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A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER



Mr Dylan Minnice

Many thanks to you all for your support during my first year as Headmaster of Ysgol Botwnnog.

Ahead of us is a busy term of exams and assessments - details of which are in this bulletin.

If you would to discuss any matter, please don't hesitate to phone (01758) 730220 or send an email:

pennaeth@botwnnog.gwynedd.sch.uk

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

Here are some important dates for your diaries:

22 April	Staff Training Day - No school for pupils
25 - 29 April	Year 10 Exams
2 May	May Day Bank Holiday - No School
3 - 12 May	National Reading and Numeracy Tests (Yrs. 7,8 & 9)
13 May - 21 June	GCSE examinations
30 May - 3 June	Half Term Holidays
7 June	Sports Day (to be confirmed)
20 - 24 June	Year 7, 8, 9, 10 Examinations
27 June - 1 July	English Oral Assessments - Years 7 - 9
4 - 8 July	BAC Assessment Activities Week Year 10 (see below)
15 July	Last day of Term for pupils
25 August	GCSE Results
1 -2 September	Autumn Term - Teachers only
5 September	Autumn Term - pupils return to school

Further information about exams on pages 2 and 3 of this bulletin.

The Council's school holiday calendar is available on their website:

<https://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/Term-dates--holidays.aspx>

YEAR 10 BAC ASSESSMENT WEEK

The new Welsh Baccalaureate course in Years 10 and 11 gives pupils the opportunity to develop skills relevant to learning, work and life. The course is assessed by the school with no exam. In order to facilitate this we have earmarked a week on the calendar to complete the final assessment for two units. Therefore, it is essential, that no year 10 pupil is absent during the week July the 4th to the 8th. If they are not present during this week they will might not be able to pass the qualification.

INTERIM REPORTS YEARS 7 – 10

You have received your son's / daughter's Interim Report before Easter. The main focus is on pupils effort and progress in lessons. The vast majority of pupils work conscientiously in all subjects. A few pupils have had a grade 'C' or 'D' for lack of effort in some subjects. Staff will be monitoring such lack of effort. As parents I hope you will support us and encourage your son/daughter to work harder and get a better grade for effort in the end of year Summer Report. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss the report.

ATTENDANCE

Improving attendance is still one of our priorities. Missing school effects you child's education. The pupils' attendance remains good (95% on average so far this year). **Thank you for your co-operation.**

It has been proved that excellent attendance is one key to academic achievement. The school rewards individual's excellent attendance.

Attendance of 95% sounds quite good. However, over a 5 year period a pupil with 95% attendance would have missed nearly 250 lessons!

Attendance	100%	99%	98%	97%	96%	95%	94%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%
Number of lessons missed of a 5 year period	0	48	95	143	190	238	285	332	380	428	475	523	570	618	665	713

We sympathize with pupils who are truly ill. However, some pupils are absent for the slightest reason - a slight tummy upset or headache.

Regular school attendance is essential in order to take full advantage of the education offered in school.

“Every pupil counts—Every day counts”

EXAMINATIONS

YEAR 11

It is an extremely busy time of the year for pupils in Year 11. Pupils must be in school **every day**. The work for each syllabus must be completed in all subjects, coursework completed and proper / thorough revision completed.

We will be revising the timetable in order to arrange revision periods before some exams.

Year 11 pupils are expected to be in school every day. Teachers will be revising with the pupils. Pupils must bring their revision work with them to school to benefit fully from the intense study periods.

It is a stressful time for Year 11 pupils and the staff aim to help and encourage the pupils to reach their full potential.

Should your son / daughter face difficulties with school work or revision during this important period, please contact the school (for the attention of the Headmaster or Deputy - Mr Geraint Hughes).

Best wishes and good luck to all in Year 11 at this key time.

To succeed in the Summer pupils must prepare and work hard **“Fail to prepare, prepare to fail”** remains a popular mantra in Botwnnog at this time of year.

We look forward to seeing happy faces on results day - **THURSDAY, AUGUST 25th**.

YEAR 11 PROM

Year 11 will have the opportunity to relax after the exams at the Prom that the school has organised for them at Nant Gwrtheyrn. This will be a fun afternoon of dining, a disco and socialising in an idyllic location.

This is the school's opportunity to reward year 11's effort and good behaviour - however, we reserve the right to refuse pupils who have shown a lack of effort, inappropriate behaviour or poor attendance during this period from attending.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS - YEAR 10

Three external GCSE Science exams will be held during June. **This will be the only opportunity for pupils to sit these exams.** They will gain a GCSE qualification in Science at the end of Year 10 before proceeding to study GCSE Additional Science in year 11. There are also external exams, which count towards the final grades, in units in some other subjects - you have already received your son/daughter's personal timetable. **It is essential that the pupils are present for their exams on the following dates:-**

Friday, 13 May.....	Welsh Second Language - Unit 1
Monday, 16 May	Religious Studies
Wednesday, 18 May	ICT - Unit 1
Wednesday, 25 May	Applied Business - Unit 2
Wednesday, 15 June	Biology
Friday, 17 June	Chemistry
Monday, 20 June	Physics
Tuesday, 21 June	History - Unit 3 (USA)

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION TIMETABLES - YEAR 10 & 11

All year 10 and 11 pupils have received personal timetables showing when they have exams.

There is a full timetable on the school website - <http://ysgolbotwnnog.org/eng/disgyblion.html>

NATIONAL READING AND NUMERACY TESTS - YEARS 7, 8 & 9

This is the fourth year of reading and numeracy test for pupils up to Year 9.

These will take place in Welsh, English and Mathematics lessons in the period **3 May - 12 May.**

Further information is available about these tests on the Welsh Government website

<http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/publications/140420-information-for-parents-carers-2-9-en.pdf>

INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS - YEARS 7 - 10

YEAR 10 - Internal exams will take place at the end of April: **25 - 29 April.** Timetables were given out to you in parents' evening or given to your son/daughter if you were unable to attend. **YEAR 10 PUPILS SHOULD ALREADY BE REVISING EVERY NIGHT FOR THESE EXAMS.** The BAC assessment week, which counts towards their final grades is **4 - 8 July.**

YEARS 7 - 9 - The school's end of year examinations for years 7 - 9 will take place at the end of this term: **20 - 24 June.** (English oral exams will take place the following week: **27 June - 1 July**)

It is important to ensure good results in these exams. Departments will use these results along with the rest of the year's marks to decide which sets the pupils are in next term.

Your son/daughter should be starting to revise for these exams during this term.

HELPING YOUR SON / DAUGHTER TO REVISE

You can help you son/daughter to revise by:

- planning a specified time for revision every night - sessions of about an hour with short breaks between them tend to work well;

- helping them plan a revision timetable for every subject;
- ensuring that there is a quiet place for them to work;
- testing them on their work.

Further information on how to help your child to revise is available on websites like BBC Bitesize.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

When buying school uniform for next term in September, please remember the following rules regarding uniform:

BOYS AND GIRLS

BLACK round neck sweatshirt **with school badge** (obtainable *from school* £15.00).

Plain **WHITE OR BLACK** polo shirt or with school logo embroidered (obtainable *from school* £15.00).

BOYS: **BLACK trousers** (black denim jeans, cords, track suit bottoms or combat trousers are not acceptable). Belts must be black.

BLACK shoes/ trainers without any other colour.

GIRLS: Plain school black skirt of a reasonable length **with black tights** **OR plain BLACK trousers** (no jeans, cords, leggings, track suit bottoms, combat trousers etc.) Belts must be black.

FLAT BLACK shoes/ trainers. White/black socks / black tights.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION KIT:

- Yellow polo shirt with embroidered school logo, black shorts, black knee length socks.
- Trainers / Football boots (not 'Vans'),
- A dark coloured track suit may be worn during the winter.
- **Personal Protective Equipment:**
 - **Compulsory** - 'Shin Pads' – compulsory for hockey and football
 - **Desirable** - Scrum cap for rugby, Gum shield for hockey and rugby
 - Jewellery may not be worn during physical education activities

Jewellery: Small studs may be worn in the ears and ONE ring (worn on a finger) only. No beads or bracelets.

HOT WEATHER - PROTECTING FROM SUNBURN

Cases of skin cancer have increased steadily over recent years. Exposure to sunlight is the main cause of the disease. **Pupils should ensure that they apply factor 15+ sunscreen** when the weather is hot, particularly between 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. so that they don't burn.

It is important therefore, that pupils apply sunscreen when participating in any outdoor activities - P.E. lessons, sports day, etc. If they forget their own sunscreen they should ask their teachers.

400 CELEBRATIONS - "HEN YSGOL HOGIA LLŶN" BOOK

Ysgol Botwnnog's 400 Celebration Committee have been extremely busy collecting stories and memoirs about the school for the "Hen Ysgol Hogia Llŷn" book. The book will be a unique and valuable history of our school and will be published during the summer of 2016. There is an opportunity to preorder the book at a reduced price by completing the form which is on the next page. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the book and to those who have worked tirelessly to edit it.

Further details about 400 celebrations will be available soon.



Hen Ysgol Hogia Llŷn

Llyfr gwerthfawr ac unigryw yn dathlu pedwar canmlwyddiant sefydlu Ysgol Botwnnog.

This is a rare opportunity to pre order the book, in Welsh, about the history of the school on the celebration of 400 years since its foundation.

Pris gostynedig o £10 i danysgrifwyr

Subscription at a reduced price of £10.00

Manylion cyswllt Ysgol Botwnnog isod.

Contact details below

Archebwch heddiw i sicrhau eich copi / copïau

Order today to reserve a copy.

(Tâl gyda'r archeb os gwelwch yn dda)

(Payment with each order, please)

Enw a Chyfeiriad/Name and address:

.....

 e-bost / e mail

Hoffwn archebu copi o'r llyfr **Hen Ysgol Hogia Llŷn**.

*I would like to order copies of the book **Hen Ysgol Hogia Llŷn***

Amgaeaf sic / arian am £ (Sieciau yn daladwy i "Pwyllgor 400 Ysgol Botwnnog" os gwelwch yn dda.)

I enclose a cheque/ cash to the sum of £ (*Cheques payable to "Pwyllgor 400 Ysgol Botwnnog", thank you.*)

Anfonwch i sylw / *please forward to the attention of:*

Manon Williams, Ysgol Botwnnog, Llŷn, Pwllheli, LL53 8PY