

3-16

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

Newsletter: Start of Term Special

Ebbw Fawr sets new standards for Blaenau Gwent



Ebbw Fawr Learning Community's examination results at GCSE level have been praised by its Director Graeme Harkness. Speaking to over 170 staff on the eve of students returning for the new academic year he congratulated them on the improvement in educational performance over the last two years.

Mr Harkness said *"The improvement in outcomes over the last two years is down to hardworking and dedicated staff,*

supportive parents and fantastic students. Our GCSE results this year for 5 A-C grades including English and Mathematics topped 53%, two years ago the result for the combined previous schools that closed was 39%."*

Mr Harkness also spoke to staff about improvements in results at Key Stage 2 and 3 this year coupled with year on year increases in student attendance in both primary and secondary phases and in the national literacy and numeracy tests. He also praised six students who gained 'A' levels a full two years early. Students returning to the secondary phase will also see



improvements in the building as the school and Council have taken advantage of the long holiday to complete work left over from last year. Secondary Phase Director Phil Collins explained

"We have taken advantage of the long holiday to undertake work that needed full access to the building, students will benefit from a doubling of the "grab and go" dining area, improved internet access throughout and enhanced main corridor facilities. The building looks truly fantastic."

Useful dates...

Academic Year 2015 - 2015

	Term Begins	Half Term	Term Ends	Days
Autumn Term 2014	01/09/14	27/10/14 – 31/10/14	19/12/14	75
Spring Term 2015	05/01/15	16/02/15 – 20/02/15	27/03/15	55
Summer Term 2015	13/04/15	25/05/15 – 29/05/15	20/07/15	65
Total				195

INSET Days - School Closed: 24th October 2014, 1st December 2014, 19th December 2014 and 20th July 2015

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15 th September	PTFA meeting – Secondary Site at 5pm
	Meet the Teacher 3.20pm – 5.00pm - Primary Phase
Thursday 18 th September	School Photographs - Secondary Phase
Friday 19 th September	School Photographs - Primary Phase
	Parent Coffee Morning - Primary Phase
Monday 22 nd September	Parent Consultation - Primary Phase
Wednesday 1 st October	Secondary Open Evening for Year 6 at 4.00pm - 6.30pm
Thursday 2 nd October	Class 12 Assembly & PACT Session - Primary Phase
Thursday 9 th October	Class 11 Assembly & PACT Sessions - Primary Phase
Wednesday 15 th October	Harvest Festival - Primary Phase
Friday 17 th October	Parent Coffee Morning - Primary Phase
W/C Monday 20 th October	Science Challenge Week - Primary Phase
Thursday 23 rd October	Class 10 Assembly & PACT Sessions - Primary Phase
	Year 7 Meet the Tutor - Secondary Phase

Arrival at School

Can we remind parents that the primary and secondary sites are unable to accept students prior to 8.00am. Students arriving at the primary site at this time should be in the breakfast club while secondary students arriving between 8.00am & 8.15am should report to the restaurant area.

Uniform

We wish to thank Parents for the appearance of our students at the start of term and for the support of our uniform policy. Our students appearance is often commended upon and reflects the high standards that we wish to instil in them.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Any concerns around child protection or safeguarding information should be reported to Mrs M Thomas or in her absence Mrs C Llewellyn (Primary) or Mrs G Davidson (Secondary)

Website

Our website contains useful information on day to day matters and can be found at www.ebbwfawr.co.uk

New Secondary Pastoral System

We have restructured our Secondary Pastoral System this year. Each year group will continue to have a Leader of Learning:

Year 7	Mrs C Jones	cjones@ebbwfawr.co.uk
Year 8	Miss F Bryant	fbryant@ebbwfawr.co.uk
Year 9	Mrs J Wyburn	jwyburn@ebbwfawr.co.uk
Year 10	Miss V Roberts	vroberts@ebbwfawr.co.uk
Year 11	Dr S Reasons	sreasons@ebbwfawr.co.uk

The main focus of the Leader of Learning is to ensure that students within their year group continue to make academic progress and to have an oversight of student attendance.

We also have new Pastoral Managers assigned to each year group.

Year 7	Mrs L Dowsell
Years 8/9	Mrs D Bennington
Years 10/11	Mrs P Williams

Their responsibility is to support students' wellbeing. They will be overseen by Mrs Champs – (KS3) and Mrs Phillips (KS4.)

Our Pastoral Managers are non-teaching and will be available by making an appointment or in an emergency by dropping in to the school or by phone.

National Reading and Numeracy Test Reports

Parents in both phases will have received their child's National Reading and Numeracy Report. It is important to understand that the tests are a snapshot of your child's abilities on a particular day. They stand alongside teacher assessments and are designed as an additional, rather than competing form of assessment. If you have any queries regarding the report please do not hesitate to contact your child's Leader of Learning.

Could you be our next Governor?



School governors have overall responsibility for the conduct of their school and within that particular responsibilities to promote high standards of education and the welfare of students. All of this is contained in a legal framework. Being a governor is both rewarding and challenging and requires commitment to attend meetings and fully participate in the life of the school.

A governor is someone who:-

- ◆ is a volunteer; cares about teaching, learning and children;
- ◆ represents those people with a key interest in the school, including parents, staff, the local community and the LEA;
- ◆ is part of a team which accepts responsibility for everything a school does;
- ◆ has time to commit to meetings and other occasions when needed;

- ◆ is willing to learn;
- ◆ is able to act as a friend who supports the school but is still able to cast a critical eye upon how the school works and the standard it achieves;
- ◆ acts as a link between parents, the local community, the LEA and the school.

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community is now seeking one nomination for a Community Governor to join its experienced Governing Body .

Community Governors are invited by other governors to join the governing body and are appointed by the governing body. Community members bring their own experience or skills to the governing body and can act as a link with the community in which the school serves. Community governors usually live or work in the community of the school area and are committed to the good government and success of the school. Should you wish to have a confidential discussion on any aspect of the role please contact Graeme Harkness on (01495) 354690.

We are also seeking one Parent Governor – further information will be sent home shortly.

T: (01495) 353340

DX: 43956 Ebbw Vale

F: (01495) 313315

E: education.department@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Our Ref. Ein Cyf.

Your Ref./Eich Cyf.

Contact:/Cysylltwch â:

Date: 01/09/14



Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Anvil Court, Church Street, Abertillery,

Dear Parent/Carer,

School attendance

Improving school attendance is a priority for Blaenau Gwent Council as poor school attendance can have a hugely negative impact on the lives and futures of children and young people. This is especially worrying for pupils in Blaenau Gwent where attendance rates, though improving, are still below the Welsh average.

The purpose of this letter is to make all parents and carers aware of an important change that has been brought in as a result of new legislation. In September 2013 Welsh Government introduced the use of Fixed Penalty Notices as an early intervention tool to improve attendance. From 1st September 2014 these will now be fully operational in Blaenau Gwent and may be issued as a result of:

- Taking holidays in term time
- Unauthorised absence
- Persistent late arrival at school
- Truancy

The cost of a fixed penalty notice will be £60 per parent per child if paid within 28 days. This rises to £120 per parent if not paid within 28 days. Failure to pay this within 42 days will result in prosecution.

There is no right of appeal but anyone who has been issued with a fixed penalty notice can put any concerns in writing to the Education Welfare Service, Anvil Court, Abertillery, NP13 1DB or have their case heard in the Magistrates Court.

I trust that you share our commitment to all children and young people being entitled to the best education possible and, to this end, ensure that your child achieves the highest possible level of attendance while she/he is at school.

Yours sincerely,

Lynette Jones

Corporate Director Education

Ebbw Fawr
Attendance Target is
95%.

"Every lesson counts"

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croeswrn oheredd yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

Municipal Offices
Civic Centre
Ebbw Vale
NP23 6XB

Swyddfeydd Bwrdeisiol
Canolfan Dinesig
Glyn Ebwy
NP23 6XB

a better place to live and work
lle gwell i fyw a gweithio