



**QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL
YSGOL UWCHRADD Y FRENHINES ELISABETH**

NEWLETTER No. 1

SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we have now settled back into the new term, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new staff and pupils to our school and wish everyone success as we tackle the fresh challenges of another academic year. As you will be aware, our Headteacher, **Mr Tim Day** is not in school at the moment as he continues his recovery following heart surgery in the summer. I am pleased to report that he is making steady progress and is keeping in close touch with all that is happening at the school during his convalescence. He has asked me to convey his best wishes to all members of the school community and his thanks for all the kind messages of good will that he has received and to say that he is very much looking forward to returning to work in the near future.

Staff News

We send congratulations to two members of staff who got married over the summer holiday and thus return with new names. They are Miss Kate Bowyer (Head of Modern Foreign Languages) who is now Mrs Beynon and Miss Emma Morris (Food Technology) who is now Mrs Simpson. We also welcome to our teaching staff Miss Jenna James (Cymraeg/Drama), Mr Fabio Lewis (Cymraeg), Mr Chris Remigio (Science), Miss Sarah Thomas (Music) and Miss Beverley Jones (Sixth Form Additional Needs).

Changes to GCSE

Parents of pupils in years 10 and 11 are reminded that there have been significant changes over the past two years to the structure of GCSEs. Many subjects are now *unitised* which means that units of the GCSE examination are sat by pupils in year 10 as well as in year 11 as has traditionally been the case. Pupils in year 10 will be sitting official GCSE exams in May/June 2011 in English, Science, Geography, History, ICT, Health and Social Care, Religious Studies and Welsh and we would ask that you exercise extreme caution if you plan to book term-time holidays at this time as these exam dates will obviously be fixed and unmovable. The exact dates of all these exams will be posted shortly on the school's website and more detailed information sent home to you in due course. There have also been significant changes made to traditional GCSE coursework which is now called Controlled Assessment. This is carried out under controlled conditions in school and many year 11 students are now working on these in a number of subjects. There are fixed time limits for this work and it is essential that pupils attend school regularly and not miss Controlled Assessment sessions as these count towards the final GCSE grade.

PFA Information Evening

I would like to make a plea to all parents and carers to become involved in the life of the school through our Parents and Friends Association. They are a small but dwindling group of dedicated people who work so hard for the benefit of our children by organising events and raising money. Last term, they funded in full our commendation system which provided children with discounts on trips and activities. In addition to this, the PFA provides financial support to pupils who receive national honours in sport and cultural activities, particularly when this involves travel. A great many of your children benefit from their help and hard work and they would be delighted to hear from anyone who could spare a little time to attend the occasional meeting

and support the events that they organise. It is planned to hold a number of information evenings to follow last year's successful events and there is an Information Evening planned for **Tuesday 28th September at 6.30pm**. The evening will focus on helping your child to learn in secondary school and will concentrate on improving literacy, numeracy and other important skills in a relaxed and informal environment with a number of visiting speakers. There will also be a short presentation on the changes that have taken place to GCSE examinations. Refreshments will be provided and we very much hope that you will be able to join us.

School Photograph

We have invited Tempest Photography Ltd to take a whole school photograph on Friday 24th September. This is a major undertaking and will involve upwards of 1800 pupils and staff being photographed as a complete group on special staging. This is something that is likely only to happen once in every few years and we would ask that you ensure that all children be present if possible and in full, correct uniform on that day. You will be given the opportunity to purchase a copy of the photo from a choice of presentations. Individual pupil school photographs will be taken on Friday November 5th by a different company and you will be given more information about this closer to the time.

Canolfan Elfed Mini Bus Appeal

We are holding a balloon race at the school in aid of Canolfan Elfed's Mini Bus Appeal. The balloon tickets will be on sale in school at £1 per ticket and there will be 1000 balloons for sale. The balloons are completely biodegradable and will be released on a school day in October.

Prizes for the balloons which travel the greatest distance include £100 cash prize donated by Celtic Vision, a flat screen colour TV, a meal for 2 at the Angel Vaults restaurant plus at other prizes. Also, the last of our successful Car Boot Sales will be held at QEHS on Saturday 2nd October between 12noon and 4pm. if anyone is interested in taking part, please arrive to set up at 11am. Cars are charged £7 and vans are charged £10. Again all proceeds are going towards the mini bus appeal. Finally there will be an Antiques Fair on Saturday 30th October which again raises money for school funds. This will be held in the school's 2 halls and it starts 9.30am and closes at 4.30pm. Admission is £2.50 but free for children under 16.

Drama Productions

As part of the nationwide Shakespeare Schools Festival, Queen Elizabeth High School will be performing an abridged version of the Shakespearian comedy 'The Taming of the Shrew'. This will take place at Theatr Mwldan, Cardigan on Tues 12th Oct, 7pm. There will also be 3 other schools from the area each performing a different Shakespeare play on the evening.

For box office and tickets, please contact Theatr Mwldan on 01239 621200.

Queen Elizabeth High School also presents an evening of comedy, rock and gangsters with our *modern* twist on Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'The Taming of the Shrew'. It will feature pupils from all school years and is sure to be a side-splitting, show-stopping evening for all. Performance date is 15th October, starting at 7.30 and tickets will be priced at only £3.00. They are available to buy from the school reception from 27th Sept on 01267 245300.

Parking

All parents/carers who bring children to school by car are respectfully reminded that they should only drop off/pick up from the designated bay situated just past the main school entrance on the leisure centre side. Please do not come into the car park area and approach road to the school as this creates a significant safety issue at the beginning and end of the day with many pupils walking to and from buses and upwards of 160 staff vehicles in this area. Under no circumstances should cars come onto the bus bay at any time. We would greatly appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Behaviour

At Queen Elizabeth High School, we are proud of the high standard of behaviour of our pupils but at the start of the year, it would be timely to remind all parents/carers of our Behaviour Policy. This can be found, along with much other useful information on our website at www.qehs.org or it can be obtained in hard copy from the school for a small charge to cover photocopying.

Visit to Christmas Markets in Germany

84 of our Year 9 students will be travelling to Cologne in December to experience the wonderful atmosphere, traditional foods and imaginative crafts of this spectacular city on the River Rhine. They will not only visit Christmas markets but they will also see the impressive Gothic cathedral and historic city centre. May I remind parents and students participating to make sure that they have handed in two pre-dated cheques payable to QEHS to Miss Platz and that every participant has a valid passport. A letter with more details will be issued shortly and an information evening will be organised in the near future. We hope that everyone will enjoy the trip!

Pupil Lockers

All pupils in the school are allocated a locker. I would be grateful if you could help us to impress upon the children the importance of looking after their locker keys. Despite the fact that we have to impose a replacement charge of £5.00 for every lost key, dealing with lost and forgotten keys is taking up an inordinate amount of time for members of our administrative team who are responsible for managing the lockers as part of their duties. Pupils are also issued with a personal card which activates our electronic registration system. This is an essential part of their school equipment and the replacement of a lost card will lead to a charge of £3.00.

Urdd Membership.

The time to renew membership with the Urdd has arrived. There are opportunities to compete in many sporting activities organised by the Urdd. The Eisteddfod will be held in Swansea from May 29th to 3rd June, 2011. Residential experiences will be offered to Urdd members following a successful trip to Llangrannog in January this year. Envelopes will be issued to pupils and cheques should be made payable to QEHS. £6 per pupil before 22nd October. (£6.50 if received later.)

Important Diary Dates

Tuesday September 28 th	- PFA Information Evening
Friday October 1 st	- Non-uniform day in aid of MacMillan Cancer Care (£1.00).
Thursday October 14 th	- Annual Open Evening
Monday October 18 th	- Harvest Festival and launch of Operation Christmas Child
Friday October 22 nd	- School closed for staff training
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th October	- Half-term break
Friday November 5 th	- School photos
Monday November 15 th	- Anti-bullying week
Friday November 19 th	- Children in Need Day
Tuesday November 23 rd	- Year 11 'mock' examinations
Thursday December 2 nd	- Year 12/13 Parents' Consultation Evening
Thursday December 9 th	- Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
Thursday December 16 th	- Carol Concert, School Hall
Monday December 20 th	- Carol Service, Christ Church
Wed December 22 nd	- End of Term

We wish to maintain a constructive dialogue between the school and all parents/carers and I would encourage you not to hesitate to contact the school at any time if you have a query or any issue with your child's

education. I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school and look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P. Allan Carter
Acting Headteacher