



## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

### Thank you to everyone!

What a year! With the end of term nearly upon us, may I thank you all for your continued support throughout this very surreal year. Together we have arrived at the end of term and we look forward to the next academic year with confidence.

### Important dates:

I can confirm that all the Secondary School's on Anglesey will close for the summer holidays at the end of the day on Friday, 16 July.

We will re-open to pupils on Monday, 6 September.

The school will re-open for staff training on Wednesday, 1 September.

We will confirm the other staff training days with you as soon as possible.

### New School Hours

Following the recent school hours consultation, I can confirm the new timetable from September 2021:

8:25 – Dechrau diwrnod gwaith i Staff	Cofrestru, Tiwtorial, Gwasanaethau a rhaglenni cymorth
8:35 – 8:50	
8:50 – 9:40	Gwers 1
9:40 – 10:30	Gwers 2
10:30 – 10:50	Egwyl
10:50 – 11:40	Gwers 3
11:40 – 12:30	Gwers 4
12:30 – 13:15	Cinio
13:15 – 13:20	Symud i wers 5 a chofrestru
13:20 – 14:10	Gwers 5
14:10 – 15:00	Gwers 6

This therefore is our timetable for the formal Curriculum. But here at Bodedern our vision includes increasing the pupils' experience as well as providing everyone with the opportunity to reach their potential. Therefore, we are currently working on a timetable and activities up to 5pm.

If Covid regulations allow we will have sport activities, informal curriculum, as well as catch up clubs and help with school work and homework.

To coincide with this we will begin to distribute a Chromebook each to all of the pupils at Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern from September onwards. Our aim is to ensure that everyone will have their own chromebook by the end of the next academic year. The pupil will own the



## **GCSE, AS and A Level Grades**

Congratulations to everyone on their achievement, the pupils have done brilliantly, in spite of the very difficult circumstances they faced. I must though please state that the grades should remain confidential until they are finally confirmed in August.

I wish every success to our year 13 pupils for the future, and to our year 11 pupils who are not returning to us in September. We are in the process of planning activities for the year 11 pupils who are returning to 6th form, and these will be a mixture of experiences at school and extra curricular and outdoor activities.

Thank you to you as parents for your support, and to the staff for their hard work and dedication during this new experience of awarding centre assessed grades.

### **Other developments from September 2021**

Improving the pupils' Learning and Experience in the classroom

YUB is the first secondary school to move fully to having 75" and 86" screens in every classroom. These replace the white boards and the interactive whiteboards. This equipment has the latest technology, and our staff have already received training to use them, there is strong evidence to suggest that the teaching is more effective and that the children enjoy the experience.



The Pandemic has meant that we have had to use the latest technology both at home and at work over the internet, and now we are using the latest technology at school. In order to respond to the challenge of having 50 new wi-fi enable screens and 700+ chromebooks at school we are pleased to see the broadband speed is increasing.

# Restore and Excel Programme

This has been a difficult year, and we are currently in the process of ensuring that our improvement programme continues apace next year. From September we will be launching our support centre for pupils and intend to increase capacity in order to support the wellbeing and inclusion of our pupils.

I have already stated our investment in the latest technology to improve the learning, and we will be focusing on improving all our assessment and tracking strategies so that you as parents and pupils will be fully aware of your child's progress and more importantly the steps for improvement. We will also be placing further focus on the 5 Questions.



## Questions for the teachers themselves:

1. What am I teaching?
2. Why am I teaching it?
3. How will I teach it?
4. How will I know when students have learned or not?
5. What is next ... if this works? If it doesn't work? Where do I go for help?

## Questions for parents to ask teachers:

1. What is my child learning?
2. How is she/he doing?
3. How do you know how she/he is doing?
4. How can she/he improve?
5. What support can I provide and can you provide if she/he is struggling? When will we check in again?

## Questions for parents to ask at home daily:

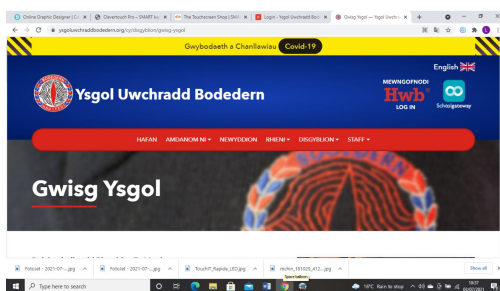
1. What did you learn today?
2. How did you do?
3. What did you do if you didn't understand?
4. How can you improve on your learning?
5. What are you most proud of?



# School Uniform

Since the lockdown period we as a school have tried to help avoid the worry of having to buy a new school uniform for a short period of time with the expectation that your child will grow during the summer and the added cost. We have lowered our expectations on school uniform substantially and under the circumstances we believe that this was the right thing to do.

However, from September we will be returning to the usual rules regarding school uniform. Our suppliers' information is on our website. I look forward to seeing everyone back in perfect uniform and believe this will help get us back to some form of normality.



Throughout the term we have been holding class forums with the pupils and it's interesting to see that the pupils are also keen to re-establish school rules in relation to the uniform.

I fully understand the cost implications, and if anyone has any concern please do not hesitate to contact me personally. I am also more than willing to open a consultation on the school uniform.

## MOBILE PHONES

Currently, we have no intention to completely ban mobile phones. We feel that this would be unduly unfair on the majority who use their phones wisely and responsibly. However, the use of mobile phones in the classroom has presented us with a substantial challenge.

Therefore, from September we intend to do the following:

- \* No pupil requires a mobile phone, but if they do bring them to school then the phone must only be used during break and lunchtime.
- \* Bringing a phone to school is the child's risk, we will not take any responsibility for any damage etc.
- \* If any pupil uses a mobile phone during lessons without permission, we will ask the child to give their phone to the teacher for safe keeping and we will agree a return method. We will share our plans on how to return mobile phones in September.
- \* I kindly ask for your co-operation with this matter, there is no need for mobiles at school, particularly social media.





## FOOD AND DRINK

Thank you all for your support this year which has presented many challenges when providing food and drink to our pupils. We are excited to announce that a new catering company will be providing food and drink here at the school from September. During my initial meetings with the company Chartwells we are excited to see their menus and look forward to returning to providing our usual compliment of hot and cold food. We are currently hoping to be able to serve refreshments during break times.

We are also in the planning stages for providing further eating areas which will be better for the pupils during lunchtimes. I look forward to sharing these with you in the near future.

We will not be allowing pupils to bring energy drinks to school. The classroom forums also agree with this. I ask again for your co-operation with this matter.



We are facing considerable challenges between now and the end of term, and in addition to the recent cyber-attack this has meant that we have had to shut down our on-line payment facility. Please accept our apologies for this inconvenience however the matter is completely out of our control.

## Improving Communication and Celebrating Success

Due to the recent cyber-attack and lack of software, we have been unable to produce our latest video, however we will be commissioning a new video in September.

During the year, our website has developed and we continue to increase our communications and celebrate our successes on Facebook.

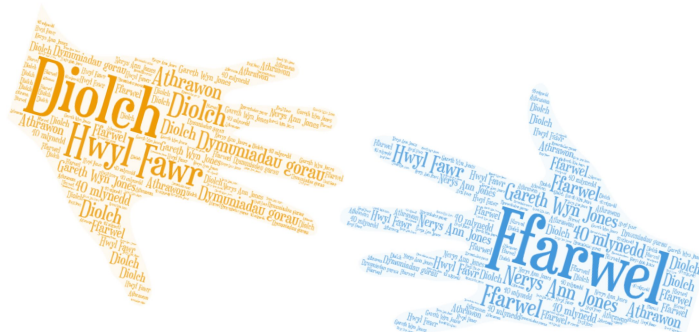
From September, we will continue to improve our communication strategies. We will be extending our school opening hours to 5pm and there will be a member of staff available to take your enquiries until then.

We will make further use of our Twitter account, and will extend this to subject led Twitter accounts such as Physical Education, this will be our main platform for sharing successes.

Currently, we have a Progress Leader for every key stage, but with our numbers forecast to rise, and our key strategy to increase the focus on wellbeing as well as communicate with you more effectively, we will soon move to appoint a head of year for **all years**.

## Goodbye ....

At the end of term we will bid farwell to Mr Gareth Wyn Jones (Science) and Mrs Nerys Ann Jones (English) who between them have provided nearly 40 years service to the school. We wish them both well on their new jobs. Thank you very much for your contributions to YUB.



## Welcome!

We look forward to welcoming new staff who will be joining us in September. Miss Louise Evans will join the Science department and Mrs Lois Rowlands will be English lead, with Miss Sian Pritchard also joining the English department.

There will be other staff members joining us too particularly to increase capacity with the restore and exel programme. I will update you all as we go through the appointment process.

With raising standards continuing to be one of our main priorities, we will continue to increase staffing levels and subject specialism.

### PUPIL REPORTS

Due to the recent cyber attack, we are unfortunately able to produce annual reports for pupils this year.

**Thank you all for your continued support.  
The improvement continues at Boded!**

**Enjoy the Summer break and please keep safe everyone!**

**Kindest regards**

**Paul G. S. Matthews-Jones  
Headteacher**