

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term draws to a close I like to reflect on the success and achievements of the students and school. We welcomed our new Year 7 students to school in September, some students moved into new classes and key stages and other students (for the first time at Greenbank) embarked on GCSE courses and were able to choose the subjects they wanted to study in more detail in Key Stage 4. The GCSE Maths and English courses bring an extra workload for students and they have had a great start. To keep you informed about their progress a brief report comment accompanies this letter. I hope you find it useful.

Other highlights included schools 'Outstanding' Ofsted report (of which we are all very proud), Harvest Festival, the Winter Fair, St. John's carol service, Christmas lunch and an assembly to celebrate our memories of Mr Stevenson. The death of Mr Stevenson has been a huge blow to our community. Students and staff have shown tremendous courage in supporting each other through this very difficult time. I would also like to thank those of you who forwarded flowers, cards and condolences to Mr Stevenson's family. The total for the just giving page, set up by one family, has smashed its target and the students will have a central role in designing a reading area in schools sensory garden. I am sure Mr Stevenson, our English co-ordinator would approve.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has a long history in school and earlier in the year students were awarded both Bronze and Silver awards. Congratulations! Some students however want to challenge themselves even further and signed up for the Gold award- another first for Greenbank School. I am confident that with the support offered by Anthea Jackson and her team, students will have every opportunity to achieve this fantastic award. Good Luck.

Students accessing residential have also had a fantastic term culminating in opportunities to visit local Pantomimes (*Oh yes they did!!*). I was lucky enough to be invited to one show at The Grange Theatre, Hartford- 'The Wizard of Oz'. Students once again were a credit to school. My thanks go to Jackie Boniface, Charlotte Yarwood, Charlene Brown and the residential team for organising such a wonderful set of visits.

Please find attached an attendance certificate for your child for the autumn term. National expectations dictate that the target for attendance should be at least 95%. Where this is not the case you will have received a separate letter informing you of school's concerns and where appropriate potential actions. It is my belief and ambition that school, students and families should work together to provide the best opportunities for young people. Good attendance forms the core of that belief if young people are to achieve their full potential.

It just leaves me to wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year. School will close for the Christmas holiday on **Friday 22nd December** and will re-open for students on **Tuesday 9th January, 2018**.

Nadolig Llawen. (Happy Christmas)

Yours faithfully,

Mr M. McCann
Head Teacher



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann