

Ysgol Clywedog

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Pennaeth Mr M Vickery Headteacher

September 2021

Dear Parents /Guardians,

Students have made an excellent start to our new school term demonstrating an enthusiastic, positive and cooperative attitude to their learning all within the context of new arrangements across the school due to the pandemic. I am delighted at how we have been able to settle swiftly into our routines and would like to thank parents, staff and students for your support in making this happen.

At the start of the year, I would like to share with parents and guardians the school vision statement. This sets out the preferred future for Ysgol Clywedog and what we want the school to be. Our vision guides our thinking and gives us a sense of common purpose and direction and as key stakeholders parents and guardians play a crucial role in supporting the school in achieving this vision.

Vision – Be the Best

- **To stimulate, support and nurture academic excellence through a caring and challenging environment.**
- **At Ysgol Clywedog we aim to provide our young people with the spiritual, moral and social development needed to educate the whole person. Our focus is on the intellectual, emotional and physical needs of every student.**
- **We strive to give all individuals every opportunity to gain success, experience achievement, understand responsibility and develop a sense of self-worth, confidence and discipline.**

I know that many of you will have seen this before, but I think that it is always worth restating and sharing our vision so that everyone understands why we do what we do.

Summer 2021

We are very proud of all the hard work that our students have put into their studies over the last five years, and their maturity, resilience and perseverance in the light of unprecedented and unexpected GCSE years.

We are delighted with their achievements and wish them all the best in their future pathways: in 6th form, college, apprenticeships or work. We know that their experiences at our school over the years have helped prepare them for the challenges and successes that lie ahead of them.

In particular this year, we recognise the achievements of Kordian Czwordon (10A*, 3A), Osian McCulloch (9A*, 2A), Ella Simons (8A*, 3A, 1B), George Jones (8A*, 3A, 1B), Megan Marsh (5A*, 7A) and Lucy Williams (5A*, 5A). We would also like to recognise the hard work of our staff in preparing all our students for the Centre Assessed Grades and ensuring that this year's very different processes were met.

We thank our parents, communities and governors for their support in ensuring the achievements and success of all our students.

Well done, year 11, and all the best for your future successes.

School Uniform

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all parents for their commitment in supporting the school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform to school has a dramatic positive effect on the students who look incredibly smart and are wearing their uniforms with real pride. They really are standing ten-foot-tall and are a credit to everyone

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associated with the school.

I would like to thank all parents/guardians for their commitment in helping the school raise standards in terms of school uniform. We have taken standards of uniform to a completely new level and appreciate your backing in this endeavour. I am sure that this will have a huge impact on confidence and self-esteem.

School Website (clywedog.org)

The school website 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, 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, Instagram 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.

Student Behaviour

You will be pleased to hear that standards of student behaviour at the start of the new term has 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.

To promote and reward the positive behaviour at school we are continuing with Epraise for the students. Epraise also gives you the opportunity to see how well your child/children are getting on and helps to keep you up-to-date with what's happening at the school. An online guide is available on the school website that will show you how to register an account online and what information you can see. Don't worry if you can't see everything that is in the guide as we will roll out some functions throughout the year.

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.**

Parent Governor Election

We currently have vacancies for parent governors on our school's governing body and are keen to encourage parents to consider taking on this role.

Before you decide to nominate someone, or indeed, you may want to know more about what is involved. The role of a parent governor and the rules governing your eligibility to stand for election are available on the Governor's page on the school's website at www.clywedog.org; you may also contact the Headteacher to discuss the role in more detail.

Nominations are invited from parents for these vacant positions and nominations can be handed to the main school reception. If you wish to nominate any parent, or be nominated yourself, please contact the school.

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The start of the academic year has run very smoothly in challenging circumstances and I look forward to working with you to secure even further improvements at the school. I am very excited about the future and would like to thank all parents and guardians for their invaluable support and encouragement to date.

Yours sincerely,

M Vickery
Headteacher