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A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER



Mr Dylan Minnice

It is a pleasure to greet you for the first time as Ysgol Botwnnog's new Headmaster.

I would like to thank all of you who have wished me well in my new role. I look forward to leading the school and ensuring that we continue to strive to offer top class education for local pupils.

Please remember, if you have any matter that you wish to discuss about the school, then contact us.

Thank you very much.

SUMMER TERM

IMPORTANT DATES

Here are some important dates for your diaries:

4 May	May Day Bank Holiday - No School
5 - 12 May	National Reading and Numeracy Tests (Yrs. 7,8 & 9)
8 May - 17 June	GCSE examinations
23 - 31 May	Half Term Holidays
2 June	Sports Day
22 - 26 June	Year 7, 8, 9, 10 Examinations
29 June – 3 July	Year 10 Work Experience
17 July	Last day of Term for pupils
20 August	GCSE Results
1 September	Autumn Term - Teachers only
2 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>

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. Staff will be monitoring underachievement. 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 affects your 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 excellent individual and class 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”

GOING ON HOLIDAY DURING SCHOOL TERM (EXTRACT FROM GWYNEDD COUNCIL WEBSITE)

Taking children on holiday during term time can lead to a series of problems such as:

- your child's education suffering
- missing lessons and extra curricular activities
- continuity of work being lost

As a result we ask you to avoid going on holiday during term time if possible.

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.

The Welsh Assembly Government do not allow pupils to have study leave from school.

Year 11 pupils are expected in school every day up to the start of examinations on Friday, 8th May **and to continue to come to school every day for examinations or revision after that.** 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.

A letter will be sent with further information regarding this soon.

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.

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 or inappropriate behaviour 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 in units in some other subjects. **It is essential that the pupils are present for their exams on the following dates:-**

Monday, 11 May	Religious Studies
Monday, 18 May	English Literature-Unit 1 (Of Mice & Men and Poetry)
Wednesday, 20 May	Applied Business - Unit 2
Tuesday, 9 June	Biology
Friday, 12 June	Chemistry
Monday, 15 June	Physics
Tuesday, 16 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 third 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 5 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

The school's end of year examinations will take place on 22nd - 26th June.

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:

School Uniform

- Trainers or shoes must be **black only - no other colours on trainers.**
- **No jeans, leggings, jeggings, cords, combat trousers or cargo pants.**
- **Plain black school skirt of a reasonable length with black tights.**
- Black round neck sweatshirt with school badge - on sale in school.
- White polo shirt with school badge - on sale in school.

Jewellery

- One pair of small studs may be worn in ears only.
- **No jewellery in the nose or face.**
- One ring on finger.
- **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.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR SON / DAUGHTER

Here at Ysgol Botwnnog we aim to give each pupil the best support possible and if your son / daughter is going through a difficult period so is struggling with school work we have experienced individuals who can offer help and support.

Mr. Dafydd Eurgain Jones / Mr. Dafydd Owen Class support workers / Mentors

Mrs. Ann James Girls' welfare / Learning coach

Mrs. Carol Pilling Learning coach / Mentor

Mrs. Iola Jones School nurse (Monday)

Mrs. Vida Kennedy Councillor (Friday)

If you wish us to refer your son / daughter to any of the above please contact Mr. Geraint Hughes, Deputy Headmaster.



'Radio 2 -500 words' Competition - Yr 7 and 8 Champions

Years 7 and 8 have been busy writing short stories in their English lessons in order to compete in the Radio 2 '500 words' competition.

Pictured are Ioan Parry (Yr 8) - Ioan's story has reached the semi final stage of the national competition; and Elin Owen - school's year 7 champion.

Congratulations to everyone who competed - there will be an opportunity for you to read the stories on the school website soon.



School's Interact Club

The school's Interact Club was set up last term. This club is promoted by the Rotary Club and encourages young people to take part in voluntary and humanitarian activities both locally and internationally. Pictured are David Watson and Alice Horwood from Pwllheli Rotary Club and the school's Interact Club officers - Helen Hirst, Lois Parri & Pandora Lapington.