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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL  
**CWMTAWE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014

## CYLCHLYTHYR RHENI

HAF 2014

# Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of an outstanding year, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all pupils, parents, carers and staff for your continued support. I'd also like to extend my best wishes to our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils as they await their GCSE results on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August. I do hope you can join your son/daughter when they come in to collect their results and share in the celebrations.

Lastly, I'd like to wish you all a pleasant summer break and look forward to welcoming pupils back at school on Tuesday 2nd September.

ANNWYL RIENI,

Ar ddiwedd blwyddyn arall hynod lwyddiannus daliaf ar y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i bob disgybl, rhiant, gofalwr ac aelod o staff am eich cefnogaeth cyson. Hoffwn hefyd ddymuno'n dda i'n disgyblion ym Mlwyddyn 10 ac ym Mlwyddyn 11 wrth iddynt ddisgwyl eu canlyniadau TGAU ar ddydd Iau, 21 Awst. Hyderaf y gallwch ddod i'r ysgol gyda'ch mab/merch wrth iddynt gasglu eu canlyniadau ac ymuno yn y dathliadau.

I orffen, dymunaf wyliau pleserus i chi gyd ac edrychaf ymlaen at groesawu disgyblion yn ôl i'r ysgol ar ddydd Mawrth, 2il Medi.

Yours sincerely

**Mr. C. L. Hitchings**

**HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO**



## Introducing the prefect team for 2014/15

The team of prefects for the next academic year has now been selected.

The team is made up of 76 pupils from the new Year 11 which includes 12 senior prefects as well as the new head boy and head girl.

The senior prefect team has also been selected following a gruelling process involving both a formal application letter and interview.

The successful applicants were:

*Head Girl: Leah Sell*

*Claire Parker*

*Caiomhe Murphy*

*Hannah Jones*

*Charlie Bloomer*

*Rebecca Dalling*

*Imogen Rees*

*Head Boy: Charlie Milnes*

*Nathan Moorley*

*Dylan Williams*

*Scott Havard-Morris*

*Harri Evans-Mason*

*Jonah Moxey*

*Kyle Rees*

The senior prefect team are responsible for leading a team of prefects, organising duties and attending a wide range of community functions - all this in between securing excellent GCSE results!



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

New intake induction day	1st Jul.	PTA Fun Run	12th Sep.
Year 10 examinations	7th-10th Jul.	School photographs	22nd Sep.
Year 10 work experience	14th-18th Jul.	Open evening / Skills day	29th Sep.
Year 7 and 8 reports out to parents	16th Jul.	Year 11 targeted Parents' evening	1st Oct.
School trips	17th Jul.	Charity Week	20th-23rd Oct.
Last day of term	18th Jul.	INSET day	24th Oct.
GCSE results day	21st Aug.		
INSET day	1st Sep.		
First day of term for pupils	2nd Sep.		

### STAFF NEWS

#### NEWYDDION STAFF

Helen Gooding will be retiring at the end of this year. She has been a string peripatetic teacher at the school for thirty years and is responsible for the successful music club held on Thursday evenings.

Mrs. Gooding enriched the lives of hundreds of pupils with her enthusiasm for all things musical. She will be remembered fondly for preparing orchestras and string groups as well as her dedication to promoting the talents of individuals.

Mathematics teacher Mr. Brenig Powell will be taking part in a cycle ride from Paris to Swansea from the 13th to the 17th August, raising money for Maggie's Cancer Support Centre, Singleton Hospital.

Pupils raised over £1,000 from a non-uniform day before Easter. He will be keeping us posted by uploading photos on to the school's Facebook page during the ride.



Helen Gooding



Brenig Powell



# Scoring big at the Etihad Stadium



On Tuesday, 20th May, Cwmtawe's Under 13s girls football team travelled to Manchester to represent Swansea City Football Club in the Schools Premiership League Tournament.

The girls played West Bromich Albion, Crystal Palace, Newcastle United and Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium. Despite not gaining any victories they were honoured to have won the "Fair Play" award out of all the 20 premiership

teams competing. The girls also experienced an elite level of travel up to Manchester on board Swansea City's first team coach. They were delighted to meet Lee Trundle at the Liberty Stadium before starting their journey.



## Pupils walk the line with the 'Drugs Bus'



As part of their 'Personal Social Health Education' programme pupils from Year 9 took part in a 'Drug Education Roadshow'.

Welsh Government youth counsellors worked alongside pastoral staff to develop pupils' awareness of the dangers of drugs within

Neath and Port Talbot and the surrounding areas.

A special assembly also looked at the risks of what the media are calling 'New and Emerging Drugs' or NEDS.



*Pupils try on 'beer goggles' to get a view of the effects of alcohol on their bodies.*

## Going write to the top



Ajay Bater (Year 7) and Eve Jones (Year 8) won first and second prizes respectively in the Rotary Young Writer of the Year competition. It's the second year running that Cwmtawe has won, having competed against sixth formers.

The pupils were presented with certificates by members of the Rotary Club in a special assembly held this term.



*Ajay Bater, Year 7, Rotary Young Writer of the Year*

Year 7 pupils Joshua Russell-Kay, Alys Grove and Chantale Davies had their entries published for the 'Tale with a Twist' competition.

Ajay Bater, Vrishank Shrivastava and Mai Rees have all had their Mother's Day competition poems published.

Much of the preparation work takes place in the Creative Writing Workshop held during lunch hours on Tuesday.



*Creative Writing Club pupils who had their poems published as part of the Mother's Day Poetry Competition*



## A golden giveaway



Cwmtawe held its first ever Golden Merit Prize Draw last term.

The top prize, a PlayStation 3 with five games, was won by Leah Morgan of Year 9.

Thirty other lucky pupils also won prizes including vouchers for iTunes, Pizza Express, Costa Coffee, VUE Cinema, Tesco, PlayStation Network, Next and W.H. Smith.

The Golden Merits are highly sought after and are only awarded to pupils for excellent work and achievement over the last two terms.



## Art smart



Pictured above is the talented Year 7 pupil, Ciara Williams with her award from the Urdd National Eisteddfod art competition.

Having won the school's Eisteddfod competition in the spring term, Ciara has now been awarded second place in the Year 7 and 8 category in the recent Urdd National Eisteddfod in Bala.

Ciara's artwork was influenced by the art pop artist, Andy Warhol and focused on the theme of celebrity.

## Celebrating differences



The Religious Education department celebrated the World Day for Cultural Diversity on 21st May.

Pupils sampled food from around the world, listened to music from across the globe, and even brought in items linked to their own cultural background.



*Pupils show and tell their cultural differences*





## Splashing out in Cardiff Bay



In May, pupils from Years 7 and 8 spent a weekend in Cardiff staying at the Urdd Residential Hostel at the rear of the magnificent Millenium Centre, located in Cardiff Bay.

Amongst the highlights were kayaking, bell boating and a trip in a speedboat around the bay, a few hours shopping, ice skating, swimming in the new water centre as well as a tour of the Millenium Centre and a trip to the St Fagans National History Museum.

All pupils had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the various activities.

A similar trip has already been booked next year for pupils in Years 8 and 9.

## A trip to the past



Year 7 and 8 pupils visited The Jewish Museum in London where they had the opportunity to meet a Holocaust survivor during a Holocaust workshop.

Pupils then visited St Paul's Cathedral, one of the largest cathedrals in Europe. They spent the night in 'Tower Bridge Thistle Hotel', which overlooked the Tower Bridge.

Before returning home pupils had a coach tour which gave them an opportunity to see some of the famous sights of London.



## Going Green



Year 10 Environmental Science group ended the spring term with a sunny day out exploring the Cwm Clydach RSPB reserve, visiting the site of the proposed Mynydd-y-Gwair windfarm before enjoying an ice cream at the Lliw Reservoirs.

Year 7 enjoyed a busy day at the Brecon Mountain Centre in April learning about the work of a National Park and practising their mapskills on an orienteering challenge.

Year 10 Geography pupils visited Borth for a residential fieldtrip to study coastal processes and management.

They practised fieldwork techniques and discovered how the low-lying village is investing in sea defences to protect it from the storms and flooding such as those experienced in January 2014.



## A taste of Italy

In May, the Geography Department visited Italy with fifty Year 8 & 9 pupils.

From their base in Sorrento, the pupils had a busy 5 days which included a boat trip to the island of Capri, a walk to the volcano of Vesuvius, visits to Pompeii and Herculaneum and learnt how to make the local gelato during a visit to an Italian ice cream parlour.







## A picture of success



**ART  
SELF**

Pictured above, alongside their self-portraits, are some of the talented Year 10 pupils who have entered their GCSE Art and Design qualification a year early. This year, forty-six pupils

endeavoured to complete the course and now have the opportunity to sit a second art qualification in Year 11 in either Fine Art, Graphic Communication or Photography.

The pupils pictured are: Morgan Williams, Lauren Madge, Amber

Jones, Indiana Miller, Caitlyn Jones, Daniel Thomas, Hannah Thomas, Britney Davies, Anna Morris and Caoimhe Murphy. Visitors to the school have commented on the exceptionally high quality of work produced, some of which is equivalent of AS level standard.



## Swimming to Samoa



**SPORT  
CHWARAEON**

Rebecca Dalling in Year 10 has been taking part in swimming heats in Glasgow to shortlist competitors for the Commonwealth Games.

Despite not being successful this time, being selected

to take part in the heat is a wonderful achievement. However, she will be representing Wales in the Youth Commonwealth Games in Samoa in 2015.

## Setting up for business



**BUSINESS STUDIES  
ASTUDIAETHAU BUSNES**

A group of Year 10 Business Studies pupils visited the Sandfields Business Centre on Thursday 5th June.

Pupils were given a tour of the centre and a presentation from a young local business entrepreneur.

They also met entrepreneurs from a number of industries including music and film, fabric design and printing and were able to question them on their experience of setting up a small business.

# Glitz, glamour and goodbyes



The divine and dazzling dresses, as well as the slick and stunning suits, were a treat for the 500 strong spectators who gathered to catch a glimpse of our Year 11 students.

Pupils enjoyed posing for photographs, taking 'selfies' with friends and strutting along the red carpet as they made their entrances.

After great food and music, it was time for our 'Prom Awards'. Many pupils received awards for Best Hair, Best Suit, and Best Dress etc. Our main awards of the evening went to Nye Thomas who was voted 2014 Prom King and Amber Howie who was voted 2014 Prom Queen.

A massive thank you to all of the parents, staff, PTA and pupils who made the evening a real success. We're sure that all the pupils will treasure the memories of their Prom for many years to come.

A great night was had by all at this year's Leavers Prom which was held on Thursday 19th June at the Manor Park Hotel in Clydach. Mr Crane and Miss Ardolino had spent many hours organising and planning what turned out to be yet another successful Cwmtawe School Prom.

Our Year 11 pupils arrived in style in so many fun and fantastic modes of transport. From scooters to tractors, burger vans and double-decker buses, the evening got off to an entertaining start. Lots of other elegant and impressive vehicles also graced the Manor Park forecourt such as Ferraris, Bentleys, limousines and Cadillacs.





## Taking a walk on the wildfowl side



### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

GWYDDONIAETH AMGYLCHEDDOL

Year 10 Environmental Science and Geography pupils enjoyed a sunny day at the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust in Llanelli.

They spent the day investigating the role of wetlands and learning about WWT's conservation work. Pupils later explored the grounds and fed many of the resident ducks and geese.



## Peer Mentors choose to stand up for new pupils



### PASTORAL BUGEILIOI

This term, Peer Mentors from Year 9 were appointed and given badges. They had a day's training with the School Counsellor and Child

Protection Officer before starting their duties on the 1st July which was the Induction Day for our new intake in September. They will also be asked to create a peer mentoring room, a rota of supervision and the plan to help with the transition of pupils from our feeder Primary Schools.

# Children of Courage



### PASTORAL BUGEILIOI

Harry Thyer, Year 7, and Luke Shaw, Year 10, were joint winners of the Children of Courage Awards.

Harry was nominated by the actor Michael Sheen for looking after his mum who has a number of health conditions, including fibromyalgia and kidney stones.

Luke was nominated by Carers Trust Wales for caring for his mum who has arthritis and crumbling spine and his sister who has epilepsy and learning difficulties.

Most children only have their school work to worry



about but Harry and Luke are always running around getting everything done in the house.

Simon Hatch, Carers Trust Director for Wales, said "I am thrilled that the care and support given by Harry and Luke has been recognised in this way."

## Autistic pupils given a Real Opportunity



### ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

ANGHENION ADDYSGOL ARBENNIG

Pupils in the school's Autistic Unit attended the Real Opportunities Project presentation evening in Port Talbot.

Samuel James-Dickson and Dafydd Jones were both presented with OCN awards and thoroughly enjoyed a

rendition from the excellent Maes-y-Coed Choir.

Real Opportunities is a project that works with young people aged 14-19 years old with additional needs to help them become as independent as possible in their adult lives.

## SNAG pupils take a bite for life



### PASTORAL BUGEILIOI

Members of the School Nutrition Action Group continue to drive new legislation on the 'Appetite for Life' into school.

This term, pupils had an appetising session tasting new and unusual fruits and were joined by Mr Hitchings - never one to turn down a food tasting session! Pupils have now introduced a fruit pot loyalty reward scheme into the canteen.

Pupils were also keen to get the 'Wheelie Smooth' blender bikes back for Sports Day and to sell fruit shakes and run a 'splat the teacher' session in support of Water Aid.

## Moselle Valley trip



### MFL IEITHOEDD

Fifty Year 8 pupils spent four days in the Moselle Valley, Germany in June.

Pupils enjoyed a boat trip along the Moselle, a trip in a chair lift into the mountains of Saarburg, with a chance to bob slide down; a visit to Cochem and its beautiful castle; a day in one of Europe's largest theme parks 'Phantasialand' as well as a host of outdoor activities.



# EESW STEM day generates success with pupils



On Thursday 12th June, pupils from Year 8 who had performed well within the subject of Design Technology were involved in an engineering day which was run by EESW STEM Wales and the Technology Department.

This was an activity designed to stimulate the interest of young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

by providing a task set in an enjoyable and real-world context with links to outside industries.

The task involves teams of up to three pupils assembling and testing models of wind turbines to demonstrate how energy is transferred.

Each turbine can be adapted in terms of gear layout, blade

design, number and size of blades. The voltage output was measured for each turbine using a multimeter.

The turbines were tested against each other and the winning teams were awarded with a prize. Every pupil received a certificate from STEM Wales to add to their 'records of achievement' file.



## Remembering Sidney Goldberg



Ten pupils from Year 7 and 8 have been taking part in the national 'Sidney Goldberg Memorial Competition'. Sidney Goldberg was a German Jew who escaped to London in 1933, but ended up working as an 'interceptor' for the R.A.F. Wireless Unit during World War II. Goldberg's work proved vital

for the heroic R.A.F. pilots throughout the war, but especially on D-Day in June 1944 which was a turning point for the Allied Forces.

The family of Sidney Goldberg have organised a memorial competition which required pupils to enter a piece of written

or artistic work about the D-Day Landings.

Some fabulous work was produced including poems, newspaper articles, letters, drawings and artistic displays.

# Bon Voyage



In May, a group of thirty Year 10 pupils studying Leisure & Tourism visited Paris to experience French culture first hand.

During the trip, the pupils visited a number of attractions; they walked down the Champs Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile, took in the wonderful view of Paris from the Eiffel Tower and admired the French gothic architecture of the Notre Dame Cathedral.

The trip provided the pupils with an insight into French culture and allowed them to experience some of the many different visitor attractions in Paris.



In June, 80 Year 7 pupils visited 'Château Beaumont', south Normandy for a fun and exciting activity weekend to soak up the French culture and practise their linguistic skills.

Pupils were entertained in a French themed evening with tasters of snails and frog legs and they were also able to show off their talents in a talent contest.

They thoroughly enjoyed the visits to a local French market in the village of Laval and Le Mont Saint-Michel, not forgetting the end to a fantastic weekend with a day in Euro Disney.





# Duke of Edinburgh



Over 100 pupils are currently involved in preparing for the expedition section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The two silver groups and three bronze groups are completing ventures in a variety of areas including Margam Park, Gower and the Brecon Beacons.

They have been busy planning and preparing for their overnight practices and final expeditions - lots of rain, blisters, midges, late nights and laughs!



## Battle of the bands



One of the school's bands, Apathy, won the County 'Battle Of The Bands'. Band members are Dylan Williams, Dylan Baugh, Jordan Lewis, Nathan Moorely and Anthony Sefton.

It is the first time that a band from Cwmtawe has won this competition, placing them ahead of bands from other schools from across the county and Neath Port Talbot College.



Year 10 BTEC Work Skills pupils have participated in various events and projects as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's bronze award.

They have undertaken a volunteer project with 'The Canal Society' and 'The Riverside Centre' to rejuvenate the canal and surrounding areas for the use of the community and to celebrate the local history, culture and heritage of Pontardawe.



## ALN pupils go for platinum at the Disability Gymnastics Competition



**ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS**  
ANGHENION ADDYSGOL ARBENNIG

Cwmtawe pupils took part in the Rotary Welsh Schools Disability Gymnastics Championships, winning gold and platinum awards across the board.

The pupils competed in the floor, bench and vault competitions against various

schools from across the country. Ben Hughes-Evans won first prize for the gold floor competition.

Fellow pupils Jade Robson and Mel Ward won second and first prizes in the platinum bench and floor competitions

respectively as well as second and third prizes in the platinum vault competition.

Overall, Ben was awarded second place for the Gold Award with Jade and Mel being awarded second and first places for the Platinum Award.



## NPTFamily.com

Did you know there is a place you can go for all questions to do with family life in Neath Port Talbot?

A place you can find up and coming events? A website that offers an online library of leaflets about topics such as childcare, play and health?

Did you know you are able to search for services running in your area? Services such as after school clubs, parent and toddler groups, sports clubs and information helplines?

Well you can, and it all sits in one place - nptfamily.com! NPT Family is developed by the NPT Family Information Service who can be contacted on 01639 873018, fis@npt.gov.uk or on Facebook and Twitter too!

## NPT Credit Union

Did you know that Cwmtawe Community School operates a School Savings Club with Neath Port Talbot Credit Union? Why not start saving NOW for School Trips; the School Prom; a new phone, or whatever you like.

You can join as a Junior Member with just £1.00. Save as much or as little as you want each week, every Monday and Thursday lunchtime with Miss Ellis and Miss Trick.

Parents are welcome at the Credit Union too. Adult membership costs £1.00 for your membership fee plus £1.00 to open the account







## Sevens stars



**SPORTS**  
CHWARAEON

The Year 11 Rugby 7s Squad travelled to London with the aim of reaching day two of the Rosslyn Park 7s tournament and did so with style.

On day one, they played four group games, winning all of them. There was then an elimination game in which they played against St. Edwards, Oxford, winning 31-7.

On reaching day two, they made it down from the 160 teams that entered to the final 16. They were defeated by the QEGS Wakefield who went on to win the national event.

## Army day



**ESSENTIAL SKILLS**  
SGILIAU

As part of their training for the final assessment, Year 10 BTEC Work Skills pupils completed a successful practice expedition in the Brecon Beacons.

They were also invited to Cwrt Y Gollen Army Barracks for a fun day of team building exercises.



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Ffordd Parc Ynysderw  
Pontardawe  
Swansea SA8 4EG

**HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO:**  
Mr. C. L. Hitchings

**EMAIL / EBOST:** cwmtaweschool@npted.org  
**TEL / FFÔN:** 01792 863200  
**FAX / FFACS:** 01792 864773



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