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COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Haf 2017

Dear Parents,

As we approach the summer break, I am pleased to bring you our latest newsletter detailing the various activities and achievements of our pupils. I wish you all a relaxing summer and look forward to welcoming pupils back at school on 5th September.

Annwyl Rieni,

Wrth i wyliau'r haf agosau mae'n bleser gennyf gyhoeddi ein cylchlythyr diweddaraf sy'n rhoi manylion i chi am amrywiol weithgarwch a llwyddiannau ein disgyblion. Hyderaf y byddwch yn ymlacio dros wyliau'r haf ac edrychaf ymlaen at groesawu'r disgyblion yn ôl i'r ysgol ar 5 Medi.

Yours sincerely

Mr. C.L. Hitchings

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO



UNIFORM / GWISG YSGOL

All parents should have received our latest uniform guidance. Please ensure you read it carefully when purchasing uniform ready for September. Don't forget, the school is open throughout the summer for uniform purchases.



ATTENDANCE / PRESENOLDEB

High attendance is essential in ensuring your son/daughter reaches his/her potential in school. We ask for your full support in achieving this by:

- Reinforcing the importance of good attendance and punctuality;
- Liaising with the school as soon as your son/daughter is unwell;
- Ensuring your son/daughter catches up quickly on any missed work;
- Organising medical or dental appointments outside school hours;
- Avoiding any holidays during term time.

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

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

**School attendance
currently stands at**

94.5%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

5th to 9th July	Year 8 German Trip	19th July	Year 10 PSE Day
10th to 13th July	Year 10 examinations	20th July	Activity Days
12th to 14th July	Year 7 Forest Skills Programme	21st July	Activity Days
14th to 20th July	Barcelona Music Trip	21st July	Last day of term
17th July	Year 7 History Trip	24th August	GCSE Results Day
17th to 21st July	Year 10 Work Related Education Week	4th September	INSET Day
18th July	Sports Day (weather dependent)	5th September	First Day for pupils

SENIOR PREFECTS / UWCH SWYDDOGION

Senior Prefects for 2017-18 have been elected.

Head Boy: Vrishank Shrivastava

Head Girl: Anastasia Stockton

Deputy Head Girls: Emily Richards, Teagan Thomas-Walters

Deputy Head Boys: Billy Moxey, Harri Thomas

Senior Prefects (girls): Karolinka Bacakova, Alys Grove, Celyn Harding, Seren Shaw, Priyanka Taneja

Senior Prefects (boys): Ryan Chappell, Connor Graham, Callum Mills, Lewis Smith, Alex Stevens

Vrishank and Anastasia will also become 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.



OUR CAPITAL CITY / EIN PRIFDDINAS

At the beginning of May, 30 pupils from Years 8 and 9 spent two days improving their Welsh skills at the Urdd Residential Centre, Cardiff.

They stayed at the Urdd Hostel at the back of the Millennium Centre, in the heart of Cardiff Bay. Pupils enjoyed a tour of the Millennium Stadium and experienced at first hand how they were preparing to host the Champions League Final. The afternoon was spent in Limitless trampoline centre and in the adjoining climbing centre. During the evening, teams challenged each other to games of bowling in the ten pin bowling centre.

The following morning pupils spent a few hours shopping in the city centre before going ice skating. The highlight of the weekend was a trip in a speedboat around Cardiff Bay before starting our way home late on the Saturday afternoon.



FRANCE / FFRAINC

Bon Voyage

Between 15th June and 17th June, eighty 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 frogs legs and they were also able to show off their talents and dance moves in a talent contest and disco. They thoroughly enjoyed the visits to the village of Dinard (where the Welsh team was based last year during the Euros) - some pupils even got to see the Welsh hotel base whilst others played on the beach! Mont St. Michel was also a great hit with both staff and pupils, but the ultimate end to the trip was the day at Eurodisney. A great time was had by all!



PROM

Glitz, Glamour and Goodbyes

This year's Leavers' Prom was held on Monday evening, 26th June at the Manor Park Hotel in Clydach. Head of Year, Mrs. Louise Lloyd and Assistant Head of Year, Mrs. Sarah Powles-Thomas had spent hours organising and planning another successful Cwmtawe School Prom.

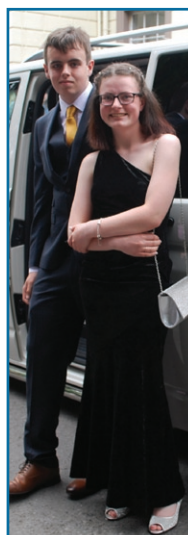
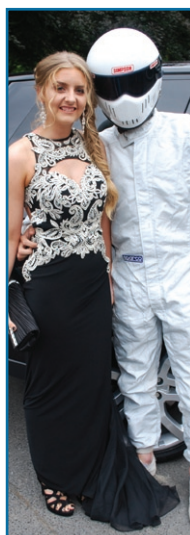
Our Year 11 pupils arrived in style in so many interesting and varied modes of transport. Many elegant and impressive vehicles graced the Manor Park forecourt such as Ferraris, Bentleys, horse and cart and Cadillacs.

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 food and music, it was time for our 'Prom Awards'. Harriet Sadler was voted 2017 Prom Queen and Warwick Koekemoer was voted Prom King.

The headteacher would like to thank all parents, staff, PTA and pupils who made the evening an overwhelming success. We're sure that all pupils will treasure the memories of their prom for many years to come.



ENGLISH / SAESNEG

Romeo and Juliet



During April, Year 10 pupils watched a moving performance of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" play at the Wales

Millennium Centre, Cardiff. The performance enhanced their understanding of this famous tragic play ahead of their GCSEs. It was followed by a question and answer session with the director, Yvonne Murphy.



HEART HEALTH / IECHYD Y GALON

Mr Hitchings was delighted to receive a defibrillator from local Welsh Ambulance Service representatives on behalf of the school. David Thomas and Mark Horrigan, both paramedics, will return before the end of term to deliver training to staff and selected pupils in its use. We are very pleased to continue working with the Leon Heart Fund and the Welsh Ambulance Service to arrange for more defibrillators to be installed in other local schools.



NEATH PORT TALBOT YOUTH COUNCIL / CYNGOR IEUENCTID CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT

Many pupils have put their names forward for nomination to sit on the Neath Port Talbot Youth Council. Neath Port Talbot's Youth Service were impressed with the level of interest and response of our pupils during assemblies carried out in June.

YOUNG POLITICIANS / GWLEIDYDDION IFANC

Amy Brown from Year 11 has been chosen to represent Neath Port Talbot on the Youth Parliament for Wales. As well as representing the voice of young people on important issues that affect their lives, Amy will be visiting London in November to debate in the House of Commons.



ART / CELF

Pictured here are the talented pupils who chose to put in extra work to enter GCSE Art and Design a year early. Each pupil is holding an example of his/her exam or coursework. They will now have the opportunity to complete a second art qualification in either Photography, Fine Art or Graphic Communication.



ROTARY

The three pupils, pictured below right, were recognised by the Rotary on Wednesday, 5th of July in a presentation day celebrating outstanding contributions to charity and the community.

Keeli Phillips-Whyte (Year 8) has been fundraising for years for various charities. This year, Keeli raised over £1,000 for Macmillan by carrying out 'Brave the Shave'. During charity week she shaved her waist length hair in front of a crowd of around 200 pupils. She also won a prize in the Evening Post Community Awards.

Madyson Delegado-Bellido (Year 10) raised £500 for 'Stand Up For Downs'. Her cousin has Down's Syndrome and she wanted to raise awareness and support a charity that is close to her heart. She has also been an exceptional fundraiser for the year group, being a keen helper during charity week, the school fete, Christmas fair and most recently 'The Macmillan Walk'.

Head girl, Anastasia Stockton (Year 10), was a Senior Peer Mentor, Languages Ambassador, SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group) representative, 5x60 Sports Ambassador and Chairperson of the Whole School Council. She received 10 awards in the School's Presentation Evening last October, which included the Amanda Hodson Community Spirit Award at Key Stage 3. She is also a Neath Port Talbot Youth Council Member and is on the Children's Commissioner Advisory Panel for Wales.

URDD NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD / EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL YR URDD

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 to start our journey to the festival field in Bridgend.

Having competed against thirteen in the group recitation for Welsh learners, it was a relief to hear the name of "Ysgol Gymunedol Cwmtawe" amongst the top three in the competition. 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. The group were delighted to win the second prize in the competition.





NG Fitness

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MATHEMATICS / MATHEMATEG

UK Junior and Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

The UK Mathematics Trust is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. It organises national mathematics competitions for UK secondary school pupils.

The Mathematics Department entered 12 pupils from Year 11, 22 pupils from Year 10 and 12 pupils from Year 9 for the 2017 Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. For the Junior Mathematics Challenge, the department entered 25 Year 8 pupils and 20 Year 7 pupils. The challenge is a national competition to identify the top mathematicians in the country.

From a national entry of over 250,000 pupils for each challenge, 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, 12 silver and 18 bronze awards. The successful candidates were:-

Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

Year 11	Silver:	Katy Bloomer, Isabelle Neumann
	Bronze:	Caleb Kelso Mitchell, Lowri Jones, Logan Jones
Year 10	Silver:	Vrishank Shrivastava
	Bronze:	Iwan Thomas, Rhianna Kinsey-Jones, Ryan Mattick, Llian Davies, Nia Jones
Year 9	Silver:	Rose Jones
	Bronze:	Abbie Jones

Junior Mathematics Challenge

Year 8	Gold:	Tommy Griffin
	Silver:	Amy Myles, Jamie Morris, Mia Bending, Matas Valikonis, Kimberley Miller
	Bronze:	Joshua Ascroft, Rhydian Kinsey-Jones, Jessica Gaule, Aimee Evans, Emily Payne, Finley Doran, Eve Morgan
Year 7	Silver:	Rhiannon Collom, Lewys Jenkins, Owen Marquart
	Bronze:	Anwen O'Brien, Kyle Harris



PEER MENTORS

The peer mentors for 2017-18 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 27th June. They received a full day's training before induction day and had 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.



Back Row L-R: Ben Walsh, Jack Norris, Will Fisher, Ffion Titcombe, Hannah Williams, Onneka Vallis, Mia Yates, Caitlin Denner, Cerys Williams, Elysia Griffiths, Jasmine Tate, Beth Stockden, Megan Delegado-Bellido, Ellie Hurley, Holly Bradshaw, Leon Griffiths, Reuben Allen

Second Row L-R: Emily Davies, Oliver Davies, Jacob Davies, Tim Kiley, Charlie Gould, Rhea Price, Daniel Roach, Ellis Thomas, Grace Murphy, Alice Fisher, Caitlin Jones, Katie Thomas, Ffion Hayward

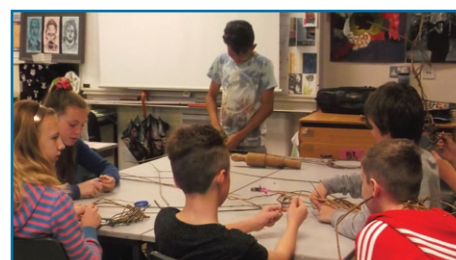
Front Row L-R: Keoni Davies, Maya Gibbons, Scott Hawkins, Lloyd Arrowsmith, Dylan Patterson, Harry Truscott, Libby O'Sullivan, Rebecca Thompson, Emily Rogers, Megan Rowe, Eden Palterman, Tilly Davies, Abbie Jones

PLATINUM ECO-SCHOOL STATUS

The school is delighted to have retained its eco-schools platinum status, in recognition of its environmental work.

The pupil committee has introduced many initiatives and promoted events under the themes of waste minimisation, litter, water, energy, transport, healthy living, school grounds and global citizenship. The school was particularly praised for its ongoing work and partnership with the CAP initiative (Community Alcohol Partnership).

Matt Brunt, the Eco-Schools officer, said: *"Being awarded Eco-schools Platinum status is a fantastic achievement. The school, staff and pupils should feel proud of their hard work and commitment"*.



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