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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI
MEDI 2015

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



Celebrating GCSE Success

A comprehensive report of GCSE results achieved last year will be included in 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.

- 98% of our pupils achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at A*-C
- 79% of our pupils achieved at least 9 GCSEs at A*-C
- 71% of our pupils achieved at least 10 GCSEs at A*-C
- 27 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 - 9 OR MORE QUALIFICATIONS

Charlie Bloomer	12 A*, 1 Distinction, 3 skills
Yasmin Jenkins	10 A*, ½ A, 2 skills
Megan Blackford	6 A*, 5 A, 1 Distinction, 3 skills
Caoimhe Murphy	6 A*, 5 A, 1 Distinction, 3 skills
Daniel Young	4 ½ A*, 6 ½ A, 3 skills
Ben Williams	6 A*, 4 ½ A, 1 Distinction, ½ B, 3 skills
Ioan Clarke	5 A*, 5 A, 1 Distinction, 3 skills
Kieran Mills	4 ½ A*, 5 ½ A, 1 Pass, 3 skills
Joseph Thompson	4 ½ A*, 5 ½ A, 3 skills
Joshua Goodey	3 A*, 7 A, 3 skills
Summer Clairmonte	2 ½ A*, 8 ½ A, 3 skills
Charlie Milnes	6 A*, 1 Distinction*, 3 A, 2 skills

Ellen McNamara	5 A*, 4 A, 1 Distinction, 1 B, 3 skills
Leah Sell	3 A*, 6 ½ A, 1 Distinction, ½ B, 3 skills
Gabrielle Paskins	3 ½ A*, 6 A, 1 B, 3 skills
Lucy Rees	6 A*, 3 A, 1 B, 1 Merit, 3 skills
Nathan Moorley	4 ½ A*, 4 ½ A, 1 C, 3 skills
Amber Jones	3 A*, 6 ½ A, 1 ½ B, 4 skills
Gabrielle Hornshaw	4 A*, 4 A, 1 Distinction, 2 B, 3 skills
George Jones	3 A*, 6 A, 1 B, 3 skills
Rosie Rees	2 ½ A*, 6 ½ A, 1 B, 3 skills
Isobel Robb	2 ½ A*, 6 ½ A, 1 B, 3 skills
Ryan Morris	2 A*, 7 A, 1 B, 3 skills

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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Year 11 Targeted Parents Evening	7th October	Year 7 Targeted Parents' Evening	25th November
Year 8 "Rosie's War" trip	8th October	School production	1st-3rd December
Music GCSE Evening	14th October	Year 11 Mock GCSE examinations	7th-15th December
Charity Week	19th-22nd October	Year 7 Literacy & Numeracy evening	9th December
KS3 Annual Presentation Evening	22nd October	Christmas lunch	9th December
INSET day	23rd October	Trip to Germany	9th-13th December
October half term	26th-30th October	Welsh trip to Llangrannog	11th-13th December
Primary School Sports Skills Day	5th November	RS trip to Auschwitz	14th-15th December
Primary School Technology Skills Day	6th November	Last day of Autumn term	18th December
KS4 Annual Presentation Evening	11th November	INSET day	4th January
Year 10 Internal Examinations	16th-20th November	First day of Spring term	5th January



Staff news

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new teaching staff that started in September - Michael Williams (Science), Emma Curry (Geography), Louise Evans (Maths/Science), Clare Harris (Maths) and Eve Starr (English). Also Joanne Collins (Science Technician) joins our Science department.



Going green

Year 11 Environmental Science pupils enjoyed a sunny day carrying out fieldwork at Cwm Clydach RSPB reserve and the Lliw reservoirs.

Pupils investigated deciduous and coniferous woodland, conservation management strategies, renewable energy and water management.

Bon Voyage!



In July, 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 skills in a talent contest. They thoroughly enjoyed the visits to a local French market in the village of Laval and Le Mont Saint-Michel. To finish off the weekend, they enjoyed a day out in Disneyland Paris.



A Midsummer Night's Dream



The English Department have organised an exciting trip to the Pontardawe Arts Centre to attend a morning workshop and afternoon production of William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

This is an additional opportunity provided for our 'Able and Talented' pupils and should prove to be an enjoyable and memorable experience for concerned.



A trip to the Mosel Valley



Forty-five Year 8 pupils spent four days in the Mosel Valley, Germany.

They enjoyed a boat trip along the Mosel; a trip in a chair lift into the mountains of Saabourg to see the magnificent views with a 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.



Designed to achieve



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY TECHNOLEG

Forty-one 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 85% at A*-C, with a quarter achieving at A* or A grade.

Fifty-seven Year 11 pupils who had achieved similar success in Year 10 went on to achieve another GCSE in Graphic Products this year, with a 88% success rate at A*-C and nearly a third gaining this qualification at A* or A grade.



A picture perfect performance



ART CELF

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

Twenty-one pupils were entered and gained an A*-C. In addition, two thirds 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.



Succeeding in science



SCIENCE GWYDDONIAETH

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. 74% achieved an A*-C grade, with 29 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.



Work Experience Week

Year 10 pupils took part in work experience week from 13th to the 17th July 2015.

It proved an extremely successful week with the majority of the year group gaining placements in a wide range of local organisations including local primary schools, council offices, plumbing companies, major retailers and local shops, dog kennels, South Wales Police (police dog training), crèches, solicitors, The Grand Theatre, banks, riding stables, hairdressers, restaurants, graphic designers, factories, construction companies and Buffoon film and media.

Pupils who were not able to arrange placements during the work experience week attended a number of activities within the school to develop work related skills. Activities included:

- learning about the world of work and developing work skills through role play, games and dance during a 'Positive Steps' workshop delivered by Tan Dance;
- a one-day work shop (delivered by school staff) on searching and applying for jobs, including completing application forms, creating a Curriculum Vitae and preparing for an interview;
- developing a pizza business through an enterprise session delivered by 'Base Wales';
- designing and creating willow objects in the school drama studio including a willow version of the school logo delivered by 'Out to Learn Willow'.



Saving the Size of Wales



GEOGRAPHY
DAEARYDDIAETH

Year 7 finished the summer term by celebrating Cwmtawe's success at gaining an EcoSchool's Platinum Award during our annual EcoDay.

Pupils held a non-uniform day to raise funds for Size of Wales and enjoyed a series of workshops including making willow decorations with Out to Learn Willow, learning about palm oil and rainforest destruction with Size of Wales and the problem of litter with Keep Wales Tidy. During lessons pupils mapped our litter 'hotspots', calculated the cost of litter picking, found out about e-waste, investigated what happens to our plastic and surveyed our waste in different languages!



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. Pictured below are just some of the delighted pupils who collected results this year.



Cwmtawe's gang-stars take to the stage for school production 'Bugsy Malone'



Rehearsals are commencing for our annual school production which will be Bugsy Malone this year.

It will be held at Cwmtawe School from Tuesday, 1st December to Thursday, 3rd December.

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

Bugsy Malone
Dandy Dan
Fat Sam

Blousey
Tallulah

- Ben Jones (Year 7)
- Iwan Renesto (Year 10)
- Ross Dyson (Year 10)
- Ellie Davies (Year 10)
- Alana Rees (Year 10)
- Seren Shaw (Year 9)

Sporting champions



Karolina Bacakova (Year 9), Olivia Michael (Year 11) and Tom Slade (Year 10) have recently been named County Athletics Champions in the long jump 800m and spring hurdles respectively.

Our new athletics vests, pictured opposite, have been kindly donated by Neath Port Talbot Credit Union.

We are also delighted to continue our 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 between their training.

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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