

Ysgol Bryn Elian
Parents' Newsletter January 2017

Weather warning

As bad weather is predicted for the coming days, please can you check our website, Facebook and Twitter feeds, as well as Capital FM radio, regularly in case a decision needs to be taken to shut the school. Such decisions are not taken lightly but when done so are in order to ensure safety on the school site. We will also use the school's text service to inform parents of closure, as appropriate.

Year 10 and 11 English Controlled Assessments

All learners in Years 10 and 11 will be taking part in Controlled Assessment Speaking and Listening Tests in English. The tests will be taking place during the weeks beginning 23rd January 2017 (Group Discussion) and 6th February 2017 (Individual Researched Presentation). Each learner will be given a date and a time to complete their assessment. It is crucial that all learners are in school as the WJEC assessment guidelines insist that learners only have a window of one week to prepare their assessment; they must then be assessed the following week. If they are absent for their assessment, it may result in them having to prepare for a new assessment on a different topic. The Controlled Assessments are worth 20% of the final English Language grades, so your son/daughter should be doing lots of research and preparation at home.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Mrs L Hastings (Head of English).

Year 12 Introductory Evening

All Year 11 pupils have been issued with a letter detailing information about the Year 12 Introductory Evening Tuesday 17th January 2017 starting at 6pm in Studio 1. This is an important evening for pupils who are already decided on Sixth Form study and also those who are uncertain, as much information and advice will be given. We hope to welcome as many Year 11 parents and pupils as possible next Tuesday.

Years 11, 12 and 13 reports

Annual reports for Years 11, 12 and 13 will be issued at the end of January. The reports provide up-to-date information about pupil progress and specified targets for improvement and we hope parents will find them informative.

PTA meeting

The school's PTA will meet on Thursday 26th January 2017 at 6pm here at school – all parents are warmly invited to become part of this very important supportive association within the school.

Mock examinations

Mock examinations from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will take place the week beginning 30th January 2017. Pupils will be issued with a timetable detailing which exams they have, and when. Any queries should be addressed initially to the subject teacher or to Learning Managers and Mentors.

Parents Evenings

Year 10 Parents' Evening - Thursday 12th January 2017 from 4.30pm till 6.30pm

Year 9 Parents' Evening - Thursday 9th February 2017 from 4.30pm till 6.30pm

Successful recent fundraising

During the Christmas term the school raised over £800 for local charities through a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day. Pupils, staff and parents also collected nearly 900 items of food, clothing and toiletries for a local homeless charity, through a variety of enterprising approaches.

Huge thanks and congratulations for all involved for all their hard work.

Parking near the school

We continue to receive concerns from our neighbours regarding cars that are unhelpfully parked across driveways, for example, and driving which is deemed unsafe. Can I please request that when driving near the school site and parking outside the school, all parents are mindful of safety and our neighbours' property.

Term dates

Half term finishes on Friday 17th February 2017 with school reopening on Monday 27th February 2017. We break up for Easter on Friday 7th April 2017 and, following the two week break, return to school on Monday 24th April 2017.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Mair Herbert

Acting Head Teacher