



follow @cwmtaweschool online
www.cwmtawe.org



YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Haf 2022

Dear Parents and Carers / Annwyl Rhieni a Gofalwyr

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our most recent newsletter, full of news about the activities the pupils have been taking part in across the school as we cautiously take steps out of the pandemic. The highlights in this newsletter will give you a taste of the achievement of our pupils. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno ein cylchlythyr diweddaraf, yn llawn newyddion am y gweithgareddau y bu'r disgyblion yn cymryd rhan ynddynt ar draws yr ysgol wrth i ni ymlwybro gam wrth gam allan o'r pandemig. Hyderaf y bydd yr uchafbwyntiau yn y cylchlythyr yn rhoi blas i chi o lwyddiannau'r disgyblion. Rwy'n gobeithio y byddwch yn mwynhau ei ddarllen.

Yours sincerely / Yn gywir

Mr. C.L. Hitchings

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - YOU CAN STILL APPLY TO CWMTAWE! / MYNEDIAD I GWMTAWE - DYDY HI DDIM YN RHY HWYR I WNEUD CAIS!

Cwmtawe Community School continues to be a very popular destination for pupils from local primary schools.

If you, or a friend or relative, are interested in applying to Cwmtawe, please contact the school at cwmtaweschool@hwbcymru.net or **01792 863200**.

ONLINE PARENTS' EVENINGS / NOSWEITHIAU RHINI AR-LEIN

It wasn't only the pupils that got used to new ways of using technology during lockdown – but parents too!

There has been an excellent response to the online parents' evenings when individual times could be booked to discuss progress, feedback, and future subject options.

PARENTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NEWS / NEWYDDION Y GYMDEITHAS RHINI

The PTA at Cwmtawe is a small group of active parents and teachers with a common goal – improving the quality of provision for your children. If you are interested in joining the PTA, please contact Mrs. G. Morgan (Assistant Headteacher) at the school.

Highlights from Cwmtawe PE!!! / Uchafbwyntiau Addysg Gorfforol Cwmtawe

RUGBY FEVER! / BWRLWM RYGBI!

Six Nations Rugby fever has hit Cwmtawe School this term with all years getting game time against Ysgol Cwm Brombil (Year 7 and Year 9), Dwr-y-Felin (Year 8 and Year 10), Llangatwg School (Year 9) and Cefn Saeson (Year 11). Some won, others lost... but all played in the right spirit.

SHOOTING / SAETHU

Best wishes to Year 10 student Leonard Price who has been placed second in Wales in the Individual GB Shooting Intermediate Pistol Regionals and is now competing in the British Shooting Schools Finals in Staffordshire!

CROSS COUNTRY / TRAWS GWLAD

Congratulations to our Year 7 Girls Cross-Country Team on winning the Afan Need Tawe cross country competition. Sophia Jeremiah, Mari Jutsum and Anna Morgan Carlisle were amongst the top twelve runners and took part in the Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships on 12th February at Brecon.



NETBALL / PÊL-RWYD

Two outstanding netball games were held between Dwr-y-Felin and Cwmtawe School. Great skill, determination and commitment was shown by both teams. Stars of the Year 7 team were Ava Davies and Sophia Jeremiah, whilst Beth Jones shone for the Year 11 team. We're eagerly looking forward to the return of games for Year 8 and Year 9 in the near future.

Congratulations to Head Girl, Imogen Harris, on her selection for the second stage trial for Under 17 Celtic Dragons.

TRAMPOLINE CHAMPION / PENCAMPWR TRAMPOLIN

Best of luck to Year 10 Sport student Hannah Wilson, who will be competing in the Welsh Schools Trampoline Competition at Sports Wales National Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.



SWIMMING / NOFIO

We received a fantastic set of results from the Regional Swimming Championships. Year 10 pupil Mia Cleave won second place in 50m, 100m, 200m backstroke, and third place in the 100m and 200m freestyle.



RUGBY / RYGBI

Congratulations to Year 11 Students Alex Lewis, Bailey Williams, Riley Rees and Ashton Sheppard on being named in the Ospreys Under 16s West Squad.

In the picture from top left (clockwise) are Bailey Williams, Alex Lewis, Riley Rees and Ashton Sheppard. The school is looking forward to following your progress at the next level!



Transition Day / Diwrnod Pontio

SKILLS DAY / DYDD SGILIAU

Year 6 pupils recently enjoyed a day of fun activities in preparation for their first year in Cwmtawe. There were two action-packed days at the beginning of February, 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 physical education and games lessons at Cwmtawe School.



In the Technology Skills Day, pupils took part in skills workshops where they had an opportunity to bake cookies, develop team work as well as weighing and measuring skills. They also discovered how to make a pen holder out of plastic using the line bender, and how to transfer their name to fabric in the textiles workshop.



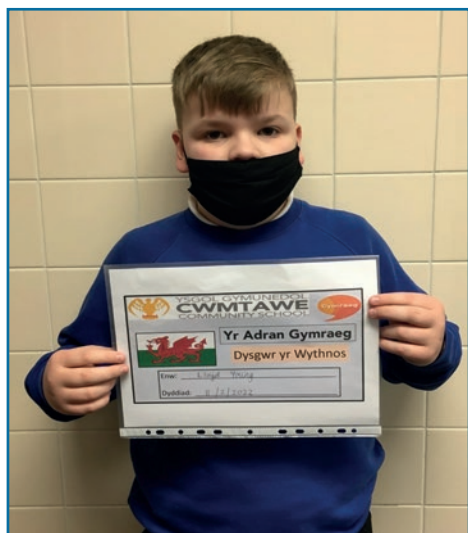
Cwmtawe School holds several skills days for Year 6 throughout the academic year as part of its primary school transition programme. The days give pupils a chance to experience the varied curriculum at the school, including ICT, music, sports and technology, leading to an induction day in the summer. 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.



ST. DAVID'S DAY / DYDD GWYL DEWI

It was not possible to hold the Eisteddfod in the school hall this year due to Covid-19 restrictions in place. However, a different kind of Eisteddfod was held... yes, online. Performances were recorded beforehand and Year 7 and Year 8 watched the performances in a special online celebration in their classrooms. The events were compered by Heads of Year 7 and Year 8, Miss Catrin Roberts and Mrs Hayley Keene. The day began with an assembly led by Mrs. Morgan, setting a fitting atmosphere in the true spirit of St. David. She outlined the importance of St. David's message "gwnewch y pethau bychain" (do the small things) to help others.

During the previous half term, pupils had been diligently preparing Eisteddfod homework in all subjects. Names of winners were announced during the Eisteddfod.



PASTORAL DAY / DIWRNOD BUGEILIOL

Year 10 pupils had a carousel of lessons which promoted citizenship and wellbeing. Sessions were delivered by HAFAN on positive relationships and PC Hodges delivered a session on 'keep safe'. There were also opportunities to explore key issues facing young people today together with positive discussions and valued contributions. Pupils were excited by the announcement that Cwmtawe had been chosen to pilot a new Work Experience scheme run by Careers Wales. During the sessions, Careers Wales staff commented on the excellent behaviour and engagement of all pupils. Well done Year 10!



FRENCH / FFRANGEG

The above pupils have successfully completed their Pupil Language Ambassador training. They were fortunate to have a live link and tour of Peru during a session with Routes Cymru and are now looking forward to cascading their passion and love of languages on to other pupils.

Ella Bradford, Caitlin Miller, Lara Mason, Madeleine Herdman and Isabelle Jones, all Year 9 pupils.

TASTY CAREERS CHALLENGE / HER GYRFAOEDD BLASUS

Year 9 have been involved in a Tasty Careers Challenge. Three teams were involved and they had to come up with a concept for a new Welsh dish to be served in a local restaurant. All teams had to present their concept to guests from the food industry. They all did so well and they had comments about their enthusiasm and teamwork. They were a credit to the school. The winning team designed a Welshcake Cheesecake and will represent the school in Parc-y-Scarlets in April.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY / DYDD RHYNGWLADOL MENYWOD

As part of International Women's Day, twenty four Year 11 pupils joined a virtual roadshow 'Women of Steel' hosted by The Wave and Tata Steel. This event focused on promoting STEM subjects and our pupils felt thoroughly inspired listening to keynote speeches and taking part in question-and-answer sessions with women working in sport, the fire service, the media, wildlife conservation and the steel industry.

ART / CELF

9 to 90 Creative Community 2021

This year the exhibition had two themes: Catherine Zeta Jones Portrait and Pet Pawtrait.

The artwork was judged by Catherine Zeta Jones herself.

First prize winners were Allannah Smith, Brooke Feathers and Katie Rose Jones.

Phoebe Jones won second prize whilst Katie Richards and Nerys Griffiths were highly commended.



MUSIC / CERDDORIAETH

The brass band brought a little festive cheer to local residents by performing in the open air before Christmas.



Our highly successful Ukulele Club has restarted and is going from strength to strength. Pictured are the Year 7 group.



The school has also won an award for reaching the landmark of getting over one hundred thousand subscribers to its ukulele channel. Big thanks to Mrs Webley for all her help.



The school held a competition asking pupils to write a letter explaining why they should win a ukulele. The ukulele was won by Iwan Lesley.

Here is the beautiful letter he wrote-



What the ukulele means to me and how it has had an impact on my time in Cwmtawe.

Firstly the ukulele is not just an instrument to me, nor is it a phase that I am going through. I've been playing the ukulele now for three years and I own two and foster one. The ukuleles are my children and my most prized possessions. Playing the ukulele has given me a sense of attainment, accomplishment and achievement.

When I first started playing the ukulele, I could only play three chords and was amazed that I could play so many enjoyable songs. Over a period of time, not only have I mastered the strings of the ukulele, but also developed the sensational strumming patterns that turn chords into well recognised songs.

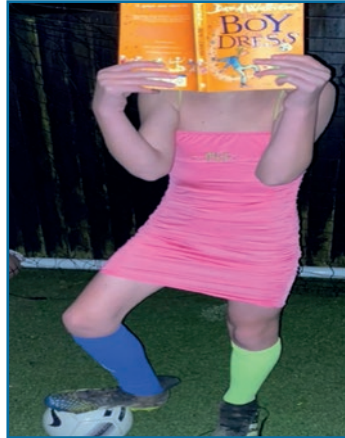
Secondly, playing the ukulele brings me great joy and allows me to forget my worries and fears. It takes me to a place where I feel alive and as I can now play all my favourite Eurovision hits (which is my second favourite thing after the ukulele) which makes me feel extremely ecstatic. Many teachers (especially Mrs Hopkins!) have encouraged me and complimented me on how well I can play, which has made me feel extremely delighted and appreciated.

The ukulele has been my lifeline during my time here at Cwmtawe. I've enjoyed going to all the ukulele sessions and ukulele concerts by being a member of the ukulaliens club. I've enjoyed meeting like minded people who also enjoy playing the ukulele. However, none of this could have happened without the help, commitment and kindness of Mrs. Webley and also her YouTube channel, Ukulaliens.

In conclusion, just like the best people on earth, I also play the ukulele. I think that I deserve this chance of a lifetime to give a new home to a ukulele in need who will be cherished, named, looked after and played like a royal instrument.

ENGLISH / SAESNEG

To celebrate 25 years of World Book Day, the English Department did something a little bit different this year. A 'Who's Reading?' competition was launched where pupils had to disguise themselves reading and prizes of books were available for the most inventive, unrecognisable readers. It was a huge success from both pupils and staff. Thank you to everyone who took part. Some of our best entries are below. Can you spot who's reading?



Successes of Former Pupils

JOE HAWKINS

Joe Hawkins captained the Welsh rugby under 20s team in their recent international match against France.



NEATH PORT TALBOT YOUTH MAYOR / MAER IEUENCTID CYNGOR CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT

Former pupil, Bethan Nicholas-Thomas has been inaugurated as the new youth mayor in a ceremony held online.

Bethan is a member of the British Youth Council and the Youth Climate Ambassadors Group which campaigns to make changes for a healthier planet.

In her acceptance speech, Bethan said: *"I pledge to make effective, efficient changes to tackle the climate crisis that affects our local area because our time is running out. I intend to focus more specifically on the young people most affected by climate change in Neath Port Talbot."*

"I promise to represent the young people of Neath Port Talbot and enhance their voices so that our ideas, opinions, praises and concerns are validated and listened to. I will work with the Youth Council and prove that what we can achieve is limitless as long as we strive to better Neath Port Talbot for everyone."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY / DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

30 May – 3 June	Whitsun half term
14 June	New Intake Parents' Evening
21 June	New Year 7 Induction Day
27 June	Year 10 Work Experience week

30 June	Year 11 Prom
1 July	INSET day
11-15 July	Year 10 Internal Exams
18-21 July	Sports day and school activities
22 July	INSET day

LITTER PICK

Our pupils have recently been active in working with local community groups to pick up litter around the Pontardawe area. We work closely with My Green Valley, who do an outstanding job taking care of our footpaths and green spaces.



SENIOR PREFECTS

Our Year 10 pupils recently underwent a gruelling selection process to choose the school's senior prefects for 2022/2023. This involved a process of teacher votes, an application letter and interview with their Head of Year, senior staff and school council members. Our successful team are shown opposite:



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



YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ffordd Parc Ynysderw
Pontardawe
Swansea SA8 4EG

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO:
Mr. C. L. Hitchings

EMAIL / EBOST: cwmtaweschool@hwbcymru.net
TEL / FFÔN: 01792 863200
FAX / FFACS: 01792 864773



facebook.com/cwmtaweschool



twitter.com/cwmtaweschool



instagram.com/cwmtaweschool



youtube.com/cwmtaweschool

cwmtawe.org