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Pennaeth Mr M Vickery Headteacher

July/Gorffennaf 2017

Dear Parent / Annwyl Rieni

We are taking this opportunity as this term draws to a close to remind our students and parents of some of the changes and expectations for September.

Timetable

From September 2017 there will be changes in the times of the school sessions. This will only affect lessons and breaks during the school day, not the start and end of the school day.

8:50 – 9:05 (8:45 on site)	Registration / Assembly
9:05 – 10:05	Lesson 1
10:05 – 11:05	Lesson 2
11:05 – 11:25	Break (20 minutes)
11:25 – 12:25	Lesson 3
12:25 – 1:00	Lunch (35 minutes)
1:00 – 2:00	Lesson 4 (including registration)
2:00 – 3:00	Lesson 5
3:00	End of school day

This will take effect from 5th September 2017 and will also include a 2-week timetable. Moving to this new 2-week timetable with 5 lessons each day will reduce the number of changes during the day, and allow for an improved quality of learning time.

Uniform

We appreciate that many of our students are following and will continue to follow these rules but a small number are not and we need support from parents to ensure that we make the best possible start to the new academic year in September.

A fuller list of uniform and equipment rules is in the student planner and on the website, but the key ones we would like to draw to parents' attention are:

Trousers & Skirts

Black plain knee length skirts for girls or tailored trousers must be worn. Students cannot wear trousers that are too tight, that are leggings style, have zips or other fashion accessories or that are too short.

Some of our students have taken to wearing leggings, skinny trousers, lycra based leisure wear which do not reach to the shoe, or hug the leg all the way down to the ankle; these are not permitted. Students who wear these types of trousers will be told to replace them with more suitable ones at the beginning of term.

School Shoes

Shoes must be black leather or leather look school shoes. Canvas shoes, boots, plimsolls, training shoes, leisure shoes or open toed shoes must not be worn; this includes Adidas Superstars, Nike Huarache trainers and Van's leisure shoes.

It is essential that all students follow these rules in September and if you are unsure about our school uniform and expectations please contact the school before buying.

We know from previous years that shops such as Morrisons, Marks & Spencer and Asda stock good quality and good value trousers for our students. Girls' fashion shops tend not to stock as many styles and often sell styles, which are not suitable for school.

<p>Boys Plain white shirt with collar, suitable for wearing with a tie (tucked in); school type black trousers; black leather or leather look shoes; Ysgol Clywedog jumper; Ysgol Clywedog tie (worn at the top of the shirt).</p>		<p>Girls Plain white shirt/blouse with collar, suitable for wearing with a tie (tucked in); black tailored trousers or black knee length skirt (no splits); black leather or leather look shoes, flat heels, no logos; Ysgol Clywedog jumper; Ysgol Clywedog tie (worn at the top of the shirt).</p>
		

	<p>Make-up, nail varnish and bright un-natural hair colours are not allowed.</p>
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<p>The following are not allowed: Trousers: denim, canvas, cropped, jogger, leggings, excessively tight/skinny jeans, excessively narrow around the ankles. Skirts: lycra, excessively short. Shoes: trainers, boots, canvas, pumps, coloured sidewalls, piping, logos, stripes</p>

Equipment

Students should also make sure they have their own equipment they need for school, including a suitable bag to carry the A4 size books/folders they need for each day.

Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in primary school and continuing through secondary school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

Missing 10%, 1 day a fortnight is about 19 days of the school year, can drastically affect a student's academic success. Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.

Next year the intervention a student receives for each half term will depend on their attendance percentage, achievement points and behaviour points for the previous half term. We hope this will enable every student to improve throughout the year. When aiming for 100% attendance and zero behaviour points, your support as parents is vital for your child. Please talk to your child about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation, help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep and don't let your child stay home unless truly sick.

Behaviour for Learning

In school we want all our children to feel safe and happy. We expect good behaviour and good manners. We know you feel this is important too.

The **majority** of our children do follow the school's expectations and are rewarded for doing so.

Earlier in the year I spoke to the students and wrote to parents to reinforce the school's expectations, which are:

- Be ready to learn – smart uniform, planner and correct equipment
- Allow students to learn and teachers to teach
- Give respect, get respect
- Take part, have a go
- Work hard to meet your lesson objectives

I also shared some expectations of the student's responsibility regarding their mobile devices and the consumption of energy drinks.

Mobile phones and devices have become part of our everyday lives and certainly part of the lives of young people. They are fantastic devices and have many functions which improve our lives.

The school has a 'bring your own device' (BYOD) policy which reflects the value of these devices in the learning process and the responsible use of these devices. In summary, mobile devices should not be seen in classrooms unless specifically directed by the class teacher and used responsibly when their use is allowed. We have introduced 'Responsible Use Zones' and 'No Phone Zones' so the students are clear about where they can use their mobile devices. The vast majority of students do use their devices responsibly and I would like to thank them for making the BYOD policy successful.

Over the last year we have seen more and more of our young people consume energy drinks on a regular basis. These drinks pose a health risk to our young people due to the ingredients they contain.

These type of energy drinks contain high levels of caffeine and sugar. In a small can there is typically 80mg of caffeine. This is the same as 3 cans of coke. There is also very often hidden caffeine content from an ingredient called Guarana which can greatly increase the actual amount of caffeine in each drink. The amount of sugar in

each energy drink is also a real concern as large cans contain as much as 60g of sugar – that's 15 teaspoons of sugar!

In addition to health risks we are extremely concerned about the effect these drinks are having on the behaviour of some of our young people and the way they are responding. This can cause conflict with staff when students are advised that they should not be consuming these drinks in school.

Therefore these drinks have been banned at school. Any student who brings one of these drinks into school will have it confiscated. Open cans will be put in the bin and any unopened cans will be confiscated and have to be collected at the end of the school day if they wish to have it returned. If they are not collected by the end of the next school day, they will be disposed of.

Thank you for all your support this year. I look forward to celebrating year 11's success on Results Day, August 24th 2017, and I hope you all have an enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Vickery
Headteacher/Pennaeth