

Ysgol Bryn Eliau
Parents' Newsletter December 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Firstly, very many thanks for your continued support for Ysgol Bryn Eliau and making our partnership with you a rich and productive one for the benefit of all our pupils. I hope over this festive season you have a prosperous, happy Christmas, and New Year.

January Exams

<u>Date</u>	<u>Exam</u>
Monday 8 th January 2018 – 9am	ICT – Year 12 & Year 13 (resits) <i>To whom it may concern:</i> <i>Letters have been sent to parents / guardians as this is a staff training day.</i>
Tuesday 9 th January 2018 – 9am	English Literature - Year 10, Year 11 (resits), Year 12 & Year 13 (resits)
Wednesday 10 th January 2018 – 9am	Business - Year 12 & Year 13 (resits) Biology - Year 12 & Year 13 (resits)
Wednesday 10 th January 2018 – 1.30pm	Applied Business - Year 11 HSC - Year 12 & Year 13 (resits) ICT - Year 12 & Year 13 (resits)
Thursday 11 th January 2018 – 9am	ICT - Year 11 Public Services - Year 11
Thursday 11 th January 2018 – 1.30pm	HSC - Year 12 & Year 13 (resits)
Friday 12 th January 2018 – 9am	Chemistry - Year 12 & Year 13 (resits)
Tuesday 16 th January 2018 – 9am	Physics - Year 12 & Year 13 (resits) Public Services - Year 11
Monday 22 nd January 2018 – 1.30pm	Sports- Year 12 & Year 13 (resits)

Revision classes

English: There will be revision sessions on **Monday 8th January 1pm - 3pm** for those taking (all of Year 10, re-sitters in Year 11) the Unit 1 - *Of Mice and Men* and Poetry - Literature Exam on Tuesday 9th January. A letter has been sent home, with a slip to fill in to confirm attendance. For any further information, contact Mrs L Hastings at the school: lh@brynelian.conwy.sch.uk.

Science GCSE Revision guides

The Science department has purchased some revision guides for the GCSE courses being followed by Year 10 and 11 pupils. They are being sold at a reduced cost compared to the online price. They can be found on the school's WISEPAY page on the trips and visits icon:

- Double Science revision guide £10.
- Physics, Chemistry and Biology revision guides, all three for £20.

They will be very useful to the students as they prepare for exams and practical assessment and would make a great Christmas present! After payment the students can see Dr Barnett in Science 5 to collect the revision guide(s).

Bad weather

Should the school need to close due to inclement weather conditions eg snow; a message will be posted on the school's website at the earliest opportunity as well as carried by Capital FM radio. If appropriate, we will also send text messages out via the school's system. It is a very last resort to close the school due to such conditions; however we are always mindful of our pupils' safety.

Driving around school and parking

I would be grateful if parents could continue to be mindful of our neighbours and our children's safety when driving to and from, and parking at the school. We have received complaints regarding parking too near to driveways, causing obstructions and poor visibility from driveways, and we are also concerned at the speed of some drivers around this busy residential area. We would respectfully remind all drivers to be attentive to the nature of the area and especially careful to drive at an appropriately slow speed. An unofficial 'one-way' system operates at the beginning and end of the school day to help manage traffic, which is to access the school via Smith Avenue and leave via Windsor Drive. Your co-operation is very valued in this.

Attendance

We would be grateful if parents could be mindful of the impact of booking holidays in term time. We understand that at times parents are unable to avoid a holiday impacting on a day or two of the term, but would respectfully ask that such requests for absence are kept to a minimum. Each day's absence means six missed lessons and holidays in term time can have a significant impact on a child's progress. As a school we are open for 190 days per year, this leaves 175 days for Holidays, rest and non-urgent appointments.

Uniform

Details of acceptable school uniform for all year groups can be found on the school's website. ***Pupils are not permitted to wear leggings/jeans and hoodies are not suitable wear for school.*** I would be grateful for the cooperation of all in ensuring our pupils look smart and wear their uniform correctly and with pride.

Children in Need Day

Well done to all of our pupils who raised £650 for Children in Need!

Food and clothing collection

Due to the success of our collection last year we decided to continue this again with a collection for "Hope Restored" homeless shelter in Llandudno. The school collected around 48 bags of clothes, blankets and shoes and 36 bags of shopping were collected from the school. Rachele Scullard, Josh Cleverly, Chelsie Radford and Jadzea Lawrence gave up their time to collect in Morrisons and donations have also been received from the Co-op. Many thanks to everyone for their kindness and generosity.

Research

Ysgol Bryn Elian is pleased to announce that, during this academic year, Close to Practice Research will be a school-wide focus. All departments in this school will be actively carrying out education research in order to further improve our teaching methodologies and classroom delivery. Any student actively involved in the research will have a letter sent home seeking parental permission to be part of the project.

Events/Trips

MFL Department

Eisteddfod Ysgol – School Eisteddfod

It was clear during this year's School Eisteddfod that we have many talented singers, dancers, actors, and writers here at Ysgol Bryn Elian. On the 30th November, pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 participated in the Traditional Welsh Cultural competition. Pupils prepared and performed comedy sketches, singing solos, dance routines, and homework essays through the medium of the Welsh language, and they astounded judges with their enthusiasm to use their Welsh language skills. It was a pleasure to see so many of our learners perform confidently on stage and to see their fellow pupils offering support and encouragement throughout the event.

Welsh Trip to Welsh Mountain Zoo

As part of their Welsh work on the topic Animals, 45 pupils from Year 8 visited Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay. During their visit they attended a Classification learning session during which they learned about different groups of animals and handled some very interesting little critters - pupils were much braver than staff! Despite the cold and strong wind, the group was hugely entertained by the sea lion show and taking selfies with the animals as they explored the zoo.

ICT & Business Department

On Wednesday 6th December, Ysgol Bryn Elian hosted a Microsoft Roadshow where teachers from across the region attended training in the use of Office 365 and the new features and facilities offered by the cloud based platform. Staff were left amazed by some of the innovative things that can be done to improve productivity whilst creating rich content for students to engage with. In the afternoon, a selection of Year 7 students created their own Moz the monster on 3D paint using Microsoft Surfaces and Bluetooth enabled pens. The work they produced was truly spectacular, such professional digital artwork.

As a reminder to parents, all students can install Microsoft Office at home free of charge with their school account and have access to Office 365 online.

Humanities Department

Bay of Naples 2017

From the 9th to the 12th December the Humanities Department took 30 pupils (Years 11, 12 and 13) to the Bay of Naples in Italy. A packed itinerary of visits to Pompeii, Vesuvius, Herculaneum, The Amalfi Coast (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the town of Sorrento itself provided the day to day focus.

The trip not only gave pupils the opportunity to learn Geography, History, Religious Studies and Travel & Tourism outside of the classroom, students were also able to grow as young individuals and thrive on the responsibility of being away from home whilst experiencing another culture and way of life – both modern and Roman.

PE

President's Cup success!

Llongyfarchiadau to the Under 18 Netball squad for securing a convincing area round victory in this year's senior competition. Miss Evans was extremely pleased with the quality performances from, Rhiannon Lloyd-Parry, Elin Galeotti, Lucy Bowers, Morgan Causer, Bethan O'Hare, Charlotte Conwy-Williams, Natasha Craven and Zoe Boughen beating a number of quality teams. Good luck in the next round. Congratulations also to Deanna Craven, Georgia Holmes, Melissa Peirson (U14) and Catrin Bohanna (U16) on their selection to the Conwy area Netball squads. Further congratulations to Deanna and Georgia on their selection from the area tournament to the Eryri County squad. Good luck to them when they represent the county in the inter-counties tournament in February.

Cross Country

The annual Conwy Cross country championship was hosted by Rydal Penrhos for the first time this year. Through challenging conditions, both on the course and with the weather the PE department were very proud of some outstanding performances. Congratulations to Ella Howcroft and Charlie Smith who came second in the Year 7 respective races. Liv Davies, Year 9, came 8th and Dan Lewis Jones from the Sixth Form came 5th. All will go on to represent Conwy in the County championships in Dolgellau in February.

The annual Urdd Swimming Gala

This was another huge success for all of our talented swimmers. Jake Platt from Year 8 was 1st in both the Backstroke and Butterfly. Liv Davies carried on from where she left off at the top of the National podium last year winning both the Breaststroke and the individual Medley. Lewis Hall was equally as impressive winning the Backstroke and coming second in the Individual Medley. All three will compete in the National finals in Cardiff early next year.

Young Carers

Carers Trust Wales invited Ysgol Bryn Elan to attend an event at the Senedd in Cardiff to recognise the excellent contribution schools, like ours are making to identify and support young carers in education. The event was focussed on the experiences gained by the pilot schools who have worked hard to develop, adapt and implement the Young Carers in schools programme which is helping to not only identify young carers but has been shown to actively improve attendance, attainment and well-being. Mr Kevin Wallis has been a fundamental part of the project since it's onset and, along with two young carers from the school, travelled down to Cardiff to rub shoulders with Assembly members to celebrate the positive impact of our Young Carers in Schools project and provided an opportunity to discuss the wider issues impacting upon the education, health and wellbeing of Wales' young carers, identifying pathways to ensure that they all receive the support they deserve. The school would also like to thank Lorna Fenwick, our Outreach worker for WCD young carers for her excellent support and guidance for our fortnightly drop-in sessions. It has made a massive difference to the lives of our learners who are working hard to support and care for others in their families.

Music & Performing Arts

Christmas Carol Concert

The school's annual carol service took place on Tuesday 12th December at St Catharine's and St John's Church in Old Colwyn. Over 60 pupils who sang, played and recited their way through the Christmas story led the service. Highlights included solo performances by Adam Arshad on the tuba, Aimee Parry on the tenor horn, Ben Sansom on the clarinet and Bethan Elliott on the violin. There were many vocal performances and the junior and senior choirs performed a selection of traditional and contemporary items. For the first time ever, the service also included pupils from the Performing Arts 'More Able and Talented' group, who composed and performed two Christmas pieces specially written for the occasion. The evening ended with all the pupils singing a rousing performance of 'Merry Christmas Everyone', which was followed by refreshments and Mrs Bronwen McKibben's famous mince pies. Over £170 was raised from the collection towards the school's Madagascar fund and Colwyn Bay Rotary Club.

Upcoming dates for your diary:

Friday 22 nd December 2017	Last day of term
Monday 8 th January 2018	Staff Training Day <i>(Please note: School is open for revision classes and ICT exams)</i>
Tuesday 9 th January 2018	First day of new term
Wednesday 17 th January 2018	Year 10 Parents' Evening from 4:30pm until 6:30pm
Tuesday 23 rd January 2018	Year 12 Introductory Evening
Thursday 1 st February 2018	Year 9 Parents' Evening from 4:30pm until 6:30pm
Friday 9 th February 2018	Last day of half term
Monday 19 th February 2018	First day of new term

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Eithne Hughes OBE



Head Teacher