



2009

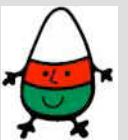


Welsh Medium Information

Noson Agored 2009

Gwybodaeth ar gyfer rhieni Cyfrwng Cymraeg

Athrawon Cyfrwng Cymraeg
Ysgol Uwchradd Llanfair-ym-Muallt
9/30/2009



Croeso i'r llyfryn gwybodaeth Cyfrwng Cymraeg! Welcome to the Welsh Medium information booklet. We hope you have a beneficial visit to Builth Wells High School tonight. Please take the opportunity to speak to staff and ask plenty of questions. Please come to a special Welsh Medium meeting in the Bwyty at 7.30pm. Diolch yn fawr!

Pennaeth yr Ysgol / Headteacher

Mrs Shan Davies.

Newyddion!

*Croeso mawr i Miss Bethan Jones! Miss Jones is from the Brecon area originally and will be teaching **French through Welsh** this year as well as visiting the primaries.*

*The Welsh Medium groups 9C, 10C, 11C, 12C and 13C went to see the **Welsh National Youth Theatre** production of 'Canrif/Century' on 11th September in Theatr Sherman in Cardiff. They were all extremely well behaved and well turned out in their uniforms. The show told the story of Welsh and world history through the 20th century. It was a superb production! Perfformiad anhygoel o dda!*

*Miss MacMillan led the annual Urdd trip to **Oakwood Theme Park** last Saturday with thirty Builth Wells pupils joining others from across South and West Wales for a great day out.*

*Many Builth Wells pupils travelled down the Millennium Centre last term to take part in the **Urdd Eisteddfod**. Unfortunately none made the stage this year but all enjoyed the experience that included disco dancing, recitation and canu gwerin. Pob lwc flwyddyn nesaf!*

*9C won a national **Non-Smoking Classroom** prize during the summer term. To celebrate Mrs Hiscocks took them on a camping trip. The weather was Welsh enough but they stayed dry and had a great time.*

*Wil Sears and Tom Lewis from 10C competed in the S4C quiz show '**Pencampau**' last term and narrowly lost in the first round to members of Ysgol Uwchradd Preseli. Anlwcus fechgyn!*

*Last year the Welsh Department launched its '**Bookshare Project**' which encourages Welsh Medium pupils to read Welsh books at home – please ask for details!*

*11C were lucky enough to experience a revision day with **Mr. Emyr Llywelyn** last term before their GCSE exams. Mr. Llywelyn is well renowned as the author of all the best textbooks on Welsh literature and writing. The school was honoured to receive a visit from a living literary legend!*

*The author **Elin Meek** held an audience with Welsh Medium pupils on Welsh Book Day in 2009. Elin has written many books in Welsh and has translated many classics such as the books of Roald Dahl.*

Welsh Medium Education (WME) in Bulth Wells High School

In a bilingual Powys school WME takes place in lessons and elsewhere through the medium of Welsh. In other counties (e.g. Gwynedd) there may be bilingual education where Welsh and English are used in the same lesson. This is not the policy in Powys. In 2009 in BWHS there is one WME form in each year – 7C, 8C, 9C, 10C and 11C. Welsh Medium pupils in the Sixth Form are also in tutor groups with Welsh speaking tutors – 12C and 13C.

Please see the WAG publication 'Defining Bilingual Schools' (available from school) for more details.

As of September 2009, in BWHS the member of SMT responsible for leading WME is **Mrs Laura Lewis** and she works with the WME Co-ordinator **Ms Meinir Jones**.

Welsh Medium Provision in BWHS – September 2009

KS3: Cymraeg, Hanes, Daearyddiaeth, Addysg Grefyddol, Gwyddoniaeth, Dylunio, (7C&8C), Bwyd (7C&8C), Celf (7C&8C), Cerddoriaeth, Ffrangeg

KS4: Cymraeg, Hanes, Daearyddiaeth, Addysg Grefyddol, Gwyddoniaeth, Celf, Cerddoriaeth

KS5: Cymraeg, Hanes, Daearyddiaeth, Addysg Grefyddol, Gwyddoniaeth, Cerddoriaeth, CBC (Welsh Bac)



Welsh Medium Education in a Bilingual School

According to WAG in 2007, a bilingual school is defined and categorised on how much Welsh Medium Education is offered there. A 'Welsh School' offers all subjects (except English) in Welsh and is defined as Category 1. BWHS is not categorised as a 'Welsh School'. BWHS is defined as a 'Bilingual School' and falls into Category 2 because it offers **some** subjects through Welsh.

(For more details on this see the WAG document 023/2007 'Defining Schools according to Welsh Medium Provision').

However, whereas BWHS can be easily defined as a 'Bilingual School', confusion often arises as to how that applies to Welsh Medium Education within the school. The Powys County Council policy is clear: WME is to be taught through Welsh only and not to be taught bilingually (as it is in some other counties like Gwynedd for instance).

Despite this, pupils in WME are still able to get opportunities through the medium of English in many areas of school life and experience a 'Bilingual Education' in a 'Bilingual School'. Indeed, ensuring pupils in WME are offered opportunities in Welsh is always more of a challenge than finding them opportunities in English.



As of September 2009 the member of SMT responsible for leading Bilingualism in BWHS is **Mrs Laura Lewis**

Staffing in our 'Bilingual School' 2009-2010

Welsh Dept.	Welsh Medium Teachers	Welsh Admin Staff	Other Welsh Speaking Staff	Staff Learning Welsh
Stephen Mason Nia MacMillan Bethan Hiscocks Colin Rees Olwen Jones	Elin Ennis (Music) Helen Flaherty (Art) Richard Thomas (Science) Wendy Thomas (DT) Ionwen Spowage (DT/Voc) Meinir Jones (History) Laura Lewis (Geog) Hayley Williams (RE) Bethan Jones (MFL)	Lynne Evans Sharon Thomas	Shan Davies (Headteacher) Mr Rhion Jenkins (Careers Wales) Stafford Rees (Maths) Lucy Lloyd (Science) Dai Davies (PE) Kath Williams (English) Liz Price (LSA/LC) Katy Rees (DT) Penny Hourahane (ICT)	David Childs (LSA) Andrew Mantle (Music) <i>Many more enrolled for lesson on a new after-school scheme!</i>



The Welsh Department

The Welsh Department teaches and organises two National Curriculum subjects – Welsh 1st Language and Welsh 2nd Language. Welsh 1st Language is a core subject like English, Maths and Science. Your child will be taught 1st Language Welsh in KS3, at GCSE and, if they choose, at A-Level. All pupils in Builth Wells High School are taught Welsh until 16 years old, whether it is 1st or 2nd Language.

The Head of the Welsh Department is **Mr Stephen Mason**.

Welsh Department Teachers:

Mrs Bethan Hiscocks

Miss Bethan Jones (and MFL)

Mrs Olwen Jones

Miss Nia MacMillan

Mr Stephen Mason

Mr Colin Rees (Deputy Headteacher)

Welsh First Language

Those pupils in WME study Welsh 1st Language. It is BWHS policy that pupils cannot study Welsh 1st Language and be in EME. It is assessed with English, Maths and Science at end of KS3. Welsh 1st Language is offered at GCSE together with 1st Language Welsh Literature. It is also offered at AS and A-Level in Sixth Form.

Welsh Second Language

Welsh 2nd Language is taught to those pupils in English Medium Education (EME). Once a pupil has finished KS3 in Welsh 1st Language they cannot sit a 2nd Language exam at GCSE or A-Level.

The 'Cwricwlwm Cymreig'

(According to the ACCAC publication 'Developing the Cwricwlwm Cymreig')

'Pupils should be given opportunities, where appropriate to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales' (see www.accac.org.uk)

The clue to understanding this aspect is in the word '**Cymreig**'. It is a subtly different word in meaning to '**Cymraeg**'. Cymraeg is the Welsh word that refers to '*the Welsh language*' whereas 'Cymreig' refers to '*things Welsh*' or '*of a Welsh nature*' but is not used to refer to the Welsh language.

The teaching of the 'Cwricwlwm Cymreig' is a responsibility of every teacher in every school in Wales and not just bilingual schools.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru in Builth Wells High School

The 'Urdd' is the largest youth movement in Europe and was started in the 1920s to promote the Welsh Language amongst young people. The 'Urdd' works with schools and teachers to provide opportunities in the Welsh language for pupils in WME and EME as long as they are members. The cost of membership is £6.50 in 2009 and has to be paid annually (from September to August).

Participation in Welsh language activities like Eisteddfod yr Urdd is crucial for reinforcing WME and bilingualism. It is expected that pupils enrol annually in the autumn term (when the cost is cheaper by 50p!). In this way they are free to participate in any Urdd activities that may be organised during the year. For more information see www.urdd.org

RhAG ('Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg' – 'Parents for WME')

RhAG is a national organisation with local groups that works to persuade LEAs and WAG to respond appropriately to the demand for WME across Wales. For more information see www.rhag.net

WME Numbers

Numbers choosing WME have grown steadily in BWHS over the past 15 years or so. They are projected to rise even further over the next 8 years (see estimated figures below). This will mean more WME development in BWHS in the future.

Starting Year 7	Estimate in Numbers in 7C
2008	23
2009	18
2010	22+
2011	18+
2012	29+
2013	30+
2014	26+
2015	27+

Why choose WME in High School?

Why not? If your child has had Welsh Medium education in primary school, swapping their medium of education at high school level will mean that they will lose their Welsh skills quite quickly. Very few parents choose to swap their children from Welsh Medium Education to English Medium Education in BWHS although the national trend is disappointingly a lot higher. Many parents across Wales worry about how their child will cope with exams like GCSE and A-Level through Welsh in high school and how they will be able to support them with homework in Welsh once it becomes more difficult. There are many ways to ease any concerns you may have. For example, the best thing is for you to continue learning Welsh with your child. If you feel that you can't do that then a national Welsh homework helpline is there to offer expert help

Welsh Homework Helpline

By phone: Sunday – Friday 3pm – 9pm 0871 2300029

Or on text message: 07797805607

Or by email: post@homeworkinwelsh.com.

As for all exams, WME pupils are allowed both English and Welsh versions of any exam that they sit.

How can I help my child in WME?

According to recent figures (2001 Census) around 5% of people speak Welsh in the Builth area. It is one of the most linguistically anglicised areas of Wales. Events on the Royal Welsh showground and the growth of WME have seen significant increases in the use of Welsh in the local community recently. However, if you don't speak much Welsh – you are not alone. The vast majority of WME parents in the Builth area are like you. For more information on how to help your child, see the information resource sheet at the back of this booklet. You can also visit the website of the Welsh Language Board and RhAG.

Welsh Language Board www.byig-wlb.org.uk

RhAG www.rhag.net

Welsh opportunities outside of the classroom

It is hugely important that WME pupils experience as much through Welsh as possible in BWHS. It is crucial that parents and the school work together to optimise the number and quality of experiences we can offer WME pupils through a language that is not widely spoken in the area. The **'Friends of the School'** are looking for parents to support and help with school events and trips and those parents who can offer any support through Welsh should make themselves known to the school. **We need your help!** Would you like to go on a school trip? Could you offer any skills through Welsh? Do you know anyone who could?

Please fill in the form below and leave it with us at the end of the night.



10C at the 'Pencampau' Studios - 2009

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I would like to be a Welsh-speaking friend of the school and help with school trips and events!

Name: _____

Pupil name: _____

Primary school: _____

Contact number: _____

Any special skills? _____