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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

CYLCHLYTHYR RHieni

SUMMER 2015

HAF 2015

Dear Parents,

As the end of term is fast approaching, I would like to thank you all as pupils, parents, carers, staff and friends of the school for your continued support throughout the year.

We wish our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils our very best as they await their GCSE results on Thursday 20th August. I would like to extend an open invitation to you all to join them when they collect their results and share in the celebrations.

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

Annwyl Rieni,

Gyda diwedd y tymor yn prysur agosau hoffwn ddiolch i chi gyd fel disgyblion, rhieni, gofawyr, staff a ffrindiau'r ysgol am eich cefnogaeth cyson trwy gydol y flwyddyn.

Dymunwn bob llwyddiant i ddisgyblion Blwyddyn 10 a Blwyddyn 11 wrth iddynt ddisgwyl eu canlyniadau TGAU ar ddydd lau, 20 Awst. Estynnir gwahoddiad agored i chi ymuno yn y dathliadau wrth iddynt gasglu eu canlyniadau.

I orffen, daliaf ar y cyfle hwn i ddymuno gwyliau haf dymunol ac ymlaciol i chi ac edrychaf ymlaen at groesawu disgyblion yn ôl i'r ysgol ar ddydd Mercher, 2 Medi.

Mr. C. L. Hitchings
HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO



Pupils scale Pen y Fan to raise money for Nepal

On Monday 29th June, pupils climbed South Wales' highest peak, Pen y Fan, to raise money for Nepal as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's award voluntary project.

The money raised will go towards helping rebuild schools and provide educational provision for children affected by the earthquake in Nepal earlier this year.

ATTENDANCE / PRESENOLDEB

High attendance is essential in ensuring your son/daughter achieves their potential in school. We ask for your full support in helping us to achieve this.

- Reinforce the importance of good attendance and punctuality.
- Liaise with the school as soon as your son/daughter is unwell.
- Ensure your son/daughter catches up quickly on any missed work.
- Organise medical or dental appointments outside school hours.
- Avoid any holidays in term time.

90% attendance is equivalent to missing six months of learning over the five years of secondary school

80% attendance is equivalent to missing one year of learning over the five years of secondary school

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

1st September	INSET day	25th September	European Day of Languages Macmillan Coffee Morning
2nd September	First day back for pupils	28th September	Open Evening / Year 6 Skills Day
8th September	PTA meeting	7th October	Year 11 Targeted Parents' Evening
11th September	PTA Fun Run	19th-22nd October	Charity Week
16th September	Governors' meeting	21st October	NPTC Afan Open Evening 5pm-8pm (nptc.ac.uk for details)
21st September	School photos (Years 7 and 10)	22nd October	Key Stage 3 Presentation Evening
24th September	Year 11 reports to parents	22nd October	NPTC Neath Open Evening 5pm-8pm (nptc.ac.uk for details)
24th September	NPTC A Level Open Evening 5pm-8pm (nptc.ac.uk for details)	23rd October	INSET day



Cwmtawe selects new Senior Prefect team

Cwmtawe has selected the pupils who will serve on the Senior Prefect team for the next academic year 2015/2016.

Huda Mohammed has been appointed as Head Girl and Lewis Jones as Head Boy.

Ubsdell and Chantelle Heenan were chosen to serve in the wider Senior Prefect team.

Gemma Morgan, Assistant Headteacher, said, "We are confident that this year's selections will maintain standards and be superb ambassadors for the school."

Huda and Lewis have also been elected associate members of the school's Governing Body.

The Senior Prefect team play a key role in school life at Cwmtawe School working alongside the school governing body, members of the whole school council and lunchtime pupil supervisors.

Huda and Lewis will work alongside Charlie Mallinson and Olivia Rees who were selected as Deputy Head Girls, as well as Steffan Davis and Sam Jackson, Deputy Head Boys.

Joe Lewis, Ryan Carson, Morgan Lewis, Rhys Laugharne, Ella Campisi, Carys Copp, Mollie

Peer mentors stand up for new faces



The following pupils from Year 9 have been selected as peer mentors.

They started their duties by helping out on induction day when the year 6 pupils who will start in Cwmtawe in September tasted life at their new school. In September they will be helping new pupils settle at the school.



Nathan Brennan
Tom Slade
Nathan Evans
Declan Rowlands
Katie Price
Chloe Evans
Mai Rees
Ellie Davies
Grace Davies
Fenella Ryan

Joseff Nicholls-de Freitas
Mackenzie Squires
Adam Moorley
Callum Oates
Sophie Hawkins
Rosie Hawkeswood
Ceara Davies
Megan Brown
Isabelle Neumann
Jessica Flint

Fina Williams
Georgia Cosiello
Alana Rees
Isobel Thomas
Megan Johnson
Anais Housley
Demi Whiteman
Hannah Carson-Jones
Eve Jones
Jessica Birt

STAFF NEWS / NEWYDDION STAFF

Mr. Colin Davies, science technician, has worked at the school for 44 years. He has been exceptional in his support for the faculty and the many staff who have taught Science in Cwmtawe.

Mr. Darrell Morgan is retiring after being in Cwmtawe for 14 years. Mr. Morgan has been an inspirational subject teacher and will be fondly remembered with considerable respect by all pupils.

Mrs. Rachel Powell was appointed to a temporary post last September as a teacher in the science and mathematics faculties. She has been extremely hardworking and we wish her well as she starts a new post in Brynmawr Learning Community.

Raising funds in Leon's memory

Members of the whole school council along with pupils from Alltwn Primary School have raised a substantial amount of money over the years for the Leon Heart Fund.

Leon Montanari was a pupil at both schools but sadly passed away in 2009. His mum Julie established the charity to raise money to provide accommodation and support for families who have children suffering from severe illnesses and need to travel long distances to the Heath Hospital,

Cardiff to receive treatment. Pupils from both schools, along with Councillor David Lewis from Alltwn, visited the hospital to see how the money has been utilised. They were given a guided tour of the new children's hospital and were suitably impressed by the facilities.

They witnessed how the money raised would make life more comfortable for families in difficult circumstances.



Bon Voyage!



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 by 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 ending with a day in Euro Disney.



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 James Sweeney who was voted 2015 Prom King and Alex Pavlo who was voted 2015 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 25th June at the Manor Park Hotel in Clydach. Head of Year Mrs Gemma Morgan and Assistant Head of Year, Mrs Ceri Davis, 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 mobility scooters to tractors, burger vans to double-decker buses, the evening got off to an entertaining start. Many other elegant and impressive vehicles also graced the Manor Park forecourt such as Ferraris, Bentleys, limousines and Cadillacs.

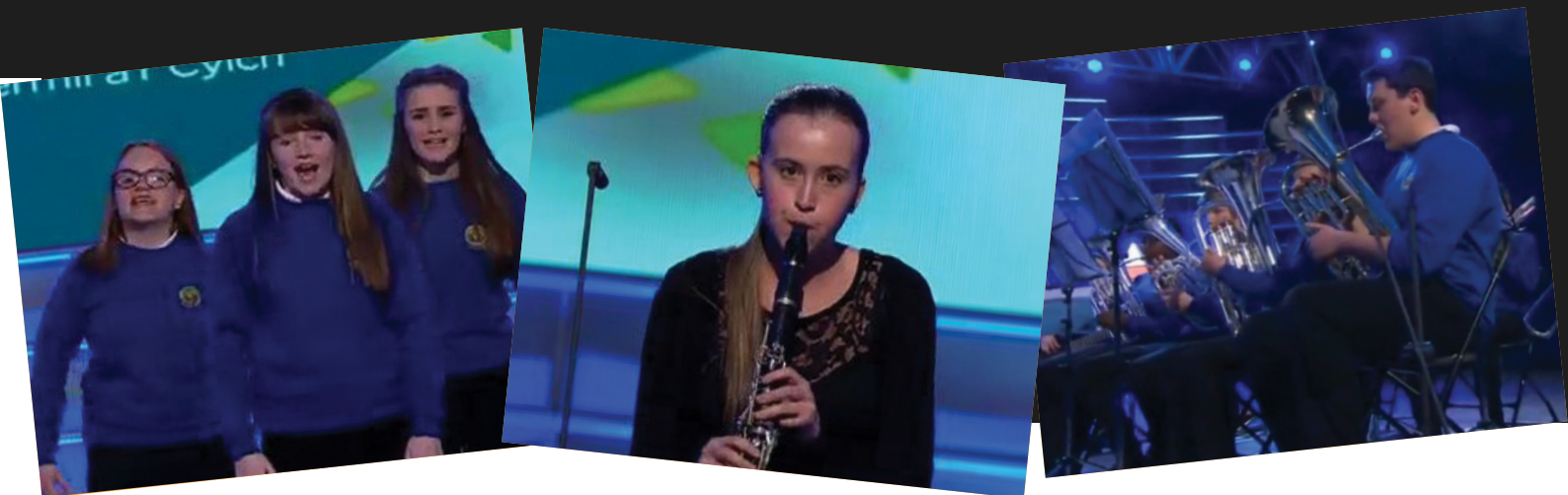
Pupils celebrate their talents at the Urdd National Eisteddfod

During the Whitsun school holidays pupils competed in the Urdd National Eisteddfod. Each individual or group had won the local and county preliminary rounds to represent West Glamorgan in this national event. We had to be up at the crack of dawn on Wednesday morning to start our journey to the festival field in Llancaeach Fawr in the Rhymney Valley.

Having competed against thirteen in two competitions it was a relief to hear the name of "Ysgol Gymunedol Cwmtawe" amongst the top three in both competitions. Pupils would proceed to compete on the stage of the pavilion later that day.

Relatives, friends and supporters followed the competitions on S4C, eagerly awaiting performances by pupils of the school. Anastasia Stockden from Pontardawe won the third prize in the individual recitation for learners competition and the group recitation for Welsh learners also won third prize.

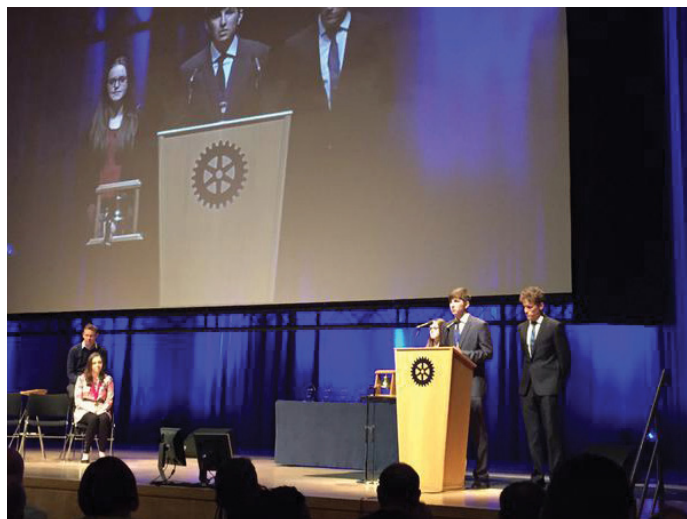
We returned to the Eisteddfod on the Friday and yet again the enthusiasm of the pupils was infectious. Miranda Lewis won first prize in the woodwind solo under 19 and the orchestra competed against nine other schools in a competition of a very high standard on the Friday evening. Indeed, Cwmtawe certainly has talent.



Interact conference

Harry Evans-Mason, Dylan Williams and Hannah Jones represented Cwmtawe's Interact Club at the Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland 2015 Conference held in Belfast.

They addressed an audience of 1,500 Rotarians about the work of Cwmtawe School within the community and the school's excellent charity work.



Pupils are leaps ahead in Kangaroo competition



Cwmtawe pupils once again shone at the Mathematical Kangaroo competition.

Year 11 pupils Finley Topping and Ben Williams and Katy Bloomer from Year 9 all qualified to take part in the competition and competed well against pupils from all over Europe.

The Mathematical Kangaroo is an international mathematical competition with more than fifty countries and five million pupils participating across a range of ages and abilities.



Creative Writing Club have got the write stuff



Pupils in Cwmtawe's Creative Writing Club are continuing to win a range of different writing competitions.

This term Katie Jenkins, Chantale Davies and Heather Brown have been published in an anthology called 'Grim Tales.'

Chantale's 'Grim Tale' has won the regional round and she will now compete against pupils across Wales and Western England for a prize of £1000.

Additionally, Lucy Richards, Isabelle Lake, Ajay Bater, Ciaran Sullivan and Chantale Davies have been successful in gaining membership to Neath Port Talbot's Young Writers' Squad in which they will hear their work read out on live radio and see their writing performed on stage.

There will also be a workshop in July for any pupils interested in a day spent exploring the canals and greenery in their local environment with poet and environmentalist, Emily Hinshelwood. Pupils will walk along the river, breathe in the fresh air, take pictures of flowers, animals and insects that they come across.

They will notice the details of the landscape and see the beautiful things that are on the school's doorstep and put their impressions to paper in the shape of poetry, stories and pictures. This workshop will be useful for any pupils who



would like to hone their writing skills in a fun and interesting environment.

The English department also organised an exciting trip to the Taliesin Art Centre at Swansea University to attend a Picturehouse screening of William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' by Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre.

This was an additional opportunity provided for our able and talented pupils and proved to be an enjoyable and memorable experience for all the pupils concerned.

Girls football squad in a league of their own

Recently the Cwmtawe Under 13 Girls' Football Team travelled to London to play in the annual Premier League Schools Tournament at White Hart Lane, home to Tottenham Hotspur FC.

The girls were delighted to travel up to London on the Swansea City first team coach and enjoyed an overnight stay in a hotel on the night before the tournament.

To represent the school and Swansea City Football Club at this tournament was a privilege for our pupils, who ran out at White Hart Lane in front of

hundreds of SCFC supporters. The girls performed admirably at the tournament. In the first game, they drew 1-1 with West Bromwich Albion before beating Manchester City and Liverpool 1-0.

Next they played Burnley and won 4-1. As winners of the group, the girls faced Everton in the semi-final. After a tenacious performance from all the players, and having been denied by the woodwork on three occasions, our girls were beaten 3-2. As a school, we are very proud of all the girls' effort.



Splashing out in Cardiff Bay



During May, 35 pupils spent a weekend in Cardiff, staying in the Urdd Youth Hostel at the rear of the Millennium Centre.

On Friday afternoon they enjoyed an informative tour of the Millennium Centre followed by a thrilling white water rafting experience in the Cardiff Water Centre. During the evening, teams challenged each other to games of bowling – with Year 9 boys ultimately being the victorious team!

Following an hour shopping in the city centre, pupils were given a tour of the Millennium Stadium before going ice skating. They relaxed and savoured the lively atmosphere of Cardiff Bay during the evening.



On the Sunday morning pupils were soaked on a speed boat trip around the Bay before a thought-provoking visit to St. Fagan's National Folk Museum. Throughout the weekend, they extended their knowledge of Wales and experienced life in our vibrant capital city.

Cwmtawe awarded platinum EcoSchools status



Cwmtawe's environmental work over the last ten years was recognised in June when the school was awarded its 4th Green Flag and Platinum EcoSchool's status by Roseanne Hennessey, EcoSchool's officer at Keep Wales Tidy.

The pupil committee have introduced many initiatives and promoted events under the eight themes of Waste Minimisation, Litter, Water, Energy, Transport, Healthy Living, School Grounds and Global Citizenship.

Ms Hennessey told the school "I was very pleased to see your school's continuing enthusiasm for the programme. Your students did your school very proud and it is clear to see that the Eco-school process is correctly embedded in the school. Achieving a Green Flag award is a fantastic achievement."



Our eco work continues though and we are now looking forward to our Year 7 EcoDay on 14th July when pupils will take part in workshops run by 'Size of Wales' and 'Out to Learn Willow' as well as litter related activities in lessons.

Saving the Size of Wales



Year 10 pupils studying Geography and Environmental Science visited the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, Llanelli in March to learn about wildlife and water management.

They investigated run-off rates on different surfaces, carried out nutrient testing of the reedbeds, spent time birdwatching from the Heron Hide and enjoyed feeding the resident ducks and geese.

Nigel Little, Size of Wales, spent a morning with Year 9 Geography classes teaching them about the causes and effects of global warming.

We presented him with a cheque for £75, raised during Fairtrade Fortnight, which will pay for 600 trees to be planted in Uganda where Cwmtawe plans to develop a school link.



Welcoming new pupils at Year 6 Transition Day

Year 6 pupils enjoyed a terrific Transition Day on Tuesday, 30th June.

Mrs Keane, Head of Year, and Miss Balfe, Assistant Head of Year, have had a busy few weeks visiting all 42 primary schools. So you can imagine how excited they were to gather all 260 pupils together for the first time, and they weren't disappointed!

Fears of getting lost in such a big school were soon forgotten once our newly appointed team of Peer Mentors had taken them for a guided tour.

As they grew in confidence throughout the day our Year 6 pupils threw themselves into life at Cwmtawe, getting to grips with new subjects and

getting used to the school routines. They seemed particularly awestruck by the choice of food!

Form tutors were impressed with their groups during the team building activities as they broke the ice and began forging new friendships.

Their Year 6 teachers have been telling us what a talented bunch they are and on the basis on their day at Cwmtawe we think they're going to be a force to be reckoned with over the next five years.

Watch this space!



Kicking off in the Faroe Islands

Dan Jeffries (Year 11) together with Joe Lewis, Matthew Blake and Tom Price (all in Year 10) were selected to play in the Welsh football squad for the UEFA development tournament.

Miss Angharad Evans from the French department was fortunate to accompany the whole squad as an education officer.

They flew to the Faroe Islands, playing three games - against the Faroes, Iceland and Northern Ireland.

They won two games and drew with Iceland.



A knight to remember at Cardiff Castle



In June the History department took forty Year 7 pupils to Cardiff Castle for a medieval experience.

Pupils took in the sights and sounds of medieval stalls and combat displays before the excitement of a jousting competition. To the sounds of fanfares, the Knights of Royal England performed breathtaking displays of the noble art of jousting with horseback stunts and ferocious blows.

The pupils were impressed by the battles, beautiful horses and thoroughly enjoyed the eventful day!



Amazing Aboriginal Art



Pictured opposite are this year's winners of the Year 8 Aboriginal Art 3D creature competition.

Talented artists Nia Jones, Connor Williams and Matty Allen showed high levels of creativity, skill and imagination to create their outstanding outcomes.

The winning pupils were presented with vouchers by Assistant Headteacher, Mr Dellow, to purchase art equipment of their choice.



Pupils top the table at BTP Tournament

The girls football squad attended the annual under-13s British Transport Police tournament at Play Football, Treboeth.

Having got off to a rocky start against Brynteg, the girls eventually won 4-2, before going on to beat Cwrt Sart and Fitzalen. After emerging winners of their group, the girls played Pentrehafod in the semi-final round and then Tonyrefail in the final.

Thanks to a number of outstanding saves by goalkeeper Kaycie Hayes and undeniable defending by captain, Nia Probert, the girls were able to steal the win through a phenomenal strike off the right boot of Emily Richards. The girls were delighted to lift the winning trophy in the sunshine.



Pupils prove their strength in numbers



The mathematics department entered thirty Year 8 and twenty Year 7 pupils for the 2015 Junior Mathematics Challenge, a national competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust to identify the top mathematicians in the country.

From a national entry of over 250,000 pupils only the top 6% receive gold certificates, the next 13% receive silver awards and the following 21% receive bronze awards.

The school's Year 8 pupils performed well, gaining five silver and nine bronze awards. Ryan Mattick also received a best performance in school award.

Silver	Ryan Mattick
	Kelly-Anne Duke
	Rhianna Kinsey-Jones
	Vrishank Shrivastava
	Iwan Thomas
Bronze	Ajay Bater
	Lewis Morris
	Chloe Mills
	Corie Jarrett
	Callum Mills
	Lewis Smith
	Connor Williams
	Stephanie Boyle
	Alys Grove



Thursday 24th September 5pm-7pm - A Level Open Evening

Wednesday 21st October 5pm-7pm - Afan Campus Open Evening

Thursday 22nd October 5pm-7pm - Neath Campus Open Evening

For more information, visit nptcgroup.ac.uk



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