



Headteacher's welcome

Season's greetings to you all and welcome to this, our very first news magazine for you in over 12 months.

Sadly our Spring and Summer colour newsletters had to be cancelled due to the national Lockdown so it's great to be able to share with you what has been going on in the school over this first term of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Despite Covid and all the restrictions that come along with it, we have had a very productive first term and lots has been happening in the school. I hope that you thoroughly enjoy catching up on all of the news out and about in YBE!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda from Mr Dave Humphreys and all the staff at Bryn Elian.

Children in Need

As per tradition, this year we celebrated Children in Need with our Sixth Form students coming to school in fancy dress, in order to raise money for Children in Need 2020.

The fancy dress is always fun, and this year was no exception! From Dr Seuss characters to lifeguards, Ysgol Bryn Elian really had it all - with staff even joining in on the fun!

A huge thank you to everybody who took part, as we were able to raise a huge £178.04 for the charity. Well done everybody!



STEM Success



Congratulations to Katie Roberts, Finn O'Sullivan and Owen Jones of Year 13.

Following the initial presentation from our Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, Mr Gareth Cemlyn Jones awarded the 'Ian Binning' Award for Best use of Mechanical Engineering Principals to Ysgol Bryn Elian.

The engineering trio beat 72 other teams from all over Wales.

All three worked extremely hard, individually and as a team to solve a real life problem, which was delivered to the team by Warwick Chemicals.

Along with the prestigious award, they will also each receive the coveted Gold Crest Award; a much respected and valued award in the world of industry and Universities, and a cheque for five hundred pounds for the school, with fifty pounds going to each of the three winners.

Following on from their success, Bryn Elian is now looking for the next winning team. So if you're in Year 12 and enjoy solving problems, you're a designer and a team player, then come to the Technology Department and ask for Mr N Humphreys.

SELECT THE LINK TO WATCH THE VIDEO

<https://www.stemcymru.org.uk/home/activities/eesw-project-sixth-form/>

Mr N Humphreys

In March 2020 Ysgol Bryn Elian was re-accredited with The Careers Wales Mark. The Careers Wales Mark is an award designed by Careers Wales to recognise an educational establishment's commitment to continuous quality improvement within a school's careers provision. The Careers Wales Mark has been devised to meet the Welsh Government's statutory entitlement for Careers and the World of Work for 11-19 year olds in Wales.

In order to achieve the award the careers provision within the school had to be fully audited and matched against Careers and the World of Work (CWW) criteria. A self-evaluation was produced followed by a robust action plan.

Developing a comprehensive Careers and World of Work programme has had many benefits for Ysgol Bryn Elian and its learners, including:

- improving self-esteem and motivation of students
- improving career knowledge & skills, decision making and preparedness for transition to further education or the world of work
- raising educational outcomes

School Council

This year, Ysgol Bryn Elian's Student School Council has been working hard within the school, despite the current limitations. The School Council is an important part of ensuring that everybody within the school has a voice, and is democratically elected each academic year.

Thanks to everybody for voting for their student representatives, and congratulations to everybody who was selected to represent their year group!

- Year 7: Tommy Hill and Reece Arronwich
- Year 8: Elliot Taylor and Grace Tideswell
- Year 9: Harry Russel and Ebony Banks
- Year 10: Ianto Evans and Jason He
- Year 11: Frank Sharpe and Finley Wallace
- Year 12: Harvey Dykes and Lauren O'Brien
- Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl: Jaiden Thomas and Catrin Bohanna
- Head Boy and Head Girl: Finn O'Sullivan and Katie Roberts

The School Council have a number of collective goals which they will be working towards throughout the year. These include working with both local and national charities, as well as seeking to improve pupil wellbeing through an improved support system. Some of the charities the School Council hope to support are Mind Mental Health and the Delyth Wyn Jones Foundation to Help Aspiring Children. This term, with the help of the student representatives, Ysgol Bryn Elian were able to support the following charities: T4U (through organising a Shoebox Appeal to help disadvantaged children this Christmas), Children in Need and Happy Faces (through our Sixth Form participating in a fancy dress day to raise money).



Organising the Shoebox Appeal for the charity T4U over the last term has resulted in our school council collecting 52 shoeboxes to donate to orphans in Eastern Europe, as well as over £120 in cash donations. A huge thank you to everybody who brought in donations, all of your efforts have been hugely appreciated and we hope to carry on this momentum into the new year with other projects.



As a member of NACE, The National Association for Able Children in Education, it's very pleasing to note that in a recent report about our school, the NACE advisor stated....

'There is coherent and strategic approach to developing the More Able and Talented provision. Leaders of different strategic and operational areas work in collaboration'

Ysgol Bryn Elian are committed to meeting the needs of ALL learners, hence our motto of Achievement for All.

Pupils celebrate platinum status – again!

Our learners have proven their green credentials yet again after being awarded a top Eco award.

On the 29th October we heard the fabulous news that we have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag: 3rd Platinum Renewal Award thanks to the environmental education programme, Eco-Schools. Our Eco-Committee consists of two representatives from each year group and plays an important role in the student voice at Ysgol Bryn Elian.

Each year, our Eco-Committee complete an Environmental Review which enables them to create an Action Plan. Four targets were set in total but they collectively decided that improving the school grounds should be the main focus for improvement this year. Their Environmental Review identified that despite a number of recycling points and litter bins located on the school site, litter remained an ongoing source of frustration for the Eco-Committee. Working collaboratively with the School Council and wider school community, Mr A Jones, the Head Boy and Head Girl maintained a popular litter picking club from September 2019 up to the enforced school closure on March 20th 2020. Year 10 pupils can boost their volunteering hours for their Community Challenge in their Skills Challenge Certificate, this year they certainly put in a lot of effort. The club was also popular with KS3 learners. In total 44 different learners attended; on one occasion 24 learners collected 7.5 bags of litter in a single session! In total this amazing group of learners collected 75 bags of litter, making a significant improvement to our school site whilst developing their skills as effective and responsible members of their community.

From March 2020, the Eco-Committee continued to engage with the programme via Teams. They have demonstrated their resilience and resourcefulness, designing a new Eco-Code and completing Home Environmental Reviews.

"I originally took part in litter picking for my Welsh Bacc volunteering but the more I did it, the more I enjoyed it. Seeing the difference I made to the school grounds gave me a feeling of accomplishment." (Freya, Year 11 Eco-Committee Representative)

"I am so proud of what our learners have achieved. Their sense of citizenship and their willingness to volunteer their time deserves to be commended." (Mrs J Jarvis, Eco-Schools Coordinator)

Catrin Hughes, Education Officer for Keep Wales Tidy said:

"The Platinum Flag is a very impressive achievement and highlights the enthusiasm and commitment that Ysgol Bryn Elian has towards sustainable development. The dedication of the Eco-Committee over many years has been inspirational. I'd like to congratulate and thank all of the pupils and staff involved for their hard work!"

GCE Geography: Independent Fieldwork

It's been a tough year for many of our learners, but our Year 13 A-Level Geography students have demonstrated their resilience in the face of adversity. As part of their GCE studies, Geography students are required to submit a written independent investigation based on the collection of both primary data and secondary information. In these testing times, our learners have risen to the challenge and been very busy out and about collecting their primary data. Being mindful of the latest restrictions, they have designed physical and human investigations covering a myriad of topics linked to their Specification including coastal and sand dune studies, infiltration studies linked to drainage basins, people's perceptions of places, consequences of the rebranding process and inequality between people and places.

Learners have utilised their observation and recording skills by taking measurements and surveys, making images and obtaining information from GIS. They have overcome social distancing restrictions by utilising technology to collect questionnaire data safely. We are super proud of them!

SIMS Parent App

On December 1st, we launched our new SIMS parent app that will allow parents to follow their child's progress through school. Parents will be able to look at Attendance, Achievement, Behaviour, Performance Data, Reports, Clubs/Trips and Homework. They will also be able to keep their contact information up to date at the click of a button.

An invitation email was sent on the 1st of December to the e-mail address that is held on the school system. If the email hasn't landed in your inbox or junk mail, you should contact the school reception to update your details, either by phone or by e-mailing tc@brynelian.conwy.sch.uk

We have had positive feedback from the parents who have already engaged in the app and will launch the student version of the app after Christmas.