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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2018

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Nadolig 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

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 Tuesday, 8th January.

Annwyl Rieni / Warcheidwaid,

Ar ddiwedd tymor prysur arall mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno ein cylchlythyr diweddaf 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 Mawrth, 8 Ionawr.

Yours sincerely

Mr. C.L. Hitchings (Headteacher / Prifathro)

GCSE RESULTS 2018 / CANLYNIADAU TGAU 2018

A comprehensive report of GCSE results achieved last year is available within the Governors Annual Report to Parents. We continue to be one of the highest performing schools in Wales and have the highest GCSE pass rate in Neath Port Talbot.

- 81% of our pupils achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at A*-C
- 65% of our pupils achieved at least 9 GCSEs at A*-C.
- 58% of our pupils achieved at least 10 GCSEs at A*-C.
- 41 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.

As Mr. Hitchings reported to the press on results day: "Pupils, staff, governors and parents are celebrating today. The outcomes achieved by pupils this year are excellent and I am very proud of every one of them. Today is the pinnacle of five years of hard work for the pupils and their families. They truly are well deserved. The results reflect the quality of education offered by the school and we wish pupils well as they embark on the next stage in their education or their chosen career".



HIGH ACHIEVERS

This year, ten pupils achieved more than twelve A*/A grades – an exceptional achievement!

- Katie Baugh
- Jordan Hall
- Nia Jones
- Rhianna Kinsey-Jones
- Chloe Mills
- Billy Moxey
- Hannah Murphy
- Seren Shaw
- Anastasia Stockton
- Harri Thomas

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

7 December	Christmas Fayre	8 January	January GCSEs start
10-14 December	Year 11 Mock Examinations	15 January	PTA meeting - 5.30 p.m.
4-6 December	School Production	15 January	Neath Port Talbot College (Llandarcy campus) Open Evening
5-9 December	Year 10 and 11 Trip to the German Christmas Markets	16 January	Year 9 Options Evening
14-16 December	Year 7 weekend trip to Llangrannog	16 January	Neath Port Talbot College (Neath Campus) Open Evening
21 December	Last day for pupils	30 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
7 January 2019	INSET day	22 February	Ski trip to Austria
	Year 11 English Literature Revision	25 February	Half Term
8 January	First day of term for pupils	- 1 March	



CHARITY WEEK / WYTHNOS ELUSENNAU

Staff and pupils got heavily involved in a variety of sponsored events and activities during Cwmtawe's annual charity week. Approximately £4,000 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, raffles, cake stalls, sponsored events and staff versus children sports matches.

INTERNET SAFETY!

Year 9 pupils recently took part in a new English competition, as part of the year group's study of 'Heroes and Heroism'. Using their creative skills, pupils had to design and create a superhero - whose main aim was to keep teenagers safe on the internet. Marks were awarded for superhero powers, costume design and imaginative flair. There were hundreds of fantastic entries but after lots of deliberation, they were whittled down to four worthy winners.



Cwmtawe's Internet Safety Superhero team is:

- Cyber Woman (created by Anwen O'Brien)
- Super Siri (created by Tia Hartnoll)
- Insta Girl (created by Thabo Mfula)
- Firewall (created by Jake Bishop)

Winners were presented with Swansea FC prizes in assembly and the winning entries have been used to create an internet safety display in the English communal area.

ANNUAL FUN RUN / RAS HWYL BLYNYDDOL

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.



MACMILLAN

Cwmtawe pupils supporting the Swansea Valley Macmillan Hill Walk / Cefnogi Macmillan

For the third year running, Year 10 and Year 11 Cwmtawe pupils gave up their Sunday to help support the local Swansea Valley Hill Walk. Along with cake sales and a sponsored walk up Pen-y-Fan pupils have raised a terrific £1,029. Alltwen Friends of Macmillan were presented with a cheque in assembly and were very grateful for the incredible support from Cwmtawe students. The school looks forward to supporting this worthwhile charity next year when the Swansea Macmillan Walk takes place on Saturday 11th May.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES / DYDD IEITHOEDD EWROPEAIDD

At Cwmtawe, a whole week is dedicated to raising 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 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.

Pupils had a major surprise during the week as a young international footballer playing for Swansea City AFC visited Cwmtawe. Simon Paulet arrived at the school with Swans favourites Lee Trundle and Leon Britton to join celebrations of the European Day of Languages and speak with pupils studying French and German.

The Swans are well known for attracting talented European footballers from all over Europe who have loved making Swansea their home. French-speaker Simon Paulet plays at under-23 level for Swansea City AFC and captained the under-18 international team of Belgium.

Delighted Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils took part in a question and answer session in French.



GERMAN / ALMAENEG / DEUTSCH

Over sixty Year 8 pupils spent four days in the Mosel Valley, Germany. They experienced a boat trip along the Mosel river, 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.



At the beginning of December, Year 10 and 11 pupils will have a taste of Christmas in Germany by visiting the Christmas markets in Cologne in Bonn. They will enjoy an advent Christmas cruise on the Rhine with dinner on board and visit the Haribo factory en route.

The highlight of the trip for most will be the visit to the Winter Wonderland in Phantasialand.



KEY STAGE 2 SKILLS DAYS / DYDDIAU SGIL 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.

This was followed by two action-packed days at the beginning of November when they joined us again 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 physical education and games lessons at Cwmtawe School.

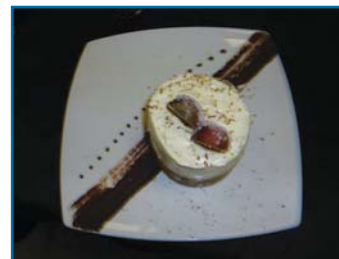
This year we had a change to the Technology Skills Day, introducing the new 'Cwmtawe Crash Test Challenge' where pupils worked in small groups to design and make a bumper that would protect an egg in a crash. Pupils learnt about car manufacture and crumple zones before coming up with team names, a logo, seat and seat belt designs. They had to trial and cost their design before testing them against the other teams over three ramps at increasing heights. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Cwmtawe holds several skills days for Year 6 throughout the academic year as part of its primary school transition programme. The 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.



ROTARY YOUNG CHEF / COGYDD IFANC ROTARI

On 7th November, the first round of the Rotary Young Chef competition was held. Three pupils from Year 10, Sophie John, Megan Price and Prasanna Vaidhaya, competed against Maes-y-Dderwen School. First place was awarded to Megan Price who produced a Prawn and Chorizo Paella, followed by a Lime and Ginger Cheesecake. She will now compete in the next round which will take place in Cowbridge in the new year.



GIRLS FOOTBALL / PEL-DROED MERCHED

Congratulations to the under-13 girls 6 a side football squad who competed at the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot round of the SCFC EFL Tournament on Monday 5th November at Play Football Swansea. The girls played some creative football and won their group, beating Gowerton, Gwyr, Bishopston, Ysgol Cwm Brombil. The girls then played Morriston in the Semi-Final, beating them 4-1, before playing Penyrheol in the final. Despite an early lead the final ended with a 2-2 draw so we had to face the dreaded penalties! After competing at the penalty spot, Cwmtawe lost 4-3 during a sudden death battle. However, both runners up and winners proceed to the next round of the EFL Cup at the beginning of December where we will compete to represent SCFC at Wembley in 2019.

The squad scored 35 goals in total and only conceded 8. Good luck in the next round girls!

Squad members were:- Imogen Harris (Captain), Evie Norris, Grace Carro, Jodie Parfitt, Caoimhe Hancock, Celyn Eustace, Chloe Shingler, Carys Harvey.



ATHLETICS / ATHLETAU

Congratulations to Year 9 pupils Sam Davies and Zac Davies on being selected to the West Wales under 15s athletics squad – Sam in the high jump category and Zac in the hurdles. Both were selected when they were twelve and thirteen years old respectively.

EUROVISION

Lauren Jones competed to represent Wales in the Kids Eurovision competition, getting down to the final six. The programme was broadcast on S4C. She also competed in The Voice Kids Battle Round where she is pictured with the adjudicators. Lauren has gone from strength to strength and at the end of November won the fourth series of the CBBC show 'Got What it Takes'. She will now sing in the Big Weekend.



GEOGRAPHY / DAEARYDDIAETH

Geography GCSE pupils spent 2 days out on fieldwork in September in preparation for their assessment in December. The first day was spent on the Gower investigating how landscapes are valued and perceived at Langland and Three Cliffs. The second day was spent collecting data in Ammanford and Llandeilo on the variety of shops and why shoppers choose each town.



DRAMA

Rehearsals are underway for our annual school production which will be "The Wizard of Oz" this year. It will be held at Cwmtawe School on 4, 5 and 6 December. Following auditions there was nervous anticipation when the names of the leading characters were announced. They will be

Dorothy - Amelie Boyce (Year 10)

Aunt Em - Caitlyn Williams (Year 10)

Uncle Henry - Thomas Meo-Forde (Year 10)

Scarecrow - Zack Wheelhouse / Craig Mattick (Year 9)

Tinman - Ben Jones (Year 10)

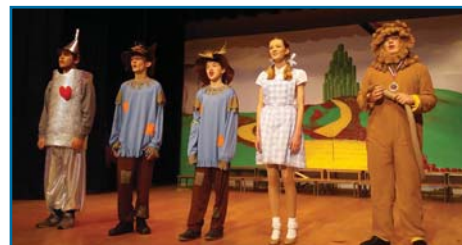
Lion - Rhys Evans (Year 10)

The Good Witch - Megan Worts (Year 9)

The Wicked Witch - Hannah Parkman-Lunn (Year 10)

The Wizard of Oz - Jac Evans-Mason (Year 10)

Lead Munchkins - Alexandra Stockton, Evie Norris, Evie Matthews (Year 8)



MAKE YOUR MARK / GWNEUD EICH MARC

Cwmtawe Community School is Part of the Biggest Youth Consultation in Europe! / Mae Ysgol Gymunedol Cwmtawe yn rhan o'r ymgynghoriad ieuenctid mwyaf yn Ewrop!

Make Your Mark gives a unique opportunity for young people aged 11-18 to decide what Members of the Youth Parliament debate in November 2018 within the House of Commons. Cwmtawe pupils from all year groups took part in the ballot, to influence matters of importance for the campaign in 2019.



STAFF NEWS / NEWYDDION STAFF

Congratulations to the following on their new arrivals:-

Sarah Powles-Thomas (English) and Steve on the birth of Hetty, Gemma Elson (Technology) and Lee on the birth of Ella and to Natalie Wheldon (Cover Supervisor) and Mark on the birth of Tobias, known as Toby.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY / SUL Y COFIO

To commemorate Armistice Day pupils created a moving display made of poppies in the school foyer and sold poppies throughout the week. Year 10 pupils also laid a wreath on the cenotaph in Pontardawe. Thought provoking assemblies were held for all year groups during the week.



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



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