

The Governors Annual Report to Parents 2013 / 2014





Dear Parent / Guardian

It is a great pleasure to be able to write a report that reflects another successful year in the history of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin – and that is within every aspect of the school's busy life. It is important to consider the contribution of parents and governors to the prosperity of the school, but in fact the success of the school depends completely on the hard work of the staff from day to day. It is the hard work and dedication of the Headteacher, the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Department, the subject teachers and all the support staff that is responsible for any success in the long term.

As a governing body we are honoured to work with the headteacher and all the school staff. Without any doubt we have completely professional staff who do their best at all times to try to ensure the highest standard possible when teaching every pupil in the school.

This was a year of change at Bro Myrddin. Following his retirement before Christmas, I would like to thank the former head, Mr Dorian Williams, for his outstanding contribution to the school. Following seven years of tireless work I hope that he is now having a well earned break. Dr Llinos Jones was appointed to succeed him and has already established herself as an inspiring and fair leader. I would like to congratulate her and her team for a very productive first year. I would also like to extend our thanks to staff who have left or retired during the year and extend a very warm welcome to new members of staff who have joined us during the year.

It is pleasing to note that the school will continue to offer a rich and complete education for all pupils. We congratulate everyone on their success in external examinations and it is pleasing to report that we have seen a further increase as a school. It is also important to note that excellent work has been done to ensure that our attendance has exceeded the target set by the Local Authority.

As usual a wide range of activities, clubs, educational trips, visits and special events have been woven into the life of the school over the past year. We have had a good year on the playing fields, with a number of school teams having considerable success as well as a host of successes in individual sports. There has been a lot of cultural activity including the Eisteddfod, performances and shows. The school received a number of awards on stage at the Urdd Eisteddfod this year and I would like to congratulate all the competitors and coaching staff. I would like to extend our thanks to the PTA for their support during the year. We are indebted to the Association for its financial assistance to promote the welfare of our pupils.

Personally I would like to thank the Headteacher, the staff and my fellow governors for all the support and cooperation that I received during my time as Chairman. I am also indebted to Mrs Eira Jones, Clerk to the Governors, for her advice and support.

I would like to wish my successor, Mrs Lynwen Roberts all the best. As someone who has had the opportunity to work with Lynwen through my daily work I know that she has a significant contribution to make.

We live in a time of great change in education and every other area for that matter. However, it is important to remember that some things have not changed. They include the provision of high quality education for our young people that will prepare them for living a full life in both languages in the twenty-first century. They also include promoting the use of the Welsh Language, not only in the teaching and learning but also in the lives of our students outside the classroom. These are hefty challenges that deserve the best from all of us. I would like to congratulate the school in providing an opportunity for year 12 students to arrange activities to encourage the social use of the Welsh language last year, through initiatives such as the Welsh Government project to support the language. We sincerely hope that such plans remain successful in school.

If you feel the need to discuss any particular aspect or to gain more information please do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher or Chair of Governors. Thank you for your support and cooperation and together we look forward to another amazing year.

Arwel Lloyd
Chairman of governors



The head teacher's report

Dr Llinos Jones

The current academic year has been particularly successful. We are pleased to record once again this year that the examination results were very satisfactory and I would like to thank the pupils, parents and staff for their hard work and commitment. The teachers and students have continued to work hard to maintain the high standards set at Ysgol Bro Myrddin over the last decade. Many of the school's successes have been recorded on the school's website and in our local newspapers and through Twitter.

It has also been a year of changes with the retirement of our former head Mr. Dorian Williams at the end of the Autumn term and the restructuring of the senior management team to be the Senior Leadership team.

The Governor are also very keen to ensure that they bear staff and school leaders to account through the various committees that meet regularly to discuss policy and school activities.

We look forward to a future full of excitement led by our new Senior Leadership Team. Our goal is to maintain and raise the high standards whilst offering a broad curriculum and extensive extra-curricular experiences.

Substantial investment in promoting digital learning has been made by establishing WiFi throughout the school. We have bought 50 iPads and staff have already begun to develop digital expertise in order to make best use of this technology in the classroom. We also intend to improve access to resources and teaching and learning materials outside of school hours for pupils and parents.

It is important that we continue to be open and honest about all aspects of school improvement and in our opinion, the views of pupils and parents are an integral part. We have developed Pupil Voice in all aspects of school life and are acting on the results. We have plans in the future to strengthen the voice of the School Council and the create a Sports Council. We want to ensure that we are aware of the views of everyone involved with the school. We ask you, therefore, to use a questionnaire distributed during parent evenings so we can get to know your views on our performance.

Communication is key for us and we have recently improved our website and developed a school Twitter account. We have also developed a system to facilitate texting between school and home. The school website address is: www.bromyrdin.sirgar.sch.uk



Progress on recommendations in the Estyn Inspection Report 2009

A1. Continue to refine the school's procedures for tracking pupils' performance against targets to ensure they are robust enough to enable clearer identification of underachievement

We now have a system to monitor and track record of success for all pupils from year 7 to 13. The targets and the challenge are set based on past performance and predictive data, for example, FFT. These targets are shared with pupils and teachers assess pupils' work against these expectations. By using traffic light system we also recognize the underachievers and the more able and talented pupils and we ensure that they are challenged to reach the highest possible standards. With underachieving pupils the school address the reasons for the underachievement in order to ensure that all pupils reach their full potential.

A2. Continue to work closely with the Local Education Authority to provide suitable facilities for the Physical Education, Music and Drama departments and to provide adequate facilities for sixth form dining

In September 2010, we officially opened the new Drama department on the school site. September 2011 saw the opening of Panedini, the sixth form cafe. The cafe is open from 9.30 to 3.00 and provides a place for pupils and staff to have a snack, lunch, coffee and a chat. It also can be a workroom for the pupils. September 2012 also saw a new development with the opening of the Music department. Substantial investment has also been made to the fitness room for the Physical Education Department in 2013. We have therefore achieved Estyn's recommendations.

A3. Implement a more rigorous system for raising attendance levels

The school's attendance rate has been consistently high and has improved further in 2014 with the appointment of a new Assistant Head responsible for attendance in May 2014. Honest communication with parents has also seen progress. This is an aspect that the school has worked hard to improve and the data shows the success. There has been a substantial increase in pupil attendance since the last inspection. By now the school's attendance rate is 95.3%, compared with 91% for the County and 91.4% for Wales. The rate of unauthorized absence is very low at 0.1%, much better than the county rate (0.8%) and national rate (1.5%).



Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin

Members of the Governing Body 2014-15

Chair : Mr Arwel Lloyd

Vice-Chairman : Mrs Lynwen Roberts

Clerk : Mrs Eira Jones, Clerk to the Governors,
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin,
swyddfa@bromyrdin.sirgar.sch.uk

There are 20 members on the Governing Body :

- **Head**
- **6 Parent Governors**
- **5 LEA Representatives**
- **2 Teacher Representatives**
- **1 Support Staff Representative**
- **5 opted community members Representatives**

Parent Governors (period ending)

Mrs Lynwen Roberts (Vice-Chairman)	(09.11.16)
Mrs Marlene Jones	(09.11.16)
Mr Hywel Davies	(08.11.16)
Rev Beti Wyn James	(28.10.18)
Mr Dyfrig Davies	(03.10.15)
Mrs Eleri Beynon	(02.12.16)

LEA Governors (period ending)

Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths	(23.09.16)
Cllr Mair Stephens	(23.09.16)
Mr Arwel Lloyd (cadeirydd)	(25.03.17)
Mr Alun Charles	(08.12.17)
Cllr Gareth O. Jones	(04.09.15)

Teacher Governors (period ending)

Mr Aled Williams	(31.08.17)
Dr Huw Griffiths	(23.09.16)

Support Staff Governor (period ending)

Mrs Meinir McLellan	(22.05.15)
---------------------	------------

Community Governors (period ending)

Rev Tom T. Defis	(13.01.17)
Mrs Glenys Thomas	(13.01.17)
Mr Elfed Davies	(13.01.17)
Mrs Anne Loughran	(13.01.17)
Mrs Luned Thomas	(13.03.17)



Annual Parents Meeting

Since May 2013 new arrangements are in force in respect of the annual meeting of governors / parents. Rather than the governing body holding an annual general meeting with parents, parents have the right to request a meeting with the governing body on issues of concern. Parents can exercise this right up to three times during the school year, provided that the purpose of the meetings is to discuss issues relating to the school, not to discuss individual pupils' progress and achievement or complaints regarding staff members or member of the governing body. A meeting will be arranged with the Governors, therefore, if 10 parents or 30% ask in writing for a meeting using section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Questionnaire for Parents

Please use a new questionnaire distributed during parent evenings so we can get to know your views on our performance and, if appropriate, to suggest ideas that can be adopted for the benefit of the school.

Links with the community

The school is used regularly by external clubs and societies. We have worked closely with the Urdd and 5x60 officers to provide Welsh medium provision programs outside school hours or during school holidays. We also have close links with our Police School Liaison Officers, PC Cath Williams. She has supported us very well in our PSHE program and has worked very closely with our Heads of Year and the Senior Leadership Team. Her advice and work has been very valuable to us. Our humanitarian committee works hard each year to raise substantial sums of money for humanitarian causes locally and nationally. Annually the year 12 pupils volunteer their help in the community to assist numerous associations such as Radio Glangwilli; charity shops such as Arthritis Research, Red Cross, Tenovus, Plant Dewi, Barnardos, Oxfam and the Welsh Air Ambulance and local schools.



School Financial Statement 2013/14

Expenditure		Budget	Actual
	Wages	3437248	3400778
	Buildings	398511	390786
	Supplies and Services	399756	415353
		4235515	4206917
Income		Budget	Actual
	Customer receipts	176935	68292
	Government grants	4054181	4262718
	Other grants	7674	15912
		4238790	4346922
Surplus		3275	140004

Pupil Performance

KS3 Level 5+ Performance							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 Family	2014 LEA	2014 Wales
Welsh	91.0%	85.3%	88.5%	91.0%	92.4%	88.7%	90.1%
English	90.3%	86.9%	88.5%	93.0%	92.8%	88.5%	85.9%
Mathematics	92.9%	93.0%	90.8%	94%	93.1%	88.4%	86.5%
Science	94.2%	89.9%	91.6%	96.0%	96.4%	91.1%	91.0%
CSI	88.4%	86.8%	88.1%	91.8%	90.2%	84.5%	81.0%

KS4 - (draft copy)							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 Family	2014 LEA	2014 Wales
L2 Welsh	88.1%	82.7%	78.8%	75%	75.7%	69.1%	73.7%
L2 English	81.2%	85.8%	79.3%	79.5%	73%	69.2%	66%
L2 Mathematics	80.5%	80.0%	76%	79%	71.9%	63.9%	61.4%
L2 Science	80.5%	83.3%	76.7%	77.2%	78.4%	78.8%	81.5%
L1	97.0%	98.0%	96.9%	100%	98.5%	95.6%	94%
L2	84.5%	86.0%	83.6%	90%	86.3%	84.5%	82%
L2+	79.0%	75.0%	71.7%	72.4%	65.5%	58.5%	55.1%
CSI	75.0%	73.0%	69.0%	70.1%	62.1%	55.7%	51.9%
Points (capped)	350.3	372.2	361.8	373.9	363.1	351.8	340



Summary of Ysgol Bro Myrddin results compared with LEA and Wales (draft copy)

Summary of Secondary School Results					LEA no / School		669/4056
	Percentage of 15 year old pupils:						
	Entered at least one qualification	Achieved the Level 1 threshold	Achieved the Level 2 threshold	Achieved the Level 2 threshold inclusive	Core Subject Indicator	Average capped wider point score per pupil	Average wider points score per pupil
	No of pupils aged 15 who were on roll January 2013 : 159						
School 2013/14	100%	100%	89%	72.4%	70%	374	643
LEA Area 2013/14	100%	96%	85%	59%	56%	352	577
Wales 2013/14	99%	94%	82%	55%	52%	340	520

	No of boys aged 15 who were on roll January 2013 : 81						
School 2013/14	100%	100%	79%	58%	58%	354	579
LEA Area 2013/14	100%	94%	81%	56%	53%	341	554
Wales 2013/14	99%	92%	78%	51%	48%	327	493

	No of girls aged 15 who were on roll January 2013 : 78						
School 2013/14	100%	100%	97%	83%	80%	390	696
LEA Area 2013/14	100%	97%	89%	62%	58%	364	602
Wales 2013/14	99%	95%	86%	59%	56%	354	549

1. For details on approved qualifications, point scores and contribution to thresholds, please see the Database of Approved Qualifications in Wales (DAQW) in <http://www.daqw.org.uk>
2. For information about which syllabuses are included in each subject area see the Guidance Notes.
3. Average capped wider point scores are calculated using the 8 best result.
4. Entry Level Qualification.
5. For the final SSSP this definition will be replaced with the percentage of pupils aged 15 leaving education with no qualifications as defined under the National Performance Indicator EDU / 002.
6. Used for all Free Meals Benchmarking tables.



Pupil destinations

Pupils	Yr 11		Yr 12		Yr 13	
	No	%	No	%	Nifer	%
	(129)		(117)		(89)	
Still in full time education – in this school	88	68.2%	105	89.7%		
Still in full time education – in another school	1	0.8%	3	2.6%		
Still in full time education – college	36	27.9%	6	5.1%	8	9%
Still in full time education – Higher Education course					56	62.9%
GAP year					16	18%
Still in part time education						
Prentiship	1	0.8%	1	0.9%	4	4.5%
Unemployed but registered with Careers Wales						
Unemployed but not registered with Careers Wales						
Cannot start employment, education because of illness						
Left the area	1	0.8%				
Has not responded to follow-up action and therefore do not know						
Job	2	16.7%	2	1.7%	5	5.6%

Attendance

Pupil attendance	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
% Authorized absences	6.2%	6.8%	4.7%
% Unauthorised absences	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
% Attendance	93.6%	93.0%	95.3%

Targets set by Governing Body regarding attendance	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
% Attendance	95.5%	95.7%	95.9%



Toilets

Toilet facilities are regularly audited and is part of the cleaning contract with the Authority. Pupils, by questionnaire and School Council, contribute to the monitoring of the quality of these facilities. Action on the questionnaire results will be taken in 2014-15.

Healthy Schools

We are committed to the Healthy Eating and Drinking measure which embeds the 'Appetite for Life' guidance. This came into force in September 2013. It sets out the strategic direction and actions required to improve the food and drink served and sold in our school. We have implemented this with the support of the catering service to ensure that all food and drink at our school will comply with the measure. Healthy eating is promoted through Food Technology, Biology and PSHE lessons. Consistent messages are provided by staff with respect to food and drink both in school and off-site.

Bro Myrddin's school day

The school timetable is organized to 5 lessons a day over a period of ten days.

8.55-9.05	Registration	9.05-9.20	Assembly	9.20-10.20	Lesson 1
10.20-10.35	Breaktime	10.35-11.35	Lesson 2	11.35-12.35	Lesson 3
12.35-1.35	Dinner	1.35-1.40	Registration	1.40-2.40	Lesson 4
2.40-3.35	Lesson 5				



School Holiday Dates 2014-15

Term	Start	Half Term		End	Days
		Start	End		
Autumn 2014	Wednesday 3 September	Monday 27 October	Friday 31 October	Friday 19 December	74
Spring 2015	Tuesday 5 January	Monday 16 February	Friday 20 February	Friday 27 March	55
Summer 2015	Tuesday 14 April	Monday 25 May	Friday 29 May	Monday 20 July	64
Designated Inset Days – Monday, September 1; Monday, April 13 Inset days on the schools discretion – Tuesday, September 2; Friday, February 13; Monday, July 21. Significant dates: Good Friday – April 3, May day - May 4					2
Total					195



Discipline

School rules are needed to protect standards within the school. They are based on the central ideas of self-respect, respect for others, and common sense. The rules are discussed in the tutorial lessons and all pupils are expected to comply. High standards of discipline are ensured by implementing a clear system of discipline to pupils that do not comply. Any misconduct is dealt with firstly by the subject teacher followed by the Head of Department and Head of Year. If the misconduct continues, the pupil is put in lunchtime detention. If this happens more than three times then the parents are notified that the pupil will be kept in suspension after school. Pupils may be suspended from attending the school in accordance with Welsh Government guidance. The school's positive behavior policy ensures that very few children have discipline problems.

The school operates a clear policy in dealing with issues of bullying, and responds immediately if such a problem arises.

Health and safety

The school's Health and Safety policy reflects the desire of the Governing Body to ensure a secure site for pupils and staff alike. All categories of employment are represented on the Health and Safety Committee. This committee reports to the Governors Health and Safety Committee. It is emphasized to all staff to report any deficiencies or hazards immediately to the Health and Safety Officer.

The school prospectus

The School Prospectus is annually changed to incorporate any changes required by the Welsh Government and other relevant bodies. A copy is given to the parents of children entering school for the first time or transferring from another school. Copies are available on the school website or a hard copy can be obtained from the school office.

Special arrangements in terms of accessibility for pupils, staff and parents with disabilities

The Governing Body has adopted a School Equality Plan. This plan will ensure that arrangements are being made by the school to ensure that pupils (or other stakeholders of the school) with disabilities will not be treated less favorably than others.



Medium of Teaching and Language Policy

All National Curriculum subjects in KS3 are taught and assessed through the medium of Welsh at Bro Myrddin. In Science, since the foundation of the current language policy, parents are allowed a choice. Pupils entering Year 7 who have studied Science in Welsh in Primary School continue with their studies in Welsh. A minority of pupils every year choose to study science in English. In Mathematics again there is a choice. However, all pupils in KS3 study Mathematics in Welsh. In the Science and Mathematics Welsh medium lessons all pupils receive a list of terms and subject vocabulary in English and Welsh. This will ensure that all pupils are able to discuss the subject in Welsh and English, and eliminate any concerns that may exist among those who believe that scientific and mathematical education in Welsh is more difficult.

The Welsh Language

Welsh is the official language of school for extracurricular activities and the vast majority of academic lessons. The school is proud of its Welsh ethos and acts to ensure that this is maintained for each new cohort of pupils. It is compulsory for pupils who choose to attend the school to speak Welsh around the school, in extracurricular activities and lessons that are taught through the medium of Welsh. Parents are asked to support the school in this regard by encouraging their children to speak Welsh, to respect the ethos of the school and encourage them to do their best to promote the language at all times. The schools language category is 2A. The school is implementing the targets set by the Carmarthenshire Welsh Strategic Plan.

Policies

Sixty policies were reviewed and modified by the Governing Body at their recent annual meeting and three new policies were adopted three new policies: the School Equality Plan, the Teacher Pay Policy and the Informal use of the Welsh Language policy.



Special Educational Needs Report 2013-14

Our goal at Bro Myrddin is to teach pupils with SEN alongside their peers in the mainstream as far as it is practicable. In order for children to receive differential Curriculum, at times they may be withdrawn from classes temporarily, to focus on some key aspects of the work such as basic literacy and numeracy skills. This is done on the basis of standardized tests and reports received from the education authority officials and heads of primary schools and after discussions with the parents.

Mrs Caroline Walton, our school Coordinator for ALN is responsible for planning and coordinating provision for pupils with special educational needs and is also responsible for organizing the work of the support staff. Statements are reviewed annually at a meeting arranged with individual parents and county support service. Mrs Lynwen Roberts has been named as governor for ALN.

There are 147 pupils on the SEN register and are classified as follows.

Year	Statements (FSM)	School Action Plus (FSM)	School Action (FSM)
7	2	8	20 (1)
8	0	1	26 (1)
9	5	0	12
10	3	2	19 (2)
11	4	4 (2)	23 (1)
12	2 (1)	1	8
13	0	2	5
Total	16	18	113

During 2012-13 many changes have been made to the department. A new system of support has been introduced. Rather than putting the Teaching Assistants with specific pupils with Statements of SEN, the team works within areas of expertise associated with Language, Numeracy / Science and practical subjects. The changes were made to promote pupils' social skills and independence.

Positive support training was received by two of the department and the Teaching Assistant now works with individuals who require more support than the group promoting social skills provided by the school. The school also collaborated with Afasic Wales and four other schools in Carmarthenshire and the LEA to conduct an audit of Speech and Language needs of pupils. The work in this area continues.

A profile on each pupil on the SEN register has been created. The profile gives us the view of the individual pupil, the factors that affect their learning in lessons, the results of any standardized tests and teachers targets.

A large number of SEN pupils now receive access arrangements in internal and external examinations. Computer readers are also available. This enables the pupils sitting English or Welsh Language to hear the text being read aloud. Therefore, pupils who have weak reading but good comprehension skills can have access to English and Welsh language papers for the first time.

'Literacy Toolbox' which is a reading workshop for less confident readers has been developed during the year. The scheme uses computers and special teaching methods to promote reading and spelling skills. There has been significant improvement in the reading age of the pupils who participated in the scheme.



Pupil welfare

We have a team of people who work to the benefit of pupils. Four members of the Senior Leadership trained have trained as child protection officers - Dr Llinos Jones, the headteacher; Mr Euryn Madoc Jones, deputy head; Miss Zelda Williams and Mr Jonathan Thomas, assistant heads. The heads of year play a vital role, as do the youth officers, the first aid assistant, the school health nurse, learning coaches and school counselors. Our two school counselors Mrs Netta Thomas and Mrs Zena Cooper saw 26 pupils this year. The Peer Mentoring scheme, a scheme to train pupils in the sixth form to work with vulnerable children is going from strength to strength.

Sports

The Governors believe that they realized the main aims of sport in the school, that is:

- To provide a safe & stimulating environment where pupils can work towards gaining maturity
- To develop physical skills
- To promote awareness of the importance of exercise for health.

The many activities offered by the department and the 5x60 officer include rugby, football, athletics, cricket, tennis, gymnastics, orienteering, badminton, aerobics, cross-country, netball, creative dance, canoeing, rafting, rounders, skiing, outdoor activities, hockey, basketball, touch rugby, volleyball, circuit training, weight training, climbing, mountain biking and mountaineering. In addition, many pupils complete the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award annually. Many of our pupils have been very successful on the school playing fields and outside school, many competing nationally.

Achievements

We are very proud of our pupils academic and extracurricular achievements not only on the playing fields but on stage and in the world of acting and the national media.

Extracurricular activities

Annually the school offers numerous extra-curricular experiences for our pupils to coincide with their academic studies.

Humanitarian Committee

We have an active humanitarian committee of 70 pupils in the sixth form. This year we collected over £4,000 for various good causes.

