

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



JANUARY
2022

January 2022

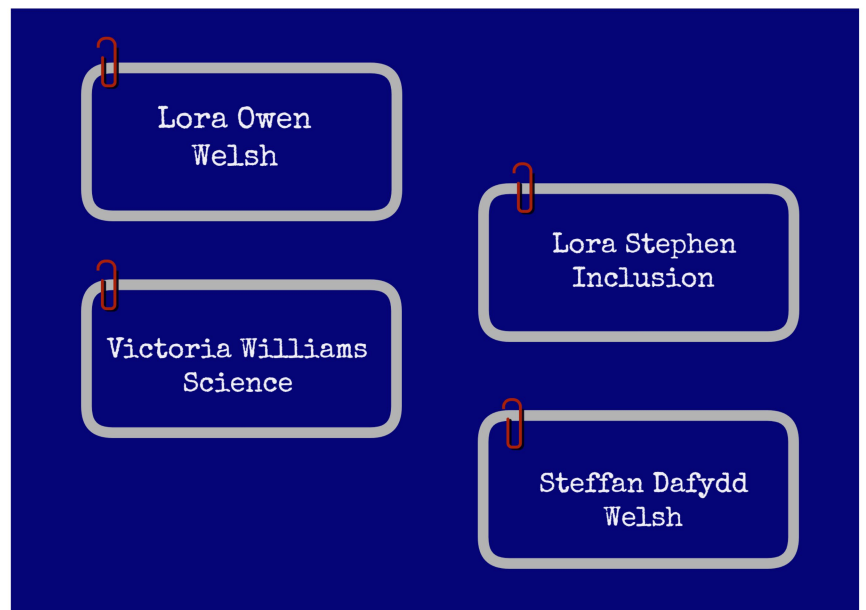
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

WELCOME BACK

Thank you for your fantastic support in what has been a very successful start to the new term. Attendance is up and it's wonderful to see everybody back and settling in well to school life. It is anticipated that the Welsh Government will reinstate level zero by the end of the month, which will be a very welcome announcement.

Pupil numbers have increased substantially since January 2020, and it's been a pleasure to welcome new staff to the team.

It's been a pleasure to welcome Lora Owen to the Welsh department and Victoria Williams to the Science department.



After Easter, we will formally welcome our English Head of Department Lois Rowlands, and Lora Stephen will join us as the Leader of the Inclusion Centre. I also have great pleasure in sharing with you that Steffan Dafydd will also join the Welsh department from September onwards.

More to come ...

But here is the good news! Our numbers are continuing to rise and we will start on another round of recruitment shortly in many other fields!

Our plans towards Easter

Supporting year 10-13 pupils on their preparations towards the external exams



We have formed a partnership with the 'Learning Performance' company to further support our students.

The company will visit the pupils in March and we have agreed on an intensive support package.



22/03/2022 - YEAR 10 - All day activity

4 presenters each working with a group for the day covering the Hit the Mark programme. Interactive and motivational workshop which will encourage pupils to dismiss any negative thoughts. This will raise achievement and help them gain the results they deserve.

"Our interactive and motivational Hit the Mark workshop encourages pupils to fling any negative thoughts such as, "I can't do it," or "it's too hard", out of the window.

We show them how they can learn, revise, and prepare for exams through the effective use of metacognition, building students' confidence, resilience and belief in their own ability to succeed.

All this raises achievement and helps students get the grades they deserve."

23/03/2022 - YEAR 11 - All day activity

4 presenters each working with a group for the day on the Reach for the Stars programme. A fast paced, interactive study workshop intended to stretch and challenge GCSE pupils. Everyone will learn study skills which will help them to study smarter rather than longer.

"This fast paced, interactive study skills workshop is designed to challenge and stretch GCSE students.

We show students how to learn, revise and prepare for exams effectively and efficiently, by equipping them with creative and innovative techniques that make learning easier!

We also show students how to overcome the fear of failure, practical stress management techniques, and the power of positive visualisation.

All this leaves students equipped with suitable techniques and tools for the challenges that lay ahead!"

24/03/2022 - YEAR 12 & 13 - All day activity

4 presenters working with groups for the day on Further Study Skills. The transition from KS4 to KS5 is a big leap and the course will offer ideas on independent study, time management and organisation.

"The transition from KS4 to KS5 is one of the biggest leaps students will make in their education, and that is without the added pressures COVID has brought on our students. Some students thrive with the extra freedom and responsibility, but many more struggle.

Our motivational and inspiring Advanced Study Skills workshop equips Year 12 or Year 13 students with effective learning strategies so they can grow to be successful, independent and resilient learners.

The programme looks at content including:

- * Independent Learning, Time Management and Organisation
- * Note-taking and Condensing information
- * Association Maps
- * Effective Reading
- * Research Skills
- * The Review Philosophy, including Spaced Practice
- * Stress Management and Procrastination
- * Growth Mindset and Motivation

We know that students have the ability to flourish in KS5, and beyond!"

CLUBS AT BODED

Our clubs are going from strength to strength this term!

Please find below the latest of what's on offer - and there is definitely something for everyone! Thank you very much to all the staff who lead the clubs and to you as parents for supporting us with your usual taxi service!

Please contact me if a lack of transport home is stopping your child from being able to enjoy what's on offer at these clubs.

MONDAY

WHAT?	WHEN + WHERE?
Boys Rugby 7&8	Field, 3-4:15pm
Computers	Lunch, 26
PE Theory GCSE	Lunch, Gym
PE Theory A Level	3-4:15pm
Q&A shop	Lunch, Nurse's Room
Salon	Salon, 3-5pm
Year 7 Netball	Lunch, Gym
Art Club	12:45-1:15pm, 12
Basketball	12:30-1:10pm, Gym

WEDNESDAY

WHAT?	WHEN + WHERE?
Gymnastics - Tumble	Lunch, Gym
Football 9&10	Lunch, AstroTurf
Football 7&8 Boys & Girls	3-4:15pm, Gym
Hockey 10&11	3-4:15pm
Computers	Lunch, 26
Cooking	3-5pm, 22
Music	3-4:30pm, 14
'Drop-in' session with lola	Lunch, 22
Weight-lifting	3-4:30pm, Gym

TUESDAY

WHAT?	WHEN + WHERE?
Netball 8 & 9	Lunch, Gym
Computers	Lunch, 26
Choir	Lunch, 14
Tabletop	Lunch, 15
Rugby 11, 12 & 13	3-4:15pm, Gym

THURSDAY

WHAT?	WHAT + WHERE?
Parkhour (everyone)	Lunch, Gym
Netball 10&11	Lunch, Gym
Rugby 9&10	3-4:15pm, Gym
Hockey 7,8 a 9	3-4:15pm, Gym
Computers	Lunch, 26
LGBTQ+	Lunch, 22
History Club 7&8	1st Thursday monthly 3-4pm, 5
Urdd bl7	Lunch, year 7 area
Business 10&11	3:15-4:15pm, 26

FRIDAY



WHAT?	WHAT + WHERE?
Girls Rugby	3-4:15pm
Computers	Lunch, 26
Ukulele	Lunch, 14
Art Club	12:45-1:15pm, 12
Basketball	3-4:15pm, Gym
Farming	3-5pm, Bro Alaw

CroeSo i bawb / All welcome



SITE AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

FENCE

We have installed a fence at the front of the School, and this means that the site is now completely safe.

Thank you to everyone for adapting so well to the new arrangements by signing out at the main reception before leaving the school property.

OPEN AIR GYM AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Work will start soon to install the open air gym and fitness equipment on the Cae Coch. It's an exciting step forward for the school and we have invested heavily in the very important area of Health and Wellbeing. Every pupil will have the opportunity to make use of these facilities to keep fit!

These also form our plans to respond to the New Curriculum and we will also be installing a second outdoor classroom.

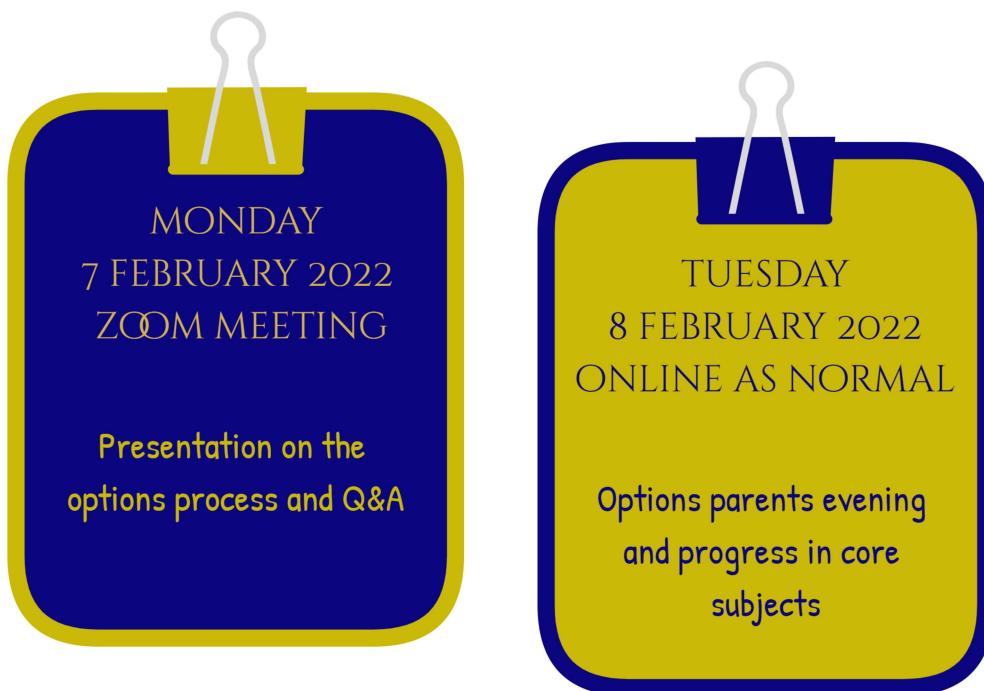


SUPPORTING PUPILS

YEAR 9 - OPTIONS

OPTIONS PROCESS FOR GCSE AND VOCATIONAL COURSES

Year 9 pupils have already begun the process of researching their options, and they will receive an options booklet which will help them further with this. We will also hold an options evening where pupils will also have an opportunity to discuss with Coleg Menai staff about partnership courses.



YEAR 9 TIMETABLE AND THE CURRICULUM

Following the success from last year we will adapt the year 9 curriculum and timetable after Easter. We intend to formally start GCSE courses in the core subjects of Welsh, English, Science and Maths, and for the remaining lessons the pupils will work thematically in groups to prepare for their other GCSEs. After the Whitsun break, they will be studying towards their GCSEs in all the subjects.



LISTENING TO PUPILS

We are listening and we are implementing!

You said!

We need to change the
School uniform!

The standards of toilets
need attention!

We need much more
space to eat lunch!

We will!

Plan new seating areas on the
school land and hold discussion
with Chartwells on your behalf.

We will review the school
uniform.

We will invest heavily in
upgrading the toilets.

A new food serving pod will arrive next month, and plans have been approved to build a sheltered outdoor eating area, we will also be ordering outdoor tables and benches.

We will send out a school uniform questionnaire before the half term.

Plans have been approved to improve the toilets. The improvement programme will include the installation of new doors, new flooring and painting. This work will start in the toilets by Bro Alaw and the gym.



SCHOOL RULES

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and to remind everyone of the school's rules.

1. Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not allowed in lessons or on the corridors. We are currently updating our policy and are eager to hear your views as parents.

2. Energy Drinks

Energy drinks are not permitted at school and we would be grateful for your co-operation as parents in order to ensure this.

3. School Uniform

Everyone is expected to wear a full school uniform every day. All information about the school uniform can be found on our school website under Pupils. We thank you all for your co-operation. If the cost of school uniform is causing you a problem then please contact us to discuss what options there are to help you.



Important dates for the Calendar

Monday, 31 January 2022 - INSET - School Closed for pupils

Friday, 18 February 2022 - INSET - School Closed for pupils

Monday 21 February - Friday 25 February - 1/2 Term Holiday

Monday, 28 February 2022 - INSET - School Closed for pupils

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