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COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

MEDI 2016

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 fwynhau eich gwyliau Haf.

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 one of the highest GCSE pass rates (A*-C) in Neath Port Talbot.

- 96% of our pupils achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at A*- C
- 89% of our pupils achieved at least 9 GCSEs at A*- C.
- 68% of our pupils achieved at least 10 GCSEs at A*- C.
- 28 pupils gained 8 or more GCSEs at A* or A grade.

No pupils have left Cwmtawe in the last ten years without a recognised qualification.

★ HIGH ACHIEVERS

Huda Mohammed	11A*, 1 Distinction
Charlie Mallinson	9A*, 2A
Imran Khan White	8A*, 3 A, 1 Pass
Ryan Carson	5A*, 5A, 1½ A, 1B
Caitlin Tems	6A*, 4½ A, 1B
William Roberts	5A*, 5A
Mollie Sheppard	4A*, 5A, 1B, 1C, 1 Distinction
Mollie Ubsdell	4A*, 5A, 1B, 1 Distinction
Olivia Michael	3A*, 7A
Finlay Powell-Jones	8A*, 1A, 1B, 1Merit
Carys Copp	6A*, 3A, 1B
Laura Harper	6A*, 3A, 1B
Rhianedd Williams	5A*, 4 ½ A, 2B
Rhydian Williams	5A*, 4½ A

Samuel Davies	5A*, 4A, 1B, 1 Pass
Emily Lewis	4½A*, 5A, 1B
Olivia Rees	3A*, 6A, 1B
Estelle Thomas	2A*, 7A, 1B
Kira Wodehouse	4½ A*, 3½ A, 1B
Kieran Williams	5A*, 3A, 2B
April Larcombe	4A*, 4A, 2B
Nia Roderick	3A*, 5A, 2½ B
Rhys Kinsey-Jones	2A*, 6 ½ A, 1B, 1C, 1 Distinction
Joshua Harris	2A*, 6A, 2B
Callum Birch-Williams	1A*, 7A, 3B, 1Merit
Tomas Coles	1½ A*, 6A, 1B, 1C, 1 Distinction
Joe Lewis	1A*, 7A, 1B, 1C
Rhys Laugharne	2A*, 6A, 2B, 1C

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

Whole School Photograph	14 October	GCSE Mathematics Numeracy Paper 2	4 November
Charity Week	17-20 October	PTA Meeting	8 November
Year 8 Drama/History Trip	19 October	Year 10 Internal Examinations	14-18 November
Key Stage 3 Annual Presentation Evening	20 October	Year 7 Targeted Parents Evening	23 November
INSET DAY	21 October	Closing date for new Year 7 applications	25 November
Half Term	24-28 October	School Production	29-30 November
First day back for pupils	31 October	PTA Christmas Fayre	2 December
GCSE Mathematics Numeracy Paper 1	2 November	Year 11 Mock Examinations	5-13 December
Year 6 Sports Skills Day	3 November	Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch	16 December
Year 6 Technology Skills Day	4 November	Last Day of Term	16 December

STAFF NEWS NEWYDDION STAFF

Congratulations to Hayley Keane (Head of Year 8 and German teacher) on the birth of her daughter Addiena Renée Keane.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new teaching staff who started in September:- Mark Skuse, Assistant Headteacher, Daniel English, MFL maternity cover, Nia James-Deane and Katherine Sails, English Faculty, and Keri Williams, Maths/RS.

STAFF CHARITY BIKE RIDE TAITH FEICIO STAFF

At the end of the Summer term a group of fifteen staff cycled 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. On their return to Pontardawe, following a gruelling three days cycling, an auction was held, all of which raised a substantial amount of money for the Amanda Hodson Pupil Welfare Fund and Macmillan Cancer Support.



RUNNING FOR CHARITY RHEDEG DROS ELUSEN

Miss Emma Jackson in the English Department has been raising awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning after the death of her father, Fred Jackson. On her birthday, she ran the Cardiff Half Marathon to encourage people to buy a carbon monoxide detector and take one on any trips away to protect people from this silent killer.

Fred Jackson, aged 52, of Llanelli, died of carbon monoxide poisoning in a hotel in Newquay, Cornwall.

"As a family, we want to create awareness, protect people and do something positive to prevent more needless deaths. Our main message is to get a carbon monoxide detector today and tell your friends and family to do the same."

Go to <http://www.co-bealarmed.co.uk/> for further information.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

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Pupils had a surprise visitor on Friday, 30 September, as Swansea City FC goalkeeper Gerhard Tremmel arrived at the school to join celebrations of the European Day of Languages.

Pupils enjoyed meals with an European theme in the school dining hall, and took part in quizzes and other fun events to raise awareness of different languages.

Staff played their part by arranging a coffee morning with delicious snacks from all parts of Europe, which also raised funds for Macmillan's Cancer Appeal.

Gerhard Tremmel was delighted to join in and support the activities.

The Swans are well known for attracting talented footballers from all over Europe and wider afield who have loved making Swansea their home.

In the Champions' League of Languages, the Swans come out as the third most cultured, language-wise squad, with the Liberty Stadium players speaking eight different languages, including Swedish, German, Polish, Icelandic, Spanish, Dutch and Korean.

Gerhard Tremmel was already an experienced goalkeeper when he came to Swansea in 2011 after playing in Germany's top flight Bundesliga, and was the club's main keeper in the successful 2013 League Cup and Europa League campaigns.

Delighted Year 8 and 11 pupils took part in a question and answer session, asking the player about how much he likes living in Wales and being part of the team.

Mr Hitchings, Headteacher, told the press "We are proud of the school's links with Swansea City as several academy players are Cwmtawe pupils. We were very pleased to welcome a senior club player who has contributed so much to the Swans' success."

Throughout the day our pupils learnt a great deal about how learning different European languages can widen horizons and open up new opportunities.



Designed to Achieve



Fifty seven 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 72% at A*-C, with a quarter achieving at A* or A grades.

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.



Picture Perfect Performance



Nine pupils have passed their Art and Design GCSE a year earlier than expected, with nearly all gaining an 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. Two thirds achieved an A*-C. They are now studying their second science qualification and nearly fifty triple scientists will continue to study 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. Some of our new Year 7 pupils have been planning their costumes since before they started school. Both pupils and staff made the effort to dress up and raise money for the PTA, having 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. Over the last three years the PTA has funded resources, pupil rewards, presentations and new minibuses, allowing pupils to be transported to events in safety and style.



Skills Day

Year 6 pupils had a popstastic day at Cwmtawe earlier this term.

Able supported by our Senior Prefects they spent the day promoting a famous pop band.

Spending time in the ICT, Music and Art departments, our budding Simon Cowells and Sharon Osbournes directed a music video, recorded a radio jingle and created promotional artwork to promote their band's new single.

We look forward to seeing Year 6 again later this term when they join us for Technology and Sport Skills Days.



McDonald's Community Football Awards 2016 - Regional Winners

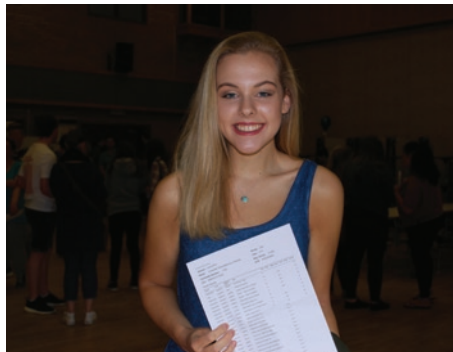
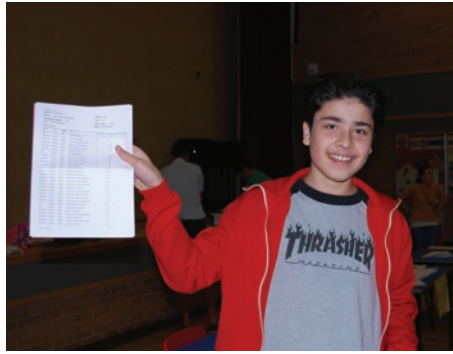
For nine years the FAW, FAW Trust and McDonald's have been running the Welsh Community Football Awards to recognise those who dedicate their time, effort and hard work into grassroots football throughout Wales.

This year's programme has again seen hundreds of people in Wales nominating their grassroots heroes across a number of regions and categories.

Cwmtawe School are delighted to announce that we were this year's Regional Winner in the West Wales FA.

Cwmtawe Celebrates GCSE Results

Results day is a highlight in our school calendar, a day when pupils celebrate their outstanding academic achievements.



A Child's Christmas in Wales



Rehearsals are starting for our annual school production which will be 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' this year. It will be held at Cwmtawe School on Tuesday and Wednesday, 29th and 30th November. Following auditions there was nervous excitement when the names of the leading characters were announced. They will be - Thomas Jones Year 8 (Young Dylan), Madison Delegado (Year 10), Fenella Ryan (Year 11) and Anastasia Stockton (Year 10) will all be playing the old Dylan as he looks back at his Christmas as a child. Connor Graham (Year 10) will play Dylan's dad and Dylan's mam will be played by Amy Brown (Year 10). We are all looking forward to the carolling in the production. Tickets will be on sale from the school after half term.

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.

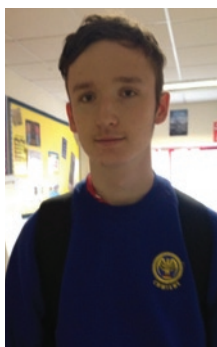
If after speaking to the Head of Year you are still unhappy, ask to speak to the Deputy Headteacher. If the matter is still unresolved, then please make an appointment to speak to the Headteacher.

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

TAMLAN EASTWOOD

Tamlan Eastwood (Year 11) represented Wales at table tennis at the UK School Games on September 1-4.

Over 1600 school age athletes from all over the UK were taking part in many sports, and a number of Rio Olympic gold medal winners (Games Alumni) also attended.



He played extremely well, and came away with a silver medal in the team event and a bronze in the individual event.

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Cwmtawe's Creative Writing Club is being run by a group of inspiring Year 10 pupils this year. Heather Brown, Chantale Davies, Katie Jenkins and Georgina Rees have kindly volunteered to run the club as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification. They will be planning the competitions including 'Busta Rhymes' poetry, The Rotary Young Writer of Year Award and 'Grim Tales' short stories. Themes for this year's workshops include song lyrics, Gothic fiction, fantasy and science fiction. For anyone interested, the club meets in E5 every Tuesday at 1.45pm. All welcome!



NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF WALES

As a school we extend our warmest congratulations to Eve Jones (Year 11) on successfully auditioning for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. Quite an achievement!



CICS

CiCS is a lunchtime club which is held every Wednesday at 1:50p.m. in H4. It is organised by the Religious Education department but is presented by local churches. There are games, puzzles, prizes and an opportunity to ask questions and discuss various issues. The Watoto children's choir who visited the school on Friday 20th May 2016, were introduced to Cwmtawe through the CiCS team.



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