



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of another year at Ysgol Bryn Elia we have many things to share with you and many things to celebrate.

It must be stated that the staff and Governors of Ysgol Bryn Elia are extremely proud of Years 11, 12 and 13 for the way they have conducted themselves during the summer exam series. They have had a couple of very difficult years, all amidst the time they were studying for key courses.

We could not have wished for year groups with a more positive outlook. They have truly shown resilience at its best.

As a school we hope to see as many Year 11 learners back to study with us Post 16 as possible, and Year 12 make a smooth transition to Year 13.

We extend to our Year 13 learners our very best wishes and every success in this, the next phase of their lives.

I am sure that as Covid restrictions have virtually all gone, you share our desire for a more 'normal' school year for us all in 2022-2023.

Enjoy reading this latest Newsletter.

GIVING YSGOL BRYN ELIA EVEN BETTER FACILITIES

After over 10 years of trying, 2022 proved to be the year that we would succeed in a bid to replace our old and tired Astroturf, which was increasingly becoming unusable. We very much thank Mr Brian Crossland, the School Business Manager, for leading a team of Governors and staff in the application process. We couldn't be prouder of the finished result. Here is a photo of our new £250,000 facility.





REMINDERS

- Please note that, as a general rule, we don't authorise any requests for term-time holidays unless in exceptional circumstances.
- Parking outside the school in the mornings and after the school day is very tight. Again, we please remind parents/carers not to park in the bus bay or on double yellow lines.
- Our annual reports and interim progress reports are now available on the SIMS Parents App. Please make sure you register as the school is now paperless in relation to report printing.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT YSGOL BRYN ELIA

Earlier this year the school gained the Inclusive School Award by IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark). In addition to this, the IQM decided that the work done by the school was of such a high quality that they decided to declare the school as an IQM Centre of Excellence.

Whilst talking of excellence, we were delighted to find out that Mrs Carolyn Platt, the teacher in charge of the school's Individual Resource Base, is a finalist for a National Teaching Award. We wish her every luck when she goes down to Cardiff for the Awards Ceremony in July.

LATEST NEWS.... Just prior to publication we have heard the fantastic news that Mrs Platt has won the Welsh National Teaching Award she was a finalist for. We are so proud of her and the work she does. More details will be included in the Autumn Newsletter.

'BUILD IT RIGHT' WORKSHOP

Betsi Cadwaladr and the Urdd met with our School Council, Eco-Committee, Well-Being Ambassadors and Sport Ambassadors in June for their input into developing the first North Wales Children's Charter.

STAFFING

At the end of this academic year we will be saying goodbye to the following staff. We thank them for all their hard work, and wish them the very best of wishes in their new posts and ventures.

Thanks go to:

- Mr Craig Stewart - Assistant Headteacher
- Miss Emily Williams - Teacher of English
- Mrs Melanie Henderson - Teacher of English
- Mr Dewi Williams - Graphic Designer
- Miss Annie Aspinall - Cover Supervisor
- Mrs Katie Dickson - Year 7 Teacher
- Mr James Pethica - Teacher of Science

WELCOME TO MRS SIMONE GOULD

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Mrs Gould to the school. She will replace Mr Craig Stewart as the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for services to learners, and learner and staff wellbeing.





SAFEGUARDING

Ysgol Bryn Eliau is very committed to safeguarding. Safeguarding is very much the responsibility of everyone – staff, learners, visitors, Governors and parents, as well as our community. Staff undergo regular training, as do our Governors, not only in child protection procedures but also safeguarding issues such as human trafficking, female genital mutilation, violence against women/domestic abuse and violence, and child exploitation amongst others.

If ever there are concerns in relation to safeguarding and child protection the key people in school to contact are:

- Dr Anna McCormack-Colbert – Senior Designated Officer
- Mrs Bronwen McKibben
- Mrs Simone Gould

LEARNER COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Learners at school have been very active over the past couple of years working on very important projects. Some of the work our learners have been engaged in are as follows:

- KiVa – whole school anti-bullying project
- Working with Mind on mental health work
- Ukraine appeal sports day
- 'Make a Difference' campaign
- 'Build it Right' workshops for the URDD
- Modern slavery workshops and assemblies

The school's learner council, under the direction of Mrs Simone Gould, will this year be undertaking work to educate each other on the sensitive topic of peer-on-peer sexual abuse. We believe this will be a very powerful piece of work.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Wolfson Laboratory was handed over to the Science Department in September 2021 for use with our 6th form students.

The additional space created has facilitated practical work with 6th form Science students. For Physics, it has created a dark space which allows the practical applications of optics to be explored. Chemistry, Biology and Medical Science practicals are catered for using new dedicated equipment, and the arrangement of the room allows teachers to get around and embed learning during practical activities. The grant also allowed us to purchase 15 laptop computers exclusively for 6th form Science students which allow web-based research to be integral to our teaching.





MICROCLIMATE ENQUIRY

As part of our work towards the new Curriculum for Wales we have been trying to extend and embed the geographical enquiry skills of our Year 7 learners. Using hand held anemometers, learners investigated the microclimate of Ysgol Bryn Elia, diligently collecting primary data as they made their way around the school site. Data on temperature, wind speed and wind direction was collected from 4 sites. Learners then had to apply their findings to decide where would be the best place to eat a picnic lunch, providing supporting evidence from their investigation. It was decided by all that learning in the outdoors was a thoroughly enjoyable wellbeing exercise!



YEAR 9 CROSS-CURRICULAR: MATHEMATICS AND GEOGRAPHY – AROUND THE WORLD IN 60 MINUTES

The YBE Mathematics Department and the Humanities Department worked in collaboration to enable some of our learners to take part in an online workshop this term. Year 7 and Year 9 learners joined a zoom call with a myriad of learners from around the world, in different time zones, to take part in a session that linked the skills of mathematics with learning from geography. A huge thank you to Mrs Hayes for arranging this fantastic opportunity!

LEARNERS CELEBRATE THE RENEWAL OF THEIR ECO-SCHOOLS GREEN FLAG: 4TH PLATINUM RENEWAL



Our learners have proven their green credentials yet again after taking part in a rigorous assessment process via Teams. Earlier this year, the Eco-Committee met with Catrin Hughes from Keep Wales Tidy. Their remit was to share, and celebrate with her, their progress over the last year in environmental change within our school community and setting.

At the end of the meeting, Catrin delighted the Eco-Committee with the fabulous news that we will attain our Green Flag: 4th Platinum Renewal. Our Eco-Committee consists of two representatives democratically elected from each year group. It plays an important role in the learner voice at Ysgol Bryn Elia.

The last two years have been challenging for the Eco-Committee. The restrictions placed on schools because of Covid-19 have limited many of the activities in which the Eco-Committee would normally take part. However, as always our learners have demonstrated strength, resourcefulness and resilience. They have encouraged our school community to use our new onsite clothes recycling facility from Dragon Bags. All the money raised from donating clothes will go back to the Eco-Committee to help them improve the school environment further.

The Eco-Schools programme is designed to empower and inspire young people to make positive environmental changes to their school and also to the wider community, while building on their skills, including numeracy and literacy, and encompassing Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship. In Bryn Elia we are delighted to see that, thanks to the efforts of our learners, this goes from strength to strength!



LONDON 2022

The annual London trip returned, post-Covid, this month – and what an experience it was. The Business and Computing department caught the train with 28 students from Years 11, 12, and 13 and embarked on the London adventure.

This experience is designed not only academically, but also to provide learners with new experiences and to develop their personal skills. Having negotiated the train, we arrived at our hotel, a short walk from Euston Station. After dropping the luggage off, we quickly left for the first experience of the tube. We traveled out to Stratford to the Olympic Park where we met our tour guide, Pamela. After traveling up to the top of the Orbit Tower, most screamed their way to the bottom of the Orbit Tower Slide – from top-to-bottom! We then learned about the regeneration of the area and how the Olympics had brought financial gain and re-developed it into a business area. Along with this, we visited the Velodrome, the Olympic Village, and the Olympic rings, before traveling back in rush hour for an evening meal in Covent Garden. 24,000 steps later we arrived back at the hotel with some tired students (and staff).



Day two, was our action-packed day. A trip to Piccadilly Circus for some shopping in Lilywhites (to hide from the rain) before we headed for some views from the London Eye. A short walk over Westminster Bridge took us to the sites of Big Ben, Downing Street, and Parliament, where we almost got mixed up in a freedom march. Lunch at Trafalgar Square, then to the dungeons for a terrifying experience for all! After regaining our composure, we quickly grabbed the underground to the Shard for some more unbelievable scenery of London and the wider area. Tea on the Strand and another 25,000 steps, completed the day.

Our final day, took us on a trip to the National History Museum – where the students and Miss Aspinall brushed up on her Humanities, Mr. Rees will be proud. A visit to the Palace and then off to Oxford Circus for a few souvenirs, before traveling back to North Wales.

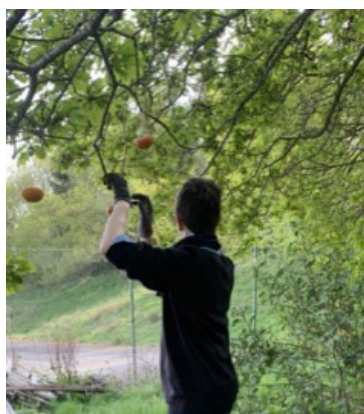
Mr Woodhouse would like to thank everyone on the trip for making the trip so enjoyable. This is an inspirational experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all, look out over the next two weeks to book your place on next year's trip.

#LivelaughLondon #quirky #lush #livingthelondonlife



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ECO CLUB

The Eco Club meet every Friday lunch time in F5 to participate in activities which aim to improve the school environment. Last month, members from the Eco Club were busy creating bird feeders using leftover oranges and bird seed. A Year 8 pupil can be seen attaching these bird feeders onto the trees in the garden. The group has also been busy litter picking and collecting pens to be recycled. During the month of June, the club has also been busy taking part in the '30 Days Wild' challenge. For 30 days the members will be completing activities outside to improve their wellbeing. Learners from Year 7 can be seen hugging trees around school as part of this challenge.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

During their Religious Studies lessons, Year 9 have been learning about Christianity. As part of this learning experience, classes were tasked to research and gather information on Christian churches. Using the information they had collected, they then showcased their knowledge by designing and creating places of Christian worship using recyclable materials. Here are some of the results of their hard work...



TEACHING AND LEARNING AT YSGOL BRYN ELIAN

It has been another busy year at Ysgol Bryn Elia for staff and learners, however we have continued to develop our strategies in and outside of the classroom to further enhance the provision for our learners. This year has seen a large focus on how we use feedback to support learners and provide opportunities to improve knowledge and skills. This has resulted in a shift away from excessive traditional marking, to a mix of timely feedback strategies between, and in lessons, such as whole class and verbal feedback. This provides learners with more relevant feedback that they can relate to, and act on effectively. Staff continue to provide written marking where most beneficial for learning, and the timely feedback strategies that have been trialled and applied to teaching has enabled staff to spend more time creating engaging and supportive lessons based on the progress learners are making.

As well as feedback, staff have had an opportunity to go and see other staff teach, so that we as a school are sharing the great practice going on in lessons. A huge passion of the school is to continually reflect on learning in lessons, so providing staff with the opportunity to collaborate is something we believe to be vitally important. We have also provided opportunities for learners to share their experiences through questionnaires and learning conversations with staff. By providing a platform for our key stakeholder to share their feelings, we feel that we are continually trying to provide the best experiences possible.

Finally, we have continued to look at strategies in the classroom that extend key skills such as extended writing and critical thinking. Staff have had training from NACE and there is ongoing work to evaluate practice in the classroom through our research groups. Members of each department are working together in a teaching and learning group to share ideas, provide feedback on the impact of individual strategies, and look at excellent practice from wider research and literature, so that we remain informed of the most effective strategies for teaching and learning.



GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION WELSHWISE QUIZ

We are delighted that Grace, Mia and Charlie from Year 9 will be participating in the WelshWise Quiz to be held face-to-face this year at Prestatyn High School in early July. This quiz provides an opportunity for learners to demonstrate their geographical knowledge, understanding and skills, especially in relation to current events and matters of both global and local significance. We wish the girls the very best of luck and hope that they have an evening full of geographical fun and challenge!



CROSS COUNTRY

Our fantastic endurance athlete's: Ciara (yr9) and James (Yr13) competed in the Eryri Cross Country Competition back in January. Ciara finished an amazing 1st place and James a fabulous 2nd place. Watch out for these two in the future; James is seeking opportunities to study in the US and further his running ambitions whilst Ciara is also a talented swimmer and triathlete who represents Wales! She placed 6th this year in the British Triathlon Championships!



NETBALL

Here are our Year 7 Netball team who were crowned champions at the Conwy Schools tournament back in May! Roll on next season! Gwych iawn pawb!



Eleri Gizzie was selected for the North West Wales U14's squad this year. She was also named Vice Captain for their tournament down in Cardiff where they competed against the other Wales Regions. Eleri is not only a talented player but is also a valued Sport Ambassador who commits her time to help coach and umpire the younger year groups.





ATHLETICS



Athletics is back! It has been great to see so many of our learners training and competing in Athletics once more. Congratulations to all who competed in the Conwy Senior Championships in May; their effort and attitude was impeccable. Seven of our athlete's qualified for the Eryri round as a result of finishing either first or second in their events. Here is how they got on at Bangor a week later...

- Luca Jones - 1st Javelin, 2nd Long Jump, 2nd 100m.
- James Smith- 2nd 1500m (selected to represent Eryri in the 3k race)
- Ciara Cust- 1st 1500m, 1st 800m
- Eleri Gizzie- 4th Shot Put
- George Clemence- 2nd 800m
- Georgia Holland- 5th High Jump
- Matthew Smith- 5th 100m

All the best to Luca, James and Ciara who have all been selected for the National round in Brecon on July the 2nd.

BRAND NEW 3G FACILITY!!

Thanks to the efforts of the school's Business Manager, Mr Brian Crossland. YBE secured the funding from the FAW to revamp the old Astro turf surface to a brand new 3g facility.

Head of Physical Education, Mr Richard Hooper commented; "Everyone at YBE is super excited to have this 3g pitch. We are indebted to the efforts of Mr Crossland in securing the funding for this amazing facility. It will benefit not only the school's pupils but the entire community"





NASUWT ATHLETICS

On June the 10th, Eirias Park hosted the annual NASUWT Athletics Competition. This is a team event for years 7&8, 9&10. 33 of our learners competed and we witnessed some fantastic individual performances on the day and a great sense of team spirit!

The year 7 & 8 team will now progress to Bangor at the end of the month after finishing 1st overall in their age category.



BIRTH OF BRYN ELIA BADGERS

The Bryn Elia Badgers basketball side was formed in October 2021 when two Year 8 Pupils, Riley Gilbert-Williams and Loxley Burgess approached Mr Hooper about starting a Basketball Club.

Coached by Abdel Azzouz the "Badgers" train every Friday lunch time. They have enjoyed competitive matches against Emrys Ap Iwan and Eirias. The team have continued to attract new members and have improved week by week.

I'm sure the "Badgers" will continue to improve and we are excited to see what the future holds for basketball at YBE.



DELYTH WYN JONES MEMORIAL PRIZE

Congratulations to our first ever Delyth Wyn Jones Memorial Prize (Gwobr Goffa Delyth Wyn Jones) winners: Stewart, Sami and Fionn.

Delyth was a much loved teacher and colleague to many over the years and will always be remembered for the care and passion shown to supporting Bryn Elia students achieve their best. The Delyth Wyn Jones Foundation have decided to honour Delyth's memory annually by awarding a learner from each Key Stage with a prize and trophy. Llongyfarchiadau mawr i'r tri!



CURRICULUM FOR WALES

Working in collaboration and led by Mrs Elin Jones, we have been piloting an exciting new curriculum to year 7 pupils since September 2020. Specific Well Being projects are delivered over two, 5-week cycles during the academic year. The objective of the first project is to enhance learners' understanding of physical health, whilst the second project has an emotional and social health focus. The department has worked closely with other departments within the Health and Well-Being area of learning to prepare specific curriculum content that will prepare our learners on the benefits associated with leading a healthier lifestyle.

The 4 purposes and what matters statements laid out in the new Curriculum for Wales have been the focus of our curriculum planning to ensure we are providing the learners with the very best opportunity to develop varied and transferable skills, which will benefit them across all walks of life, now, and in the future.



HEALTH & WELLNESS SUITE



As YBE continues to provide the very best facilities for its pupils in order to promote Health & Well Being the school has opened a new Health & Fitness facility.

Stocked with a wide range of state of the art Cardio-vascular and Resistance equipment, the facility allows pupils and staff to discover a range of fitness opportunities both during lessons and through extra-curricular clubs. The facility has been an extremely popular addition to our sporting facilities and continues to evolve with the addition of new equipment that has kindly been donated by members of the public and the school's "Make a Difference" initiative. I must also take this opportunity to thank members of the PE teaching staff who gave up their own time during the summer holidays to get the facility ready for use.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHING CLASSROOM

Thanks to the kind donations from "Business for Schools" and to coincide with the opening of the new Health & Wellness facility, a brand-new Physical Education classroom was opened in September 2021. Located next to the Health and Wellness suite, the classroom gives students the unique opportunity to explore theoretical concepts through practical challenges. The classroom has given us the opportunity to accelerate learning in a unique teaching environment.

As we look forward to the launch of the new Curriculum for Wales in September 2022, Ysgol Elia's Physical Education department has teamed up with PSE & Food Technology to form the HWB (Health and Well Being) Faculty.

'WE CAN GO THE DISTANCE' FUNDRAISER

On Friday the 8th April our fantastic Sports Ambassador team and staff took part in an all day sponsored challenge with the aim of raising as much money for the DEC Ukraine Appeal as possible. Using the rowers, bikes and ski erg machines in our amazing new fitness suite and running, walking and cycling outside to clock up as many kilometres as possible helped us raise money and awareness in aid of the cause.

By 2:40pm on the day of the challenge, the team had travelled all the way to Calais! The fundraiser raised over £600 for the charity.

Top Contributor awards to help us cross the line went to:

KS5: James Smith (Ran over 30Km)

KS4: Seren Warwick (Cycled over 60km)

KS3: Harry Griffith (21Km multi-activity)

Most money was collected by:
Jamie Evans

Top staff contributors: Mr Paul Brierley & Hayley Hughes





SPORT AMBASSADORS/MENTORS

In September we appointed the following Year 8 learners as Sport Ambassadors/mentors. They have been busy at work all year supporting the PE department and Senior Ambassadors with extra-curricular clubs. Diolch yn fawr i chi gyd am eich gwaith caled!

George Clemence, Ruben Blundell, Nathan Whitehall, Harry Griffith, Eva Livingstone, Ifan Salisbury, Alexa McGuinness, Kaysie Davies, Georgia Holland, Evie Vicars-Harris, Kerrie Dilworth, Callum Jackson, Mollie Campbell, Peter Jones.

WELL-BEING AMBASSADORS

We are delighted to announce that Ysgol Bryn Elia have been part of the Conwy Well-Being Ambassador Programme this year. Over the Summer 2021 term, we were overwhelmed with the level of interest shown by learners from years 9, 10 and 11 who wished to sign up to the Programme in aid of supporting the Health and Well-Being of their peers.

As a result of signing up, they all received training by professional, local agencies on a variety of emotional and social issues that young people experience. On completing the training, we began an application process to identify the individuals that would become our Well-Being Ambassadors:

Grace Tideswell, Eleri Gizzie, Harriet Glover and Maddie Owen (Year 9)

Saskia Walmsley, Efa Salisbury, Freya Roberts, Lucy Marshall and Maddi Owen (Year 10)

Sami Karadal, Mia Barlow, Jonath Thomas, Harmony Powell and Joshua Hughes (Year 11)

We are extremely proud of these kind, enthusiastic and compassionate individuals who are volunteering their time to raise awareness of Mental Health and Well-Being around the school. They have led assemblies to entire year groups, facilitated drop-in centres for year 7, 8 & 9 learners and participated in workshops and further training throughout the year.

INCLUSIVE SPORTS DAY TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



On Friday 24th June we were lucky enough to be invited to take part in an Inclusive sports day in Yew Tree Academy, Knowsley. This festival brought together children from primary, secondary and special schools during which they focused on accessibility, celebrating diversity and ultimately, having fun. All children were able to take part, including those with complex special educational needs and disabilities.

Children from all backgrounds, those with or without special educational needs and disabilities, a mix of age ranges, and representatives from schools across the North West of England and North Wales, were all included in the sporting competition. The children all participated in the same events to enjoy sporting activities within a friendly competitive atmosphere. The emphasis was on taking part, teamwork, enthusiasm, respect and celebrating each other's achievements. Activities enjoyed by the participants included Boccia, curling and sit-down basketball. The Sports Festival was a huge success and all involved thoroughly enjoyed the day.

A fantastic day was had by all involved and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves visiting a new place and making memories with new experiences. All children received medals and certificates to recognise their participation.



CURRICULUM FOR WALES AT YSGOL BRYN ELIA

As part of our preparations for the Curriculum for Wales, we have been developing and defining the values we think are important to us, here at Ysgol Bryn Elia. In developing these values, we have had input from all stakeholders including: parents, learners, staff, governors and the local community. All of the feedback has been collated, with the following forming our way forward.

MISSION STATEMENT

At Ysgol Bryn Elia we endeavour to serve our community by ensuring all learners are supported in reaching their full potential to become full and contributing members of society, based on a fully inclusive experience, developing a love of learning and ensuring Achievement for All.

VISION AND VALUES

- **B**rave - We want our learners to be curious and take measured risks in a responsible and creative way, to explore and develop their learning.
- **R**espect - We hope to model and teach learners what it means to be respectful and accepting of differences and diversity, and of their own rights and the rights of others.
- **Y**ES! - We want learners to have a 'can do' attitude; to be able to set goals and be proactive in their own learning.
- **N**urture - We want learners to understand the importance of the environment and to make better and more informed choices and decisions, taking into account the impact they may have on others.
- **E**gwyddorol (Principled) - We want our learners to be aware of right and wrong and have the courage to enact these principles, with clear morals and responsibilities.
- **L**lwyddiannus (Successful) - We want to develop a culture of high expectations where learners feel confident and able to aim high and seek out support to achieve their goals and dreams. We would like learners to have confidence in knowing that making mistakes is part of learning and to embrace a love of learning.
- **I**ach (Healthy) - We want our learners to understand good mental, physical and sexual health with clear boundaries to build healthy, positive relationships.
- **A**nnibynnol (Independence) - We want to ensure learners are supported to make their own, informed decisions and to seek out ways to support themselves and their goals, where they challenge themselves and persevere in the face of difficulties.
- **N**erthol (Strength) - We want our learners to have the energy and strength to engage in, be comfortable with, resilient to, and adaptable to change, and to have an increased awareness of the outside world.





ART AND CRAFT WELL-BEING AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

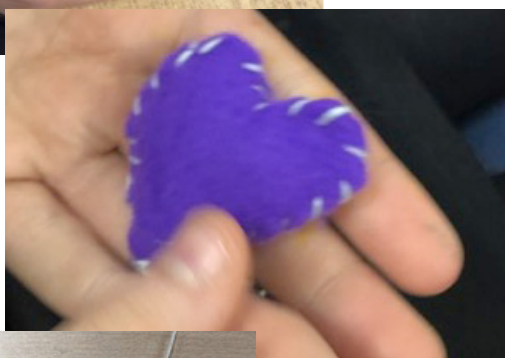
Art and crafts can help boost self-esteem, confidence, reduce stress, relax, alleviate the symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Pupils have created felt pocket hugs. A pocket hug can be tucked into your pocket or given to someone, so you have a constant close-by reminder that you are loved.

They also created their own banners using a variety of different textile techniques.

I have seen pupils engage more and be resilient and, the best thing I have noticed, is new friendships being made.

Miss Milne



PROVISIONAL KEY DATES FOR THE 2022/23 ACADEMIC YEAR

TRAINING DAYS

- 1st September 2022 - term begins - training day - no learners in school
- 2nd September 2022 - training day - no learners in school
- 14th October 2022 - training day - no learners in school
- 23rd December 2022 - last day of term - training day - no learners in school
- 1st May 2023 - May Bank Holiday - no learners in school
- 20th July 2023 - training day - no learners in school
- 21st July 2023 - last day of term - training day - no learners in school

TERM DATES

- 5th September 2022 - all learners in school
- 28th October 2022 - last day of term
- 7th November 2022 - term begins
- 23rd December 2022 - term ends (See training days above)
- 9th January 2023 - term begins
- 17th February 2023 - last day of term
- 27th February 2023 - term begins
- 31st March 2023 - last day of term
- 17th April 2023 - term begins
- 26th May 2023 - last day of term
- 5th June 2023 - term begins
- 21st July 2023 - term ends (See training days above)