



PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Haf 2016

Dear Parents, / Annwyl Rhini,

I am delighted to bring you our latest newsletter, packed with activities and events that pupils have been involved in across the school. The highlights in the newsletter give a flavour of the outstanding achievements and breadth of opportunities experienced over the last few months. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno ein cylchlythyr diweddaraf, yn llawn newyddion am y gweithgareddau y bu'r disgyblion yn cymryd rhan ynddynt ar draws yr ysgol. Hyderaf y bydd yr uchafbwyntiau yn y cylchlythyr yn rhoi blas i chi o lwyddiannau'r disgyblion ynghyd â gwybodaeth am y rhychwant o gyfleoedd a brofwyd dros y misoedd diwethaf. Rwy'n gobeithio y byddwch yn mwynhau ei ddarllen.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. L. Hitchings

Headteacher / Prifathro

ATTENDANCE / PRESENOLDEB

School attendance currently stands at 94.5%

This would not be possible without your support as parents/carers in ensuring your children attend regularly. It would also be appreciated if you could organise medical and dental appointments outside the school day whenever possible. **Good attendance has a direct impact on pupil achievement.**

SUMMER FESTIVAL

A Summer festival will be held at Cwmtawe School from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, 9th July.

There will be a car boot stall rental and sale, a food stall, games, hog roast, live music, activities for children and much more.

Entry for adults is £1.00 with free entry for children.

PTA NEWS / NEWYDDION Y GYMDEITHAS RHINI

The PTA at Cwmtawe is a small group of active parents and teachers with a common goal – improving the quality of provision for your children.

If you are interested in joining the PTA, please contact Mrs. G. Morgan (Assistant Headteacher) at the school.

SENIOR PREFECTS / UWCH-SWYDDOGION

The senior prefect team for next year has been selected.

Head Boy: Adam Moorley

Head Girl: Sophie Hawkins



Deputy Head Boys:

Joseff Nicholls-De Freitas

Euan Renesto

Deputy Head Girls:

Isobel Thomas

Harriet Sadler

Senior Prefects - Boys:

Kalem Mills

Rhys Thair

Dafydd Weaver

Declan Rowlands

Ryan Dew

Senior Prefects - Girls:

Jessica Flint

Georgia Cosiello

Jessica Birt

Alana Rees

Mai Rees

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY / DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

1 July

Year 9 pupils
climbing Snowdon

4 July

Year 10 exams start

7 July

Music department
Summer Concert

13 July

Eco Day

18 July

Charity Bike Ride

18 July

School trips

19 July

School trips

20 July

Last day of term

25 August

GCSE Results day

1 September

INSET day

2 September

INSET day

5 September

First day for pupils





LLANGRANNOG

The Welsh department ran its annual, fun-packed activity weekend to the Urdd Residential Centre in Llangrannog last December. There were a host of activities for the pupils which included a dry ski slope, horse riding, a swimming pool, tobogganing, go-karts, quad bikes, archery, a climbing course, astroturf football, games in the sports hall as well as trampolining.

Evening quizzes were a chance to relax informally after the day's exertions.

The Centre and surrounding picturesque area has a distinct Welsh environment which gave pupils the opportunity to improve their language skills through leisure activities.

Course co-ordinator and Welsh teacher Caryl Evans said "Many pupils return regularly to the Centre, reflecting their enjoyment of the course. It is a combination of fun and learning new skills and it's just as well that the Centre's food is tasty and sumptuous after all the open-air activities.

Pupils thoroughly enjoy the beautiful coastline and countryside at Llangrannog and it's rewarding to hear them practising their Welsh with the staff at the centre".



LIVING IT UP IN OUR CAPITAL CITY

At the beginning of May, pupils spent two days in Cardiff, staying at the Urdd hostel at the back of the Millennium Centre in the heart of Cardiff Bay. They enjoyed a tour of the Principality Stadium, canoeing in the new water centre, bowling, a trip in a speed boat around Cardiff Bay, ice skating as well as free time shopping.



PUPILS CELEBRATE ANNUAL EISTEDDFOD

The annual School Eisteddfod was an overwhelming success with pupils competing to earn points for their houses in a wide range of competitions such as street dance, music, recitation and folk dancing.

Hours were spent rehearsing under the enthusiastic guidance of pupils from Years 10 and 11. Winners in homework competitions in all subjects were also awarded prizes.

Pupils were dressed in their house colours and at the end of an exuberant day the victorious house was the Green House.





During April, the English Faculty ran a trip to Cardiff's New Theatre to see J. B. Priestley's critically acclaimed play 'An Inspector Calls,' one of the GCSE Literature prescribed texts. Over fifty Year 11 pupils attended the trip and thoroughly enjoyed the dramatic interpretation of the play, which included an onstage exploration of the Birling family household and 'indoor rain' stage effects. The trip proved to be a successful tool to aid revision for the impending examination.

AIMING HIGH

In February 2016, pupils from Cwmtawe visited the beautiful and historic Oriel College Oxford as part of its Outreach programme. The programme is designed to encourage applications from academically able students, regardless of background. Whilst at the college the pupils enjoyed a taster lecture in electronics, a tour of college accommodation and were treated to lunch in the impressive surroundings of the refectory.



SWANSEA HARRIERS

Tyler Cook (Year 9) has competed for Swansea Harriers, running the under 15s 60 metre Sprint Hurdles. He has won both the Welsh Invitational and the Welsh Indoor Championships to become under 15s Welsh Indoor Champion. A most promising start to the year.

UNDER 13s GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM

Congratulations to the under 13s girls football team who won the Neath Port Talbot SCFC tournament, playing 8 games and winning 8. The girls then competed for the prize of representing SCFC at Goodison Park in May in the Inter-Regional Tournament, unfortunately narrowly losing in the semi final to a strong Bishopston team. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and meeting Lee Trundle and Wayne Routledge at the tournament added to the thrill. Squad members are:- Katelyn Kneath (captain), Amelia Muir, Molly Tyrrell, Shannon Cooper-Richards, Natasha Williams, Megan Amber, Lili Lewis and Cerys Marlow.



WELSH CUP WINNERS

The School is celebrating the success of its girls' under 15s football team winning the Welsh Schools Cup. Indeed a video of one of their goals has become an internet sensation!

Cwmtawe beat Llanidloes 3-1 in the final held at Newtown.

Fourteen year old Emily Richards scored two of Cwmtawe's goals with Alana Rees adding to the score.

A referees' association "ref-cam" video of the first goal went viral after being posted on the internet and has been seen across the world. The video shows a stunning free kick way outside the penalty box.

Coach and Physical Education teacher Kareena Ardolino said "The competition was very hard fought and showed the talent of many of our girls who have been committed and hard working throughout the tournament".

Squad members were: Georgia Cosiello (captain), Isobel Thomas, Alana Rees, Bryanna Demery, Emily Richards, Nia Probert, Jamie Edwards, Lettie Tomkins, Rachel Graham, Rosie Morrissey, Chloe McQuaide, Kaycie Hayes, Katie Davies, Zoe Laugharne and Katelyn Kneath.





UK German Connection

Head girl, Sophie Hawkins, was one of twelve pupils in the UK selected to attend a German Connection course. She will join young people from Scotland, Ireland and England on an intensive language course for a fortnight during July in Ortenburt, Bavaria. Sophie will be hosted by a family and will attend formal lessons in school during the mornings and spend each afternoon taking part in cultural experiences and trips, immersing herself in the German culture. On return, she will act as a language ambassador, promoting German in primary schools.

PROM!

The end of school prom is one of the eagerly anticipated events of the school year for Year 11 pupils and a fitting celebration of their five years at Cwmtawe. As a taster, pupils organised a prom fashion show during the Spring term to raise money for charity.

Twelve girls and twelve boys took to the catwalk, modelling suits from Hanson Hire and dresses from Stardust Boutique. They were also fortunate to have their hair styled by Bethan Power.

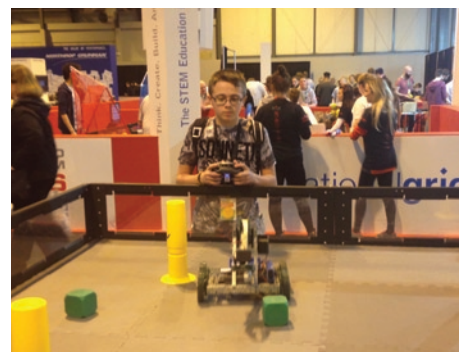
The evening was deftly compered by Miss Ardolino and models were joined by many talented musicians who performed on the evening.

They all thoroughly enjoyed the prom itself, which was held at the Manor Park on 30th June.



BIG BANG

The Science Department organised a trip to the Big Bang Fair at Birmingham NEC during the Spring term. This is the largest celebration of science technology, engineering and maths in the UK. Pupils saw the many exciting and rewarding opportunities that are open to them through science.



ASD AWARENESS WEEK

Cwmtawe celebrated ASD Awareness Week at the end of March with planned practical activities which were undertaken during registration time. Pupils watched videos, produced posters to highlight awareness and participated in fun practical sessions to help with their empathy of ASD difficulties.

Assemblies during the week highlighted the difficulties that people with autism may experience. Everyone benefited from this thought-provoking presentation – as one pupil, Madison Martin, said, “just because people have autism it doesn’t mean they are any different from all of us”.



GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Year 10 pupils spent a weekend at the Christmas markets of Bonn and Cologne. They enjoyed a festive advent trip on the river Rhine, savouring a three course meal. Pupils also tested their ice-skating skills in the open air at Bonn and visited the Winter Wonderland at one of Europe’s largest theme parks in Phantasialand. A trip has also been arranged for next Christmas.

GERMAN / ALMAENEG



HOLOCAUST ASSEMBLY 2016

Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated every year on January 27th. This is the day when the UK remembers all those affected by the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur. All across the UK hundreds of thousands of people were marking HMD in 2016 in many public and private sectors. Cwmtawe Community School honoured Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 through daily presentations in morning registration and year group assemblies.

Through remembering acts of genocide like the Holocaust, pupils understood that unfortunately the world has not learnt from the Holocaust and realised the importance of not standing by and watching as genocide develops. However, pupils were presented a story of hope, the story of one man who spoke up when the genocides were taking place. The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was 'Don't stand by' and during each assembly pupils learned about Sir Nicholas Winton, who simply did not stand by. Throughout the presentation the choir created an emotional and reflective atmosphere, singing a medley of 'Footprints in the Sand' and 'Run' by Leona Lewis. Learners appreciated that while our community is one which is free from genocide, to prevent prejudice, persecution and injustice taking root, individuals must join as a community and not stand by!

WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR

On Friday 20th May the Watoto Children's Choir visited Cwmtawe school. The choir tours the world annually to advocate millions of African children currently orphaned by AIDS, poverty and war. The choir's Concerts of Hope are held across the globe.

Through the school CiCS club team, which is made up of members from the local churches, Cwmtawe was fortunate to have Watoto visit our school. Year 7 and 8 were inspired as the children sang, danced and celebrated their stories of hope in the morning. By the afternoon Watoto fever had spread throughout the school and the evening performance was filled with members of our community and our young people.



Showjumping Champion
Abi Phillips from Year 9 represented the school in the British National Schools Showjumping Competition, winning the 90 cm event. She regularly competes in prestigious competitions, including the Royal Welsh Show.



Kick Boxing Champion
Victoria Perkins in Year 7 won the British Title Under 45 kilos in kick boxing.

WELSH BACCALAUREATE

As part of their Welsh Baccalaureate, Year 10 pupils are undertaking several global awareness and community challenges. One group has presented a series of assemblies for Years 7 to 10, raising awareness of global poverty. Their teacher Miss Jones said "The response from staff and their fellow pupils has been absolutely superb. Not only have they been able to spread a powerful message, they also managed to have an impact on the education of children from Nepal. It is amazing that pupils previously raised £1,000 by doing a charity hike up Pen Y Fan. This was donated to the Mahendra Jyoti School which had been destroyed by last year's earthquake. The pupils have received letters of thanks from the Nepalese head teacher along with photos showing the devastation and now the rebuild of their school."



Another Welsh Bac group is delivering a cookery course where they teach pupils from the school's ASD Unit. They meet the pupils during weekly lunch time sessions and everyone thoroughly enjoys learning new skills. These are budding young teachers who are sharing their own skills with fellow pupils at the school. They have linked their work to other community activities and will be selling the product of their endeavours in the charity Car Boot Sale to be held on 9th July.



CREDIT UNION / UNDEB CREDYD

Did you know that we have our own bank in school?

Do you want to save for trips or the School Prom?

Get into good saving habits by putting money into your account every Monday and Thursday lunchtimes. Credit Union is open from 1.20 p.m. - 1.50 p.m. outside the drama studio.

Please see Mrs. S. Terry to open an account.



MATHEMATICS / MATHEMATEG

Pupils prove their strength in numbers

The Mathematics Department entered 22 pupils from Year 10 and 28 pupils from Year 9 for the 2016 Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. The challenge is a national competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust to identify the top mathematicians in the country.

From a national entry of over 200,000 pupils, only the top 6% receive gold certificates, the next 13% receive silver awards and the following 21% receive bronze awards.

The school's pupils were very successful, gaining 1 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze awards.

The successful candidates were:-

Year 10

Silver:	Katy Bloomer	Isobel Thomas	Hannah Carson-Jones
Bronze:	Tom Slade	Adam Moorley	Declan Rowlands

Year 9

Gold:	Ryan Mattick	
Silver:	Llian Davies	Anastasia Stockton
Bronze:	Iwan Thomas	Chloe Mills

Ryan Mattick has now qualified for the next round of the competition and will compete against students from across Europe in the GREY KANGAROO for year 9 students.



WELSH BAC STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to former pupil Megan Bailey for being awarded "Gower College Welsh Baccalaureate Student of the Year".



NETBALL STAR / SEREN PÊL-RWYD

Jasmine Tate was selected to play for the under 13s Neath Port Talbot netball development squad and represented the county in a tournament in Cardiff.

CHARITY BIKE RIDE

Staff are cycling a challenging "Little Lap of Wales" in memory of a popular former assistant head teacher Amanda Hodson from Bryncoch who sadly passed away four years ago at the age of thirty nine following her battle with cancer. The group of fifteen staff will cycle for 300 miles over four days, from Pontardawe, through Hereford, Bala, and New Quay and back to Pontardawe.



They will return to the Pontardawe Inn by 5.00 p.m on Wednesday, 20th July where an auction will be held. Amongst auctioned items will be a Welsh football squad shirt, tickets for a Swansea City game of your choice, a meal at the Butchers Arms and many more.

Money will be raised for two charities – the Amanda Hodson Pupil Welfare Fund and Macmillan Cancer Support. Should anyone wish to make a donation, they can contact Cwmtawe Community School in Pontardawe on 01792 863200 or cwmtaweschool@npted.org

SUCCESS AT THE URDD / LLWYDDIANT YN YR URDD

Congratulations to Jordan Lewis from Year 11 on representing the county in the National Urdd Eisteddfod in Flint this year. He competed in the wind instrument solo competition under 19 years.



SWANS STARS!

Warmest congratulations are extended to Matthew Blake who won the under 16s Player of the Year and to Joe Lewis for winning the Academy Manager Player of the Year. We wish them and other members of the Swans Academy at Cwmtawe School well as they sign professional contracts with Swansea City AFC. Yes, remember their names when they run out for the Swans in a few years!



FRENCH/FFRANGEG/FRANCAIS



In June, eighty Year 7 pupils embarked on the annual trip to the Château Beaumont in France. En route to the Château, the group visited "Le Mont St. Michel", the incredible medieval city built on granite in the middle of the sea. On Saturday morning they had a surprise visit to the Welsh national football team camp in Dinard, Brittany before spending some time in the beautiful walled city of St. Malo. Pupils were excited to meet their sporting heroes and watched the players going through their paces in training for their final group game against Russia.

On Sunday, pupils had a full day of activities at the Château before heading home via Eurodisney on Monday.

The highlight for everyone had to be the visit to the Welsh team camp. Head of the French Department, Angharad Evans, said "It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the children. They couldn't believe that they were meeting the Welsh stars of Euro 2016. They had photographs taken with players and a tour of the media centre as well as seeing part of the training session." Wales manager, Chris Coleman, was presented with a lovespoon gift from pupils Michael Morgan and Sophie Evans. He thanked pupils, adding "The Wales squad has worked really hard to get us to a major tournament and I hope the pupils from Cwmtawe Community School will be influenced by this experience to drive them on to achieve personal success with their studies and future prospects".





VALENCIA!

The girls football and netball teams have been enjoying a long weekend at a sports tournament in Valencia recently, playing against teams from other European countries.

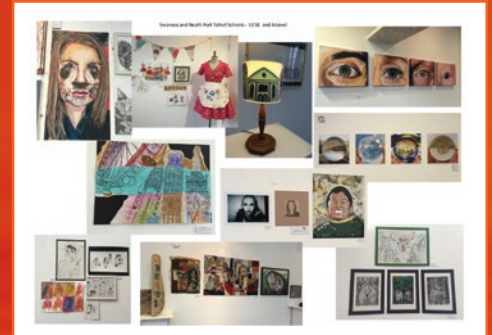


TENNIS

Year 9 pupils Rachel Graham, Nia Jones, Jamie Edwards and Lettie Tomkins won the Neath Port Talbot area round in a county tennis tournament. They will now represent the county in the national finals in Cardiff in September. In the same tournament Matthew Hardy won the fair play award.

ART /CELF

An exhibition was held at the end of June in the Grand Theatre showcasing some of the best pieces of GCSE and A-level work produced this year. Neath Port Talbot LA had teamed up with Swansea and each school chose their three top final pieces of work for the exhibition. The talented pupils we selected from Cwmtawe were Ruth Harry, Rhianedd Williams and Danielle Higginson. Out of all the schools in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot that entered Danielle Higginson won! She received a £25 iTunes voucher as well as a certificate from Llwyn y Bryn Art College. Danielle said "This has given me the confidence to exhibit my work".



RAF ROADSHOW

Year 9 pupils were mesmerized by an RAF presentation recently. 'Fun with Flight' was a 50-minute jet fuelled presentation exploring the physics of flying. Students discovered how the physics they study in the classroom is an integral part of the work that engineers undertake in the RAF and other engineering organisations.

Some of the exciting demonstrations included drones, balloons, airships and even jet engines. They enjoyed learning about the microlight world altitude record and the physics behind how the RAF achieved their goal. Pupils even got to try out new virtual reality equipment - which frightened everyone!

The Roadshow was devised in response to the Government's acknowledgement that there is already a shortfall of 'home grown' scientists and engineers to meet the needs of the country. By capturing the interest of young people aged 12 - 14, they can hopefully increase the numbers that take STEM subjects and ultimately increase the pool of talent in years to come.





PEER MENTORS

The peer mentors for 2016-17 were announced following a rigorous application and interview process which saw over 80 applicants. Forty Year 9 peer mentors have been appointed and they began their duties on Induction Day with the Year 6 pupils on Tuesday June 28th. They will receive a full day's training at the end of term as well as an opportunity to speak to previous peer mentors. Responsibilities will include offering support to new Year 7 pupils, being visible on the school yard at break times and also working with groups in the peer mentoring room at lunchtimes.

STAFF NEWS / NEWYDDION STAFF

Congratulations to the following staff on the birth of their children recently:- Catrin Roberts (Welsh and Head of Year 11) on the birth of Megan Elizabeth; Gemma Elson (Technology and Art) on the birth of Polly Marie; Daniel Lear (Mathematics) on the birth of Ivy Rebekah.



The School will be sorry to see Mrs. Rebecca Wintle (second in the English department) leave. She has been a longstanding, valued member of staff and we wish her well as she moves on to pastures new.

LESOTHO WALES LINK

Design Technology teacher Victoria Ellis has just returned from a 6 month sabbatical to Lesotho run by the charity Dolen Cymru. She was volunteering in Paray High School, in the rural town of Thaba Tseka, teaching Home Economics, helping the teachers to introduce the new integrated curriculum and lecturing to trainee teachers in the Lesotho College of Education. It was a far cry from Cwmtawe - pupils were taught in classrooms with limited facilities and resources, and carried out manual labour every day. Many children were orphans, food was often limited due to the current drought situation and with the HIV rate at 24%, every day was a challenge. Despite these difficulties the children were so happy and keen to learn. They were incredibly grateful for the stationery that Cwmtawe had donated to them, they couldn't believe that they were allowed to keep it and were proud to bring it to their lessons. Cwmtawe is now linked with Paray and it is hoped that the pupils from both schools will communicate with each other and share experiences of their lives and help develop their knowledge of Global Citizenship.



YSGOL GYMUNEDOL **CWMTAWE** COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4EG

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



twitter.com/cwmtaweschool



facebook.com/cwmtaweschool



instagram.com/cwmtaweschool



youtube.com/cwmtaweschool



cwmtawe.org

Headteacher / Prifathro
Mr. C. L. Hitchings

Tel / Ffôn: (01792) 863200

Fax / Ffacs: (01792) 864773

Email / Epost: cwmtaweschool@npted.org

