

**BRECON HIGH SCHOOL
YSGOL UWCHRADD ABERHONDDU**



**ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS
ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL I RHIENI**

2020/2021

"Don't tell me to reach for the sky when there are footprints
on the moon" - Paul Brandt



BRECON HIGH SCHOOL
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2020/2021

Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents

I am pleased to present the Governors Annual Report in respect of the 2020/21 academic year to you. You will have received a very detailed report from our Headteacher towards the end of the Summer Term which detailed the changes which had occurred within the School. This report will not only encapsulate what was in his report but will also include relevant issues which occurred prior to him taking up his appointment.

The 2020/21 saw the continuation of the COVID restrictions which set many challenges for the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and all the Staff.. I would like to place on record not only my appreciation but that of the whole governing body for the hard work and dedication of everyone at the School in ensuring that the educational needs of all pupils at the School were met. The professionalism and dedication of all staff has been exemplary and a credit to the School during these difficult times.

I would also like to record my appreciation to all Parents who embraced the challenges of home schooling during this period. Without your support it would not have been possible to provide your children with the education they deserved despite the restrictions.

The Governing Body and its Sub-Committees have continued, albeit virtually, to meet on a termly basis. Holding such meetings has not been without its challenges. The internet signals in some areas has not always been good. However despite such challenges I would like to record my grateful thanks to all Members of the governing body for their continued support in the work of the governing body and for their valuable contribution in ensuring that the School delivers and excellent educational provision for all pupils.

As the 2020/21 academic year drew to a close so did my time as Chair of the School's Governing Body. A position I have been privileged to hold for more years than I can remember. During this period there have been many challenging times and as Chair it can be a very lonely place to be due to the confidential nature of certain issues. That said I am pleased that the School under the leadership of Mr. Richard Jenkins is making excellent progress in addressing the issues raised in the last ESTYN inspection and we are preparing ourselves for a successful inspection whenever ESTYN decides it to be.

In conclusion I would like to wish my successor Mrs. Rhiannon Evans every success in taking over the role of Chair and I will give her every support I can as her Vice-Chair for this academic year.

Yours sincerely,
David Meredith Chair of Governors (academic year 2020/21)

Headteacher

Mr Richard Jenkins

Deputy Headteacher

Miss Tracey Gibbs

Assistant Headteacher

Mr Matthew Hirst

Brecon High School

Penlan, Brecon, Powys
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www.brecon-hs.powys.sch.uk

Charity Donations

Encouraging pupils to think of others is an important part of the school curriculum. Numerous fund raisers were held throughout the year and sums of money were donated to various charities including
The Stroke Association
Make a wish
WWF
Latch





WHO'S WHO ON THE GOVERNING BODY

The composition of the Governing Body reflects the broad spectrum of the local community.

The full Governing Body meets every half term to discuss school business and to set its strategic direction. Despite the restrictions of Covid 19, the Governing Body and the subcommittees met at least once each half term, albeit virtually.

The full list of governors for 2020/2021 is listed below:

LEA Governors (5):

Cllr. David Meredith (Chair 2020/21) –
05/04/2025
Cllr. Edwin Roderick – 13/12/2025
Miss Eleanor Davies – 19/12/2022
Mr. Tomos Davies
Mr Robin Lewis – 19/10/2025

Co-opted Governors (5):

Mr. Chris Pierce (w.e.f. 23/03/2021) –
22/03/2025
Mrs. Rhiannon Evans (w.e.f. 23/03/2021) –
22/03/2025
Mr. Rhys Ridge Evans
Ms. Annie Daniels
Mr. Neil Sandford
Ms Alison Philips

Parent Governors (5):

Mrs. Anna Stephens – 11/11 2025
Mrs. Rhiannon Evans
Mrs. Sara Davies -11/11/2025
Mr. Chris Pierce
Mr. Liam Martin – 11/11/2025
Mr. Phillip Harris – 10/03/2025

Teacher Governors:

Mr. Gareth Gillard – 15/10/2023
Mr. Tomos Davies – 14/01/2025

Non-teaching Governor:

Ms. M. Garnett – 14/01/2025

Headteacher:

Mr. Richard Jenkins

The Chair is elected annually, at the beginning of each school year. The new Chair of Governors for 2021/22 is Rhiannon Evans. She can be contacted via the school using the contact details provided within this report.

All Parent Governor vacancies will be advertised via Class Charts and the next parent governor election will take place in March 2025. The Clerk to the governing body is Mrs Beth Groves. She can be contacted on beth.groves@powys.gov.uk

Sub-Committees:

In addition to the Statutory Committees the Governing Body established the following Sub-Committees:

Finance and Premises Committee:

Mrs. A. Phillips Chair	Ms. A. Daniel Vice-Chair
Mrs. S. Davies	Cllr. E. Roderick
Mr. G. Gillard	Mr. P. Harris
Mr. L. Martin	Mrs. R. Evans
Cllr. D. Meredith	Mr. R. Jenkins

Standards and Accountability Committee:

Miss E. Davies Chair	Mr. C. Pierce
Mr. R. Lewis	Mr. R. Ridge Evans
Mrs. A. Stephens	Mr. T. Davies
Mr. T. J. Davies	Ms. M. Garnett
Mrs. R. Evans	Cllr. D. Meredith
Mr. R. Jenkins	

Post Inspection Action Plan Committee (PIAP)

Miss E. Davies, Chair	Mrs. S. Davies, Vice-Chair
Cllr. D. Meredith	Mrs. R. Evans
Mrs. A. Stephens	Mr. R. Jenkins

Governors were also appointed to Faculty areas, Year Groups and other specific responsibility areas, details of which can be sent out on request.



School Policies

The Governing Body is responsible for a large number of policies which governs its day-to-day operation. Mr. R. Lewis assumed responsibility for checking these policies and ensuring that they were available for Governors to read before being ratified at a governing body meeting. Such policies are available on the school website (www.brecon-hs.powys.sch.uk).

School Term Dates 2021/2021

Autumn Term 2021

Thursday 2nd September to Friday 22nd October 2021

Half-Term: Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021

Monday 1st November – Wednesday 22nd December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Wednesday 5th January – Friday 18th February 2022

Half -Term: Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February 2022

Monday 28th February to Thursday 7th April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 26th April to Friday 27th May 2022

Half-Term: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Monday 6th June to Thursday 14th July 2022

Non-Pupil Days 2021/22

- Wednesday 1 September 2021
- Tuesday 4 January 2022
- Friday 8 April 2022
- Monday 25 April 2022
- Friday 15 July 2022

Useful dates 21/22

- **Good Friday:** Friday 15 April 2022
- **Easter Monday:** Monday 18 April 2022
- **May Day Bank Holiday:** Monday 2 May 2022
- **Spring Bank Holiday:** Monday 30 May 2022
- **Substitute Bank Holiday (Queen's Platinum Jubilee):** Monday 18 July 2022
- **Royal Welsh Show:** Monday 18 July 2022 - Thursday 21 July 2022



ATTENDANCE

Due to the amount of time schools had to close due to Covid 19 in the 2020/21 school year, the Welsh Government removed the requirement of schools to produce attendance data during the lockdowns.

However, as attendance was one of the issues raised by Estyn in their last inspection, the school and members of the PIAP committee continued to monitor attendance to both online and in school learning very carefully throughout the year.

We are pleased to report that on return to school in the summer term all year groups had attendance between 94% & 95%. Data on attendance received by Powys in the first part of the Summer term appeared to show Brecon High School was performing well in comparison to other schools in the county but it was noted that better data was needed in order to make full comparisons.



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The School Prospectus is updated annually in accordance with the guidance received from Welsh Government.

The School Prospectus exists mainly, of course, to publicise the school and is therefore given in the first place to the parents of prospective pupils. However, the parents of all current pupils can obtain a copy of the prospectus on request at the school office or can be downloaded from the school's website.

SCHOOL MEALS

The cashless schools meals system is proving to be a great success. This has been beneficial in allowing pupils to receive free school meals if eligible without any discrimination. To check eligibility for free school meals, please go to

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/3758/Free-school-meals-and-help-with-school-clothing>



ParentPay

School Budget

The School is continuing to work closely with relevant Officers of the Authority in order to try and achieve an in year balanced budget whilst at the same time ensuring that the School provides a balanced curriculum for all students.

Regular meetings took place between the Headteacher, Business Manager and the Chair of Governors and relevant Officers of the Authority resulting in the School achieving an in year balanced budget without it affecting standards within the School.

It is difficult, due to the financial year and the school year not coinciding to give you a statement representing the 2020/21 academic year. We therefore give you below a summary of the current position of the School Budget.

Pupil Numbers 2020/21	422
Total Delegated Funds	2,772,021
Salaries & Wages	2,570,118*inc agency staff
Premises	228,678
Suppliers & other expenses	318,024* inc staff expenses
Income & Grants	(312,652)
Net Expenditure	2,804,168
Planned under / (overspend)	(32,147) overspend

Parent Teachers Association

Due to the COVID restrictions the excellent work usually undertaken by the School's Parent Teachers Association in raising much needed funds for the School could not take place. We look forward to their support as soon as the restrictions have been lifted in order for them to organise fund raising events.



Should any parent wish to join the PTA please contact the school.

Details of any future PTA meetings will be shared on ClassCharts.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

SCHOOL UNIFORM



SHIRT: Plain white, long or short sleeved.
TIIE: Blue and Gold Clip-on
BLAZER: Blue with School Crest
TROUSERS: Plain black, tailored, not skinny or leggings
SKIRT: Black, knee length pleated
FOOTWEAR: Plain black shoes that can be polished, with sensible heels. No canvas shoes, trainers or boots.

WEEK PLAIN BLACK JUMPER optional during the Winter Months
OUTER COATS: Suitable, plain black. These should be removed whilst inside the school
BAG: A strong rucksack or holdall
JEWELLERY: 1 wristwatch, 1 plain ear stud in each ear, 1 dress ring

SCHOOL PE UNIFORM



BOYS:
Blue and gold reversible rugby top
Polo top
Shorts
Games socks

GIRLS:
Blue and gold polo top
Midliner top
Black leggings
Games socks

The current school uniform which was introduced at the start of the 2019/20 academic year has proved to be a great success with very positive comments being made by members of the community as to how smart the students now look. School uniform can be purchased from Evans & Wilkins in Brecon.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and is entering Years 7 or 10, they may be eligible for the Pupil Development Grant – Access. This can be used to help towards the cost of school uniform, equipment, sports kit or kit for outside activity. Find out more at <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/3758/Free-school-meals-and-help-with-school-clothing>.

Pupils with Disabilities

Brecon High School is committed to equal opportunities and inclusion. The Governing Body has considered the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act and, after liaising with the LA, will respond as appropriate as individual circumstances dictate.



EXAMINATIONS

As you will all appreciate, due to the Covid 19 pandemic students did not sit any examinations in 2020/21. Those students who would normally have sat their examinations had to go through a teacher assessment process known as Centre Determined Grades (CDG), which were subject to external ratification, in order to achieve their results.

It was a very difficult year for the students and we as a Governing Body are very proud of their achievements. We are also very grateful to all the staff at Brecon High School for all their hard work in ensuring our pupils could achieve the best results possible in very difficult circumstances. We are pleased to record that all Post 16 students were able to go on to their chosen University Course. Universities that our pupils will be going onto include Cardiff, Carmarthen, Swansea, Bristol, Edinburgh & Portsmouth. Well done to all!

Presently, the intention from the Welsh Government is for examinations to proceed as normal for GCSE, AS and A Level pupils. The school is liaising closely with families as information becomes available and is actively working with pupils to aid their preparation for these.

Monitoring of School Performance

The **School Development Plan** is a **strategic plan for improvement**. It should bring together, in a clear and simple way, the school priorities, the main measures it will take to raise standards, the resources dedicated to these, and the key outcomes and targets it intends to achieve.

This document continues to be amended in light of the ongoing progress being achieved by the school and very much forms part of the School's work in addressing the recommendations contained in the last School ESTYN Report. The SDP very much follows these ESTYN recommendations. Please see the 'ESTYN' section below for more details.

Areas of Learning Experience (AOLE) leads are responsible for monitoring and evaluating standards and provision in the areas for which they have designated curriculum responsibility.

Individual members of teaching and non-teaching staff also have agreed performance management objectives which are aligned to specific aspects of the School Development Plan. Similarly whole school and individual training needs are prioritised to ensure that staff development supports the achievement of these identified aims.

The Local Authority has been monitoring the school's performance throughout the year through a series of regular meetings.



Brecon High School was inspected by ESTYN in November 2018. Since that inspection the Governing Body has established a Post Inspection Action Plan Committee (PIAP) whose primary responsibility is to monitor and ensure progress in addressing the recommendations contained within the Estyn Inspection Report.

The five recommendations were:

- To improve standards at Key Stage 4, including those of the more able pupils.
- To improve attendance.
- To improve the learning experiences of pupils, including the quality of teaching, the curriculum at key stage 4 and the provision to develop their skills.
- To improve the quality and impact of leaders at all levels including their ability to self-evaluate robustly and accurately to support effective school improvement.
- To provide robust financial management.

Members of the School Leadership Team attend these meetings to outline the progress made on all five areas. The School's Challenge Adviser is also in attendance to offer support as and when required. Members of the PIAP Committee are confident in the strategies which have been put in place in order to improve all five recommendations and consider the School to be on track for a successful outcome when ESTYN return to the School. We are anticipating their next visit to be in the Spring Term of 2022.

Quotes from Estyn

"Brecon High School has an inclusive & caring ethos"



"Positive attitudes towards equality & diversity are developed well by the school"

"Teachers work hard and are committed to supporting pupils"

"The provision for sport, music & drama is particularly strong"



Welsh Medium Education

Brecon High School is proud to be a bilingual school and is working hard to develop the Welsh stream within the school. We are pleased to report an increase in pupil numbers to the Welsh stream in 2020/21, compared to the previous year, and this number has increased again with the 2021/22 intake.

We are also very pleased to welcome some new members of staff to the school who are able to teach through the medium of Welsh. Croeso i Mr D Hicks & Mr T Davies.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Brecon High School is proud to be able to host a Specialist Centre within the school building to provide bespoke support to a range of pupils. Like all schools, Brecon is currently working hard to transition to the new ALN Bill and is making pleasing progress with this development. The school has a strong ALN department with an experienced team of Learning Support Assistants as well as Higher Level Teaching Assistants. If you would like to learn more about what the school has to offer, please contact Mr Donna Watson (dwatson@brecon-hs.powys.sch.uk).

The New Curriculum for Wales

Brecon High School is currently enjoying trialling new approaches towards the way teachers are delivery the new Curriculum for Wales. This becomes statutory from September 2022, with schools being encouraged to trial ideas leading up to this date. This work is on-going and will be reported on in more detail in future reports to parents.



Sadly, both sporting and cultural achievements were curtailed during the 2020/21 academic year due to the Corona Virus. However, this didn't stop our brilliant pupils from getting out there and doing their best. Below is a list of some of those achievements. Well done kids – you made us proud!

Pippa Harris – winner of the Best of Brecon 2021 Young Volunteer Award Pippa ran 100km (in stages) to raise money for St David's Hospice

Charlie, Nansi & Maisie Davies – for their performances in Brecknock Little Theatre's "A Time Traveller's Guide to Theatrical Brecon." This was the first theatrical performance to be held in Brecon since before the pandemic

Ruby Herdmen, Lilwen Banning, Pippa, Theo & Henry – For flying the flag for Brecon & the school in their many athletic competitions.

The **200 students** who took part in the 15 mile sponsored walk in July to raise money for The Stroke Association & Make A Wish in memory of 2 former pupils – Nia & Jordan.

"Be the best you can be" – Congratulations to all pupils named as either star of the week or star of the month or both throughout the year.

The year 10 **Scholars Programme** students on their graduation from The Brilliant Club .

Llongyfarchiadau to all pupils who took part in the schools Virtual Eisteddfod.

And finally, well done to all the staff for keeping our spirits up with their 'Lockdown Funk.'





Good Health Garden

For three weeks in June/July 2021 members of the Gurkha Assault Pioneer Platoon under the command and support of Major Prembahadur Gurung , and project managed by Sergeant Sangharsha Rai, transformed the wasteland behind the school car park into a beautiful 'Good Health Garden'. The space was cleared and levelled and now includes a garden shelter/classroom, fruit trees and will soon have raised beds for vegetable planting which when harvested the pupils can then use the produce in their weekly Cooking Club.

A plaque was unveiled at an opening ceremony attended by all those involved in the project including members of the Gurkha Regiment; school staff including Leah Burnett, our Family Forces Support Officer, Meriel Gillespie, our EAL co-ordinator; Samantha Humphries, Community Development Worker with the Army Welfare Service who was key to attaining funding for the project and managing the project; Brigadier APL Dawes CBE Commander 160th (Welsh) Brigade; and Lieutenant Colonel D Flanagan, the Commanding Officer at the Infantry Battle School, Dering Lines. The project was funded by The Armed Forces Covenant Trust.

We are very grateful to our local Armed Forces community for the work they put in to transform this area of the school. The area is now a beautiful and accessible space for the pupils to use daily and a constant reminder of the close links between the local community and the Armed Forces based in Brecon







Toilet Facilities

Being a new building, Brecon High School can boast some very nice toilet facilities. For pupil use, there are 9 female and 6 male toilets on the ground floor, 6 male and 3 female toilets on the first floor and 3 male and 3 female toilets on the second floor. In addition, there are 2 female and 1 male disabled WC's on the ground floor, 2 male and 2 female disabled WC's on the first floor and 1 male and 1 female disabled WC on the second floor. For wheelchair users there are 2 F&M WC's on the ground floor, 3 on the first floor and 1 on the second floor. There is also a hygiene room for wheelchair users on the ground and first floors.

All toilet facilities are cleaned daily, and feminine hygiene dispensers are provided.



Governing Body Meeting with Parents

With effect from 4th May 2013, there is no longer a requirement for governing bodies to hold an annual Parents' meeting. Parents now have the right to request up to three meetings per year with the governing body to discuss issues which concern them. Parents must request a meeting by means of a petition, which must contain the signatures of at least 10% of the school's registered pupils.

Due to the Covid 19 virus it would not be possible to hold a meeting with parents in person but should the need for a meeting arise we would look to hold it online.

Data Collection

Brecon High School is committed to the protection of all personal and sensitive data for which it holds responsibility as the Data Controller and the handling of such data in line with the data protection principles GDPR.

Travelling Expenses

During the year 2020/21 no Governors were paid expenses for their work for the school, or travel costs as a result of training or any other meetings in connection with the work of the governing body.

Attendance Penalty Notice

The Welsh Government Education (Penalty Notice) Wales Regulations 2013 states that Local Authorities are required by law to adhere to the Education Act 1996 Section 444 to include penalty notices on the of the interventions to promote better school attendance.

Section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996 provide that certain cases of unauthorised absences can be dealt with by way of a penalty notice.

A penalty fine notice is a fine of up to £120 and may be issued to a parent/carer as a result of a child's regular non-attendance at school/educational provision.

The School adheres to the code of conduct for penalty notices as issued by the regional education consortium ERW and agreed by your Local Authority, and therefore may request the local authority to issue a penalty notice in certain cases.

Pupil Development Grant

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and is entering Years 7 or 10, they may be eligible for the Pupil Development Grant – Access. This can be used to help towards the cost of school uniform, equipment, sports kit or kit for outside activity. Find out more at <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/3758/Free-school-meals-and-help-with-school-clothing>.

Security, Health and Safety

The Security and Health and Safety issues are dealt with by the Finance Sub-Committee.