

# Queen Elizabeth High School



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we approach the final weeks and the run in to Christmas. There has been much to celebrate this term as we have eventually returned to some of our pre-pandemic norms and traditions. Last week we held our first face-to-face Parents'/Carers' Evening for Year 12 and 13. The evening was very well attended and the feedback from parents and carers was very positive indeed. We will continue with a blended approach to these evenings and Year 10 Parents'/Carers' evening will take place online on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## KEY DATES

- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December Year 9 and Year 11 Exams**
- **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Evening**
- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Year 7 Llangrannog Trip**
- **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Bonanza & Christmas Fayre**
- **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas lunch for pupils**

## Estyn Inspection

As you will be aware, Estyn inspected the school between Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the questionnaires and attended the face-to-face forum with Estyn. The process was, as ever, challenging and thought provoking and the report is now available on the Estyn website:

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6694063>

The great news for the school is that there is no follow up from Estyn, with significant areas to celebrate about our school and some areas where we will continue to strive to be the best we can. Some highlights include:

Across the school, many pupils, including those with additional learning needs (ALN), make secure progress in their learning and a few pupils make particularly strong progress.

Nearly all learners read with suitable understanding to retrieve information from simple texts and can identify key themes and ideas.

A notable strength of the school is practice in the Canolfan Elfed inclusion centre, which caters for pupils with a wide range of needs. Its leaders and staff have created a highly inclusive and nurturing environment where nearly all pupils flourish and make strong progress in relation to their individual targets.

Most pupils feel safe and secure in school. They believe that pupils are treated fairly and that no groups are discriminated against. Most feel that the school deals well with bullying when it occurs and nearly all know where to access support should they require it.

Nearly all sixth form pupils have positive and mature attitudes to their learning. They are keen to succeed, take pride in their work and show independence and confidence.

In mathematics, many pupils demonstrate secure number skills and apply these suitably across the curriculum.

In most lessons, teachers have positive working relationships with their pupils and create a calm, purposeful learning environment.

The school provides a curriculum that meets the needs of its pupils well, building on their prior learning and their aspirations.

The school has an inclusive ethos and supports the personal development of its pupils well. Staff have a strong focus on pupils' well-being and an individualised approach to providing support.

Senior leaders promote and support a culture of safeguarding and well-being effectively throughout the school.

The headteacher has a clear vision for the school and a strong commitment, built on the principles of equality and diversity, to ensuring that all pupils have every opportunity to achieve their personal best. Since his appointment, he has prioritised developing a staff body that works collaboratively to address the school priorities. In doing this, the headteacher has improved morale and supported staff well-being, creating a caring community which works well together.

The Estyn report followed on from our fantastic summer GCSE and A Level results. We have looked at all aspects of the report and are now modifying our practices around lesson observation, reflecting on existing practice and very much focussing on the learning experience in the classroom. We see the report as a recognition and endorsement of that first crucial stage of our continuing journey to making QEH a truly excellent school.

## School Shows – Wizard of Oz and A Comedy of Errors

Canolfan Elfed produced a fantastic performance of Wizard of Oz on the week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> November, culminating in their final evening performance on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. A combination of fantastic talent, razor sharp production and fantastic performances on the night meant that it was a real treat and marked a welcome return to school productions. Well done to all involved!



A massive thank you must also go to the Expressive Arts department. It was my privilege to attend both the performances of A Comedy of Errors at the Taliesin Theatre, Swansea and then in our own school theatre. Part of the Shakespeare in Schools festival, this was a highly polished performance carried out with aplomb by the cast. Again, really well done!



Thank you to

all parents/carers and relatives who have attended and supported these events. As always all our pupil achievement stories can be found on our website; <https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/about/pupil-achievement-stories/>

Please let us know of any achievements involving our pupils and students make outside school. We are always happy to celebrate success!

## Christmas Bonanza

We extend a warm welcome to you and hope you will join us at our Christmas Fayre and Bonanza on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. There will be Christmas stalls representing local businesses in our Christmas Market style Fayre area and music and carols as part of our Christmas Concert. Details can be found below and on our website. We hope to see you there!

Queen Elizabeth High School  
Ysgol Uwchradd Y Ffynhones (Hwbeth)

# Christmas Bonanza

Tuesday 13 December 2022

Christmas Concert & Christmas Fayre

## Christmas Fayre

5.30pm - 8.00pm  
Free Entry  
Stalls Available:  
[stalls@qehs.carms.sch.uk](mailto:stalls@qehs.carms.sch.uk)

## Christmas Concert

6.30pm  
£3.50 Entry  
Tickets available from Parentpay  
and on the evening

CALON LÂN DENIERS Diablos CARMARTHENSHIRE GOLF CLUB THE RUSTY ROD DUNKING CLUB GWILTY MANSCH HOUSE SPAR LAMBLE



## Scarlet Fever & Streptococcal Disease



You may be aware of an increase in notifications of scarlet fever and invasive streptococcal disease. This infection mostly affects children aged under 10 years, and so outbreaks can occur in schools and nurseries. Older children are also susceptible to streptococcal sore throats but may not have the rash of scarlet fever.

### Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever, sometimes called scarlatina, is an infectious disease caused by group A streptococcus (GAS) bacteria (also known as *Streptococcus pyogenes*). It is highly infectious and can be caught through direct contact with an infected person or through the air via droplets from coughs or sneezes. The characteristic symptom of scarlet fever is a widespread, fine pink-red rash that feels like sandpaper to touch. Other symptoms include a high temperature, a flushed face and a red, swollen tongue. Treatment is straightforward and usually involves a course of penicillin antibiotics.

### Complications of scarlet fever and streptococcal infection

Most cases of scarlet fever cause no complications, especially if the condition is properly treated. However, complications in the early stages of the disease can include ear infection, throat abscess, sinusitis, pneumonia and meningitis.

### Recommended actions

- Parents of unwell children should seek medical advice for diagnosis and treatment
- A person with scarlet fever should withdraw from schools / settings for 24 hours after the commencement of appropriate antibiotic treatment

- Good hand hygiene and avoidance of spread of respiratory secretions (as per influenza- “catch it, bin it, kill it”) can help to prevent the spread of infection

Yours sincerely,  
Gareth Morgans

## **COVID Update**

We would like to make parents and carers aware of some changes.

As of **1st December**, the following changes have applied across the Local Authority.

- **Isolation** - there will no longer be a requirement for pupils to remain absent from school if they show COVID symptoms. Pupils can attend school unless they are unfit to work as with any other sickness reason.
- **Testing** - this will end, pupils will no longer need to test if they show COVID symptoms. Testing kits will no longer be given out in school.

***These mitigations apply to mainstream pupils. Canolfan Elfed is still operating under previous mitigations of testing and isolation.***

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all in our community a Very Merry Christmas/ Nadolig Llawen and thank you all for your continued support of our school.

Kind regards,

Dave Williams  
Headteacher