



**Ysgol Gymuned Cwm y Glo**  
**Cwm y Glo**  
**CAERNARFON**  
**Gwynedd**  
**LL55 4DE**

**Pennaeth / Head teacher:**

Mrs. Nia G. Oliver B.Add. / B.Ed.



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### **Ysgol Cwm y Glo's Future**

Unfortunately, the pupil numbers on the school's register have been steadily declining over the past few years, particularly since the school's 'golden era' during the nineties under Mrs. Mair Lloyd Hughes' leadership, when 100 pupils were registered at the school. There are numerous reasons for the decline, and I am sure everyone has their own theories, but the truth of the matter is, that there are very few children of primary age living in the village. The families that are here choose to send their children to other schools.

The school budget is primarily based on pupil numbers, (in addition to other factors). Ysgol Cwm y Glo has been in receipt of additional funding from the Local Authority to protect its budget as pupil numbers declined, but in today's dire economic climate, this was a situation that could not be sustained. At the end of the summer term, a difficult and challenging meeting was held between the members of the school's governing body and the local authority's education officer, where it became obvious that the school could not be maintained from September 2019 when pupil numbers were falling to below 10. The decision was taken to be completely open with the parents and explain the situation to them i.e. That there was a budget to run the school for the 2018 -2019 educational year but the school would be unlikely to open in September 2019.

As a result, the school opened its doors in September, following the summer break, with 6 pupils on the register. As the early days of the new term passed, the parents took difficult and emotional decisions to make applications to transfer their children to nearby schools. They were reluctant to do so, faithful to the school, but having to think about their child/ren's future education – which was wholly understandable.

On Friday, 13th September 2018, the last pupil left the school. With her departure, came the end of a tradition whereby generations of her family had attended Ysgol Gymuned Cwm y Glo. A sad and emotional event for everyone.

Now, steps are being taken by the Local Authority to close the school formally. It is anticipated that this will take about 12 months to complete. In the meantime, most of the staff have been dismissed, whilst the remainder of us stay to organise the closure.

Of course, as we clear out and sort everything, we are coming across old photographs and documents that bring the memories flooding back. The activity, the fun, the laughter and tears that the walls have been privy to over the years. I am sure that if past pupils, parents and members of the community could see



these documents, memories will reawaken. Therefore, the decision has been made to hold an open day for the community, before the school doors close for the final time. We hope to arrange this before Christmas **(now arranged for 6/12/18)**. If anybody has any photographs of the school, of the pupils or any school activities, it would be appreciated if they could bring them along to the open day so that they can be displayed and scanned. (You can contact me at the school or contact Gareth Roberts Menter Fachwen who is scanning the photographs and arranging the event.)

As news travels, old friends are getting in touch. It is a comfort to hear, without exception, the positive and appreciative comments of the school, of the ethos we worked so hard to sustain, and the warm welcome every visitor felt they received here. The time will come to express formal gratitude to all concerned.

I hope this gives a concise explanation of the situation as it stands. This has been a difficult and emotional period but I am certain in the future, the community will come to realise and regret the loss of a special school that has been my privilege to serve.

*Nia G. Oliver*

Nia G. Oliver  
Headteacher

