



Ysgol Gyfun Bryntirion | 
Bryntirion Comprehensive

Annual Governors' Report to Parents

Spring 2019



"Pupils have exceptionally positive attitudes to their learning". Estyn

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

How quickly a year passes again! The Governors take this opportunity to outline the responsibilities of the Governing Body in the discharge of their duties.

Much of the life of the school, its statistics and achievements are listed in the report. The work of the Governing Body continues to operate through Standing Advisory Committees. I, as chairman, wish to thank my colleagues for their support and commitment throughout the past year.

The report also gives me the public forum to thank the Headteacher and the whole staff for their unfailing dedication to the education of our children.

Most sincerely, I thank you, our parents. Your co-operation in all the school asks of you is gratifying.

Bryntirion Comprehensive School has a great future. It is indeed a school to be proud of, where every student is helped to achieve their full potential, for their own future and the future of our community. Working together - staff, parents, governors and students - we can all face with enthusiasm the challenges which lie ahead.

Revd. Canon E. Evans
Chair of Governors
Bryntirion Comprehensive School
Merlin Crescent
Cefn Glas
Bridgend
CF31 4QR

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GOVERNING BODY OF BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Termination Date

LEA Representatives

Mr J Lewis	08/02/19
Mrs C Westwood	23/04/22
Cllr J P Blundell	02/10/21
Cllr C Green	13/07/19
Vacancy	

Community

Mrs C Clark (VC)	25/01/21
Mrs J Cleaton	18/03/19
Mr P Sawtell	05/10/21
Mrs C Goldsworthy	16/05/22
Rev Canon E J Evans (C)	30/09/20

Parent

Mr I Dowie	15/03/19
Mr G Clifford	15/11/20
Mrs P Evans	15/11/20
Mrs R Pratchett	15/11/20
Mr I Roberts	15/11/20
Mrs S E Vaughan-Williams	15/11/20

Staff

Mrs A John	04/10/21
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Teacher

Mrs J Walker	20/05/22
Vacancy	

Headteacher

Mr R Pawar

Arrangements are in place for elections/appointments of governors as/when the need arises.

About our school

Bryntirion Comprehensive is an 11-18 mixed, purpose built community school maintained by Bridgend Unitary Authority. The school serves the western parts of Bridgend. The school's curriculum complies with all Welsh Government legislation across Key Stage 3 & 4 and the sixth form. The language of instruction is English although the school has extensive provision for pupils to study Welsh. It is compulsory for all pupils to study Welsh to GCSE and post-16 pupils are able to study the language as an option subject. Bryntirion has a Learning Resource Base.

This report is a summary of the steps taken by the Governing Body in the discharge of its functions during the period of the Summer Term 2017 to the Summer Term 2018.

Scope of Business

As of 15th January 2018 there were 1164 pupils on the roll of Bryntirion Comprehensive School with a staffing complement of Headteacher, 69 assistant teachers and 14 Learning Support Staff. The Governors made the following appointments during the academic year 2017-2018:-

Mr R Pawar - Headteacher
Mr J Beard - Deputy Headteacher
Mr A Jones - Head of Science
Mrs B Clement - Head of Physics
Miss H Bailey - Biology Teacher
Mrs H Workman - Chemistry Teacher
Miss H Evans - Art Teacher
Mrs S Gavermark - Pastoral Support
Miss C Bevan - English Teacher
Mrs N Davies - Music Teacher
Mr E Hazell - Science Teacher
Mr L James - Science Teacher
Miss S Rees - Welsh Teacher
Miss V Rowe - Head of History
Miss A Thomas - English Teacher
Miss N Ashton - Learning Support Officer
Mrs N Davis - Learning Support Officer

The following staff left employment this academic year:-

Mr N Brain
Mrs C Jenkins
Miss M Bidder
Mrs D Gwynne
Mrs R Bland
Mr C Robinson

In Service Training of Teachers

The School has five teacher training days each academic year which are set aside for specific training. Staff have also attended various courses dealing with specific subjects

School Policies

The Governing Body has a range of policies, covering staffing, curriculum and management in place. These documents which are subjected to regular monitoring and review are available at the school. There is a specific policy detailing the arrangements for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). This policy is monitored by a designated committee with delegated ALN responsibilities.

School Toilet Facilities

The school's toilet facilities are cleaned on a daily basis to ensure that they are of a high standard and are regularly inspected by the school cleaning staff and caretaker for hygiene and cleanliness. The school caretaking staff ensure that the facilities are kept to a high standard.

Facilities for the Disabled

The Governors seek to comply with all guidelines regarding provision of education for disabled pupils. A lift is available for wheelchair users, providing full access to the whole school site. From September 2003, Bryntirion has worked in partnership with the Local Authority to provide a base for pupils with communication disorder difficulties.

The school's Admissions Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy together with the Accessibility Plan contain further details on the arrangements for pupils with disabilities.

Strategic Equality Plan

From April 2012 the Bryntirion Strategic Equality Plan (updated October 2016) was written by the Governing Body to identify how we are fulfilling our strong commitment to equality and inclusion within the school

School Inspection October 2016

The school and Governors continue to address the recommendations of the ESTYN Inspectors following the successful inspection of October 2016 (Estyn Report available on school website).

Information for Parents

In accordance with the requirement of Section 20 of the 1986 Education Act, the Governors will make arrangements, via the Headteacher, for any information not included in this report to be made available to parents during the ensuing academic year.

The school prospectus is revised annually and available to all new and prospective parents.

The Authority's Curriculum Statement is available for inspection at the school upon arrangement with the Headteacher.

Pupils of Bryntirion Comprehensive enjoy many sporting activities and have achieved success in a number of sports.

The Governors have taken up various Service Level Agreements with the Authority, to assist with the effective management of the school and the delivery of the curriculum.

Parents' Meeting with the Governing Body

Statutory regulations provide for the opportunity for parents to convene a meeting with the school's Governing Body, for up to three times during any academic year. For such a meeting to take place, over 10% of parents will need to make this request.

If you wish to request for a parent's meeting with the Governing Body to be convened, please make your request in writing to the Clerk to the Governors at the school, or by email to:-
admin.bryntirioncomp@bridgend.gov.uk

Please note large print reports are available on request and this Annual Report is also available on the school website.

The Future at Bryntirion Comprehensive School

We are absolutely delighted with the Estyn inspection report from October 2016. With overall judgements of 'Excellent' for current performance and 'Excellent' for prospects for improvement, we are extremely pleased of the recognition received. It is an exciting time at Bryntirion and we are proud of the achievements of all our students. The future is bright and we will continue to strive to improve further and ensure all pupils at Bryntirion continue to thrive and succeed in all aspects of school life.

The School Improvement Plan focuses on five strategic intents:

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
CURRICULUM FOR LEARNING
POSITIVE ATTITUDES TO LIFE AND LEARNING
CARE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR LEARNING
LEADERSHIP AND RESOURCES FOR LEARNING

The school regularly and routinely reviews progress towards these intents and themes for development. Evaluation of progress at regular intervals is discussed with the Governing Body, Local Authority and Central South Consortium.

The latest National Categorisation of Schools by Welsh Government (January 2018) gave Bryntirion Comprehensive School an 'A' rating for Improvement Capacity and Yellow categorisation overall. Full details on school performance are available at www.mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk. We are very focused on ensuring that the school continues to improve and sustain the levels of excellence achieved.

School Terms and Holiday Dates for 2018/19 Academic Year

	Term Begins	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2018	Monday 3rd September	Monday 29th October	Friday 2nd November	Friday 21st December
Spring 2019	Monday 7th January	Monday 25th February	Friday 1st March	Friday 12th April
Summer 2019	Monday 29th April	Monday 27th May	Friday 31st May	Monday 22nd July

The Headteacher is given the discretion to choose the five in-service staff days (and any additional allocations).

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 6th May 2019

BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Financial Statement 2017- 2018

Expenditure

Payroll	4,283,979.00
Long Term Absence/Agency Supply Cover	115,000.00

Premises Related Costs

Building & Kitchen Maintenance, Swimming Pool	25,500.00
Planned Maintenance	15,000.00
Consultancy SLA	6,000.00
Other Building Services	27,800.00
Grounds Maintenance	7,000.00
Gas, Electricity, Water	112,500.00
Rates & Refuse Collection	118,487.00
Cleaning Costs	2,500.00

Supplies & Services

Health & Safety, Medical	3,500.00
Computer Hardware & Software	22,000.00
Insurances	11,536.00
Cooker Rental	900.00
Furniture & Fittings	5,000.00
Cleaning Materials	3,000.00
Postage, Telephones, Printing, Hospitality, T.V.	12,446.00
Examination Fees	150,000.00
Clothing Allowances	6,500.00
Pupil Clawbacks	10,000.00

Service Level Agreements

Education I.T.	30,000.00
Personnel/Payroll	11,513.00
Music SLA	42,816.00
Maternity SLA	2,803.00

Miscellaneous

Staff Training	1,200.00
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School Meals

Staff Free Meals	7,000.00
Pupil Free Meals	38,581.00

Curriculum Needs

PDG Expenditure	10,000.00
EIG Expenditure	45,000.00
Departmental Capitation	86,500.00
Curriculum Links & Transport	10,000.00
Contingency	

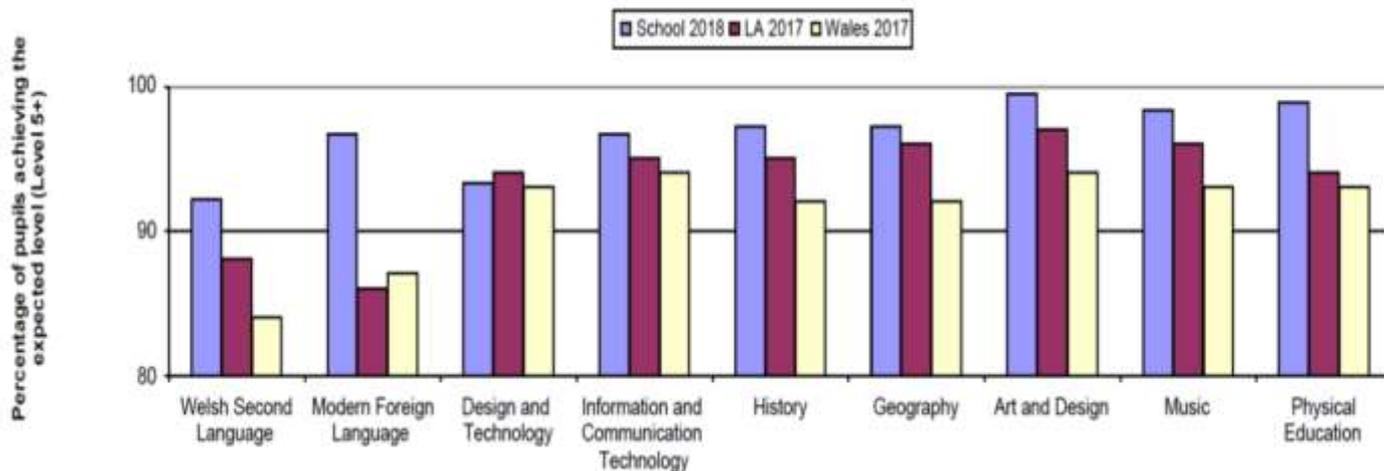
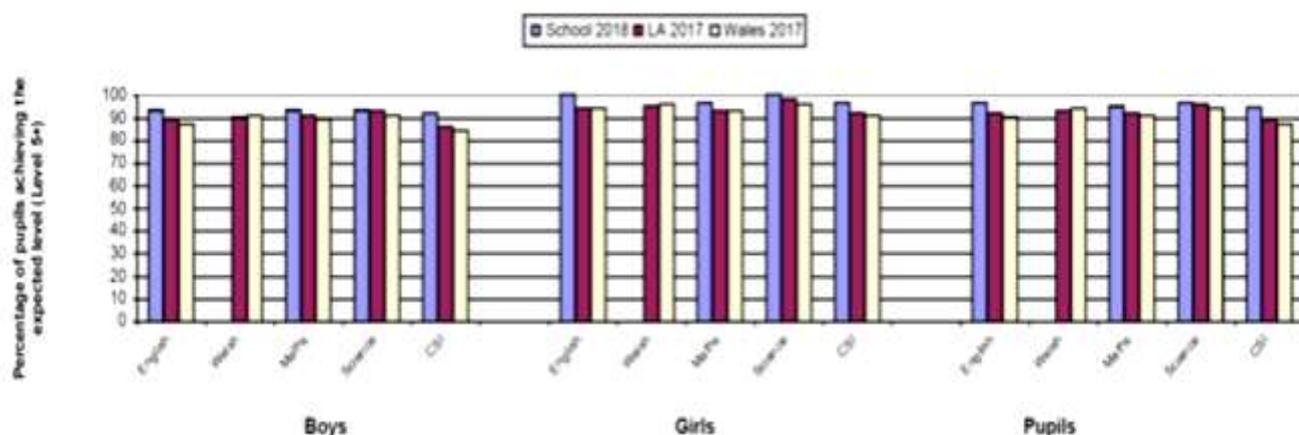
Total Expenditure	5,224,061.00
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School Comparative Information: National Curriculum Assessments 2018 with Benchmarking

Key Stage 3

Percentage of boys, girls, and pupils achieving at least the expected level (Level 5+):

	Males			Females			Pupils		
	School 2018	LA 2017	Wales 2017	School 2018	LA 2017	Wales 2017	School 2018	LA 2017	Wales 2017
English	93	89	87	100	94	94	97	92	90
Welsh	0	90	91	0	95	96	0	93	94
Maths	93	91	89	97	93	93	95	92	91
Science	93	93	91	100	98	96	97	96	94
CSI	92	86	84	97	92	91	94	89	97
Welsh Second Language	88	83	78	97	93	90	92	88	84
Modern Foreign Language	94	82	82	99	91	92	97	86	87
Design and Technology	88	91	91	99	97	96	93	94	93
ICT	94	94	92	99	97	96	97	95	94
History	94	93	89	100	97	95	97	95	92
Geography	94	94	89	100	98	95	97	96	92
Art and Design	99	95	90	100	98	97	99	97	94
Music	97	94	91	100	98	96	98	96	93
Physical Education	98	94	92	100	95	94	99	94	93



Bryntirion Comprehensive Summary of School Performance

Pupils in Year 11

Number of pupils in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2018: 170

Percentage of pupils in Year 11 who:

	entered at least one qualification	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	Achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*-A or equivalent	Average capped 9 (2) points score per pupil	Average capped 8 (2) wider points score per pupil
School 2017/18	100	100	71	59	21	379	351
LA Area 2017/18	98	95	70	57	20	357	334
Wales 2017/18	99	94	67	55	18	350	324
School 16/17/18	100	100	83	66	23	-	367
School 15/16/17	100	100	89	70	25	-	374

Number of boys in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2018 : 82

Percentage of boys in Year 11 who:

	entered at least one qualification	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	Achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*-A or equivalent	Average capped 9 (2) points score per pupil	Average capped 8 (2) wider points score per pupil
School 2017/18	100	100	62	54	20	366	340
LA Area 2017/18	98	93	63	51	15	341	319
Wales 2017/18	99	92	61	50	14	335	311
School 16/17/18	100	100	79	60	18	-	358
School 15/16/17	100	100	87	64	18	-	367

Number of girls in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2018 : 88

Percentage of girls in Year 11 who:

	entered at least one qualification	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	Achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*-A or equivalent	Average capped 9 (2) points score per pupil	Average capped 8 (2) wider points score per pupil
School 2017/18	100	100	80	65	22	392	360
LA Area 2017/18	99	96	77	63	26	374	358
Wales 2017/18	99	95	73	61	22	365	338
School 16/17/18	100	100	88	72	28	-	374
School 15/16/17	100	99	92	75	31	-	381

Bryntirion Comprehensive
Summary of School Performance (1)

Pupils in
Year 11

Number of pupils in Year 11 who were on roll in January 2018: 170

Percentage of pupils in Year 11 who:

Achieved an A*-C Grade in:

	English / Welsh	English	Welsh (2)	Science	Maths	Maths - Numeracy	Best of Maths	Core subject indicator (3)
School 2017/18	66	66	0	65	70	64	74	53
LA Area 2017/18	66	65	79	63	60	59	65	54
Wales 2017/18	65	63	74	63	59	58	64	53
School 15/16/17	74	74	0	88	-	-	-	64
School 14/15/16	78	78	0	99	-	-	-	70

Pupils aged
17

Number of pupils aged 17 who were on roll in

Number of boys aged 17 who were on roll in

Number of girls aged 17 who were on roll in

January

2018: 75

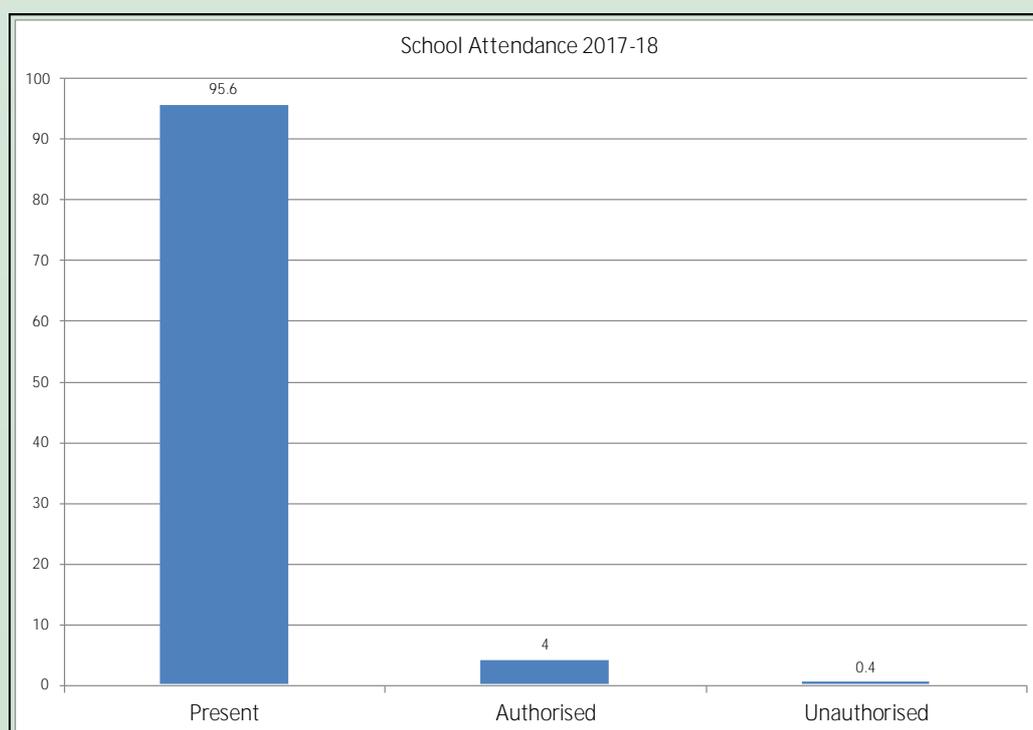
January 2018: 30

January 2018: 45

	Achieved the Level 3 threshold	Average wider points score	Achieved the Level 3 threshold	Average wider points score	Achieved the Level 3 threshold	Average wider points score
School 2017/18	100	730	100	635	100	794
LA Area 2017/18	98	688	97	636	99	727
Wales 2017/18	98	740	97	692	98	781
School 16/17/18	100	814	99	785	100	843
School 15/16/17	99	856	99	839	100	875

SCHOOL TARGETS 2019-2020

KEY STAGE 3	2019	2020
Total number of pupils in cohort	242	212
English % Level 5 and above	96%	96%
Mathematics % Level 5 and above	95%	95%
Science % Level 5 and above	96%	96%
KEY STAGE 4	2019	2020
Total number of pupils in cohort	170	175
Pupils achieving the Level 1 threshold	100%	100%
Pupils achieving the Level 2 threshold, including a GCSE pass at C or above in English or Welsh first language and Mathematics	70%	70%
Pupils leaving school without achieving any approved qualification	0	0
WHOLE SCHOOL	2019	2020
Attendance target for the academic year	96.0	96.0



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Sixth Form Performing Arts Trip to Birmingham

On Thursday September 14th Mrs Hawkes took nine pupils from Year 12 and 13 on the train to see the National Theatre's production of 'Jane Eyre' in the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. The pupils were very interested in the way the actor/musician performers integrated music into the drama; they are planning to use this technique in our version of 'Macbeth' to be performed in November as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

Mrs Hawkes is delighted with the sixth form Performing Arts and Music students; they are now well trained as 'Cast Captains' and are very proactive in supporting the younger students and taking roles of responsibility in extra-curricular activities. They are excellent role models and are gaining invaluable experience which will stand them in good stead in their future careers, as well as helping in their Welsh Bacalaureate courses.

Craig Jones Ironman Challenge

Craig Jones- IT Teacher - completed the Ironman Wales event in Tenby on 10th September. Known as the toughest triathlon in the world, he finished in a time of 11hours 33minutes in what was described as the worst weather conditions Tenby has experienced in its 8 editions. Craig raised £1000 for the disability charity Scope through cakes sales, a Staff/Sixth Form football match and a purple non uniform day. The amount raised has totalled £5000 in the past 3 years.

Art Department Visit to Bristol

The Art department took Year 10 GCSE pupils to Bristol for an experience of museums and contemporary art galleries. They visited the Bristol Museum, M-Shed and Arnolfini. The purpose of the trip was for pupils to observe and record artists to further pupils' contextual understanding and raise their performance for Assessment Objectives 1 & 3. Pupils showed exemplary behaviour and were great ambassadors of the school.

Shakespeare Schools Festival

On Thursday November 9th, after 7 weeks rehearsal, 32 pupils took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival and performed 'Macbeth' in the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff. The pupils all worked incredibly hard and enjoyed learning new acting techniques and skills along the way. They were complimented by the professional actors from the Shakespeare Schools Festival, as well as members of the audience, on their polished and emotive performances.

Solace Vocal Group

Solace, the senior vocal group, took part in the Music in the Vale competition on Saturday November 18th and finished Runners Up! The school also had a winner in the Young Senior Solo class as Matthew Daly (Year 12) impressed judges with his mature and challenging program. Some of the singers from Solace also performed a very moving piece in the annual Remembrance Service in the Sports Hall on November 17th, performing 'A Flower Remembered' by John Rutter.

Carol Service

The school Christmas Carol Service took place on Monday December 18th. Congratulations to the staff and pupils who organised and took part in the service. A most enjoyable evening of readings and song. We don't think we have ever seen the Church so full. The pupils performed to a very high standard and we have received many congratulatory calls from members of the congregation. As ever it was a most enjoyable evening.

Tiger Bay Production

On Wednesday 22nd November the Performing Arts department were lucky enough to obtain an Arts Council for Wales grant to go and see the new musical 'Tiger Bay'. For some pupils this was their first trip to the theatre and they all behaved impeccably. The show was amazing, with stellar performances from well known performers such as John Owen Jones and a fascinating insight into the history of Cardiff. It was well worth watching.

Maths Department - Fifty Year 8 pupils attended 'we the curious' science centre in Bristol. Pupils participated in a 'brain lab' workshop where they studied brain cells under the microscope and had the chance to prepare their own slides, cutting up celery and staining various plant and animal cells. They also watched a 'launch it' show based on forces and pupils had the chance to participate in experiments on stage. Between the sessions pupils had the opportunity to explore the hundreds of hands-on exhibits covering maths and science. Some activities included; making short animations, making flour and investigating their last name. Pupils showed exemplary behaviour and the staff were impressed with their knowledge.

Christmas Fayre

This year's Christmas Fayre, organised by our Year 10 and 12 students as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, was a huge success. A big thank you to everyone for attending and supporting this event. Over £1600 has been raised for the many charities that the students are supporting. Well done to our students for organising the Christmas Fayre and raising so much money!!

Taster Day

Over 240 Year 6 pupils attended Taster Day on Thursday, 12th October. They followed a timetable which included a Maths, PE and PSE session.

Christmas School Trips

The majority of pupils attended trips to Cardiff Ice Rink, Winter Wonderland and the Cinema during the last week of term. Once again the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities attended!

History Department

History Club have continued to impress with their Wartime Bridgend Project. They held another community oral history session in town, gathering artefacts and recording the memories of people who lived through the war. Decorated Naval veteran and author Alan Higgins in particular came to give his testimony and have his medals and war diary catalogued. The pupils also attended a training day in Porthcawl Museum and Swansea Bay 1940s Centre where they discussed the various ways to present history to the public. They will now begin compiling their research into a publication and develop designs for the physical memorial to be built in Bridgend Town Centre.

The History club also arranged to support and volunteer at St John's Tudor House near to the school with the hope of collaborating with the owners to turn the site into an interpretation centre for the whole Bridgend community, right on our doorstep! The House could have uses beyond History lessons - for example English and Performing Arts could use it for Shakespeare productions.

The club were also shortlisted for a Welsh Heritage award for their work on various projects this year. A judge visited the school to view completed work and displays while also interviewing the students involved. Further evidence was sent to the judges for their final decision making and we await a response.

Welsh Department 8M Trip to Cardiff

Class 8M were studying the topic Bwyd (Food) in Welsh and as a result went on a trip to Cardiff in order to collect information for a project Bwydydd y Byd (World Foods). The group caught the bus down to the museum where the students enjoyed the morning wandering around the museum and visiting the Evolution of Wales exhibition. They then walked through Bute Park to catch the water bus down to Cardiff Bay taking in all the sights on the way. In Cardiff Bay they visited the JRC Global Buffet in order to try as many world foods as possible in preparation for the project.

OPTIONS EVENING

A very successful KS4 & KS5 Options Evening took place on Thursday 15th February 2018. Pupils and parents attended a carousel of talks and presentations with the entire school being open. There was a very high turnout with two thirds of the current Year 11 attending.

Geography Fieldwork Trip

In early November the Geography department completed their annual sixth form fieldwork and activities sessions at Sealyham in Pembrokeshire. By combining the Year 12 and Year 13 groups early on the first day, full integration of the students was encouraged, this allows the more experienced A2 pupils to assist in the investigations completed by the AS ones, guiding them through the process of coastal studies. The second day saw the Year 12 students complete their studies in St Davids, whilst the Year 13 students went to Broomhill Burrows sand dune system for their Individual Investigations. Following several long days and nights the final day was dominated by the usual coastering sessions, culminating with cliff jumping at the Blue Pool.

ART VISIT TO BARCELONA

During February half-term the Art Department took twenty five A-Level and GCSE pupils on a cultural trip to Barcelona. The purpose of the visit was for pupils to experience the art and architecture of the city and support artist research for their coursework and exam investigations. The group enjoyed a busy schedule visiting the Picasso Museum, Joan Miro Foundation and the Museum of Contemporary Art. They also experienced the Gothic Quarter, La Boqueria Market, Barcelona Zoo, Port Vell and Parc Guell, taking in the impressive architecture designed by Antoni Gaudi. They completed their trip by visiting Gaudi's masterpiece, the Sagrada Familia. The resources and cultural experience gained are invaluable, preparing students for their forthcoming studies.

SCIENCE TASTER DAY

Over 240 primary school pupils from our feeder schools attended the 'Science Taster Day' at the school on Tuesday, 6th February. All pupils and staff enjoyed the day - another successful transition event!

YEAR 11 BELIEVE & ACHIEVE MEETING

The 2018 Believe & Achieve evening went ahead despite the onset of heavy snow and was attended by many parents and pupils. The aim of the evening was to launch the Exam/Revision season. Parents and pupils were briefed on the current revision programmes taking place in school (Lesson 6), made aware of key dates and given tips and advice on how best to support their child during the exam period. Parents were also given the opportunity to discuss any issues or questions they had with the Year 11 pastoral team. Overall a very positive evening.

EISTEDDFOD

Our annual Eisteddfod was again a huge success. Year 12 proudly organised the event with enthusiasm and commitment. A wide range of on stage competitions included solo groups, choirs, individual and group recitations and several instrumental contributions. Behaviour was exemplary throughout the day. Tudor House narrowly won as their resounding choir saved the day. This was the first win for Tudor in over 10 years! A special "Diolch" to Hannah Hughes, Alys Lewis and Lewys Williams of Year 12 for their hard work and inspirational leadership. Well done also to Llewellyn House who came a close second. Pupils who competed in the off-stage competitions were outstanding. It has been delightful to see the creativity of our talented pupils displayed in our main foyer.

CYMANFA GANU

Our School Sports Hall was full again on Thursday 8th March, when our cluster feeder schools joined us for yet another Cymanfa Ganu. The event was arranged by the Music and Welsh Departments. Our conductor Mrs Clare Werrett's enthusiasm was infectious and the evening was a huge success. A big thank you to Jemima Grindell our talented accompanist and our beautiful soloists Izi Strong (Year 7) and Owen Jarvis (Year 8).

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE - On March 12th the annual Bryntirion blood donation drive took place in conjunction with the Welsh Blood Service. Mr Beard and Donna from the WBS launched the campaign for the year back in September which included assemblies, group presentations and workshops. This culminated in a session with sixth formers on Wednesday 7th March where each pupil had the opportunity to be tested for their blood type before the day. The actual day itself was a huge success with 60 pints of blood donated including 35 new donors and six registered for the bone marrow database. Staff, pupils and the community were all involved in making it a successful event.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TALK

Two hundred students and a number of parents were privileged to hear the incredibly inspiring testimony of Eva Clarke, the youngest survivor of the Holocaust. Born in Mauthausen Concentration Camp. Eva spoke of the horrors her family faced following their deportation from Czechoslovakia to camps such as Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, from which few ever returned. Although harrowing, Eva's moving testimony was ultimately one of hope and survival, advocating a message of tolerance which our students will now carry into the future. Eva's talk was accompanied by contributions from our own students to mark a truly special occasion. Jemimah Grindell demonstrated her talents on the piano playing some highly appropriate music while Kayleigh Mackay read a Holocaust poem '*The Butterfly*'. Students from our History Club, including *HA Young Historian of the Year* winner Molly-May Cook, created a display illustrating the events of the Holocaust, highlighted by a collage of white roses representing student Sophie Scholl, whose non-violent White Rose Group opposed the Nazi regime. We are extremely grateful to Eva for her visit in what turned out to be hauntingly apt cold weather and are sure that our students, whether studying the Holocaust for their GCSE exams or otherwise, will never forget this most important of lessons.

History Visit to France & Belgium

Pupils of Bryntirion Comprehensive School have said they will never forget the lessons learned during a visit to the First World War Battlefields of France and Belgium. Under the guidance of battlefield experts from Anglia Tours, the group of 35 Year 9 pupils gained an unmistakable impression of the realities of trench warfare as they explored underground dugouts, traversed immense mine craters and became hands on with authentic uniforms, gas masks and weapons that had once been used to horrifying effect. Such experiences were accompanied by the constant presence of seemingly endless rows of white headstones, at which the pupils heard personal stories of how soldiers as young as 15 were killed. Having recently researched and constructed a memorial in the School to honour fallen members of the community, the group made this commemorative journey to the sites where the Welsh soldiers gave their lives. Delivering services in both English and Welsh, the pupils laid wreaths at Mametz Wood, the Welsh Memorial Park, the Menin Gate and the grave of Hedd Wyn. Poignantly, those who had relatives killed in the First World War were also able to lay poppies at their gravesides. Once again our pupils able to lay poppies at their gravesides. Once again our pupils participated in the daily evening service held at the Menin Gate. They laid a wreath on behalf of staff and pupils. An excellent visit, pupils were polite and well behaved throughout.

Junior Ski Trip to Austria - Easter 2018

During the Easter holidays a group of 80 pupils from Year's 8 and 9 went on the annual Junior Ski Trip to Austria. The pupils were accompanied by ten members of staff. They stayed in a lovely town called Bruck, which is only a 10 minute drive from the Ziller Valley ski region. During the week they skied at Zillertal Arena. All the pupils attended ski lessons and by the end of the week they had all made huge progress. The majority of pupils had never skied on snow before and it was great to see the improvements they made in only 5 days on the slopes. During the evening the pupils took part in a number of activities, including – bowling, tobogganing, swimming, a quiz and disco. The behaviour of the pupils was exemplary throughout the week and they were a credit to our school. A big thank you to all the pupils and staff for making this yet another successful and enjoyable ski trip.

Amsterdam 2018: RE Department

The RE department took 21 pupils from Years 10-13 to Amsterdam on the 3rd April. The pupils took part in an Anne Frank workshop at the Anne Frank House. They were asked about their prior knowledge of the story of Anne Frank and they then compared their lives with the lives of Jews in Amsterdam at that time in 1939. The pupils were then given a tour of the house which hid 8 Jews for 2 years in the annexe at the top of the house. The pupils couldn't believe how small the hiding rooms were for 8 people to live in! They even saw the markings of Anne's height on the wall recorded by her father. The pupils were very respectful and reflective during the tour. They were also shown around the largest synagogue in Holland (The Portuguese Synagogue) which allowed them to get a sense of how many Jews used to live and worship in Amsterdam before the holocaust took hold. The pupils studied the main features inside the synagogue which helped them with their exam revision! The group also visited a large traditional mosque in the city which was again most helpful to Year 11 students studying religious places of worship. The pupils also had a boat canal trip which took in all the sights of the beautiful city. The pupils were a credit to the school throughout the whole visit and appreciated everything!

School Musical - 'Phantom of the Opera'

'Phantom of the Opera' in July 2018 was the Performing Arts Department's most ambitious and challenging musical to date but, following lots of hard work and dedication from staff and pupils, we were thrilled with our sell out run of spectacular performances. There were lots of technical challenges such as the use of fireworks, a falling chandelier and a moving boat, not to mention the musical, dancing and acting demands presented by the dramatic and diverse roles. Timing had to be accurate to the split second and backstage staff had to manage a huge cast of over 100 pupils.

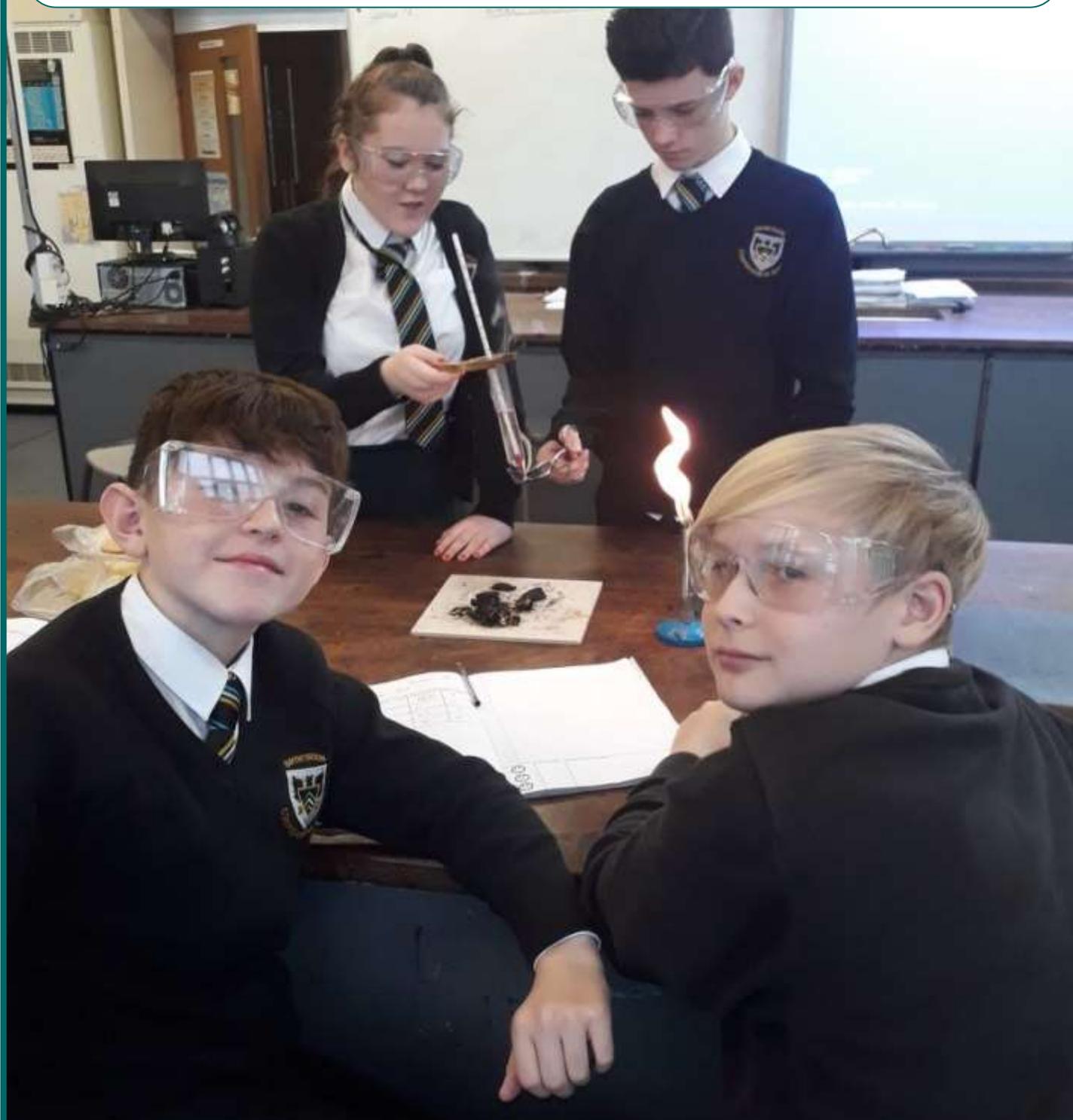
Special mentions have to go to Matthew Daly (Year 12) who performed the iconic role of the Phantom and Naomi Jenkins (Year 12) who hit the top E's every night as Christine. They are both extremely demanding roles and they performed them with professionalism and flair. All of the principals and indeed the whole cast performed and conducted themselves with a competence and conviction remarkable in students of their age and ensured the performance was compared by many of the audience to a West End production. Thanks also needs to go to Mrs Diane Bowser who made the chandelier from scratch. It looked splendid and very convincing, with the added bonus of being able to move, to great dramatic effect!

SPORT

Congratulations to Meghan Honour, Chloe Jones, Holly Anderson, Aimee Ore for competing in the Welsh Gymnastics Tumble and Vault Competition at Merthyr in February. The girls achieved 4th place overall out of 10 schools and Holly Anderson accomplished a 2nd place for her individual routine.

The following pupils were hand selected to represent the Glamorgan Valleys Team in the Welsh Athletics Cross Country Championship. Mia Allen (Year 7), Dafydd Pratchett (8) Ryan Edwards (9) Sarah Jenkins (12) and Hannah Jenkins (12).

“Pupils have exceptionally positive attitudes to their learning”. Estyn



Ysgol Gyfun Bryntirion Comprehensive School

Merlin Crescent, Cefn Glas, Bridgend CF31 4QR

Tel: 01656 641100

E-mail: admin.bryntirioncomp@bridgend.gov.uk