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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS 2016

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

NADOLIG 2016

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another busy term I am delighted to bring you our latest newsletter, highlighting school events and the many successes of our pupils. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. Have a relaxing break and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Wednesday 4th January.

Annwyl Rieni,

Ar ddiwedd tymor prysur arall mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno ein cylchlythyr diweddaraf sy'n tynnu sylw at ddigwyddiadau'r ysgol a llwyddiannau niferus ein disgyblion. Rwy'n gobeithio y cewch fwynhad o'i ddarllen.

Hoffwn hefyd ddymuno nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd lewyrchus i chi gyd. Hyderaf y byddwch yn ymlacio dros yr Wyl ac edrychaf ymlaen at groesawu disgyblion nôl i'r ysgol ar ddydd Mercher 4 Ionawr.

Yours sincerely

Mr. C.L. Hitchings

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO

STAFF NEWS / NEWYDDION STAFF

Congratulations to Mrs Michelle Norton (English Faculty) and her husband on the birth of their son Joseph Lloyd Norton.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS / IECHYD DA!

Members of SNAG were asked to present to governors across the county in a training session to promote healthy schools. Miss Ellis and SNAG members outlined the positive impact SNAG has had in school and were praised for sharing their good practice.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

5-13 December	Year 11 Mock Exams	15 February	NPT College Afan Open Evening
6 December	Gower College Llwyn-y-Bryn Open Evening	16 February	NPT College Neath Open Evening
7 December	Christmas Lunch	17 February	Last day for pupils
7 - 11 December	German Christmas Market Trip	20 - 24 February	Half Term
9 - 11 December	Welsh trip to Llangrannog	27 February	First day back for pupils
16 December	Last day of term for pupils	1 March	Year 9 Parents Evening
2 January	Bank Holiday	1 March	School Eisteddfod
3 January	INSET day	3 March	Year 11 History Trip
4 January	First day of term for pupils	6 March	Gower College Open Evening
4 January	January GCSEs start	16 March	Year 10/11 Big Bang Science Trip
10 January	PTA meeting	22 March	Year 10 Parents Evening
16 January	Gower College Open Evening	7 April	End of Term
18 January	Year 9 Options Evening	10 - 21 April	Easter Break
25 January	Year 10 History Trip	24 April	INSET day
1 February	Year 11 Parents Evening	25 April	First day for pupils
15 February	Prom Fashion Show		

ENGLISH / SAESNEG

Pupils prove their point at Public Speaking Competition

Sophie Hawkins, Joseff Nicholls-De Freitas and Isobel Thomas (Year 11) competed in the Rotary Public Speaking competition, hosted by Cwmtawe School this year.

The topic discussed was "Should the legal driving age be raised to 18?". They competed against sixth form pupils and should feel very proud of their achievement.

The second part of the evening was a quiz where the above-mentioned pupils were joined by Adam Moorley.



HISTORY / HANES

On 30th November, a group of Year 9 pupils visited the Aberfan Memorial Garden and Cemetery to pay their respects to the victims of the tragedy. The trip was organised following a request from the class who had become aware of the event during the 50th anniversary commemorations.

Pupils had written a eulogy which they read out on behalf of the school and said a short prayer together at the site.

On the journey home they also visited the Rhondda Heritage Park as part of their study of Industrial Wales.



CHARITY WEEK / WYTHNOS ELUSENNAU

Staff and pupils got heavily involved in a variety of sponsored events and activities during Cwmtawe's annual charity week. Over £6,000 has been raised and we are supporting a number of local charities.

The ingenuity of the pupils in devising ways of raising money knew no bounds. Amongst the diverse activities were a mud slide, staff versus pupils sports matches, raffles, cake stalls, singathon as well as lots of other sponsored activities.

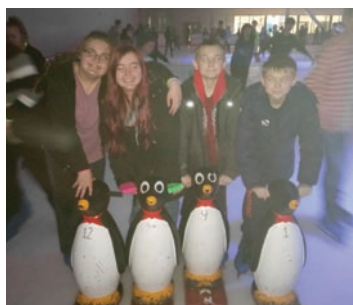


STAY AWAKEATHON

On Friday 2nd December, 40 pupils and staff took part in an all night 'stay awakeathon' on behalf of the Amanda Hodson Pupil Welfare Fund.

They started the evening by taking part in the Pontardawe Christmas Parade. Everyone dressed up as pantomime characters which included Dorothy, a tin man, scarecrow and lion, numerous munchkins, Goldilocks and her three bears, The Grinch, an Umpalumpa, with plenty of sweets being distributed to the children watching the parade. It was a great start to the night - Pontardawe square and all roads were packed with people enjoying the spectacular occasion.

From there it was down to Cardiff National Ice Rink for a midnight skating session from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. There were many spills and thrills but everyone enjoyed the activities. It was then time to head homewards and by 5 a.m. pupils were safely home tucked up in bed. Everyone might not have gone to the Land of Oz but it certainly felt like it.



AN 'X'TRA SPECIAL CHRISTMAS

A group of Year 7 pupils who made a significant contribution to fund raising activities accompanied Mr. Ayre and Mrs. Treharne-Morgan to Swansea to buy presents for the Mr. X Appeal.

Year 7 pupils donate to the appeal every Christmas which helps provide gifts to more than 4,000 underprivileged children every year. This appeal has been running for over half a century and as the founder, the late Mr. X said, "the appeal is about buying a gift, however big or small, and showing a little bit of kindness and Christmas spirit".

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and valued the opportunity to help such a worthy cause.

GIVE A JACK A JACKET



As a school we are supporting the homeless in Swansea, in association with Swansea City AFC. Any donations of unwanted jackets, coats or warm clothing will be gratefully received as the box will be in the school reception area until the end of term.

CWMTAWE'S SUPERCHEF

Cwmtawe's very own young Masterchef will be pitched against winners from across Wales in the final round of the Future Chef Competition.

One of our deputy head girls, Harriet Sadler, won high praise at the South Wales round of the Future Chef competition where she competed against pupils from four schools.

She wowed the judges with a two course menu of:

**Stuffed chicken wrapped in prosciutto,
autumn vegetable mash with a cauliflower cheese.**

Pear and blackberry crumble.

She will now compete against some of the best young chefs from across Wales at the final in Cardiff on the third of February.

Speaking after the competition, Harriet said "I am glad of the support of the school as I have learned so much about cooking and nutrition. It is a great opportunity to go on to the next round of the competition."



BOXING CHAMPION



Brandon Scott recently won the Welsh novice WABA championship 2016 and was presented with the Welsh vest. Brandon has also been selected for the West Wales divisional squad and fitness results show Brandon amongst the leaders.



OUTSTANDING ARTIST



Rhianedd Williams won the coveted award of outstanding pupil at GCSE Art last year and was presented with her award on presentation evening. She produced excellent work throughout her time in the school. Rhianedd worked diligently to become the first pupil to complete three GCSEs in the subject, achieving A* grades in Art & Design, Fine Art as well as Photography.



A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES



Cwmtawe School's Annual School Production was staged during the last week of November.

Following in the footsteps of previous highly acclaimed school productions, this year's A Child's Christmas in Wales lived up to expectations - indeed it was a spectacle which tantalised the senses.

"Older" Dylan Thomas / Narrators -

Fenella Ryan (Year 11) / Anastasia Stockton (Year 10) / Madyson Delegado-Bellido (Year 10)

"Young" Dylan Thomas - Thomas Jones (Year 8)

Dylan's Friends

Tom - Benjamin Jones (Year 8); Jim - Rhys Evans (Year 8); Jack - Craig Mattick (Year 7)

Mother - Amy Brown (Year 10)

Father - Connor Graham (Year 10)

Postman of Cwmdonkin Drive - Benjamin Walsh (Year 9)

Smoky, the Park Keeper - Ellis Thomas (Year 9)

Hannah, Father's sister, Dylan's Aunt - Seren Shaw (Year 10)

Gwyn, Dylan's uncle - Ben Atkinson (Year 9)

Nellie, Gwyn's wife - Eden Palterman (Year 9)

Glyn, Dylan's bachelor uncle - Harrison Thomas (Year 10)

Brenda and Glenda, Dylan's cousins - Mia Yates (Year 9) and Tilly Davies (Year 9)

Tudyr and Bessie, the parents of Brenda and Glenda -

Reuben Thomas (Year 9) and Celyn Harding (Year 10)

Eleri, Dylan's spinster aunt - Poppy Ubsdell (Year 10)

Murgatroyd, a hotel chauffeur - Matthew Way (Year 9)

Firemen - Benjamin Walsh (Year 9), Ellis Thomas (Year 9)

Constable Lloyd-Jones - Ceri Young (Year 9)

The Chorus

Year 7 - Nerissa Davies, Ellys Delegado-Bellido, Rhiannon Collom, Bethan Burns, Megan Worts

Year 8 - Erin Davies, Emily Payne, Molly Jones, Ellie Sanders, Courtney Whiteley, Rhys Miles, Jac Evans-Mason, Caitlyn Williams, Sofia Paskins

Year 9 - Ffion Hayward, Holly Bradshaw, Ffion Titcombe, Abbie Davies, Katie Thomas, Megan Delegado-Bellido, Ellie Hurley, Rachel Harris, Hannah Williams, Cara Mainwaring, Tia Lloyd, Nia Elliott, Timothy Kiley, Mathew Way, Emily Rogers, Grace Murphy, Ceri Young, Megan Rowe

Year 11 - Sophie Hopton, Katelyn Smalldon

Orchestra

Strings - Vrishank Shrivastava, Molly Knipe, Kieran Thomas-James, Bethan Nicholas-Thomas, Bryony Lewis, Vritika Shrivastava, Thandiwe Mfula, Jasmine Tate, Rebecca Thompson, Olivia Casey, Mari Potter, Stephanie Boyle, Isabel Williams

Woodwind - Cerys Sefton, Grace Leigh, Wallis Thomas, Hannah Murphy, Nia Jones, Bryn Davies

Brass - William Walsh, Mai Rees, Megan Walters, Katy Bloomer, Megan Johnson, Abbie Jones, Libby O'Sullivan, Joseff Nicholls-De Freitas, Alexander Walters, Thomas Vale, Lee Langford

Percussion - Eve Jones, Nicholas Bevan-Thomas, William Newman, Cameron White, Maddie Hawkeswood, Conor O'Mahoney

Keyboard - Jamie Edwards, Alys Grove, Amy Myles



Pupils succeed in Welsh Baccalaureate Community Challenge

During the Summer and Autumn terms our Year 10 and 11 pupils have been very busy undertaking community events as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate project. They have raised over £1,000 from various events held during charity week, including cycling to Mumbles and climbing Pen-Y-Fan.

Earlier in the year the pupils also organised the school PTA Summer Fete and car boot sale for the first time. Their commitment and originality was seen in the wide range of stalls and activities they ran and the occasion was a huge success. Activities included:- face painting, raffles, cake and food stalls, cafe, car boot, cycle challenge, henna tattoos, hog roast, fire brigade, police, youth service, a circus act and musical entertainment. It was a wonderful day, demonstrating the community's support to the school on what turned out to be one of the wettest days of the Summer. There was fun for the whole family and the pupils are to be congratulated for their hard work. The day raised over £1,000 for the school PTA, Miss Hodson Pupil Welfare Fund and Macmillan Cancer charity. We are now looking forward to next year's Summer Fete.



Cwmtawe pupils proud to present Macmillan with their amazing donation

This week pupils have met with representatives from Macmillan to present them with their donation of £5,500. They worked with a team of staff who cycled around Wales to raise this substantial amount of money.



On the weekend of 2nd July, the pupils made the journey to climb Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales, as part of a fundraiser for both the Amanda Hodson Pupil Welfare Fund and Macmillan Cancer Charity. The total amount raised was £11,000 which was shared between the two charities. They stayed overnight in Jesse James' Bunkhouse where they were able to watch Wales' epic win over Belgium in the Euros. This put them in good spirits to climb Snowdon in its full glory. It was a glorious day and they were able to see Snowdon at its very best, although it was very cold and misty at the top! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the very tiring climb and returned home unscathed.

HISTORY AND DRAMA / HANES A DRAMA

The Drama and History Departments organised a day trip to the Dylan Thomas Theatre in Swansea to watch a play called 'The Ghost of Morfa Colliery'. The production told the story of an explosion at the Morfa Colliery in Taibach, Port Talbot which killed 87 miners in 1890.

That day, 450 men should have been at work but something kept 200 of them at home. In the inquest, there were accounts of ghostly apparitions and unearthly voices heard weeks before the explosion.

This gothic story told the tale of the young children who worked underground during the Victorian era. Pupils were introduced to the lives of ordinary people living through extraordinary times, through the struggle, sacrifice and hardship.

After the production, pupils attended the Swansea & National Waterfront Museums. At each museum they participated in various activities designed to further enhance their knowledge and understanding of life in the Victorian era.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY / SUL Y COFIO

Armistice Day was commemorated by a traditional two minute silence and pupils also created a display made of poppies in the school foyer. Thought provoking assemblies were held for all year groups during the week and pupils took part in a ceremony in the centre of Pontardawe, laying a wreath on behalf of the school.



GEOGRAPHY / DAEARYDDIAETH



Year 7 pupils enjoyed a visit to Brecon Mountain Centre on Wednesday 2nd November. Pupils worked indoors and outdoors focusing on map skills and park management. They used OS maps to locate features and gained compass experience by walking on a bearing. We all enjoyed an Autumnal day in the Brecon Beacons!

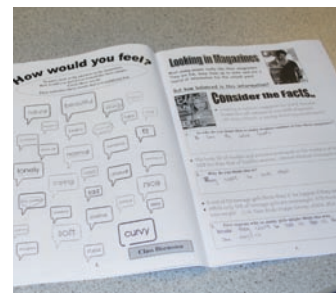
GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAMS / TIMAU PEL-DROED MERCHED



Both the Under 13s and Under 15s girls football teams are through to the regional stages of the Welsh Cup competition to be held in January after some excellent victories in the inter-regional stages. Good luck in 2017 to both teams.

KEY STAGE 4 PASTORAL DAY / DIWRNOD BUGEILIOL

On 12th October, outside agencies such as the National Assembly, Fire Service, Careers Wales and Police delivered sessions to Year 10 and 11 classes throughout the day as part of the pastoral programme. Pupils also discussed key issues such as body image and alcohol abuse.



CAP – COMMUNITY ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIP

Cwmrtawe are heavily involved with CAP Pontardawe. Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) aim to tackle underage drinking through co-operation between local stakeholders, such as trading standards, police, licensing, schools' health networks, and alcohol retailers. WCADA and local PCSOs also delivered assemblies to pupils during Alcohol Awareness Week.



RESTART A HEART

Over 200 pupils from Year 8 and Year 9 took part in resuscitation training on 18th October as part of the national BHF 'Restart a Heart' Day. Volunteers from the NHS Ambulance Service and the Police gave up their free time to deliver this potentially life-saving training, which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed.



PRESENTATION EVENINGS / NOSWEITHIAU GWOBROWYO

Cwmtawe was proud again this year to present awards for academic triumphs to pupils from across the school in recognition of their hard work over the last academic year.

The Whole School Presentation Evening was held during October and staff, parents and pupils enjoyed pupil presentations, speeches from our current and outgoing Head Boy and Head Girl as well as a musical item.

Every department in the school awarded one pupil with an achievement prize and one with a progress award and some pupils also received plaques and cash prizes.

The GCSE Presentation Evening was held at the beginning of November, with more pupils given awards for passing eight or more GCSEs than ever before. It was a pleasure to see our '2016 leavers' returning and we wish them well in their future studies and careers.



Skill Days Bridge the Gap with Primary Schools

Years 5 and 6 in the Cwmtawe cluster of schools enjoyed action packed days in November when they joined us for our Sports Skills Day and Technology Skills Day.

Sports Skills Day consisted of an exciting range of games and activities including rugby, racquet skills and basketball courtesy of the physical education department and our Sports Ambassadors. It was a welcome taster of PE and games lessons at Cwmtawe School.

On Technology Skills Day pupils studied aeroplane design. Divided into mixed teams, pupils designed and constructed their aeroplanes and then competed to see which ones flew most effectively.

Cwmtawe holds several skills days for Year 6 pupils throughout the academic year as part of its primary school transitional programme. These days give pupils a chance to experience the varied curriculum at the school, including ICT, music, sports and technology, leading to an induction day in the Summer. The events also serve to build relationships and team building skills between pupils of different schools before they join as next year's Year 7. The skills days are incredibly successful at easing pupils into life at Cwmtawe and are some of the most eagerly anticipated events in our school calendar.



WORK RELATED EDUCATION / ADDYSG GYRFAOEDD

Year 10 pupils were involved in a range of work-related activities during the Summer term to enhance their awareness of post-16 choices.

Representatives from a range of organisations including Swansea University, BT, Wales Air Ambulance, Careers Wales and the Army visited the school throughout the week. Ex-pupil Craig Jarrett, Food and Beverage Director of Royal Caribbean International, visited the school to provide a fascinating insight into the range of employment opportunities available on board cruise ships. Canadian professional ice-skater and Disney on Ice entertainer Jean-Simone Legare talked to pupils about his career in sport and the entertainment industry.

The Neath College Work-Based Learning team gave a series of talks on apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities and a group of pupils paid a visit to the Sandfields Young Business Centre in Port Talbot to explore enterprise.

Pupils with an interest in medicine attended talks and workshops on respiratory physiology, medical physics and nursing which were delivered by staff from the School of Medicine at Swansea University.

Pupils participated in workshops delivered by local entrepreneurs including One Heart Drummers, ex-pupil dance teacher Hannah May, ex-Rugby player Duncan Jones, Ski Academy and a team of successful business people from Big Ideas Wales.

Pupils developed their first aid skills with a team of local paramedics and tried their hand at using construction simulator equipment provided by the 'Have a Go' team at Neath College.



**For savings and loans,
why not contact the local Credit Union?**

Main Office: 26 Windsor Road, Neath, SA11 1LU

Contact: 01639 632100

admin@nptcu.co.uk or www.nptcu.co.uk



**PANTRY Foodbank supports
the local areas of Pontardawe,
Alltwen, Trebanos, Rhydyfro
and Ynysmeudwy.**

Postal address: 59 Grove Road, Pontardawe,
Swansea, SA8 4HH

Contact: 07870 617965,

pantrypontardawe@gmail.com,

www.facebook.com/groups/pontypantry12345

GCSEPOD / CODENTGAU



Continuing our support for all pupils, the school now has an account with GCSEPod which is a stimulating resource to encourage and develop learning outside lessons, particularly those in Years 10 and 11 who are preparing for their GCSE examinations. It can be accessed on the internet through FROG on the school's home page or by downloading an appropriate app for your devices. There are over 3,500 audio-visual podcasts which can be watched on mobile devices, tablets and PCs.

It is designed to squeeze exactly the right knowledge you need for exam success into short 3-5 minute chunks.

The site can also help with learning, homework and revision.

GCSEPod podcasts are designed for mobile devices so it's like carrying a huge pile of textbooks and revision guides around with you everywhere. It explains everything clearly and precisely with accurate facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams on screen.

Pupils won't need to use it for long before they feel the impact. It has been proven that consistent use in just 10 minute chunks support achievement, right up to A*.



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