

# Governors'

# **Annual Report**

2023-24





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#### Introduction

Governing Bodies of maintained schools are required to produce an Annual Report to parents and guardians. The content of this report is statutory, although Governing Bodies may choose to add information that may be useful.

The annual report is the main formal method by which the Governing Body can demonstrate their accountability to parents and guardians. It offers an opportunity not only to communicate with parents what has been happening during the previous school year, but also to share the Governing Body's plans to promote high standards of educational achievement.

The regulations allow schools to provide a full report only to parents who request a copy and publish a summary for all parents and guardians.

A copy of the report can be found on the school website.

The previous requirement that a governing body hold an annual meeting for parents has been superseded. Under section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, parents may request up to three meetings in a school year with the governing body of the their school.

No request was made to hold and annual meeting during 2023/24.



#### **Foreword by Chair**

I would like to present the Governors' report for 2023-24.

The school is moving forward, successfully with robust plans in place to drive school improvement and ensure our motto of Achievement for All is being met.

We, as Governors, are grateful to the staff for their dedication and perseverance throughout the year.

The school works hard with the local community and on transition to ensure our learners receive the best education and opportunities available to them.

There is still concern regarding finances and the settlement the school receives. The school has looked at innovative ways to generate money and save money for the future, as well as being very economical with expenditure and general finances.

Finally, I would like to thank the Headteacher for an excellent first year in supporting improvement in the school and the staff for the innovative work that takes place during the year, including the support given to you as parents and guardians and the support given to the school by you too.

Phil Capper

Chair of Governing Body

#### **Chair and Clerk Details**

**Chair of the Governing Body** 

Phil Capper

Clerk to the Governing Body

**Brian Crossland** 

crosslandb@ysgolbrynelian.conwy

Contact the Chair via the clerk at the above e-mail address or in writing to the school address.



#### **Governor Details**

Mr P. Capper Partnership Governor & Chair

Mrs D McGuinness Community Governor & Vice Chair

Mrs T Sawyer Partnership Governor

Mr D Doherty Community Governor
Mr N. Mahoney Parent Governor
Cllr. N. Coverley LA Governor

Mr J. Clayton Partnership Governor Mrs K. Morley **Community Governor** Mrs K. Guise **Parent Governor** Mrs R. Tuffery **Parent Governor** Mrs J Hatton **Parent Governor** Mr R Head **Parent Governor** Cllr. C. Carlisle **LA Governor** Staff Governor Mr K Hughes Mrs J. Jarvis **Teacher Governor** Mr N Tuck **Teacher Governor** Mr J. MacLennan Partnership Governor

Mrs L Hastings Headteacher/Governor

Mrs S Biggin-Jones Deputy Head

Mr. B. Crossland Clerk

There are currently three vacancies on the Governing Body:

Two parent governors

One partnership governor

Elections have been advertised.



#### **Governor Meetings & Agendas 2023-24**

See Appendix 1

#### **Key Dates**

See Appendix 2

#### **Staffing**

Ysgol Bryn Elian has a total of 58 teaching staff, 11 of whom are part-time. We have 9 GO1 teaching assistants, 1 GO4 and 1 GO5, 4 cover supervisors, 4 Learning Mentors employed by the school. We also have 1 teacher, 2 GO4s and 1 GO3 employed as part of The Base SLDP funded by Conwy LEA.

In 2023-24 we said goodbye to the following staff:

- J. Powell redundancy
- B. McKibben redundancy
- M. Blench new post
- E. Jones promoted post
- C. Platt retirement
- T. Roberts redundancy

#### Learners

By mid-September 2023 there were 1039 learners on the school's register.

Year 7 - 11 = 885

Year 12-14 = 154



#### Curriculum

Ysgol Bryn Elian has a broad and balanced curriculum, meeting all statutory requirements. As well as traditional subjects such as English and Maths, the school offers a broader range to cater for the variety of ability and interests in learners, as well as to meet the Four Purposes of Curriculum for Wales and ensure all AoLEs are catered for.

Cymru a Fi and Forest School are available in Years 7 and 8, as well as college and EOTAs packages in Year 10 and 11. The school works closely with Conwy Linc to provide a broad offer at Level 3.

LINC Conwy Prospectus 2024-25 ver8 Int

The school adapts the curriculum to suit the needs of all learners and to meet the motto of Achievement for All, including the provision for the on-site Severe Learning Difficulties Base.

Support is offered for improving Literacy and Numeracy skills, both in class and for individuals.

Regular professional learning takes place to enhance teaching and learning practices in the school and to take into account the most recent research in the filed too.

# YBE Way

#### **Sixth Form**

#### **Destination Data**

See Appendix 3

#### **Current progress in the Sixth Form**

#### Prefects:

Following a rigorous application process, the Senior Student Team (SST) have appointed their Prefect Team for 2024-2025.

#### Assemblies:

- UCAS assemblies have been delivered by JJ and Bangor University regarding UCAS applications
- Careers Wales will be presenting to the Sixth Form on 'Alternatives to Higher Education'.
- The Project Trust will be presenting to the Sixth Form on International Volunteering Opportunities on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

#### UCAS:

 Two early entries (one Veterinary to Cambridge, one to Oxford to read Chemistry) successfully submitted, now awaiting offers.

Rhian Jones from Student Finance Wales will be in to present to those in Year 13 whose chosen post-18 pathway will/may be university (on 15.10.24).



#### **School Improvement**

The school has a Post Inspection Action Plan after the ESTYN inspection in April.

#### Priorities are as follows:

- **P1.** Improve quality of teaching, particularly the level of challenge in lessons and its impact to improve learning.
- **P2.** Strengthen self-evaluation processes and planning for improvement to focus more precisely on pupils' learning and skills.
- **P3.** Ensure that all middle leaders have a precise understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement in teaching and learning within their areas of responsibility.
- **P4.** Improve attendance rates, particularly for those who are persistently absent.
- **P5.** Develop provision and opportunities to improve pupils' literacy skills (including in Welsh Language), enhancing progress in learning across the curriculum.

#### **Data**

Information about the school's performance will be published on My Local School website (around December):

https://mylocalschool.gov.wales/School/6625403?lang=en

#### **Finance**

**Financial Statement for 2023-24** 

See Appendix 4



#### Welsh Language

The school is an English Medium school teaching Welsh as a second language. We embrace the use of the Welsh Language and try where we can to ensure signs, displays and conversation is bi-lingual. All learners are expected to sit a GCSE in Welsh Second Language at the end of Year 11.

The school is starting on a journey to achieve Siarter laith status next year to strengthen its ties to Welsh Language and culture.

Cymru a Fi in Year 7 and 8 allows learners the opportunity to learn about their culture and what it means to be a young person in Wales at this moment in time. In addition, the school always holds an annual Eisteddfod.

#### Attendance

There is no requirement to report on 2023-24 attendance.

Current for whole school is:

- 85.3% (including 6<sup>th</sup> form)
- 88% without (This time last year was 85%)

Year 7: 92%

Year 8: 88.5%

Year 9: 84.5%

....

Year 10: 86%

Year 11: 88.4%

So far we've had 541 sessions marked as a G (equates to 270.5 days) and 43 sessions marked as a H (equates to 21.5 days) so nearly 300 days absence for holidays.



#### **Pastoral Update**

The school uses Satchel One to track behaviour of learners. The system allows us to analyse the data in different ways, to identify learners who need support and intervention and to identify patterns in behaviour.

Most staff use the system well and appropriately.

The system allows us to have an on-call function for staff to use if they need assistance when following the Behaviour Policy does not result in the desired impact on learner behaviour.

All learners who have had an exclusion for violent or intimidating behaviour either already has, or is in the process of having, a risk assessment.

Many more achievement points for learners have been awarded to celebrate the excellent effort and focus for the over-whelming majority of our learners.



#### **Safeguarding & Learner Wellbeing**

The school continues to work well with outside agencies and to provide support for those who need it, with regards to safeguarding issues and the wellbeing of learners.

Concerns regarding services referring many things back to school as they do not have the resources to support or have not had the required impact!

#### **Staff Wellbeing**

- Staff still have access to Westfield Health.
- Thank you cards have been written to some staff to thank them for their hardwork.
- However, the job is still very demanding, especially with increased accountability and expectations on staff to drive improvement.
- Short-term staff absence has reduced.



#### Infrastructure

#### **CCTV** cameras

- We have a wide network of CCTV cameras around the school. These cameras help us to monitor behaviour issues and to keep learners safe.
- We wish to install cameras in the toilets pointing at the sinks, not the cubicles, to support those learners who do not often want to go to the toilet during the school day and to prevent further vandalism to the toilets.

#### **Toilet Facilities**

- There are four sets of toilets for learners to use allocated to Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 and 11. In addition, there are Gender Neutral toilets available and separate toilets in the Sixth Form Centre.
- Toilets are cleaned daily, at the end of the day, but they are monitored throughout the day also.

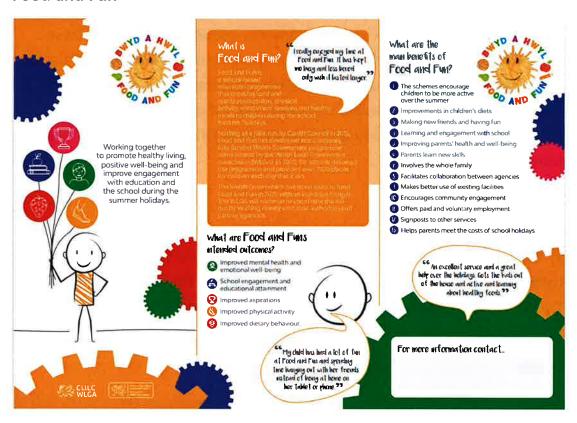
#### **Solar Panels**

• The school has invested in Photovoltaic Solar Panels on the sports hall to reduce energy costs for the future and making the school more energy efficient.



#### **Community focused Schools**

#### Food and Fun



The scheme was open to some of the most vulnerable learners in the local community and in the school. Many attended daily, supporting families and children in developing skills, including planning and cooking their own meals and art and sport projects as well as providing a variety of opportunities to work with different providers and promote healthy eating and drinking. It was staffed with staff from the school, particularly teaching assistants and organised and run by Mike Jones, with support from Sarah Biggin-Jones.

#### The school had the following feedback:

I have witnessed the children orienteering around the school site on the first day, participating in art and design activities yesterday and enjoying their lunch.

The atmosphere around everyone taking part and working on the project was calm and purposeful. Everyone knew what they were doing and the programme was clear. There was clear evidence of food nutrition, fun and exercise.

Thank you to all who have been involved in this wonderful experience for those who attended.

This is a very sound foundation for the programme next year at Ysgol Bryn Elian.



#### **Liverpool FC**

LFC Programme aimed at more challenging learners has proved to be very successful if providing them with extra-curricular activities and leadership qualifications. An off site football tournament took place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Funding is looking positive for the future. It has been supported by Mr and Mrs Hooper who are hoping to secure another 12 week programme after this one.

#### Colwyn Bay in Bloom

Governors may recall that the Colwyn in Bloom group gave us some money towards the Daffs and as such we submitted evidence towards their entry into both Wales and Britain in Bloom. Last month or so, Colwyn Bay won a gold in the Wales competition and recently Colwyn Bay also won a gold in the Britain in Bloom competition. The hard work by community groups, including the school, in realising such amazing work throughout Colwyn Bay was highlighted as part of the award.





#### **Trips**

#### Berlin 2024 – Another huge success!

In July, 40 students and 4 staff once again travelled to Berlin in Germany. Filling up incredibly quickly for a second year, the trip was this time open to members from across the whole school.

The start of a trip saw a very early morning, where those travelling met at 1AM in Eirias Park to catch the Brussels air flight to Berlin. We landed shortly before midday to start our German Adventure.

The programme consisted of a variety of activities, some cultural, some historical and some social. These ranged from visiting the Sachsenhausen Former Prisoner of War Camp, The German Technical Museum, The DDR Museum, The Berlin Zoo, scaling the Berlin TV tower, all culminating in a trip to the Hard Rock Café in Berlin on the final night.

During the trip, not only did the pupils get to see and experience all that Berlin has to offer, but they also learned about lots of different things that will help their in-school studies, as well as learning critical new life skills along the way. The students were brilliant throughout, despite the long and tiring days. Sadly, it has been decided that Berlin will not take place in 2025 but plans are well underway for Berlin 2026, where students will once again have the chance to experience an incredible European capital city, whilst making new friends, creating precious memories and supporting them to become ambitious learners for wales and the wider community.



#### **The Base**

#### Busy in Base!

Pupils have been making use of the school grounds to collect blackberries. They've researched blackberry jam recipes and even folk lore surrounding them. Pupils have created advertisements for their jam and will be sampling their product in the last week of term.



'Cold task' creating an <u>advert</u> vs 'Hot task'. We have learnt a lot about advertisements and their features!







Using
blackberry
'ink' to write
words
describing
the berrieswith quills
found on site!









World Mental Health Day

We discussed what mental health means to us. We used yellow Lego to create a symbol to represent good mental health. The pupils presented their symbols to each other and explained the meaning.















Pupils and staff have been very busy updating Base. It is fresher and has helped to create a calm and welcoming environment





#### **Miscellaneous Updates**

#### **World Mental Health Day**

Staff and learners wore yellow to put a spotlight on mental health and ensuring it is always part of the conversation.

There were some imaginative attempts at wearing yellow and joining in!











#### **Show Racism the Red Card**



The school managed to raise just under £300. Huge thanks to Maria Senior for organising and collecting the money.

#### Friends of Bryn Elian

Friends of Bryn Elian organised a Halloween Disco again this year. They manged to raise £450 towards funds for the school.









**Sporting Update** (See Overleaf).



# YBE Learners Shine in National Competition







Year 9 Learner Carmen Crisan recently won the PING Junior Series Golf Final at Abergele Golf Club. Carmen successfully won through to the National finals at Abergele by winning a preliminary round at Nefyn Golf Club. All at YBE are hugely proud of Carmen's achievements.



Commiserations to our senior football team who exited the Welsh Cup recently.



# Kegan takes Gold in Denmark



Year 12 learner Kegan Jones, recently won the prestigious HSK Box Cup in Denmark. Held over 2 days, Kegan claimed victory in the 63.5kg class. This added to Kieran's gold in the Welsh Box Cup which he won in Cardiff **YBE** last month. learners are exceptionally proud of Kegan's achievements and we wish him continued success moving forward.





The YBE Golf Team recently took part in a Golf Match against Eirias High School at Old Colwyn Golf Club.

Golf continues to be a popular choice for our learners and the school are extremely grateful for the kind support of Old Colwyn Golf Club who offered us courtesy of the course for the match.

# FITT CONWY LINK



YBE and FFIT CONWY have teamed up to offer increased Fitness and training opportunities for YBE learners. FFIT Conwy are providing 2 Fitness Instructors on a Tuesday & Thursday lunchtime who are based in the school's fitness suite to run fitness sessions and offer help and advice to pupils. FFIT Conwy have also provided additional Fitness Equipment to improve our facility.

Head of Health & Wellbeing, Mr Richard Commented; "We are extremely grateful to FFIT Conwy for their help in getting this off the ground. Lots of our learners already have a FFIT Conwy membership. Hopefully this scheme will encourage more pupils get involved in fitness as part of leading a mor healthy lifestyle".







# Mrs Gould takes up National Coaching Position.





YBE's very own Mrs Gould continues to make a storm in the Netball world. Honoured by Wales Netball for her contribution to Coaching in North Wales last year, Mrs Gould has been shortlisted for 2024 Coach of the Year for Gwynedd and for Talent Development Coach of the Year at the UK Coaching awards in December. Mrs Gould has just taken up a position as a coach to the French National Under 21 team. All at YBE are super proud of Mrs Goulds achievements. TRES BON!!

#### SENIOR GIRLS URDD NETBALL

Congratulations to the YBE Senior Girls Netball Team who competed in the recent Under 18's Urdd Netball Competition at Bangor University.



# YBE SPORTS CLUBS 2024

# **AUTUMN**

### Monday

Lunch
Football 7 3G
Fitness Suite 7/8
Badminton 8/9

After School Gymnastics Club Basketball 10 Football 9/10 Netball 7/8/9 Girls Rugby

### **Tuesday**

Lunch
Football 8 3G
Fitness Suite
Badminton 7

After School STAFF MEETINGS

### Wednesday

Lunch
Football 9 3G
Fitness Suite
Badminton 10/11

After School Football 7 Girls Football



# **Thursday**

Lunch
Football 10/11 3G
Fitness Suite
Basketball 7/8

After School Netball 10/11/6th form Football 8 3G Rugby 9/10/11

### Friday

Lunch
Football 10/11 3G
Fitness Suite
Badminton 7/8
Basketball 9/10/11



# "BOOTS 4 BRYN ELIAN"

launched in September 2022, the YBE "Boots 4 Bryn Elian" campaign was set up to provide learners with specialist footwear to be able to access he school's 3G facility.

We are extremely grateful for the kind donations of staff and pupils to date but are continuing to appeal for donations of used football boots and astro trainers.

If any pupils have boots or astro trainers lying around that they have no use for they can be brought into the school reception or handed to a member of the PE Department.









### **SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD**

Leaners joined in during recent PE lessons to show their support for the Show Racism the Red Card scheme.

On Friday the whole school wore red in Support of this the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity.

### **ACTIVITIES WEEK** SUMMER 24

It would be wrong of me to not include a mention of last Summer's YBE Olympics in this Autumns YBE Sports News. YBE learners participated in a range of traditional and Non traditional Sports Day activities in the penultimate week of the Summer term. All learners are commended for their efforts in making the event a huge success.





# **Photo Gallery**



Our Year 10 Boys were unlucky to exit the Welsh Schools Under 15 Cup against Ysgol Aberconwy recently. The boys conceded 2 poor goals in the first half before getting 1 back after the break. A few missed chances in the second period proved costly and the team eventually exited the competition losing a hard fought match 3-1

Year 7 Boys enjoyed their first taste of high school football this week with a fixture against Eirias High School. Over 20 boys were split into 2 teams and did themselves and YBE proud. Honours finished even on the night with Eirias winning one game and YBE taking the other. All Year 7 pupils are reminded that practice is every Wednesday after school.





Year 12 learner Ciara Cust continues to make a name for herself in the world of Triathlon. Ciara recently won the Under 24 Female race in the Llandudno Sprint triathlon in a time of 1:15:54 almost 9 minutes ahead of her closest rival.

Year 8 pupil Ellis Herberts is making a name for himself in the world of motorsport. Ellis competes in Autograss racing at weekends & during school holidays. He has won multiple trophies and travels the country to compete.





# **Cross Country Success**











# Conwy Schools Cross Country Championships 2024

YBE Learners enjoyed huge success in the Conwy Schools Cross Country Championships held at Abergele Rugby Club on Wednesday 23rd October.

Evie Leonard won the Year 7 girls race, Will Howcroft finished 2nd in the Year 7 boys event. Ciara Cust won the senior girls, Junior Kinnen finished runner up in the year 9 boys event with Leo Clegg taking 4th spot in the same race and Euan Preece was fifth in the middle boys race. All these athletes will now go on to represent Conwy School's in the Eryri Championships in a few weeks time.

Special thanks to Hannah Dogherty and Aaron Farrell in year 13 who supported our learners as Team Managers.



# Appendix 1

Meeting Type	Date	Agenda Items
Full	27/09/2023	Child Protection Policy
		Pay Policy
		Performance Management Policy
		Educational Visits Policy
		Lockdown Policy
		Staff Disciplinary Policy
		Exam Presentation
Curriculum	18/10/2023	Behaviour Presentation
		SDP Review
		Review Link Governor Programme
Finance & Resources	15/11/2023	Financial Update
		Redundancy Policy
Full	13/12/2023	Enrichment Presentation
T WII		Careers Presentation
		Teaching & Learning Presentation
		Reports from Link Governors
		Head's Report
Curriculum	24/01/2024	English Presentation
		Maths Presentation
		Science Presentation
<i>y</i>		SDP Review
		GWE Termly Report
Finance & Resources	28/02/2024	Financial Update
Full	08/05/2024	Estyn Feedback
		Financial Update
Finance & Resources	12/06/2024	HR Training
Full	17/07/2024	Feedback Policy
	1	Animals in School Policy
		Report on Complaints
		Review Pupil Exclusions
		Head's Report
Full	02/10/2024	Child Protection Policy
		Pay Policy
		Educational Visits Policy
		Lockdown Policy
		Staff Disciplinary Policy
		Staff Capability Policy
		Prof. Development Policy
		Substance Misuse Policy
		Exam Presentation
		Financial Update



# **Appendix 2**

# Dyddiadau Pwysig 2024-25/Important Dates 2024-25



Dyddiad/Date	Autumn Term
02/09/2024	Staff Training Day
03/09/2024	Staff Training Day
04/09/2024	Open
25/10/2024	Close
04/11/2024	Open
10/12/2024	Staff Training Day
20/12/2024	Close
Dyddiad/Date	Spring Term
06/01/2025	Open
21/02/2025	Close
03/03/2025	Staff Training Day
04/03/2025	Open
28/03/2025	Staff Training Day
11/04/2025	Close
Dyddiad/Date	Summer Term
28/04/2025	Open
05/05/2025	May Day
23/05/2025	Close
02/06/2025	Open
18/07/2025	Close
21/07/2025	Staff Training Day
	02/09/2024 03/09/2024 04/09/2024 25/10/2024 04/11/2024 10/12/2024 20/12/2024  Dyddiad/Date 06/01/2025 21/02/2025 03/03/2025 04/03/2025 28/03/2025 11/04/2025  Dyddiad/Date 28/04/2025 05/05/2025 23/05/2025 18/07/2025

Staff Training Days/INSET				
02/09/2024	Dydd Llun/Monday			
03/09/2024	Dydd Mawrth/Tuesday			
10/12/2024	Dydd Mawrth/Tuesday			
03/03/2025	Dydd Llun/Monday			
28/03/2025	Dydd Gwener/Friday			
21/07/2025	Dydd Llun/Monday			
Othe	r Key Dates			
08/10/2024	Year 6 Open Evening			
14/01/2025	Sixth Form Open Evening			
13/02/2025	Year 9 Options Evening			
01/07/2025	Year 6 Transition Week			
14/07/2025	Activities Week			



# **Appendix 3**

#### **Destination Data 2024**

Universities/Further Education	Courses	
Aberystwyth University	Business Management	
Bangor University	Film and Drama	
	Diagnostic Radiology	
	Biomedical Science	
irmingham University	Computer Science	
ambridge University	Veterinary Medicine	
niversity of Central Lancashire	Law	
nester	Community Policing and Investigation	
asgow	Common Law	
ncaster University	Mathematics	
	Physics	
eeds Beckett University	Occupational Therapy	
verpool John Moores University	Business Management x 2	
	Accounting and Finance	
verpool Media Academy	Dance Performance	
verpool University	Accounting and Finance	
ndon University	Law	
ughborough University	Automotive Engineering	
inchester Metropolitan University	Business Management	
-	Psychology	
	English and Film	
	Marketing	
	Teaching English as a Foreign Language	
anchester University	English Literature and American Studies	
	Computer Science and Maths	
	History and American Studies	
	Drama and Film Studies	
ttingham Trent University	Sports Science and Maths	
	Music Production	
	English and Media	
lford University	Psychology and Sport	
	Psychology	
neffield University	Mechanical Engineering	
effield Hallam University	Digital Media Production x 2	

Destination other than University			
Employment	10 – examples include ski season, cabin crew, personal trainer.		
Gap Year with plans following	6		
Forces	2 – RAF and Army		
Apprenticeships	4		
College – Art Foundation	1		
Volunteering	1		

Games Design Policing

Sports and Exercise Science

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Sports Management

**Staffordshire University** 

**University Academy 92** 

**York University** 

University College London (UCL)



# **Appendix 4**



# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT Period ending 31st March 2024

Income	2023/24	2022/23
Individual School Budget	5,702,259	5,513,648
Other Welsh Assembly Grants	158,120	51,497
SEG/PDG	274,877	272,947
NQT Grant	5,556	8,284
Lettings	5,972	9,467
All Weather Pitch		
Other Income	39,981	39,577
Total Income	6,186,765	5,895,420
Expenditure		
Staff Costs	4,701,738	4,531,838
Maintenance Expenditure	120,713	75,434
Other Occupancy	167,561	136,853
Educational Supplies and Supplies	930,743	871,219
Other Supplies and Services	226,998	188,199
Furniture and Equipment		1,000
Capital Expenditure		0
Total Expenditure	6,147,753	5,804,543
Excess of Income over Expenditure	39,012	90,877
Balance B/Forward from Previous Period	270,810	179,933
Balance C/Forward to Next Period	309,822	270,810