Dear Parents, Guardians and Students

As we approach the festive season at Bryntirion, we have an opportunity to reflect on some of our achievements and events so far this year. There have been so many of these that it is not possible to mention them all, but I hope you will enjoy finding out a bit more about some of the many achievements of our Bryntirion school community and the events which have enriched pupils' lives so far this term in this November bulletin.

**Whole school events**

On November 11th we marked ‘Armistice Day’ with a special memorial service at Bryntirion. Our new male voice choir sang for the first time with a moving rendition of the song ‘Band of Brothers’. The whole school community participated in a respectful and dignified service, and reflected on the sacrifices made by British servicemen and women over the last century.
School Council

The School Council have been consulting on a range of whole school issues, including making safer our traffic situation outside school and improving our canteen facilities. School council members have met with representatives from the catering contractor with a request to improve the range of healthy food options available to pupils and ensure that the needs of all pupils, including vegetarians, those with gluten intolerances, allergies and diabetes are catered for. On this point, we have a number of pupils and staff in school with food allergies (including airborne nut allergies) and would like to request that parents and guardians bear this in mind when providing packed lunches and snacks for their children. Pupils should not share food unless they are absolutely sure it will not put anyone in danger.

The School Council co-ordinated our participation in ‘Operation Christmas Child’ to fill shoe boxes for children across the world for ‘Samaritans Purse’. The boxes include gifts such as stationary, toys & hygiene items. The School Council would like to thank everyone who was able to contribute, and hope that the gifts are happily received by less fortunate children in other parts of the world.

We will be holding our Annual Christmas Fair this year on December 11th and welcome everyone to grab a bargain for Christmas between 2 and 4pm in the Sports Hall. All welcome. The School Council’s other two chosen charities for the year are Velindre Hospital and Action For Children. Proceeds from the Christmas Fayre and any other charity events organised this year will go towards these two charities.
BOTAWA
Teachers from Heronsbridge, Bryntirion and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School visited their partner schools in Tanzania to share and teach project work on the UNCRC. Mrs McNaught from Bryntirion can be seen giving a small presentation to the pupils.

Department News

Geography

Key Stage 5 Geography pupils visited Sealyham in Pembrokeshire for three days and enjoyed coasteering after completing their fieldwork on a range of themes such as sand dunes, coastal defences and St David's City. Despite being a bit chilly it proved to be challenging and exhilarating!
Physical Education

Our pupils were delighted to attend an ‘Inclusive Rugby’ event organised by Ospreys in the Community. They had a great time developing their rugby skills and representing the host country ‘Japan’ in the Inclusive World Cup games.

Congratulations to Ioan James who represented South Wales in the under 13’s boys Welsh Inter Regional Cross Country Championships this month. Another wonderful individual achievement!
Well done to the Year 9 and senior football teams who have both qualified for the national stage of the Welsh School’s FA cup. This is the first time we have had 2 teams get this far in the cup run.

**Art**

Our Graffiti Wall.....

In Art lessons, the theme for Year 8 this term has been 'Street Art'. Pupils have had the opportunity to research and understand the history and context behind this art movement and the importance it plays in society. As a department we have been looking at the difference between 'negative illegal vandalism' and 'legal smart vandalism', sharing the point that graffiti art can portray not only positive beautiful imagery but also ask questions and challenge current social and political issues.

The pupils studied the work of Banksy and were inspired to create their own stencils promoting positive words or imagery relating to the benefits of school and being part of the Bryntirion community. To enhance this experience we invited a professional graffiti artist to come in to the school and work with our Year 8's on their own ‘Street Art’ graffiti project, which would not only brighten up the school environment but also project positive messages.

We ran a competition where year 8 pupils could have input into the design of our walls. We had some amazing entries with 10 finalists (see Art Instagram for names). The two winner's Milly Geering and Chloe Coupland had their designs along with Mr Spratt's amalgamated into the design you can now see on our wall. The two day project incorporated a day of graffiti stencil workshops for all year 8 pupils with Mr Spratt and Ms Evans and then a day of spray painting with Thomas Llewellyn. All 220 pupils fought off the cold and wet weather conditions to complete this task and produce something truly original and positive. Thank you to all the staff who helped out during those 2 days plus a special thank you to Tom Llewellyn for his professional and hard work.
Congratulations to the staff and students who were involved in the innovative and emotive ‘Romeo & Juliet’ performance on November 20th as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival which was very well received by the audience and SSF staff.
**Pupil achievements**

Rhys Wilson in Year 9 has recently been selected to represent Wales in basketball (under 14). Rhys is an outstanding competitor and we are very proud of his achievements.

Year 9 student Oliver Davies recently attended the Bridgend Young Achiever Awards where he received an award for his work as a ‘Young Carer’.
Year 7 student Morgan Manning-Paget received her ‘Gold’ trophy for winning her category and her ‘Grand Champion’ trophy for winning the series in the sport of kickboxing. An amazing achievement.

In the Community

Well done to the Bryntirion pupils who performed at the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion with the Bridgend Dance Centre. Here are some of our pupils who featured below.
Year 12 students Carwyn, Osian, Caitlin, Bradley and Lewis hosted a staff breakfast morning to raise money for the charity ‘Prostate Cymru’. The students have already organised a cheer station at the Cardiff Half Marathon earlier this term, and are working with the local Primary Schools to promote the work of the Charity as part of their Community Challenge.

Congratulations to everyone for a fabulous November at Bryntirion…………