

"Providing complete Welsh medium education within a happy, caring and ambitious community where all members are valued, receive support and are treated with respect and tolerance"

Autumn Term 2016



# Bryn Tawe News

## A Word from the Head Teacher—Welcome back!

I hope you and your children enjoyed the summer holidays this year. By now, the pupils have returned full of enthusiasm for another year. We are looking at raising the bar yet again in the enjoyment, welfare and performance of our pupils at school.

We experienced two days of celebration in August, with a large number of our pupils succeeding especially well in their A Level and GCSE results.

August the 18th was an important day for our students in the 6th form, each one succeeded in attaining at least two A Level qualifications, with nearly 75% attaining A\*- C grades. Congratulations to Shauna Brown on achiev-

ing 1 A\* and 3 A grades, and she is now on her way to read English at Oxford. Our best wishes to you!

All good wishes also to each and every one of our ex-students who have by now either started or are about to start a course at University. We are confident you will enjoy the first week - remember to work also!

On August 25th, the day of the GCSE results, we had further reason to celebrate, with a number of pupils doing extremely well, including Jasmine Lewis achieving 12 A\* grades - an outstanding performance! It was a successful year yet again for last year's year 11, with every one succeeding in achieving 5 A\*-C grades, and 68% achieving 5 A\*-C grades which include Welsh or English and Mathematics. It is also very nice to wel-

come back nearly 70 of these pupils to the 6th form this year!

We admire the decision of our non-Welsh-speaking parents to choose Welsh medium education for your children and we will work together with you to ensure that they will benefit greatly from this opportunity. We have been busy contributing to the Swansea 'Language Charter' with each Welsh medium school in the county in order to inspire our children and young people to use their Welsh in every aspect of their school lives. Certainly, the best place to start this every day is at school - join with us in encouraging them - 'Bydd falch, bacha'r iaith' - 'Be proud, take hold of the language'. You are also welcome to do so!

Already, year 7 have started to make a positive contribution to the life of the school, especially in their efforts to use Welsh 'on the yard'. It is so pleasant to see the 6th form prefects and the year 10 mentors in their midst encouraging them - a big thank you to you!

## IMPORTANT TERM DATES:

- > 21/09/16 - Year 12 and Year 13 Higher Education Contact Evening
- > 28/09/16 - Year 7 Pastoral Evening
- > 14/11/16 - Year 11
- > 7/12/16 - Years 12 and 13

### Examinations

- > 02/11/16 - GCSE Numeracy Paper 1
- > 04/11/16 GCSE Numeracy Paper 2
- > 08/11/16 - GCSE Maths Paper 1
- > 10/11/16 GCSE Maths Paper 2

### Others

- > 21/11/16 - Staff In-service training
- > 14/12/16 - GCSE and A Level Certificate Presentation Evening



## Attendance

Undoubtedly, the attendance percentage of your child is a key factor for their success. Each pupil should aim at attaining 100%, with a minimum of 95% for the year. To achieve this, the pupil must make **every effort to attend school every day; avoid holidays** during the school term, arrange appointments out of school hours, ensure that your child attends school **as you would for work**. Remember to contact the office if your child is ill and if you have any concerns - contact us to discuss the matter, so that we can support you in overcoming the concern.

Up until now, the average attendance percentage of pupils is 96.1%, with the boys, at 96.5% being better than the girls at 95.8%. Come on, girls!

As we look forward to an exciting year, I would like to thank you as parents for all the support that we receive in order to ensure the highest standards possible in attendance, behaviour and achievement at Bryn Tawe. Remember 'Ennill Llwyrr yw Ennill Iaith'.



## BUILDING

### IMPROVEMENTS

Once more the site team have been busy renewing and adding to our facilities. Selwyn's gym will once more be available to the pupils, following improvements and improvements have also been made to the 'Improving Behaviour' Unit. Thank you for your work, boys!



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## Staffing News

At the beginning of term, there are some staffing changes we would like to share with you as parents.

### Goodbyes

Best wishes to Miss Siwan Gruffudd who is starting as Head of Chemistry at Bro Edern, Cardiff, and Mr. Jordan Goldup who has gone travelling for a period. Thank you to each one for their contribution to Bryn Tawe and best wishes to them in the future. Miss Nicola Evans will be leaving us before half term for a period of maternity leave. Best wishes to you as a family.

### Welcome

It is so nice to welcome a number of staff to us again this year - Miss Lisa James as Head of Chemistry, Mr. Gareth Thomas, (ex-pupil) as a History and Welsh teacher, Miss Angharad Rees and Mr. Alun Rees as teaching assistants.

It's also excellent to be able to welcome the international Gavin Evans, formerly of

Scarlets and The Blues, as a Rugby Club Hub Officer.

Welcome to Bryn Tawe! We are looking forward to working with you.

It will be nice also to welcome Mrs. Naomi Toothill-Evans back to the school before half term following a period of maternity leave.

## Behaviour Improvement Unit

Looking forward to a new year, we have established a new unit in the school with a clear focus on encouraging improvement.

Under the care of Mr. Mark Bridgens, Mrs. Carys Bryant and Mr. Duncan Rowe, our aim is to support pupils to succeed by improving in various aspects. We will be concentrating on improving behaviour, motivation and attitude to learning in order to assist pupils to raise their achievement.

## 360° Safe

With developments in the world of technology increasing at speed, coupled with the excitement of improving the digital skills of our pupils, we must also focus on their on-line safety, including the positive use of social media.

It is wonderful to see the positive use our pupils make of social media to promote charity causes and to share messages of hope! However, unfortunately, we too often deal with issues of conflict because it is too easy to hide behind the anonymity of a digital device when sending a message.

With your support and our dedication, we can ensure that our pupils are safe, responsible, and capable on-line users. The Welsh Government 360° safe tool is a means of ensuring this.



For the latest news of school activities, follow us and several of our departments on 'Twitter', or check our School Website: [www.bryntawe.swansea.sch.uk](http://www.bryntawe.swansea.sch.uk)

## Creative School

Congratulations to Year 7 pupils for their contribution to our 'Creative Curriculum' project, in conjunction with the Arts Council for Wales. They created television programmes about the Middle Ages in their yr 7 Camu lessons, winning a great deal of praise from The Arts Council, as well as learning a great deal and having a lot of fun.



## Parent involvement - your voice

As part of our campaign to involve parents and guardians in their child's education, you are welcome to call in at the school to discuss any aspects you would like to improve within the school. I will be holding a parents' forum at 5.00 p.m. on the first Monday of every month, starting on the 3rd of October - I look forward to meeting you and to hearing your recommendations for the school!

## Some of last years' successes

Once again this year, there have been several reasons for us to celebrate the successes of our pupils, including: Steffan Leonard and Manon Keeble who won 'The Don Miller Audience Award' for the best performance voted by the members of the audience in the ESU Shakespeare Performance.

The 6th form Engineering team won the Pioneering Use of Technology Award by designing a water purifier through solar energy in the

EESW competition.

We achieved a lot of success



again at this year's Urdd National Eisteddfod:

3rd prizes for - the creative dance party, and the junior choir; 2nd prizes for the dramatic presentation and the junior project; whilst Steffan Leonard won the first prize in the under 15 recitation competition and the senior

project group also won— congratulations to you all!

Congratulations also to Steffan on winning the 3rd prize in recitation at this year's National Eisteddfod and to Rhys Watty for winning the 2nd prize for playing the harp under 16 - excellent!

Congratulations to Theo Morris on breaking the Welsh u16 records and representing Wales in an international weight lifting competition in Austria; also to Lauren Smyth, who represented the Welsh women's' touch rugby team in this summer's European Championships.

## A word by the senior prefects?

As senior prefects this year, we have several ideas and plans to improve the life of the 6th form as well as the whole school. We have already strived to unite the 6th form by socialising and attempting to join the two years within the sixth. As well as creating a community within the sixth form, we have started creating plans to improve facilities in the 6th form block, e.g. having a coffee machine, and we also have plans to paint the lounge later in the year. As well as these aesthetic matters, we intend making every effort to promote Welsh throughout the school, and we are at this time discussing ideas on how to achieve this effectively. As senior prefects this year, we hope to have a positive effect on the school. - Anna, Iestyn, Sara, Kadun.

