



Blackwood Comprehensive School – Ysgol Gyfun y Coed Duon

Headteacher/Prifathro RK Pawar BA (hons)
Tŷ-Isha Terrace, Blackwood NP12 1ER
Telephone/Ffone 01495 225566/223326
Fax/Ffacs 01495 225625 Email: BLKCA@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK



Ymdrech I Drechu – Strive To Succeed

To Parents/Guardians of All Pupils

18th December 2017

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term and begin our Christmas holiday, I would like to draw attention to some matters of interest for parents. Following on from the excellent GCSE results achieved in 2017, I have been very pleased by the progress and effort of the vast majority of pupils throughout this busy term.

The Autumn Term will end for all pupils on Thursday 21st December at 3.00 p.m. Pupils and staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on Thursday in aid of charity

December 22nd 2017 is a staff INSET day.

The Spring Term begins for all pupils on **Monday 8th January.**

1. ESTYN review

Recently, I received confirmation from Estyn that, because of good progress, Blackwood will now be removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring. The letter reads as follows:

“As you know, we have reviewed the progress the school has made since the Section 28 inspection in November 2015, by considering your progress report in the context of feedback from the local authority and scrutiny of the all Wales core data sets.

Blackwood Comprehensive School is judged to have made good progress in respect of the key issues for action following the inspection of November 2015. We will now remove the school from the list of schools requiring Estyn Review. There will be no further Estyn monitoring visits in relation to this inspection.

I would like congratulate everyone for this excellent news. We should all be so proud of the sustained progress made these past few years as it is a testament to the achievements of our whole school community, not least the good progress our students have made.

2. Improving Attendance

Improving attendance is an important priority for the school and we are keen to ensure that our attendance does not drop over the winter months. Please be aware that lessons will take place every day until the end of term and we are expecting all pupils to attend right up to the end of term. If pupils are absent during the final week, written confirmation of their absence will be required in order for any absence to be authorised by the school.

3. 21st Century Schools

We have received substantial funding this year from the LA and the Welsh Government's 21st century schools programme. This has enabled us to invest in our ICT infrastructure and improve the environment of the school. We have renovated three science laboratories, with plans to update



Blackwood Comprehensive School – Ysgol Gyfun y Coed Duon

Headteacher/Prifathro RK Pawar BA (hons)
Tŷ-Isha Terrace, Blackwood NP12 1ER
Telephone/Ffone 01495 225566/223326
Fax/Ffacs 01495 225625 Email: BLKCA@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK



Ymdrech I Drechu – Strive To Succeed

three more, and will be building new canteen accommodation in the New Year. Improving the school's environment and facilities is essential for the school, and we are pleased to have received some investment in order to meet this priority

4. Winter weather

As you are aware, the school was closed on December 11th and 12th due to adverse weather conditions. We will always try to remain open if possible, but this will be dependent on the availability of staff and whether or not it is safe to do so.

Any decision to close the school is taken following a carefully considered risk assessment. This is generally based on the availability of staff, the safety of the school site and the weather forecast. We will inform you of any closure by text and updates will be posted on the School and Council website. Please ensure that you provide up to date contact numbers so that you are able receive texts directly to your mobile phone.

Should we need to close during the school day because of adverse weather, we will inform you by text. Please discuss with your children instructions on where your child should go in the event of a school closure during the school day (e.g. to go home, to a neighbour or relative).

5. Farewell to staff

On Friday, we are saying goodbye to Mr Dan Lockett and Mrs Nicola Boardman. Mr Lockett is moving on to an exciting new position at Ebbw Fawr College in January. He will be missed by all his pupils and colleagues in Maths & Science departments, and also the school's Governing Body where he has represented the staff with commitment and dedication. We wish him good fortune in his new role.

Mrs Boardman has spent 25 happy years at Blackwood as our esteemed Head of Religious Education. As a passionate, caring and exceptionally talented teacher, with so many friends from across the school, Nicola will be sorely missed by everyone at Blackwood. I would like to thank her for her outstanding contribution to our school and wish her all the very best for the future. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and enjoyable festive period and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

R K Pawar - Headteacher