



October 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

The start of the autumn term seems like such a long time ago. However, we have had a great start to the school year with a very positive attitude towards learning from our students and some wonderful achievements.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome so many of you to the school over the past 7 weeks. The recent Welcome to Year 7 Evening and a Welcome to Year 8 Evening have been important transition events for students and parents. Thank you for your valuable support at these events.

This week Mrs Hughes, Year 7/8 Progress Manager and a group of our Year 7 students will be travelling to London as part of the Harry Potter Literacy Experience, an exciting adventure into the world of Harry Potter, along with a visit to the National History Museum and a great opportunity to bond together as a year group.

It is always a pleasure to be informed of the successful achievements of our students and to celebrate their successes and this term has been full of personal achievements.

It was a great pleasure to welcome so many parents and prospective students to our Open Day and Open Evening on 27th September. If you know of any parents interested in joining our school, please ask them to get in touch so we can share our Transition Programme with them.

Attendance and punctuality to school continue to be a core priority of ours and it is important that all students are in school by the first warning bell at 8.40am in order to be at their registration room for 8.45am.

We are now fast approaching the first exam season of the year and every day counts. Help us to help your child achieve their full potential by ensuring they are in school every day so that they are fully prepared for the challenge of their GCSE exams and to improve their chances of success.

Please help your child achieve the best possible results by ensuring they attend school every day and on time – exams do not wait for latecomers!

Minor ailments including headaches, sore throats, feeling sick and general aches and pains are not valid reasons to be missing school, particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.

For your child to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital your child is at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. Extra-curricular classes – after school revision and Holiday School classes should be attended wherever possible.

RESPECT HONESTY SUCCESS

'Working together with you to achieve success'

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PARCH GONESTRWYDD A LLWYDDIANT

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The routines children develop around attendance and punctuality at school are the same as the expectations of any future employer in the world or work. High attainment, confidence with peers and staff and future aspirations depend on good attendance and punctuality to school. The Local Authority may issue fixed penalty notices for persistent absences and persistent late arrival to school. Lateness to school impacts on learning. For further information please contact the schools Attendance and Family Support Officer, Mrs J Evans.

The standard of uniform has continued to improve this term. Our school uniform is an important part of our school identity. Could I ask your support in ensuring that your son/daughter attends school in full school uniform and worn correctly including ties, blazers and appropriate black footwear. It has been a pleasure to be informed by members of our school community about how smart our students are and this is the expectation of every student every day.

GCSE English and Maths examinations are taking place from 6th-13th November and the Year 11 Mock Examinations start on 20th November 2017. Every bit of revision on a daily basis will help your son/daughter to achieve their potential and we all encourage regular attendance at workshops and extra classes.

After an extremely busy 8 weeks, the school will close on Thursday 26th October at 3.00pm for the half term holiday. School will re-open on Monday 6th November. Friday 27th October will be a staff training day.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the data that the school holds on relation to your child. There have been some instances recently when we have needed to contact a parent/carer and the information that we hold has been incorrect. . Please could you take the time to review this data and if there are any changes return amend the enclosed form and return to school reception by Friday 17th November.

On Tuesday 31st October there will be an opportunity for Year 11 students to attend a GCSE Maths revision Workshop ahead of the GCSE Maths examinations. This is a great opportunity for students to work with Maths teachers on the core preparations for the GCSE examinations. Refreshments and equipment will be provided. A letter has been issued from the Maths Department separately.

We are very proud to be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal again this year and I would like to make you aware that Poppies and other associated merchandise will be available for all students to purchase within school from Tuesday 24th October with a minimum donation of 50p per item. The Royal British Legion provides lifelong support for the Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans, and their families. The Royal British Legion has also confirmed that they are accepting old pound coins for this year's campaign. We encourage all of our staff and students to wear their Poppy with pride.

Thank you for your ongoing support in working together with our school to achieve success for your children.

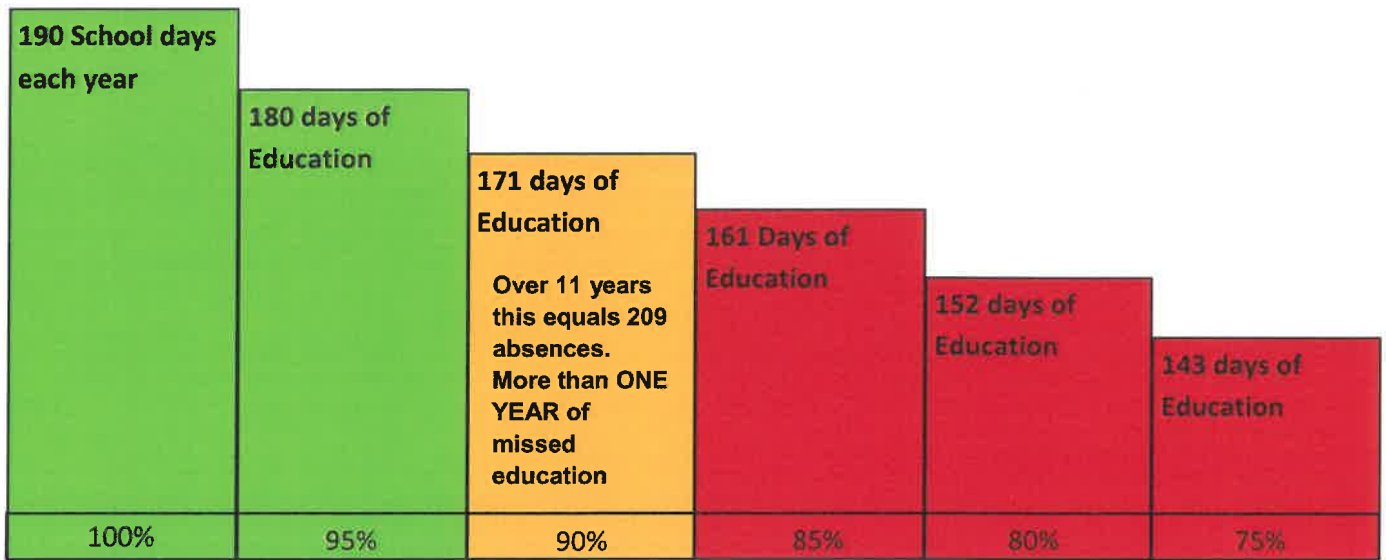
Yours sincerely



N D Harrison
Headteacher/Pennaeth

ATTENDANCE MATTERS – ATTEND TO ACHIEVE

There are 175 Non School days every year - These are the days to use for shopping, holidays, family days out, haircuts, clothes shopping and other appointments.



Best chance to Succeed

Harder to Progress

Celebrating success difficult

Celebrate Success

Less chance of celebrating success

COURT ACTION POSSIBLE

We believe that improving attendance and maintaining excellent attendance should be rewarded. This is done in a variety of ways: Epraise points, postcards home, text messages home, trips out, individual attendance awards and tutor group awards.



Help us to celebrate your success

ATTENDANCE MATTERS – ATTEND TO ACHIEVE