

Ysgol David Hughes

Porthaethwy
Ynys Môn
LL59 5SS
Ffôn: (01248) 712287
e-bost: post@ysgoldavidhughes.org



Pennaeth / Headteacher

Menai Bridge
Isle of Anglesey
LL59 5SS
Tel: (01248) 712287
e-mail: post@ysgoldavidhughes.org

18.07.2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during my first year as Headteacher and to reflect on what has been a busy, rewarding, and eventful year for our school community.

Throughout the year, our students have shown effort, perseverance and resilience—whether preparing for exams, representing the school in sports and the arts, or engaging with extracurricular and leadership opportunities. We are proud of what they have achieved and the way they continue to represent our school values both in and out of the classroom.

A particular mention must go to our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have now completed examinations and are preparing to take their next steps. We wish them every success in whatever path they follow and hope they leave with positive memories and lasting friendships. A Level results will be shared from our school hall on 14.08.25 (Yr.13 at 8am and Yr.12 at 9:30am) and GCSE results a week later on 21.08.25 (Yr.11 at 9am and Yr.10 at 10:30am).

This year, we have focused on improving our student's essential skills, especially oracy and reading. During the Summer term, the reading challenge, Readathon was introduced to year 8 pupils in order to reignite their love of literature. As they spent three weeks reading, they collected sponsors for the charity, 'Read for good.' This charity purchases books for use in children's hospitals and employs 'readers' to visit the children's wards every six weeks to read with the young people in care. As an extra bonus, the charity provides our school with book tokens to buy new reading materials for our learners; we all benefit! As an aside, the year 8 pupils under the guidance of the English department in YDH have raised over £27,000 for this charity over the previous years. On behalf of the charity, we would like to thank parents, guardians and friends for their support with this reading challenge.

In addition, the Literacy Lounge is proving to be a successful addition to the English department. New chairs and donated books have brought joy to many students this year so far. We are in the process of recording staff and pupils reading aloud extracts from their favourite novels. This bank of recordings is being uploaded on to MP3 players in the Literacy Lounge for pupils to enjoy listening as well as physical books. Any future donations of fiction or non-fiction books are most welcome.

On another note, I am absolutely thrilled to share how proud we are of the recent musical staging of 'Grease' by our talented students and staff. Their hard work, creativity, and dedication were on full display, and the result was nothing short of inspiring. From the vibrant performances to the behind-the-scenes teamwork, every aspect of the production reflected their passion and commitment to its success.

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As we look ahead to September, I would like to share with you some changes that will be implemented as well as a change to a 'no-phones' policy across the school.

Quite obviously, ensuring a safe environment for our learners is a priority for us. A recent bullying survey undertaken in school showed that the toilets are the most common place where incidents of bullying occur. There have also been instances of vandalism, damage to facilities, and other inappropriate behaviour in the toilets, particularly during lesson time.

We have received messages of concern about anti-social behaviour in our toilets from several learners, parents, and staff. As a result, we will be implementing changes from September 2025 to ensure these areas are safe and more appropriate for everyone.

We have consulted with the school's learners and the Parent Forum and have agreed on the following arrangements to ensure every learner's right to use the toilets safely.

From September onwards, the school toilets will be closed during lesson times when we cannot supervise them. However, any learner who needs to use the toilet during a lesson will be able to do so in an emergency/if necessary by requesting a permission card from their teacher. Of course, there will be a personal arrangement for any learner with medical needs that require urgent or regular access to the toilet. If your child has a medical need that requires urgent or regular access to the toilet, we kindly ask you to contact the school via email with medical evidence so that we can ensure they receive the appropriate support.

All toilets will be open during break and lunch times, when appropriate staff supervision can be provided.

In addition, September will see us roll out the KiVa programme to ensure effective response to any incidents of bullying reported by our learners. KiVa is an anti-bullying programme that offers a wide range of concrete tools and materials for schools to tackle bullying. Please visit <https://www.kivaprogram.net/> to find out more.

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Before the new academic year, I would like to remind all parents and carers of a few important expectations:

- **Mobile Phones:** These must not be used or visible anywhere on site during the school day. Phones should be turned off and kept out of sight from arrival until learners leave the premises. This policy supports our focus on learning, wellbeing and face-to-face communication. Learners with a medical need to use their phones will be permitted to do so and will be logged on our medical need register.
- **Uniform:** All learners are expected to return in **full school uniform**, worn smartly and in line with our uniform policy. This includes black only footwear and dark outerwear as well as the school tie on white shirt and our purple jumper for Yr.7-9 and grey for Yr.10-11. Years 12 and 13 students will wear the Sixth Form tie and jumper. Smart black trousers (no joggers) or a black skirt of appropriate length with tights are required (no leggings). We ask for your full support in ensuring students are properly dressed each day. Please remember that learners eligible for free school meals are also eligible for the school essentials grant covering school uniform: [School Essentials Grant \(previously Pupil Development Grant\)](#)
- **Equipment:** Every student should arrive fully prepared for learning, with a well-stocked pencil case containing pens (blue/black and green), pencils, a ruler, rubber, sharpener, some colouring pencils, a highlighter and a scientific calculator. Being properly equipped sets the tone for an organised and productive school day.

We appreciate your support in helping us to ensure high standards across the school.

To finish, I would like to thank our staff for their exceptional dedication and commitment this year. We wish the staff leaving Ysgol David Hughes this August well; Mr Tom Williams, Miss Nia Davies, Ms Lyn Davies, Mrs Ceri Williams, Mr Gethin Hughes, Miss Mared Jones, Ms Olive Thomas, Mrs Sarah Williams, Mrs Angharad Parri Williams, Mr Euros ap Hywel, Ms Sophie White, Miss Ceri Williams, Ms Francoise Lievens and Mrs Annwen Lee. I look forward to introducing our new members of staff to you in September.

We will be welcoming students back on **3.9.25**. Until then, I wish you and your families a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break.

Kind regards,

Mari Roberts
HEADTEACHER