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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL  
**CWMTAWE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2017

## CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Hydref 2017

### Dear Parents / Carers,

I was delighted to welcome back your son/daughter at the start of September for the new academic year. I trust you all had a relaxing summer break. This edition of our newsletter contains details of the fantastic GCSE results our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils achieved in the summer. We are very proud of them and I hope you enjoy reading it.

### Annwyl Rieni / Warcheidwaid,

Roeddwn wrth fy modd yn croesawu eich mab/merch yn ôl ar ddechrau mis Medi ar gyfer blwyddyn academiaidd newydd. Hyderaf i chi gael gwyliau haf ymlaciol. Yn y rhifyn hwn o'r cylchlythyr fe welwch fanylion am ganlyniadau TGAU gwyd disgyblion Blwyddyn 10 a Blwyddyn 11 haf diwethaf. Ymfalchiwn yn eu llwyddiant a hyderaf y byddwch yn mwynhau ei ddarllen.

Yours sincerely

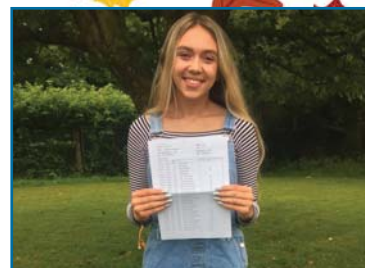
**Mr. C.L. Hitchings**

**HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO**

## GCSE RESULTS / CANLYNIADAU TGAU

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 highest performing schools in Wales and have the highest GCSE pass rate in Neath Port Talbot.

- 80% of our pupils achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at A\*- C
- 60% of our pupils achieved at least 9 GCSEs at A\*- C.
- 55% of our pupils achieved at least 10 GCSEs at A\*- C.
- 20 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

Eve Jones	9A*, 2A
Katy Bloomer	7A*, 5A
Mai Rees	7A*, 4A
Sophie Hawkins	6A*, 5½A, 2B
Cerys Sefton	6A*, 5A
Isabelle Neumann	6A*, 4A, 1B
Joseph Stubbings	4A*, 6A, 1B
Harriet Sadler	4A*, 6A, 1B
Tanisha Davies	2A*, 9A
Fenella Ryan	2A*, 8A, 1B
William Walsh	1A*, 9A, 1B
Bailey Owen	1A*, 9A



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

Charity Week	23 - 27 Oct
Key Stage 3 Annual Presentation Evening	26 Oct
INSET Day	27 Oct
Half Term	30 Oct - 3 Nov
First day back for pupils	6 Nov
GCSE Numeracy Unit 1 Examination	6 Nov
GCSE English Unit 2 Examination	7 Nov
GCSE Numeracy Unit 2 Examination	8 Nov
Year 6 Sport Skills Day	9 Nov
GCSE English Unit 3 Examination	9 Nov
Year 6 Technology Skills Day	10 Nov
GCSE Mathematics Unit 1 Examination	10 Nov
GCSE Mathematics Unit 2 Examination	13 Nov
Gower College Open Evening (Gorseinon)	13 Nov

Key Stage 4 Annual Presentation Evening	15 Nov
Gower College Open Evening (Tycnoch)	20 Nov
Swimming Gala	21 Nov
Year 7 Targeted Parents' Evening	22 Nov
Year 10 Christmas Markets Meeting	23 Nov
Closing date for new Year 7 applications	27 Nov
German Christmas Market Trip	6 - 10 Dec
PTA Christmas Fayre	8 Dec
Year 11 Mock Examinations	11 - 19 Dec
Christmas Lunch	13 Dec
Year 7 Targeted Literacy and Numeracy Evening	13 Dec
Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch	22 Dec
Last Day of Term	22 Dec

## NEW TEACHING STAFF / CROESAWU STAFF NEWYDD

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new teaching staff who started in September:- Nicola Shadrach (Mathematics), Chelsea Cockings (English) and Elizabeth Dainty (English).

## PREFECT BREAKFAST / BRECWAST SWYDDOGION

The Senior Prefect Team wanted to ensure that a team ethic is maintained within the whole prefect team and decided to hold an activity to thank prefects for their commitment in attending their duties at lunchtime. On Friday 29 September, they held a coffee morning in the library. Pastries were kindly donated by Tesco Pontardawe, following a persuasive letter from the Senior Prefect Team. There was a lovely atmosphere and all pupils enjoyed themselves. They hope to hold a similar social event next term to reward prefects for their hard work and commitment over the year.



## SENIOR PREFECT TEAM BUILDING DAY / UWCH-SWYDDOGION YN ADEILADU TÎM

During the summer term, the new Senior Prefect Team spent a day white water rafting in Cardiff Bay. It wasn't exactly the Amazon basin but the team building activities definitely started with a splash. The way they worked together certainly bodes well for their task ahead in leading and supporting the pupils of Cwmtawe School. They thoroughly enjoyed celebrating their well-deserved new positions on the team with a victory toast at Nando's. Mr Hamer and Miss Jones were impressed with their commitment and are looking forward to working with them over the coming year. They have a lot to live up to following on from last year's Senior Prefect Team, but if they can cope with the piranhas and wildlife of Cardiff Bay, they will easily be a credit to Cwmtawe.





# ANNUAL FUN RUN

## Pupils and Staff Dress Up to Raise Money / Gwisg Ffansi yn Codi Arian

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.

Joint first prize was awarded to William Hines (a tin of Heinz Baked Beans) and Bryn Davies (Mike from the Monster's Inc.) Winner of the first prize for teachers was the Technology Department, dressed as an airline crew. They even included Mrs. Jones dressed as an aeroplane!

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.





# EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES / DYDD IEITHOEDD EWROPEAIDD

At Cwmtawe a whole week is dedicated to raising even more awareness of the importance of languages. Pupils enjoyed meals with a European theme in the school dining hall and took part in quizzes and other fun events. Snacks from European countries were sampled with staff and pupils alike greeting each other in different European languages. Various activities were held throughout the week encouraging pupils to celebrate, respect and learn more about the diverse cultures within Europe. Pupils learnt a great deal about how learning different European languages can widen horizons and open up new opportunities.

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



## GERMAN / ALMAENEG / DEUTSCH

Over forty Year 8 pupils spent four days in the Mosel Valley, Germany. They experiencing a boat trip along the Mosel, a trip in a chair lift into the mountains of Saarburg 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.





# TECHNOLOGY / TECHNOLEG

## Technology - One Year GCSE Resistant Materials

Congratulations to 63 Year 10 pupils who completed their GCSE Resistant Materials course a year early.

Three quarters achieved grades A\* to C achieved grades A\* to C and 86% achieved their target grade or better.

The Technology Faculty is looking forward to studying GCSE Graphic Products with these pupils in Year 11 and we are confident that the outcomes will be just as positive next year.

The image to the right illustrates some examples of the projects produced.



## Technology Work Experience Week

Congratulations to those pupils who attended the technology work experience week. Year 10 and Year 11 pupils worked with 'Army of Few', a graphic design company based in London, to produce a series of graphic images in relation to the music industry. There were three winners on the day who thoroughly deserved the prizes they won as a result of their creativity and hard work. These were Ryan Dew, Katie Baugh and Madeline Hayes.



## ART / CELF

At Cwmtawe, those who have opted for GCSE Art and Design have the opportunity to sit the qualification early. This year, 17 hardworking and talented pupils achieved this with all receiving grades on or between A\* and C. Pictured below are the pupils with examples of their excellent work.



## ENGLISH / SAESNEG

The English department are celebrating fantastic success with early entry Year 10 pupils. 98 pupils were entered for their GCSE and 84 passed with a C or higher grade, including 2 pupils with E target grades who achieved a B grade. Well done to all involved.

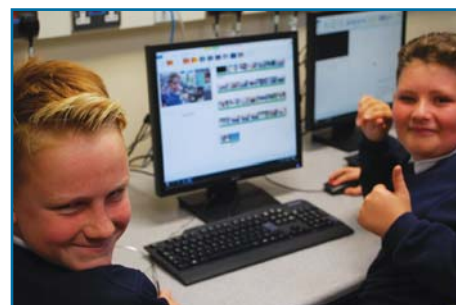




# KEY STAGE 2 SKILLS DAY / DYDD SGILIAU CYFNOD ALLWEDDOL 2

Year 6 pupils recently enjoyed a day of fun activities in preparation for their first year in Cwmtawe next year. Pupils took part in creating a radio jingle, a poster and a video presentation to the theme of 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. The day was packed full of opportunities for our new pop stars and designers to express their creativity. Everyone had a fantastic time including the Senior Prefect Team who finished the day by demonstrating their amazing dance moves in the Main Hall. We're all looking forward to meeting Year 6 once again during other transition events due to take place later this year.

Written by Harri Thomas and Seren Shaw (Year 11)





## MACMILLAN

### Cwmtawe pupils supporting the Swansea Valley Macmillan Hill Walk

Sixty Cwmtawe pupils from across the year groups gave up their Sunday to help support the local Swansea Valley Hill Walk, raising £1,577.21 in sponsorship. Not only did pupils take part in the walk but they helped to steward the car park, register walkers and baked cakes for refreshments. Mike Houghton from Macmillan said "We are grateful again this year for the immense support from Cwmtawe students. We couldn't do it without them." This is the second time the walk has taken place in the Swansea Valley and the school looks forward to supporting this worthwhile charity next year. The photograph shows Year 9 volunteers presenting a cheque to Mike Houghton.



## GEOGRAPHY / DAEARYDDIAETH

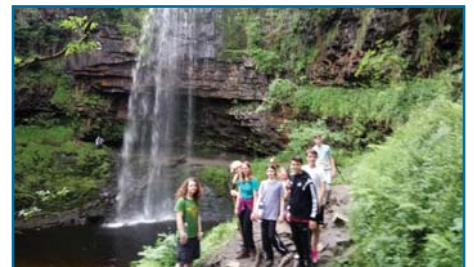
GCSE Geography classes have completed two days of fieldwork in September to meet the requirements of the new syllabus. The first day focused on human geography and pupils carried out traffic surveys to investigate the hypothesis 'Is the A4067 a commuter route?'. On the second day pupils visited the Afon Sawdde to carry out an investigation into how the river changes from its source to its mouth.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD / GWOBR DUG CAEREDIN

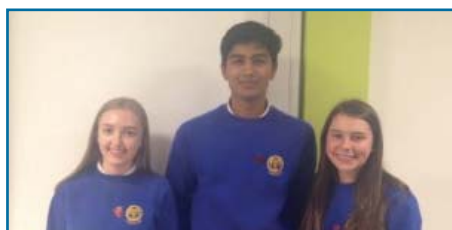
### Year 10 Survive in the Wilderness of Waterfall Country

On the 26th and 27th June, 14 pupils from Year 10 undertook their expedition practice journey for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the Ystradfellte/ Abercrave area. This has formed part of their engagement and life skill programme organised by the school's Youth Engagement Officer, Mr Clapham. They are undertaking a range of extra-curricular activities including first aid, volunteering within the community and outdoor survival skills. Mr Clapham said the group were extremely committed and thoroughly enjoyed the camping, hiking and sights of the Ystradfellte waterfall country which has proved to be excellent preparation for their actual qualifying venture.



## YOUTH SPEAKS / SIARAD CYHOEDDUS

The annual Rotary competition was held at the beginning of October with two teams from Cwmtawe competing against sixth formers from Ystalyfera and Maesydderwen schools. Vrishank Shrivastava, Alys Grove and Amy Brown debated whether or not euthanasia should be legalized whilst Anastasia Stockton, Kamila Stankevici and Hannah Murphy debated abortion. Both teams were coached by English teacher Mrs Sails. In a keen and tough contest, Anastasia Stockton won the award for best speaker with her team also winning the competition. They will now represent the area in the regional finals to be held later this term.



## GOODBYE TO PC PUCKETT

Our popular Police School Liason Officer, PC Gavin Puckett, is moving to pastures new as he becomes a trainer of PCSOs and other police staff.

His new role follows 12 years on the school beat since 2005, during which time he has been integral to assemblies, pastoral lessons and initiatives such as the CAP Community Alcohol Partnership.

Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Gemma Morgan, said "Gavin is highly regarded as part of the school community and has a fantastic rapport with staff and pupils. He is excellent in transition because many pupils already know and respect him from their primary schools".

PC Puckett is sure to be busy in his new job, but we hope he still has time to follow his other main interest as a celebrated children's author. He was the winner of the 2013 Greenhouse Funny Prize and his first book, 'Murray the Horse' was published by Faber Children's Books in June 2015. Gavin has since gone on to write more 'horsey' adventures as part of a humorous rhyming series called 'Fables from the Stables'.

We wish him well for the future.



## WHOLE SCHOOL COUNCIL / CYNGOR YR YSGOL

The Whole School Council for the next academic year has been selected. The team is made up of two representatives of each year group as well as the Head Boy and Head Girl. Simon Islam was voted chairperson with Seren Shaw voted secretary.

The Whole School Council represents the pupils' voice on constructive improvements they would like to see at the school. Clive Osborne, Chairperson of the School Governing Body, was welcomed to the first meeting.



## COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE / TREFN CWYNO

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 please make an appointment to speak to the Headteacher.

**Our full complaints procedure is published on our website [www.cwmtawe.org](http://www.cwmtawe.org)**



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COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ffordd Parc Ynysderw  
Pontardawe  
Swansea SA8 4EG

**HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO:**  
Mr. C. L. Hitchings

**EMAIL / EBOST:** [cwmtaweschool@npted.org](mailto:cwmtaweschool@npted.org)

**TEL / FFÔN:** 01792 863200

**FAX / FFACS:** 01792 864773



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