

JULY 2025

MIN Y TRAETH

YSGOL EIFIONYDD BULLETIN



A FEW WORDS FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I am extremely proud to share some of this year's highlights at Ysgol Eifionydd. Our pupils have shown outstanding dedication, creativity and community spirit, and we are very grateful for the continued support of our parents. This year, we relaunched the Eisteddfod with enthusiastic participation from Year 7, established a number of school councils, and, for the first time in decades, appointed Prefects from Year 11 to lead and represent our school values. We are proud to have received praise from the Local Authority for our development of the Curriculum for Wales and are now preparing to introduce the new GCSE courses. A heartfelt thank you to **Mrs Sian Williams** and **Mrs Mary Baillot**, who are leaving this year, and a warm welcome to Miss Samantha Tipton and **Miss Nia Evans** as they step into their new roles. Thank you all for a fantastic year – we look forward to the next chapter with pride and optimism.

Mr Dafydd Rhys Bowen



'An Inspector Calls' Performance

Year 10 and 11 pupils attended a performance of **An Inspector Calls** at **Venue Cymru**, Llandudno on 15 May 2025. This valuable experience supported their GCSE English Literature course, helping to deepen their understanding of the text. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were praised for their behaviour and maturity.



Creative Collaboration

The English and Art departments worked creatively with class 7T to create striking clay images of characters from their class novel. This project deepened their understanding of the text by combining literary and artistic skills in an inspiring way.



Literary Visits and Inspiration for Year 8 and 9 Pupils

On Friday, 11th July, Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to visit **Yr Ysgwrn** as part of their study of a novel based on the theme of war during the final half term. The pupils had a unique opportunity to take part in an inspiring workshop with author **Haf Llewelyn**, as well as explore Hedd Wyn's home and the museum, deepening their understanding of Welsh history and literature.

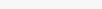
In addition, pupils in Year 9 Set 2 and Set 3, who are studying the novel Jac for their Welsh Language and Literature GCSE, had a special workshop with **Guto Dafydd**, the novel's author. The session took place during a Welsh lesson on the same day and provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the text in detail with the author himself. A heartfelt thank you to Guto for sharing his time and insight, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed it.





Here is the Cyngor Cymreictod with the Silver Award.

Cyngor Tref Porthmadog



Peace and Goodwill Message 2025:

Ysgol Eifionydd Reflects on Poverty

To support this year's **Urdd** Peace and Goodwill Message, pupils at Ysgol Eifionydd took part in meaningful activities based on the theme of poverty. Here are some of the activities they participated in:

- Tasting and comparing ready-made and fresh meals, while discussing: Do expensive brands always taste better?
- A lively discussion on the needs of young people in the community - what do children and young people really need to thrive?
- Supporting and committing to the charity **Save the Children** by donating and raising awareness of the challenges faced by families around the world.

It was heartening to see pupils so enthusiastically engaged in discussions and activities that foster empathy, understanding, and respect for others.



Celebrating Success at Ysgol Eifionydd!
 Ysgol Eifionydd is very proud to share the news that the school has been awarded the **Silver Welsh Language Charter Accreditation**, becoming the first secondary school in Gwynedd to receive this prestigious award. A heartfelt thank you to the verifiers who visited the school to witness all the fantastic work taking place to promote the Welsh language and its culture. Thanks also to our dedicated teachers and the **Cyngor Cymreictod** for their enthusiasm, creativity, and ongoing efforts. To celebrate the occasion, the school enjoyed an afternoon of fun in the company of the popular band **Bwncaeth**, thank you for creating such a special atmosphere! We are also very grateful to **Porthmadog Town Council** for their generous sponsorship and continued support. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this success - Onwards with the Welsh language!



Using Welsh in the Best Way Possible!

A heartfelt thank you to **Cadwaladers**, Porthmadog for warmly welcoming us to the ice cream shop! Year 8 Welsh Second Language pupils had a fantastic opportunity to practise their Welsh in a natural context by ordering their ice cream, and on a sunny day too! The experience was a brilliant way to build confidence and communication skills, and of course, everyone enjoyed the treat at the end!

Congratulations to Ysgol Eifionydd's Talented Performers!

Huge congratulations to the pupils below for taking part in the **Gwynedd and Anglesey Schools Music Service** musical - '**Croeso i Baradwys**' by **Hywel Pitts**, performed at **Galeri Caernarfon**. The performance was full of energy, talent, and passion, and was the result of months of hard work and preparation. It was a truly memorable show and an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. Well done girls, we are incredibly proud of you! **★ Beca, Tesni, Gwenllian, Ffion, Erain Jēn, Swyn, Elin, Elain, and Lili-Mai ★**

Congratulations to All Who Took Part in This Year's Urdd Eisteddfod Competitions

A heartfelt well done to everyone who participated in the **Urdd Eisteddfod** competitions this year, your effort and enthusiasm are truly commendable. Special congratulations to: **Erain** (Year 7) for reaching the final of the Folk Song Solo at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Margam Park, **Deio Rhys** (Year 10) for winning second place in the Tenor and Bass Solo competition at the Regional Eisteddfod and **Gwenllian** (Year 9) for coming a very close second in the Theatrical Performance competition. We are extremely proud of your achievements!



Expressive Arts: Creativity in Action at Ysgol Eifionydd

This past term has been full of activity, creative expression, and inspiring opportunities for pupils within the i-Greuu faculty:

Art and Design

- An inspiring trip to **Portmeirion** with Year 10 pupils to gather research for their coursework.
- Year 7 pupils have been sketching local landscapes outdoors, developing their observation and interpretation skills.
- A special mural was created for **Miss Rhys's** Science classroom – led by the Cyngor Creadigol with support from enthusiastic pupils.
- The **Craft for Well-being Club** continues to run imaginative, hands-on sessions.



Music and Drama

- Inspiring workshops by **Ed Holden** and **Mei Emrys** (Sgorio), as part of a project by **Menter Iaith Gwynedd**, sparked new musical and creative expression.
- Pupils led a school assembly sharing the history and events of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

Urdd Eisteddfod Art and Craft Success

Huge congratulations to **Cora**, **Rosalie**, and **Swyn** from Year 7, and **Awel** from Year 9 for their success in creative textile, drawing, and photography competitions at the Eryri Regional Eisteddfod.

Ysgol Eifionydd Eisteddfod 2025

A massive congratulations to house **Hebog** ●, this year's Eisteddfod winners! Year 7 enjoyed a fun-filled day full of talent, competition, and enthusiasm during the 2025 school Eisteddfod. The standard was high, and the atmosphere was positive throughout, with everyone giving their very best and thoroughly enjoying the day.

Sincere thanks to **Cedron Sion** for adjudicating, supported by **Mrs Miriam Amlyn**, and to **Mrs Glenda Murray** for leading the event. We're already looking forward to Eisteddfod 2026 – **Let the tradition continue!**



The Fruit of Transition Day July 2024: Cadfan Pilgrimage Trail

Huge congratulations to a talented group of Year 7 pupils who came out on top in the stamp design competition for the **Cadfan Pilgrimage Trail**. The designs were an impressive combination of individual creativity and high-quality collaborative contributions: Cricieth Stamp: **Lydia** and **Summer**, Porthmadog Stamp: **Mabon**, **Scarlett**, **Luca**, and **Olwen**, Llanystumdwy Stamp: **Sofia** and **Arabella**. We are very proud of your success and admire the detail and creativity shown. Well done to you all!

Design and Technology: Creativity, Skills, and Collaboration

The Design and Technology department has been busy recently with a number of exciting projects, helping pupils across year groups to develop both practical and creative skills:

- Collaboration with **Mentor Môn – Ffiws Porthmadog**: Pupils designed and created personalised embroidery for aprons they made themselves – an opportunity to combine digital design with practical skills.
- Butchery workshop with **Iain Miles** from **Castell Howell** for Food and Nutrition pupils – a valuable hands-on experience teaching safe and professional meat cutting and preparation skills.
- Year 9 pupils used their design skills to create jewellery and medals for the school Eisteddfod. Here are **Tomos** and **Dyfan** showcasing their designs.

It's fantastic to see pupils engaging so enthusiastically in meaningful activities that foster life skills, creativity, and entrepreneurship.





Educational Visit to Trawsfynydd Power Station

Some Year 10 pupils had a unique opportunity to visit the decommissioned **nuclear power station** at Trawsfynydd. During the visit, pupils learned about the site's history, how it operated in the past, and the complex processes involved in making it safe for the future. A heartfelt thank you to the staff for their warm welcome and expertise, it was a valuable, educational, and inspiring experience for everyone who took part.



Congratulations to Matthew Washington!

A huge well done to **Matthew Washington**, who ranked among the top 12 pupils in the **Scientific Society's Mathematics Competition** – out of over 1,000 participants from schools across Wales!

Matthew received his award during the **Urdd Eisteddfod** at Margam Park, and this achievement is a true testament to his outstanding academic ability and ongoing dedication. Well done, Matthew!



Success on the Phoenix Course

Huge congratulations to the pupils who recently attended the **Phoenix Course** at **Blaenau Ffestiniog Fire Station**. By taking part in a range of practical and challenging activities, pupils learned about the importance of effective communication, teamwork, and respect. The course was a valuable experience and an opportunity to develop personal skills in a new and positive context. Well done to everyone who took part!



Working with the Community: Year 8 Litter-Picking Crew

A dedicated group of Year 8 pupils spent a busy morning on Wednesday, 2nd July, working alongside **Tim Taclus, the Police**, and **Councillor Nia Jeffreys** to tackle litter around Porthmadog. The pupils collected rubbish and helped tidy key areas of the town, making a real and immediate difference. Well done to everyone who took part, you've shown great pride in your community and made a valuable contribution.



Ysgol Eifionydd Sporting Successes

Pupils at Ysgol Eifionydd have recently been shining in a variety of sports:

⚽ **Years 7:** A group of girls took part in the **Gwynedd Cup Football Tournament** held at Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen in June. It was great to see so many girls participating – well done all!

🏀 **Scarlett Harvey** (Year 7) – Huge congratulations on representing the Under-13 **North West Wales Netball Academy** in Cardiff. A fantastic experience!

⚽ **Callum Smith** (Year 8) – Well done for playing for **Wrexham FC** against Bolton Wanderers and helping the team to a 3-1 win. Great job, Callum!

⚽ **Maddison Connor** (Year 11) – Congratulations on being selected for trials with **Everton Football Club** – an outstanding achievement.

🏉 **Celt Carr** (Year 10) – Congratulations on being selected for **RGC** rugby trials, best of luck in the next stage!

We're very proud of your achievements, keep following your passions and ambitions!

Climbing and Adventure Workshop: Year 8

As part of their study on the theme of Adventure and Leisure, some Year 8 pupils enjoyed an inspiring presentation by **Miss Mirain Rhys**, Science teacher, about her personal experiences in climbing and outdoor activities. The session was linked to their work on Eric Jones, the renowned climber from Tremadog. In addition, as part of health and well-being activities, some pupils voted to take part in a walk up Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon), accompanied by **Miss Rhys**, **Mrs Bethan Mortimer**, and **Miss Nyfain Wynn**. Outstanding experience!





Ysgol Eifionydd Sports Day Results 2025

A huge congratulations to everyone who took part, especially to our champions!

Team Placings

- 1st – **Hebog** 🟡 – 622 points
- 2nd – **Dwyfor** 🟥 – 508 points
- 3rd – **Glaslyn** 🟢 – 482 points

Victor Ludorum

Yr. 7 – **Danial Morgan**

Yr. 8 – **Callum Smith**

Yr. 9 – **Lucas Smith**

Yr. 10 – **Alfie Wood**

Victrix Ludorum

Yr. 7 – **Chloe Jones & Erain Jên**

Yr. 8 – **Lisa Williams**

Yr. 9 – **Gwenllian Thomas**

Yr. 10 – **Tesni Rhys**

Congratulations to Team Hebog 🟡 – Sports Day Champions 2025!

It was a fantastic day of competition, with pupils showing great team spirit, enthusiasm and athletic talent. Well done to everyone who took part! The winning house captains from Year 10 were **Alfie Wood** and **Tesni Rhys** – a special congratulations to them for their leadership.



Reward Trip

A huge congratulations to all the pupils who were invited to Cineworld for their exceptional efforts throughout the year. We are very proud of you!



A Memorable Evening for Year 11: Ysgol Eifionydd Prom 2025

A truly memorable **Prom and Awards Afternoon** was recently held at **Porthmadog Golf Club**, with Ysgol Eifionydd's Year 11 pupils shining from start to finish. The event was full of fun, celebration, and friendship, reflecting the strong community spirit of the year group. The evening began with a formal awards ceremony, celebrating pupils' academic achievements and outstanding dedication throughout their time at school. This was followed by informal and humorous awards, including the crowning of Prom King and Queen, in an atmosphere filled with laughter and congratulations.

After enjoying a tasty meal of chips and hot dogs, everyone hit the lively disco to end the night on a high. There was also a spectacular display of vehicles transporting pupils to the venue, from classic sports cars and tractors to an NYPD car from New York! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the event, including:

Mr and Mrs Whitehurst, The Factory Shop, Dukes Taxis, Pikes Shop Porthmadog, Porthmadog Golf Club, Spar Porthmadog, and all **Ysgol Eifionydd staff** who gave their time and energy. Once again, huge congratulations to Year 11, we are incredibly proud of you and wish you all the very best for the future!



Review of Our Behaviour Policy

As part of our commitment to creating a safe, positive, and supportive learning environment, we are currently reviewing our **Behaviour Policy**. The aim of the review is to ensure the policy reflects the needs of our pupils, staff, and wider community, and supports our school values. We anticipate a firm but supportive approach to behaviour management, focusing on respect, responsibility, and learning from mistakes. We would greatly value your views on these matters – if you haven't already completed the questionnaire, you are very welcome to do so.



Attendance

We encourage all pupils to attend school regularly in order to reach their full potential. The school is committed to improving attendance and punctuality, and we appreciate your continued cooperation. **The school's attendance target is 93%.**

We kindly ask that medical or dental appointments are made outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, a letter or card confirming the appointment must be shown to the school before the day of the appointment. Without this evidence, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

If the school becomes concerned about attendance due to a high number of illness-related absences, we may request medical evidence to confirm that appropriate treatment is being received.

Parents/guardians should not arrange holidays during the school term. The school will not authorise term-time holidays unless exceptional circumstances apply.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Two Special Teachers

As the school year draws to a close, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to two very special teachers who are leaving Ysgol Eifionydd this year.

Mrs Sian Williams, History teacher, has been a key member of the Humanities department for many years. Her passion for the subject and her commitment to her pupils have left a lasting impression on generations of learners.

Mrs Mary Baillot, Head of the Mathematics Department, who has been with us for seven years, has inspired enthusiastic mathematicians with her knowledge, perseverance and unwavering support.

We thank both teachers wholeheartedly for their hard work, professionalism and for being such valuable members of the Eifionydd family. We wish you every happiness and success in your next chapter.

Ysgol Eifionydd Transition Days

Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to attend Eifionydd for their transition days at the end of term. They enjoyed a variety of exciting experiences, including trying lessons in new subjects and exploring the school to get to know the new routines. They also had the chance to enjoy a school lunch, meet key members of staff, and make new friends. Meeting members of the Buddies tea, like **Jack** and **Alfie** from Year 9 was a great way to learn more about life in secondary school and feel well prepared for September.

Good luck to everyone as they begin their journey in Year 7 – we look forward to welcoming you back as an official part of the Eifionydd family!



Happy Summer to All!

Thank you all for a fantastic year at Ysgol Eifionydd. Enjoy the summer holidays, you've earned a well-deserved break, and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Important Dates

School Reopens for Pupils: Tuesday, 2nd September – 8:55am

Year 10 – Results: Wednesday, 21st August – 9:30am

