



4<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils,

**Procedure in the case of adverse weather:** In the event of heavy snowfalls, the decision as to whether the school is closed is taken by the Headteacher in conjunction with the Chair of Governors. It is always a very difficult decision to take, but the Health and Safety of all pupils and staff is the priority. A decision will be made before 7.30am, and it will be posted on the school website and the Powys County Council website. We will also endeavour to send you a text.

If the school is open in the morning, it will remain open until 3.15pm. However, it may be necessary to arrange for the school buses to come early to take pupils home. It is essential that all pupils know what the arrangements are if they are sent home early. If a school bus is unable to operate in the morning due to bad weather, it will not be available for transport home in the afternoon. If the school bus does not operate in the morning and the school is open, parents may bring their children into school, but they will be responsible for getting them home at the end of the school day.

**UK/German Ambassador:** Congratulations to Year 12 pupil Christian Lally who has been selected to represent the UK as a UK/German Ambassador. Chris is the **only** representative from Wales and his responsibility is to promote the German language and culture in schools in Powys. Look out for some exciting new German language projects which will be announced soon. BWHS is the **only** school in South Powys to offer German at AS & A Level.

**Annual Music Evening:** Thursday 24th November 7pm in the Bwyty all parents and friends of the school are invited.

**Christmas Craft Fair:** Please join us for this event which will be held in the Bwyty on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 10am – 3.00 pm. If you wish to have a stall please contact Mrs. Melinda Kennedy on [mkennedy@builth-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:mkennedy@builth-hs.powys.sch.uk).

**Wyeside:** Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December - Rory McLeod (Texas harmonica champion and Edinburgh Street Festival Busker of the Year) and the Familiar Strangers, supported by former pupil and award winning singer/songwriter Jack Harris.

**Llwyddiant Eisteddfod Llanwrtyd 2011:** Congratulations to the school choir on their performance at Llanwrtyd Eisteddfod on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Even though they did not win this competition, Mrs. Ennis was very happy with their performance with some promising comments made by the adjudicator, Delyth Medi. The choir performed two contrasting pieces: an American Spiritual – Wade in the Water, and a Welsh Song – Ysbryd y Nos composed by Hefin Elis. Mrs. Ennis would like to thank all choir members for their commitment and enthusiasm shown throughout their preparation.

Congratulations also to the following BWHS pupils for their individual success:

<b>Vocal Solo 13-18:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place:</b> Sophie Jones.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place:</b> Sara Thomas.	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place:</b> Angharad Gough.
<b>Instrumental Duet U19:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place:</b> Louise Wilcocks & Jess Thompson.		
<b>Piano Solo 15-19:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place :</b> Sioned Davies.	<b>Joint 3<sup>rd</sup>:</b> Jess Thompson & Hannah Hughes.	
<b>Vocal solo 9-12:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place:</b> Mair Davies.		
<b>Any instrument U19:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place :</b> Louise Wilcocks. <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place:</b> Jess Thompson		

**Success in Music Exams:** Congratulations to the following pupils for passing their graded music exams:

Felix Martin – Grade 1 Violin (Distinction)	Alice Cox – Grade 3 Violin (Merit)
Hannah Hughes – Grade 6 Piano (Merit)	Sophie Wilcocks - Grade 6 Piano (Merit)
Catrin Sparrow – Grade 3 Piano (Distinction)	Gina Williams – Grade 5 Piano (Pass)
Sioned Davies – Grade 8 Piano (Pass)	Vicky Dunn – Grade 6 Piano (Pass)
Jess Mead – Grade 4 Piano (Pass)	Lili Evans-Williams – Grade 5 Piano (Pass)
Sian Healey – Grade 3 Singing (Merit)	Hannah Jones – Grade 4 Singing (Distinction)

**5x60 Activities:** A brilliant start to the Autumn Term 2011 with over 40 Year 7/8 boys taking part in a 'Builth Wells High School Rugby World Cup'. In the Year 8 competition Tonga dominated throughout the three weeks, with Australia a close second and Ireland in third place. In the Year 7 group a clear win by team USA, with Wales in second and South Africa in third place. Well done to all the boys who competed and represented their respective countries.

The 5x60 Kayaking group completed a 5 mile paddle from Glasbury to Hay on Wye during half term and despite the continuous rain all pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day.

New 'teen-fit' cards have been introduced for the run up to Christmas. If any pupil completes 5 activities in any four week period they are awarded a 'teen-fit' card. This card entitles the pupil to a swim for a £1 and if they are over the age of 14yrs they can also use the gym for £1.

Another new initiative taking place is for Year 10/11 girls who can sign up for spinning classes on a Wednesday night 3:30-4:15 in the Sports Centre for £1 and can enjoy a free swim afterwards. Please encourage all pupils to come along and attend extra-curricular sports clubs; anyone, any ability, everyone is always welcome. If any parents would like any more information on the above initiative or on the 5x60 scheme please do not hesitate to contact Miss Elin Wozenkraft on [elinw@builth-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:elinw@builth-hs.powys.sch.uk).

**New Chess Club:** Thursday lunchtimes in L8 and open to all students. We have members from Yr8 up to Yr13 and we welcome complete beginners who would like to learn to play chess. We also play other strategy type games and have a lot of fun. If anyone has chess sets or other games that they would like to donate, they would be gratefully received.

**USA visit:** We currently have 23 6<sup>th</sup> Form students on Work Experience placements in Virginia and Delaware, USA. They are enjoying themselves despite the snowfall.

**British Legion:** This year marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary to raise funds for past and current servicemen and women. Poppies, badges and wristbands are available from Lynne in Reception. Our annual Remembrance Service will be on 11.11.11.

**Past pupil news:** Katherine Gibbins (left 2005) is now a qualified Doctor and will be running in the London Marathon to raise money for "Children in Crisis". If you would like to sponsor Katherine, you may make a donation in Reception. Dr.K. Gibbins will be coming to school in the New Year to meet other pupils who aspire to read Medicine.

Jason Pritchard (left 2004) is participating in the World Rally, which takes place in Wales from the 11<sup>th</sup> November. The BBC will be filming Jason's progress during the event. Anyone who follows motorsport may be interested to know that the main service station will be on the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth. All the major teams will be based in and around mid-Wales so it will be a huge event for Builth. I know Jason will appreciate local support.

**No Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards:** Pupils have been instructed **not** to bring bikes, scooters or skateboards onto the school premises, particularly after the end of the school day. Any unsupervised games break Health & Safety guidelines and in these dark evenings there could be an accident. Pupils have responded well to this instruction. Thank you.

**Chemistry Olympiad:** Congratulations to Hannah Jones, Jessica Mead, Hannah Wilding and Rhiannon Bowen who represented BWHS and gave an excellent performance in this annual Science tournament in Gregynog.

**British Cycle Championship:** Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> Former James Nixon who came second in the All Wales race.

**Secondary Modernisation:** An announcement on the Way Forward is expected this month.

Yours sincerely,  
Shân E. Davies, Headteacher