school.

YEAR 11 - 2015

RESULTS—SUMMER 2015

This year 11's results were good. 86% of Year 11 pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C (83 % in 2014).

The vast majority of year 11 (88%) have embarked on courses at colleges or sixth forms, 5% have started an apprenticeship and 5% have started working .

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 2015

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



PROM 2015

Everybody looking very smart before leaving for Nant Gwrtheyrn

SCHOOL AWARDS 2015

IDRIS WILLIAMS MEMORIAL AWARD -

Good citizen award

Bedwyr Williams, Year 11.

SPORTPERSON OF THE YEAR

Tom Froom, Year 11.

GLYN JONES MEMORIAL TROPHY- Rugby

Aaron Lewis, Year 11.

GOLF CHAMPION

Tom Froom, Year 11.

LEWIS ROBERTS MEMORIAL PRIZE

Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Technology

Evalyn Usher, Year 11.

URDD LIFRAI CYMRU AWARD - Most promising student

Tomos Turtle, Year 11

LEARNER OF THE YEAR

Mikee Mariñas, Year 11



Bedwyr



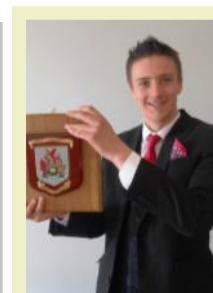
Tom



Aaron



Evalyn



Tomos



Mikee

YEAR 10 AND 11

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 ratings limits) several 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 (year 10)

A new BAC course starts for year 10 this year. 4 controlled assessments need to be completed over a period of two years to win the Foundation Challenge Award or National Challenge Award. Pupils must also pass at least five GCSEs (or equivalent) to win the full BAC qualification.

HOMEWORK

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.

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.

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 Eurgain Jones and Mr Dafydd Owen	Learning Coaches / Assistants
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.

EXAMINATIONS

OFFICIAL EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS — COUNT TOWARDS THE FINAL GCSE/ELC GRADES

OCTOBER 2015 - YEAR 11

English Oral October 7

NOVEMBER 2015 - YEAR 11

Mathematics Paper 1, Set 2 & 3 November 4

Mathematics Paper 2, Set 2 & 3 November 10

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 (set 4) March 14

Mathematics - Entry Level Certificate (Some of set 4 - Yr 10 and 11) March 18

MAY/JUNE 2016 - YEAR 11

GCSE SUMMER EXAMINATIONS May 13 - June 21

MAY/JUNE 2016 - YEAR 10

Welsh Second Language Unit 1 May 13

Religious Studies Unit 1 May 16

ICT Unit 1 May 18

Business Unit 2 May 25

Welsh Second Language Unit 4 May 27

Biology June 15

Chemistry..... June 17

Physics June 20

History Unit 3..... June 21

NATIONAL READING AND NUMERACY TESTS—YEARS 7,8,9 May 3 - 12

INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Year 11 (GCSE mocks).....	December 16 – 22
Year 10.....	April 25 - 29
Years 7, 8, 9	June 20 – 24

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 during the two months prior to each examination period.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2015September 2 - December 22

Half term holidays	October 26 - 30
Christmas holidays.....	December 23, 2015 - January 1, 2016

SPRING TERM 2016January 4 – 24 March

Half term holidays	February 15 - 19
Easter holidays	25 March – 8 April

SUMMER TERM 2015April 11 - July 18

May Day.....	Monday, May 2
Half term holidays	30 May - 3 June
Summer holidays (No school for pupils on July 18—training day)	July 19

STAFF TRAINING DAYS (No school for pupils)

- Friday, 20 Novemeber, 2015 (To Be Confirmed)
- Monday, 18 July, 2016
- One further day to be confirmed

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

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

Year 11.....	October 20
Year 7.....	January 12
Year 8	February 2
Year 10.....	March 8
Year 11 (meeting to discuss progress).....	March 22
Year 9 (including an opportunity to discuss Year 10 options).....	April 12

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF PUPILS

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.

APPEAL—SCHOOL BOOKS

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.



“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 are available on the website, www.botwnnog.org or contact the Deputy Headmaster, Mr. G.O. Hughes, for further information.