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Ysgol Clywedog



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Pennaeth Mr M Vickery Headteacher

October / Hydref 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It has been a pleasure welcoming the students back to school after the summer holidays. We have had an excellent start to the new academic year after celebrating some superb examination results in the summer.

This is a very exciting time for us all at Ysgol Clywedog and I will provide parents with an update on all our new initiatives in the Monthly Newsletters.

In the mean time I have included some further information that you may find of interest.

Learning at the core

This year we are introducing Learning Plans. Starting with Year 10 and 11 and introducing them during the year to the lower school. At the start of each half term, students will be given a Learning Plan to put in each subject book. This is an invaluable way to share the learning intentions with the students as well as with parents. The progress in learning will be assessed each half term and reviewed. This will be accompanied by half termly achievement, behaviour and attendance reviews. More details will be shared with the first half term's assessment report.

Home learning

Undertaking independent work at home is seen as a vital part of the learning process and students will be set home learning tasks every night. All students are required to record home learning tasks in the student planner so you will be able to check as parents what work is set for completion at home and on which day it is set.

We actively encourage parents to sit and talk about home learning tasks with their children; there is nothing wrong with parents offering help and encouragement with the completion of work at home. We think that it is important that parents have an understanding of the type of work that is being undertaken as well as the skills required to complete it.

Student Planners

The planner will be checked by form tutors every week and you as parents are encouraged to communicate via the planner if you have any concerns regarding your child. Parents are requested to **check and sign** the student planner **every week** so that home learning tasks can be monitored both here in school and at home. Should parents have any issues regarding the setting and completion of homework then please do not hesitate to contact the Head of Year either by telephone or via the student planner.

Uniform

We value the importance of high standards of uniform at Ysgol Clywedog. Your help and cooperation in this matter is very much appreciated. September has been very good with the vast majority of students wearing the correct school uniform with real pride. I have to congratulate the students on their impeccable turnout in terms of school uniform and thank all parents for their support in ensuring that their children are so smartly dressed for school, you can be justifiably proud of them. We will be in contact with parents during October to resolve any outstanding uniform issues.

Behaviour for Learning

You will be pleased to hear that standards of student behaviour at the start of the new term have been very impressive and this is something that we want to maintain throughout the year. Ysgol Clywedog is a school that aspires to the highest standards in all that we do. It is also a school where disruptive students will not be allowed to adversely affect the education of the well behaved majority. It is therefore absolutely essential that all parents emphasise with their children the importance of exemplary behaviour whilst at school.

Attendance

There is a direct correlation between attendance at school and successful examination performance. Although the signs are very encouraging some of our students will be disadvantaged so long as some parents continue to take their children out of school for holidays. I would therefore like to reaffirm my position and urge all parents not to take their children out of school for holidays in term time.

School Web site

The school web site is a source of a wealth of information about the school and includes sections dedicated to the subjects and the curriculum. It also provides parents with up to date information on the school calendar, major school events and also the many new initiatives being introduced at the school. Please use the web site as the first port of call should you require any additional information regarding the school.

We also have dedicated Twitter and Facebook accounts where you can access further up to date information about the school, as well as, keeping up to date with the calendar of events and what is currently happening at the school.

Examination results

Students at Ysgol Clywedog are celebrating record GCSE results this year; with 100% of students leaving with qualifications, 97% of students gaining 5 or more GCSEs as well as a record number of students achieving 5 or more A and A* grades at GCSEs.

Parent Governor vacancy

We're looking for two parents to join our governing body. This is a really rewarding role, in which you'll get to know the school and have an influence on your child's future.

As a parent governor, you'll be involved in agreeing the school's objectives and targets, you'll evaluate the progress the school is making, and you'll be a source of support and challenge to the Senior Leadership Team.

We ask all prospective governors to complete an expression of interest.

I am very pleased with the start of the new term and know that you will continue to support the school in our quest to ensure we provide a high quality experience that gives all our students the best possible start in life.

I look forward to meeting you all at the parents' consultation evenings during the course of this academic year.

Thank you once again,

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Vickery

Headteacher / Pennaeth