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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

CYLCHLYTHYR RHENI

MEDI 2014

Dear Parents,

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our pupils, but particularly our new starters in Year 7.

I hope you have all enjoyed your summer break.

ANNWYL RIENI,
Hoffwn estyn croeso cynnes nôl i bawb ond yn arbennig i'n disgyblion newydd ym mlwyddyn 7.

Hyderaf i chi gyd gael gwyliau Haf pleserus.

Yours sincerely

Mr. C. L. Hitchings

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO



GCSE Results

A comprehensive report of GCSE results achieved last year will be available within the Governors Annual Report to Parents in November. We continue to be one of the best performing schools in Wales and have the highest GCSE pass rate (A*-C) in Neath Port Talbot.

- 99% of our pupils achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at A*-C
- 82% of our pupils achieved at least 9 GCSEs at A*-C
- 76% of our pupils achieved at least 10 GCSEs at A*-C
- 23 pupils gained 8 or more GCSEs at A* or A grade

No pupils have left CwmTawe in the last six years without a recognised qualification.



HIGH ACHIEVERS

Emily Jones	11 A*, 1 Distinction	Jessica Hayden	1 A*, 8 A, 1 B, 1 Distinction
Katie Morgans	5 A*, 5½ A, 2 Distinction	William Thompson	2 A*, 5½ A, 1 B, 1 C, 3 Distinction
Ruby Williams	4A*, 6A, 2 Distinction, 1 Pass	Alex McGlynn	5 A, 3 B, 1 C, 2 Distinction
Owen Harris	6 A*, 3 A, 3 Distinction	Lauren Morgan	3 A*, 6 A, 2 B
Daniel Davies	4½ A*, 4½ A, 3 Distinction	Samuel Wu	3 A*, 5 A, 2 B
Madison Stevens	5½ A*, 3½ A, 2 Distinction, 1 Merit	Catrin Young	2½ A*, 7 A, 1 B, 1 C
Zoe Waker	3A*, 7A, 1 Distinction	James Battell	3 A*, 4½ A, 2 B, 2 Distinction
Geraint Duffy	6½ A, 2½ B, 1 C, 2 Distinction	Deian Trotman	2 A*, 6 A, ½ B, 2 Distinction, 1 Pass
Isabel Francis	2 A*, 6 A, ½ B, 2 Distinction, 1 Pass		

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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Year 11 Parents' Evening	1 st October	GCSE Mathematics Paper 2	10 th November
Year 9 Drama & History trip	7 th October	PTA Meeting, 5:00pm	11 th November
Charity Week	20 th -23 rd October	Year 10 Internal Examinations	17 th -21 st November
Annual Presentation Evening	23 rd October	Closing date for new Year 7 applications to Cwmtawe	22 nd November
INSET day	24 th October	Year 7 Targeted Parents' evening	26 th November
Half term	27 th -31 st October	School Production	2 nd -4 th December
GCSE Mathematics Paper 1	5 th November	PTA Christmas Fayre	5 th December
Year 7 Vaccinations	6 th -7 th November	Year 11 Mock Examinations	8 th -16 th December
Year 6 Sports Skills Day	6 th November	Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch	19 th December
Year 6 Technology Skills Day	7 th November	Last day of term	19 th December

Cwmtawe School announced as official Swans Academy partner

We are delighted to have formed an exclusive partnership with Swansea City Football Club to provide the education for their Premier League Academy Programme. Talented young football players from across South Wales, the UK and overseas will benefit from the quality of teaching that education watchdog ESTYN deemed 'sector-leading' in October 2012.

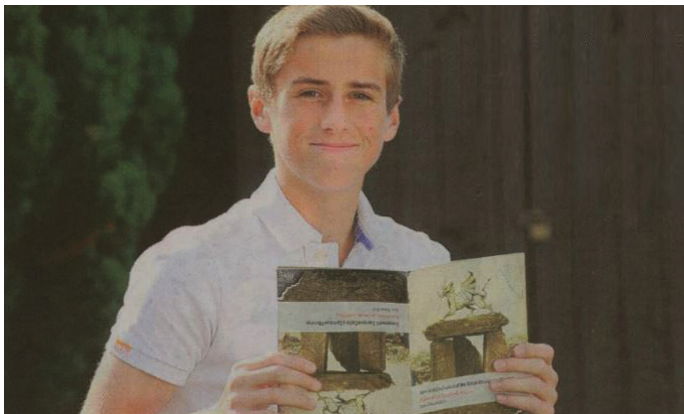
The Academy operates a full-time and part-time programme. The full-time players will attend Cwmtawe School in the morning and train at the new state-of-the-art academy facility in Landore every afternoon. Those on the part-time programme will be taught by Cwmtawe staff at the academy for one day a week in between their training.

Pictured below are the latest pupils to enrol at Cwmtawe on the full-time programme.

Swans Academy Manager Nigel Rees says the partnership is a very exciting opportunity and will help players continue to develop.

"The education process of any young footballer is an integral part of their development," he said.

"I am delighted that we are working with Cwmtawe Community School to deliver our education programme and give us the necessary platform to work towards category one status."



STAFF NEWS

NEWYDDION STAFF

Congratulations to Mrs. Nicola Ardolino-Rees who recently gave birth to a baby boy. We extend our best wishes to the family.

We would also like to welcome our new teaching staff starting in September. Miss Hayley Jones (Vocational), Mrs Rachel Powell (Maths/Science) and Miss Holly Watkin-Rees (Maths).

HONOURING THE WELSH HEROES

Year 10 pupil, Joe Lewis was awarded the honour of taking part in a special ceremony to commemorate the Welsh war dead. He was the only youngster across South Wales to be invited to give a reading in Ypres for those killed during the First World War.

A special service was held at the Menin Gate to mark the commemoration of the start of World War 1. The service was part of the unveiling of a new Welsh national memorial at Flanders.



Designed to achieve



Sixty pupils in Year 10 studying Design Technology yet again surpassed all expectations. Despite completing a two-year Resistant Materials course in half that time, they achieved a pass rate of 90% at A*-C, with a quarter achieving at A* or A grade.

Nearly fifty Year 11 pupils who had achieved similar success in Year 10 went on to achieve another GCSE in Graphic Products this year, with a 94% success rate at A*-C and nearly a third gaining this qualification at A* or A grade.



Picture perfect performance



The following pupils have all passed their Art & Design GCSE a year earlier than expected.

Forty-six pupils were entered and gained an A*-C. In addition, half of these achieved at A* or A grade.

These talented artists will now go on to study a further GCSE in either Art Graphics or Fine Art.

Pictured opposite are some of our successful Year 10 artists.



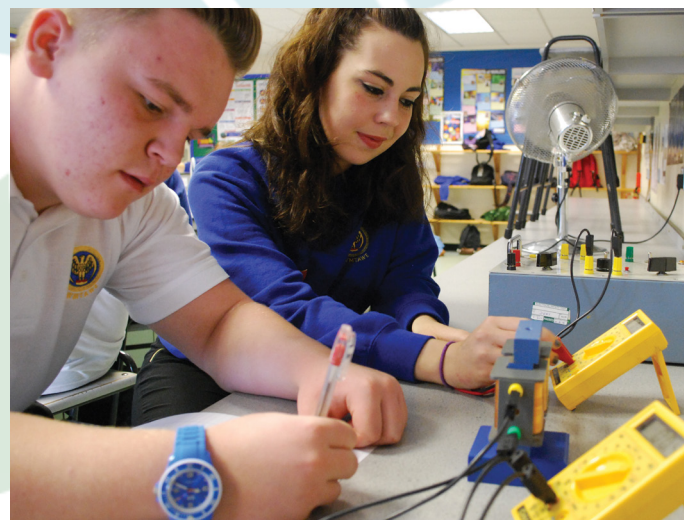
Succeeding in Science



All pupils in Cwmtawe now study a 'Double Science' or a 'Triple Science' qualification

Our Year 10 pupils have completed their first science GCSE and achieved exceptional outcomes. 72% achieved an A*-C grade, with 27 pupils gaining an A* or A grade.

They are now studying their second science qualification and nearly fifty triple scientists will continue on to a third GCSE by the end of Year 11.



Pupils and staff dress up to raise money

The Annual PTA Fun Run has become a key event in our school calendar. In fact, some of our new Year 7 pupils have been planning their costumes since before they started school! Both pupils and staff make the effort to dress up and raise money for the PTA, having great fun in the process as can be seen from the images below.

These funds are put to good use to enhance provision for your children. For example, over the last three years, the PTA has funded resources, pupil rewards, presentations and three new minibuses, allowing your children to be transported to events in safety and style.



North to South

Sixteen staff from Cwmtawe took part in their annual challenge, this year to raise money for the Amanda Hodson Pupil Welfare Fund and Teenage Cancer Trust.

Day one involved climbing Mount Snowdon followed by a 160 mile cycle ride from Penmachno to Pontardawe. Over £5,000 has already been raised with donations coming in every day.

If you would like to support, please contact Mrs. Delyth Jenkins at the school.

Paris to Swansea

Maths teacher, Mr Brenig Powell successfully completed his Paris to Swansea Cycle Ride to raise funds for Maggie's Cancer Care charity. The event raised in excess of £40,000.

Year 11 pupil Nye Thomas also successfully completed a sky dive during the summer holidays, raising a further £1,000 for Maggie's Cancer Care.



Year 6 Skills Day

Just as our new Year 7 pupils join us, attention turns to making our Year 6 children feel comfortable about their move to secondary school.

On Monday 29th September, they will join us for Skills Day and spend the day in a range of departments promoting a fictional pop group. The focus will be on creating a music video, radio jingle and promotional artwork to market their new release and they will be accompanied and supported by our Senior Prefect Team throughout the day.

The skills day is followed by our Open Evening for all prospective pupils and their parents between 4.00pm and 7.00pm at the school.



Base Wales

Base Wales spent a busy day working closely with a group of Year 11 pupils in an intensive team building experience.

The pupils undertook a range of activities which included business development and problem solving scenarios.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed working together; their persistent involvement in vocational studies continues to enhance their experiences and prepare them for post 16 education.



Going Green



Our annual Year 7 Eco Day was held in July and pupils raised money for the charity Size of Wales, who came in to school to run a workshop on climate change.

Pupils also enjoyed workshops with Derwen Recycling and helped create a large world map from plastic bottles.

Year 11 visited Margam to investigate possible sites for a wind turbine as part of their Goegrphaty coursework in September. Year 8 pupils went underground at Big Pit to find out about the coal mining industry in Wales.



Cwmtawe celebrates highest ever GCSE results

Results day is a highlight in our school calendar; a day when pupils celebrate their outstanding academic achievements with staff and parents.



Finding the stars of Neverland



Rehearsals are commencing for our annual school production which, this year, will be Peter Pan. It will be held at Cwmtawe School from Tuesday 2nd December to Thursday 4th December.

Following auditions there was nervous excitement when the names of the leading characters were announced.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Peter Pan | Mollie Sheppard |
| Wendy Darling | Hannah Thomas/
Caomihe Murphy |
| Captain Hook / Mr. Darling | Dylan Williams |
| Mrs. Darling | Leah Sell |
| John Darling | Finley Topping |
| Michael Darling | Joe Griffin |



Success in her sights



SPORTS
CHWARAEON

Year 11 pupil, Alice Reynolds, is proving to be a sure shot for success.

She had a meteoric rise in the field of archery after discovering a hidden talent last year.

During the summer, she competed in the Junior Commonwealth competition and for the Archery GB Academy Cup, winning second prize in her group.

Alice has also broken a national Welsh record as well as fifteen county records.



COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

If you are unhappy about something, please speak to your child's Head of Year in the first instance. Most matters can be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

If after speaking to the Head of Year you are still unhappy, ask to speak to the Deputy Headteacher. If the matter is still unresolved, then please make an appointment to speak to the Headteacher.

Our full complaints procedure is published on our website www.cwmtawe.org



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