



**Blackwood Comprehensive School –
Ysgol Gyfun y Coed Duon**

Headteacher/Prifathro RK Pawar BA (hons)
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Ymdrech I Drechu – Strive To Succeed

To Parents/Guardians of All Pupils

12th July 2017

As we approach the end of another very busy year, it is time to prepare for further developments and say farewell to members of staff who are leaving us at the end of term. I would also like to thank you for your continued support and interest in the life of our school.

Some Key Dates

The calendar for the academic year has not yet been fully finalised, but I am able to confirm some key dates for next year. This Summer Term finishes for pupils on **Friday 21st July at 1.30 p.m.**

The following arrangements have been made for the start of the school year in September:

Thursday 24th August (GCSE Results Day)	Year 11 - 9.00-12.00 Year 10 – 10.00 – 12.00
Monday 4th September	INSET
Tuesday 5th September	Year 7: School starts at 8.30. Pupils assemble in the Main School Hall Years 8 to 11: School starts at 8.30. Year 8, 9 and 11 – go straight to registration Year 10 assemble in the Large Canteen Assemblies for 8, 9 and 11 will be conducted in the Main Hall during the course of the morning

The morning lessons will be spent in form groups. The school canteen will be open at break time (10.55 to 11.15) for snacks, and all pupils will be given information regarding mealtimes on the day.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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Further information regarding parents' evenings and key events for the school year will be published shortly on the school website, and I will write to you in September to communicate the main details of these events. I can confirm that there will be 5 INSET days in total next year. Term dates for 2017.8 have been agreed:

School term and holiday dates for 2017.8

Autumn Term 2017

- Term starts Monday 4th September 2017
- Half term starts Monday 30th October 2017
- Half term ends Friday 3rd November 2017
- Term ends Friday 22nd December 2017

Spring Term 2018

- Term starts Monday 8th January 2018
- Half term starts Monday 19th February 2018
- Half term ends Friday 23rd February 2018
- Term ends Friday 29th March 2018

Summer Term 2018

- Term starts Monday 16th April 2018
- Closed Monday 7th May 2018
- Half term starts Monday 28th May 2018
- Half term ends Friday 1st June 2018
- Term ends Tuesday 24 July 2018

INSET days*

Monday 4th September
Friday 22nd December
Friday 16th February
Friday 29th March



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*one further INSET day is to be confirmed

School Uniform

I would be grateful for your support in ensuring that your child is fully equipped and in correct uniform in readiness for the start of the school term. Please note suitable black trousers should be worn. **Jeans, leggings and jeggings are not permitted.** If girls choose to wear skirts, these should be an appropriately modest length. As a guide, this should mean no more than 5 cm above the knee.

The school uniform remains unchanged this year can be bought from the school and other local suppliers. The school has a 'Jumper and Cardigan' shop selling excellent quality jumpers/cardigans with the school badge. Details regarding the school uniform can be found in your child's planner, the school prospectus or on the school website.. Clip on ties are compulsory for pupils in all year groups. These ties are available from school.

Girls' Uniform

Plain black skirt
Or black school trousers
White blouse/shirt (tucked in)
School tie
Black v-necked school jumper/cardigan
Black/white socks
Black tights
Flat black footwear (no trainers)
Suitable black or navy coat or
on School hooded top

Boys' Uniform

Black school trousers
White shirt (tucked in)
School tie
Black v-necked school jumper
Black socks
Black shoes
Flat black footwear(no trainers)
Suitable black or navy coat
or School hooded top

Surnames can be printed on top but other names are not allowed



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In addition

- On the grounds of health and safety and security no jewellery is allowed (pupils can wear a wristwatch, but must be removed prior to formal examinations).
- Inappropriate hairstyles for example tramlines or extreme hair colouring are not permitted. Hair must be clean and dressed to keep it out of eyes and off faces.
- No cosmetics, other than simple, naturally coloured foundation, are allowed.
- No tattoos or piercings are permitted.
- Trainers are not allowed except for PE lessons.
- Mobile phones and other expensive possessions such as MP3 players and iPods are not allowed in school. If any of these items are confiscated parents will be asked to come to school to collect them. All valuables should be kept at home as the school will not accept responsibility for loss, theft or damage to these items.
- Parents need to provide a note for their child should they not for any particular reason be able to wear uniform. Pupils who do not wear the correct uniform to school will be sent home to change.

School Events

We are pleased that we have been able to provide a huge variety of school events during the course of this term. Such events add so much to the wider experiences we provide for our pupils and enable so many to develop the skills necessary to succeed in life. We are very pleased to have secured substantial funding to support improvements in the school's learning environment as part of the Local Authority's 21st century schools programme. Over the next two years specialist classrooms will be renovated, there will be another major investment in ICT infrastructure, and we will be improving our school canteen and general accommodation. I look forward to sharing more news about these developments with you.

There is plenty to celebrate at Blackwood Comprehensive School, with pupils of all abilities and talents achieving well. These achievements are celebrated widely in school, in the local press and on the school website. We celebrate the successes of pupils on our school website on a weekly basis and the school newsletter, which is published by twice a year by the School Council, also gives a fuller flavour of the activities taking place at the school.

Farewell to pupils and staff

Year 11 2017 have now finished their examinations and will be returning on **Thursday 24th August** to pick up their results. We all hope they have achieved well in these exams, and



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wish them well in the next stage of their lives. It's also a time to bid a fond farewell to members of staff who are leaving Blackwood. Ms Michelle Morgan the school's Learning Coach will be moving on this term and we wish her well in her new position. In addition, Mr Neil Robinson, our esteemed Assistant Headteacher will be retiring at the end of the school year. He has had a distinguished career and has spent 32 years of it at Blackwood. I would like to thank him for the huge contribution he has made to our school. We are going to miss him, but we wish him well for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank parents for your continued support over the course of the year. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing all pupils on Tuesday 5th September.

Yours sincerely

RK Pawar

