



December 2020

Dear parent/carer

As we approach the end of term, I thought it would be an opportune time to provide you with an update on developments and activities within the school.

Covid-19.

The term, of course has been dominated by Covid-19 and our efforts to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff at the school.

You will know that we have experienced isolated incidents, and that at the time of writing, we have a small number of pupils and staff within our Technology department self-isolating as a precaution. We are also delighted to welcome back all of the pupils and staff from our Special Educational Needs Unit this week, who I'm pleased to say are all fit and well following their period of self-isolation. I'm pleased to report that we have no other cases within the school, and we continue to operate effectively and in line with our revised procedures.

Pupil attendance has remained very high, which is a measure of your confidence in our systems, and once again thank you for that.

The school continues to act immediately on any Covid related guidance, and we update our Risk Assessment regularly to reflect our changing procedures. A copy of the Risk Assessment is available to view on our website, or by following the link [here](#).

Thank you once again for your cooperation in ensuring your child(ren) follow our Covid-19 policies. I would like to remind you that you should not send your child to school if they are feeling unwell, and have one or more of the classic symptoms associated with Covid-19 - a high temperature, a continuous cough or a loss of taste or smell.

Enrichment

The New Curriculum for Wales (NCW) gives particular emphasis to health, wellbeing and enrichment, and despite the challenges of Covid, we are pleased that we have been able to launch our Enrichment programme. This is a ground-breaking initiative aimed at giving pupils the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities over and above what they would experience normally as part of the school curriculum. Activities include: debating club, 'claymation', creative hair-styling, fishing club, agriculture, learning Japanese, Shakespeare club, rowing club, rambling club and couch to 5K, and many more. Pupils choose which activity they would like to be part of, and experience that activity for 3 x 2 hour sessions over a period of 6 weeks. At the end of that time, pupils can choose another enrichment activity which interests them. I'm very grateful to the staff of the school for offering such a wide range of activities. The ultimate aim is to engage with the community to offer an even wider menu.



RRRS

The school received a Welsh Government Grant allocation of nearly £30K to develop and implement a '**Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards**' programme. The funding is aimed at ensuring that 'catch-up' and 'emotional' support is effectively targeted following the lockdown period. We have implemented a wide range of strategies which will enable us to do this:

- We have employed a full time Learning Coach, who will provide one to one support for targeted pupils across all year groups, but especially for pupils who are preparing for GCSE assessments.
- We have employed a part-time Mindfulness Coach, who will provide one to one emotional and wellbeing support for targeted pupils.
- We will develop an 'in-house' More Able and Talented accelerated learning programme for targeted pupils.
- We have created an after school revision and catch up programme for pupils preparing for GCSE assessments. A copy of the programme timetable can be found [here](#).

Please encourage your child to attend, it is vitally important that they take full advantage of the catch-up and revision opportunities these sessions will provide. Please be assured that our normal Covid routines will be followed during all sessions.

Year 11

Congratulations to Year 11 for completing their mock examinations. The outcomes have provided both ourselves and the students with a very good benchmark of subject knowledge and understanding as we move towards preparing for the GCSE assessment phase. At the time of writing, we have yet to receive detailed information as to how centre based assessments will operate and be used when determining final grades. I will keep you updated when we receive further guidance.

Year 9

As parents/carers of pupils in Year 9, you will be aware that we have started the Options process. This is an exciting time for all, although we also know that some pupils will agonize over which subjects to choose. Whilst it is unlikely that face-to face meetings with teaching staff will be able to take place, you have my assurance that we will put processes in place that will allow you and your child to make the best and most informed decisions. These will be communicated to you in the new year. From experience, we know that choosing the correct balance of subjects isn't always a quick process, and with this in mind, pupils will be given the opportunity to have taster lessons in the Summer Term, and be allowed to switch between subjects (within the same option group) until they are satisfied with their choices. A copy of the Year 9 Options booklet can be found [here](#).

Pupil Achievements

The pandemic has had a hugely negative impact on the extra-curricular opportunities available to pupils. Sadly, we have been unable to run a Production this year, and all sporting fixtures and other musical events such as the Carol Concert have been cancelled.



Rotary Young Writer success.

Year 9 pupil, Beatrice Hole, won the local and regional levels in this year's Great Britain and Ireland Rotary Young Writers' Competition. Beatrice then went on to become runner up at UK National level.

This year's theme was Connections, and Beatrice wrote about her relationship with her grandfather, himself a Rotarian in Wolverhampton, and how, even after his death, his presence in the world remains.

Her piece was picked out as winner of around 100 local entries, she then went on to win the South Wales round of the competition, before competing in the UK final.

Beatrice was presented with her trophy at the school in November by Mary Adams, Assistant Governor for Rotary Wales, on behalf of Rotary Great Britain and Ireland.

To read Beatrice's writing, visit: [Rotary Young Writer 2020 : The National Results](#) and click on the link to the intermediate winners.



Pictured from left: Mr Timothy Bercury (Head of English), Ms Mary Adams (Assistant Governor Rotary Pembrokeshire), Beatrice Hole, and, Mr Mike Isles, (Chairman of Fishguard & Goodwick Rotary).

County ties for Ysgol Bro Gwaun super six.

Congratulations to the following boys who received their County ties in November –

Jac Delaney, Ethan Sapsford, Daniel Page, Bryn Thomas, Dylan Scott and Daniel Cleary.

The boys form part of a successful Pembrokeshire Schools squad that reached the semi-finals of the National Morgan Griffiths Plate competition before the season was suspended.

These young men have also been fantastic role models and ambassadors for rugby in the local community. We wish them all the best in the future, on and off the field.





Children in Need – Skipathon

A huge thank you to all for the fantastic effort given to the school's 'Children in Need Skipathon' fundraiser in November. A total of £572.51 was raised, a massive achievement in the current climate, and reflective of the wonderful work within the Ysgol Bro Gwaun family. Thank you all for your generosity.

Tim Noott Memorial Scholarship Awards 2019-20

Pupils of all ages are encouraged to apply for the Tim Noott Scholarship Award, and the applications are judged by Mr and Mrs Noott, in conjunction with the school's Senior Leadership Team.

The award for 2019-20 was awarded to Liah Williams, Year 10, who continues to work diligently. The sponsorship will be used to pay for extra-curricular activities such as Cadets events, Theatre, Boxing, Dance and Piano. We wish her every success in the coming year and beyond.

In addition to the Tim Noott Memorial Scholarship Award, Mr & Mrs Noott kindly award annually the 'Tim Noott Memorial Prize for Art' at the school's Certificate Evening. The successful recipient for the 2018-19 academic year was Anwen Reed.

The school, parents, carers, governors and pupils, as always, are all extremely grateful for this continued support and investment in pupil self-development at Ysgol Bro Gwaun. Mr and Mrs Noott's assistance is greatly appreciated by all. Diolch yn fawr.

Term dates Reminder:

The Spring Term will start for all pupils on Tuesday 5th January. This will be a Week A.

Finally, on behalf of the staff and governors at Ysgol Bro Gwaun, I would like to wish you all a happy, relaxing and above all safe Christmas break. Let's all hope that 2021 will allow us to return to our 'old' normality.

Yours faithfully

Paul Edwards
Headteacher



Yn anfon ein dymuniadau gorau atoch am Nadolig heddychlon a diogel.

Sending you our very best wishes for a safe and peaceful Christmas

Ysgol Bro Gwaun