



Bryn Elia

December Newsletter

2023

A Message From The Headteacher

At the end of my first term as Headteacher at Ysgol Bryn Elian, I would like to thank all staff, parents, governors, the local community and our learners for their support and well wishes. I feel extremely privileged to lead such a fantastic school, made so by the staff and learners we have.

It has been a tough term with the introduction of some new processes and clear, high expectations, but everyone's hard work and determination is making our goal of Achievement for All, through opportunity, a reality for most.

Having been at the school for nearly 20 years, I have seen many initiatives come and go, but the ethos has always been the same. We want the very best for all our learners to provide them with plenty of choices and opportunities when they leave us. Wrapped up in this is a desire to teach our learners how to thrive in the real world and give them the skills to cope in difficult times. I am extremely proud of the progress we are making towards this goal. With your continued support, I'm sure we can maintain this progress and achieve even more!



I would like to give you my best wishes for the Christmas holiday, a time to be spent with family and to celebrate with those who are important to you. May you all have a rest and relax and enjoy the break, although I'm sure lots of you will be working over the festive period too.

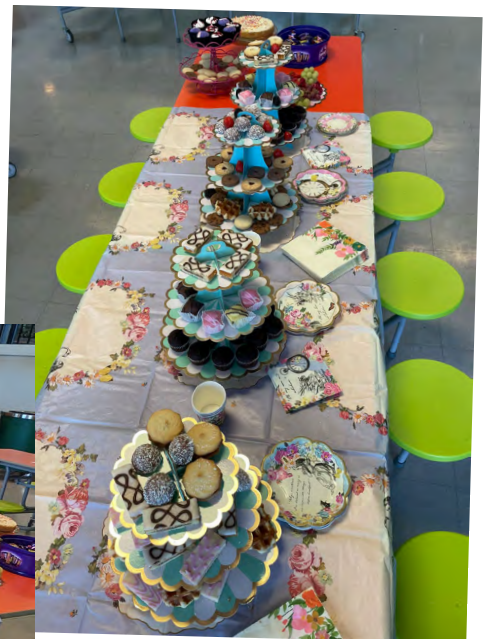
Nadolig Llawen i pawb.



Year 6 Afternoon Tea

The school held an afternoon tea for parents and learners who were thinking of applying to Ysgol Bryn Elian for Year 7 2024.

It gave parents and their children the opportunity to speak to staff, meet learners and ask any questions they had before making their final decision, in a relaxed and informal environment. The cake I'm sure was also a big draw!



Phoenix Fire Course

During our skills week in July, Miss E. Williams took Year 10 students to Llanfairfechan Fire Station to participate in the Phoenix Fire Course.

This was a 5 day course. The students developed their communication skills by understanding the importance of team work and determination. The students gained valuable information about the fire service and learnt several essential qualities such as various drills and techniques.

On the last day of the course, parents and guardians were invited to the Fire Station where the students presented a range of skills they learnt over the week. George Clemence was awarded for 'Role Model' for the week and Kyleigh Hedges was nominated for the 'Rising Phoenix Star of the week'.



15,000 Daffodils at Ysgol Bryn Elian

Ysgol Bryn Elian is delighted to announce a transformative project that sees 15,000 daffodil bulbs being planted across their school site. This feel good project, spearheaded by the pupils themselves, aims to boost staff and pupil esteem, raise spirits and unite everyone in a collective effort.

At Bryn Elian there has recently been a new initiative targeting positive pupil experience outside of the classroom. #MyBE, has bought picnic blankets for lunchtimes in the sunny weather, funded benches on the school site and started an afterschool coffee shop for pupils in addition to the daffodil project, Laffs A Daffs.

Project leader and teacher at the school David Wilkins said; "In spring, when these 15,000 daffodils bloom we'll see a stunning, uplifting greeting every morning as we arrive at school. Working with the students to make this project a reality has been great fun and I'd like to thank each and every one of them for their efforts. It's brought a real joyful environment to the staffroom and classroom as we try to realise this huge project, and we'll plant more next autumn if we can!"

The project encourages active participation from students, teachers, staff, parents, and the local community, fostering a sense of unity and pride. By engaging in this shared effort, the school aims to create a lasting sense of connection among its members, past, present and future.

Pupils, through various fundraising activities have raised most of the required funds and would like to thank Colwyn in Bloom and the Colwyn Bay Town Council for a generous contribution, allowing the purchase of an extra 5,000 bulbs. Thanks are also due to Conwy Council for their invaluable support in lending essential tools for the project.



Art Club

Art club is always very busy! During one session they were making pumpkins from recycled cereal boxes and tissue rolls. It's lovely to see creative opportunities for learners attracting lots of participants.



Public Services

We are thrilled to share the success of the recent visit by the Royal Air Force (RAF) to our Public Services students. The day was packed with valuable insights into RAF careers and engaging command tasks.

The RAF representatives captivated our students with their knowledge and expertise, shedding light on the wide range of career opportunities within the organisation. Through interactive presentations and demonstrations, our students gained a deep appreciation for the RAF's vital role in ensuring our nation's safety and security.

The highlight of the visit was the command tasks, which challenged our students' problem-solving skills and fostered teamwork, leadership, and effective communication. Their determination and resilience in overcoming these challenges were truly inspiring. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the RAF for their commitment in making this visit a resounding success. We also want to thank our students for their active participation and enthusiasm throughout the day.



Public Services

We recently had the incredible privilege of hosting the Army Outreach Team on our campus, and it was a day that left an indelible mark on our Public Services students.

The team shared first hand insights into diverse army careers, providing valuable perspectives on leadership and specialised roles. Interactive sessions allowed students to engage directly, bridging the gap between theory and real-world application. Elite skills challenges pushed our students to their limits, showcasing the level of dedication and expertise required in the army. It was an adrenaline-pumping experience that brought learning to life.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Army Outreach Team for their inspiring visit. It was a day filled with growth, learning, and unforgettable moments.



PE

We're thrilled to congratulate our amazing Year 10 boys who showcased their basketball skills in the Urdd Basketball competition today!

Both of our teams showed incredible determination and talent, qualifying from their respective groups. One of our teams even secured a fantastic 2nd place overall, narrowly missing out on victory in the last seconds of the game.

Also a thank you to the Urdd for inviting us to this incredible event and for organising such a fantastic day of competition.



STEM

Every year at Bryn Elan a team of year 12 students take on the EESW challenge to work alongside a real life, industry-based problem. This year the team are working alongside TATA Steel, a world-renowned Steel Manufacturing company. They have already visited the site in Deeside to meet the engineers and see firsthand the real-life problems they've been tasked to help solve.

Their goal is to help the company, and as a result they will receive an EESW qualification, as well as the prestigious Gold Crest Award.

The team: Efa Salisbury, Issie Pardon, Alfie Cox, Freya Roberts, Jamie Evans, Aaron Farrell, Hannah Dougherty, Ella Foggo, Antonia Bacila, Heva Fahy, Prakriti Manandhar, Declan Durrans.



Sixth Form

Year 13 Geography students enjoyed two bracing days collecting fieldwork data in North Wales for their Independent Investigation which contributes 20% towards their final grade. We were impressed by the determination and proficiency of the students, especially when the blue sky turned to grey! Brilliant teamwork was evident as all members of the group worked diligently to gather their data. Da iawn pawb!



Sixth Form

It's been a very busy term in the Sixth Form since September. The Urdd visited us to promote #FelMerch to our Sixth Form girls with an exciting opportunity to attend a sports-focused conference in Cardiff.

Year 13 have benefited from a UCAS application workshop and a presentation from Student Finance Wales in preparation for their Post-18 options. In November the Sixth Form raised a grand total of £141.53 for Children In Need – a fun filled day of diverse fancy dress costumes. So far this year, the Senior Student Team (SST) have also been busy representing their peers and the school during our annual Open Evening, at the Old Colwyn memorial ceremony for fallen servicemen and women, Remembrance Sunday and attending Governor's meetings.



CPA

'Jingle All the Way' Thursday 14th December 2023

On Thursday 14th December 50 students from the Expressive Arts Department took part in the annual Christmas show 'Jingle All the Way'. The music, dance and drama performances delighted the 110 strong audience who clapped and cheered along to well know Christmas numbers such as 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town', 'Nadolig Llawen' and 'Last Christmas'. The Variety Club performed the play 'The Sole of Christmas' and danced along to Kelly Clarkson's 'Underneath the Tree', Michael Monteiro performed 'Christmas Lights' by Coldplay on the piano and Denys Podchemiaiev performed a jazzy version of 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' on his violin. Bands performed and children sang which was exactly what Mrs Claus, who hosted the event wanted. She told us she is going to ensure that all the performers and BTEC Music Elves are on Santa's 'nice' list.



CPA

Year 8 Pupils Meet and Work with African Artist

Form 8D have spent time in class working with the African artist Mfikela Jean Samuel on portraits of African wild animals while learning about life and school in Africa. The resulting art work is going to be exhibited in Colwyn Bay Library in March 2024 as part of a project in conjunction with Llandudno Museum and Colwyn Bay's African Institute. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed working with Mfikela and he has been very complimentary about our pupils and their art work.



Welsh Baccaulaureate

Year 10 have been enjoying speakers delivering Monday afternoon sessions for the Welsh Baccaulaureate, Skills Challenge Certificate Qualification. Julie Williams from Big Ideas Wales gave a brilliant talk on how to develop skills as an Entrepreneur; Sam Griffiths from HSBC led a workshop on Household Budgeting and there are plenty more to come! Students are benefiting from the wealth of skills and expertise both in house and through external links within the local community and beyond. Head of Welsh Baccaulaureate, Dr James, said she was proud to deliver a wide range of workshops and 'lecture-style' sessions for our students to give them a head start on future University and College courses.



Innovation Award Success

Carys Boardman was awarded with 2nd Place in the A Level Category at the Annual WJEC Innovation Awards Ceremony. Learners from GCSE, AS and A level are shortlisted from thousands of entries, recognising talented young people, showcasing project work from WJEC Design and Technology qualifications. She designed an Accessibility Toolkit adapting tools one would usually use to put together flat-pack furniture, for example, so that those with disabilities such as motor problems or missing limbs can use the tools effectively.

Carys received a cheque and trophy in recognition of her innovation and the school also received a cheque which will be used by the Design and Technology Department to continue to drive innovation and change in the subject. Mrs Hastings, Headteacher, attended the ceremony at the Senedd with Carys and said, "It was a privilege to attend the ceremony and to see all of the amazing work the young people of Wales have produced. I am extremely proud of Carys and Mr Wallis, her teacher, on producing such an original and innovative idea. Even more than an idea, something that will help many people be independent and manage for themselves. A fantastic achievement by Carys. Da iawn."



Business Studies

Mr Crossland, our Business Leader paid the Year 13 Business Studies class a visit to discuss how the school operates its school budget, in line with their unit on Budgets and Variances.

During the visit, we learnt how he separates the budget into different headings, and how he monitors the expenditure to ensure that he keeps it within the allocation. A big thank you to Mr Crossland; his time and input was very much appreciated. Diolch yn fawr!



PE

The YBE Faculty of Health & Well-being is pleased to share success stories of pupil performance this term.

The school's busy extra-curricular programme continues to go from strength to strength with record numbers attending Sporting Clubs at lunchtimes and after school. Special mention must be given to the boy's year 7 football club who meet every Thursday after school. This club regularly attracts over 40 pupils and numbers continue to rise.

Basketball

Basketball is a popular sport at YBE. Our Year 10 team were unlucky to go out at the quarter final stage of the Eryri round of the Wesh School's Basketball competition losing a closely matched game against Myddleton College. Ruben Blundell and Richard Evans of Year 10 have pursued their interest in Basketball outside of school and currently represent Cheshire Phoenix and Wrexham Basketball clubs.



Football

YBE have played representative games in all age groups from Year 7 to the sixth form this Autumn. Having our amazing 3G facility has maximized opportunities for learners to represent the school. Sadly, all our teams exited the Welsh School's Competition in the preliminary stages this year. However, we continue to perform well in Conwy area tournaments and inter school matches. Our Year 7 & 8 girls team trains on a Wednesday afternoon after school.



PE

Touch Rugby

To celebrate this Autumn's Rugby World Cup held in France, Mrs Jones organised a Touch Rugby tournament over the 8-week period of the tournament. Over 50 learners signed up representing the countries who had qualified for the tournament. The event was won by Scotland who were awarded trophies for their efforts, along with pupils who were recognised as players of the match.



Delyth Wyn Jones Award

Delyth was a much loved colleague who went above and beyond to support YBE learners. In November the winners of the Delyth Wyn Jones memorial prize were recognised in a presentation held at YBE. Acknowledged for showing resilience in the face of adversity were Lawrence, Millie and Denys. Prizes were presented by Delyth's Mother, Buddug and Nephew Tomos.

Gymnastics

Thankyou to former pupil, Hannah Rushton for putting on a fantastic coaching session at the Grays Gymnastics Club. Year 8 & 9 were invited to experience this fantastic local facility. Mrs Wallis was extremely grateful to Hannah and said "The girls learnt so much from the experience and were a credit to YBE"



PE

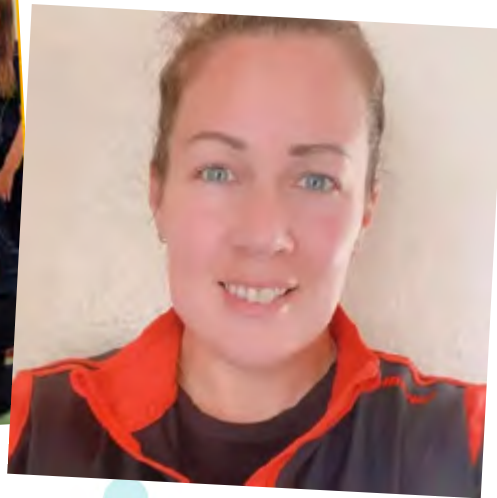
Netball

Netball continues to be a popular choice for YBE pupils. Supported by Mrs E Jones & Miss Owen girls have enjoyed much success this term.

During the second week of September YBE hosted 9 Conwy Schools for the County Under 14 tournament. YBE reached the competition's semifinals, losing a close game and narrowly missing a place in the final. YBE competed in the annual Ann Smart Under 16 competition at Ysgol Aberconwy. A pleasing YBE performance despite not progressing to the finals.

YBE learners have also gained Netball representative honors this term. Ella Howcroft (Year 13) & Eleri Gizzi (Year 11) have both been selected for the Under 17's Regional Netball Academy whilst both will represent their prospective age groups in North West schools' squads. Elisha Russell (Year 9) has also been called up for the under 14 north west squad.

Our very own Mrs Gould is also making a name for herself in the Netball world. She was recently recognised by Welsh Netball for her impact as a coach developing young talent in the area. Mrs Gould also spent time at the Island Games held in the Isle of Man as Coach to the Ynys Mon team.



PE

Rugby's Back..

The future of Rugby at YBE looks bright. With the help of Mr Tim Hoare (Welsh Rugby Union) and also parent of Harri in year 8 we have relaunched Rugby this Autumn in the lower school. We are extremely grateful to Tim who offers his time to help coach year 7 & 8 on a Tuesday after school. Mr Whitfield is commended for his support in running Rugby sessions with year 10 learners. He has worked tirelessly to build numbers with some competitive fixtures on the horizon.

Felmerch National Conference

Hosted in Cardiff, the National Felmerch Conference for young women and girls in sport was attended by YBE students Ella Foggo and Hannah Doherty of Year 12.

Design Our Kit!

Thanks to the kind donation of parent and school governor, Mr Neil Mahoney, the school have been awarded funding for a brand new bespoke football kit. The PE department were recently running a Football Shirt Design competition for learners. The winning design will be made up by local kit supplier Exile Sports. Entries closed on Friday 8th December 2023.



Careers Wales Quality Award

Ysgol Bryn Elian are pleased to take part in the Careers Wales Quality Award pilot, along with 37 other schools in Wales.

The Careers Wales Quality Award aims to support all schools and settings with learners aged 3 to 16.

It will support the development of purposeful and relevant CWRE (Careers and Work-Related Experiences) across the curriculum.

The Careers Wales Quality Award (CWQA) is aligned with the Curriculum for Wales. It will replace the Careers Wales Mark.

The CWQA has 3 stages, each with a different focus. The pilot will run from September 2023 to 2026 and Ysgol Bryn Elian will be asked to complete all three stages of the award during this time to achieve the award.

For more information, please visit: [Careers Wales Quality Award Pilot | Careers Wales \(gov.wales\)](#)



Open Evening

Our annual Year 6 Open Evening took place in October. Once again, it was well attended and our ethos of care, compassion and engaging learning was clear to see for all. Thank you to all the staff who always go the extra mile in preparation and thank you also for the positive feedback from parents and children, especially with reference to how polite, welcoming and helpful our learners who helped out on the night were. It is always lovely to see children not wanting to leave because they are enjoying themselves, and when they do, they leave with a smile on their face! A massive thank you to Mrs Jarvis who organised the evening. We look forward to seeing what next year has in store!



Friends of Bryn Elian

The Friends of Bryn Elian have been busy already this year. They have hosted a Halloween Disco for Year 7, raising money for the school Library to aid its renovation and to purchase new books and some comfy seating. A huge thank you to Mr Mike Jones for being the DJ for the evening! Further money for this cause will be raised via the upcoming Bingo evening; make sure you get your tickets to support this great cause. Friends of Bryn Elian raise money to fund projects in the school, all of which benefit learners. This year they have donated money to the Library renovation, equipment to start a Chess Club and match funded with PE to purchase some gym equipment. Last year, they donated funds to purchase picnic benches to provide more areas for learners to sit, the Science department purchased headphones to use with their laptop computers and the DT department benefitted by purchasing enameling equipment, amongst other things!

Anyone can join Friends of Bryn Elian to give their time and/or expertise to support fundraising for our learners. You're not committing yourself to anything, even if you can only give a small amount of your time, please get in touch with Mr Aaron Jones who is Chair of Friends of Bryn Elian.



Friends of
Bryn Elian

