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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
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PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2017

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Nadolig 2017

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, 9th January.

Annwyl Rieni / Warcheidwaid,

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 fwynhau 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, 9 Ionawr.

Yours sincerely

Mr. C.L. Hitchings

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO

STAFF NEWS / NEWYDDION STAFF

There has been nothing short of a baby boom at Cwmtawe School over the last term. Congratulations to the following on their new arrivals:- Stephen Dellow (English) on the birth of Rosie; Rachel Ford (Additional Learning Needs) on the birth of Osian Elis; Jonathan Jenkins (Chemistry) on the birth of Jonah Bear; Caroline Thomas (LSA) on the birth of Alfie; Lori Gardiner (LSA) on the birth of Mali.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY / SUL Y COFIO

Armistice Day was commemorated by a traditional two minute silence and pupils created a moving display made of poppies in the school foyer. Thought provoking assemblies were also held for all year groups during the week.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

8 January	INSET Day -	15 February	NPT College Neath Open Evening
9 January	English Literature revision for Year 11	15-19 February	Geography Department Iceland Trip
9 January	First day of term for pupils	16 February	Ski Trip to Austria
9 January	January GCSEs start	19-23 February	Half Term
12 January	Year 7 weekend trip to Llangrannog	28 February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
15 January	Gower College Open Evening (Gorseinon)	1 March	School Eisteddfod
16 January	PTA meeting - 5.30 p.m.	2 March	Year 11 History Trip - Hitler on Trial
17 January	Year 9 Options Evening	5 March	Gower College Open Evening (Gorseinon)
22 January	Gower College Open Evening (Tycoch)	12 March	Gower College Open Evening (Tycoch)
24 January	Year 8 Literacy and Numeracy Evening	19 March	Rosslyn Park 7s
31 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening	21 March	Year 10 Parents' Evening
7 February	Prom Fashion Show	28 March	Last day of term for pupils
13 February	NPT College Llandarcy Open Evening	29 March	INSET Day
14 February	NPT College Afan Open Evening	16 April	First day of Spring Term

CHARITY WEEK / WYTHNOS ELUSENNAU

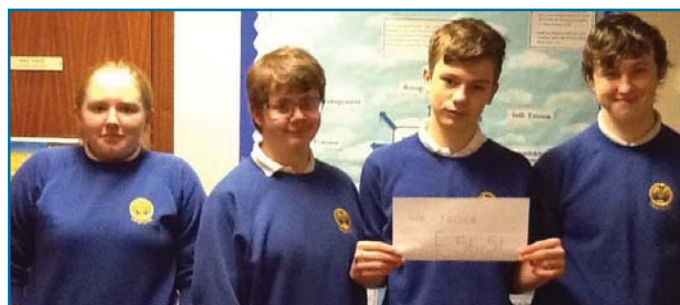
Staff and pupils got heavily involved in a variety of sponsored events and activities during Cwmtawe's annual charity week. Over £6,000 has been raised and we are supporting a number of local charities. The ingenuity of the pupils in devising ways of raising money knew no bounds. Amongst the diverse activities were a mud slide, raffles, cake stalls, sponsored events and staff versus children sports matches.



WELSH BACCALAUREATE

As part of their Welsh Baccalaureate lessons, pupils in Year 10 raised £56 towards resources for ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) sessions.

Robin Lewis, Jenna Poole, Craig McCullough and Liam Griffiths set up a sweet stall and sold a variety of goodies during their lunch hours.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Tesco – Bags of Help

Please help us win a £4,000 grant from Tesco bags of help!

Cwmtawe School Ukulele Club are in the running to receive a huge cash grant from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' initiative.

We plan to use the funding to buy ukulele instruments, amps and equipment for the club. However, if we can get enough votes for £4,000 we can buy sound equipment which can also be used by the whole school in events such as sports day and the fun run!

Please Support Us - your votes count and it's easy.

During January and February 2018 you will be able to vote for us in the Pontardawe store using the blue/red tokens given to you at the checkout each time you shop in the local Tesco stores. If you are not given a token please ask for one (or more)!

MR. X APPEAL / APÊL MR. X

A group of Year 7 pupils, who made a significant contribution to fundraising activities, accompanied Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Powles-Thomas to Swansea to buy presents for the Mr. X Appeal.

Year 7 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.



TANK DRUMS

Pupils from the school's autistic unit were successful in winning a competition for a tank drum from Russia. Music teachers are delighted with the acquisition of this new instrument which will enhance the variety of musical activities pupils can get involved in.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT / CYNGERDD NADOLIG

The School Christmas Concert was held on the 5th December. The school choir and orchestra performed impressively and the finale saw Alltwn and Rhos primary school children perform with Cwmtawe School Choir in a memorable performance.



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 everyone 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. Some pupils also received plaques and cash prizes.

The GCSE Presentation Evening was held at the beginning of November with a substantial number given awards for passing eight or more GCSEs. It was a pleasure to see our 2017 leavers returning and we wish them well in their future studies and careers.



SKILLS DAYS / DIWRNODAU SGILIAU

Skills 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, racket 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 throughout the academic year as part of its primary school transition 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.



GCHQ

Six Year 10 pupils were given a fantastic opportunity to spend a day in Cardiff University working with language analysts from GCHQ.

They delivered a presentation in French and the feedback was most complimentary. "They (pupils) gave a confident delivery, clear message with good pronunciation. The flow of the presentation was also very good." They singled Nia Elliott for particular praise for her perseverance.



GERMAN / ALMAENEG

Year 10 pupils spent a weekend at the Christmas markets of Bonn and Cologne. They enjoyed a festive advent trip on the river Rhine, savouring a three course meal. Pupils also visited the cathedral and climbed to the top for a breathtaking view over Bonn. No trip would be complete without a visit to the Winter Wonderland at one of Europe's largest theme parks in Phantasialand. A trip has also been arranged for next Christmas.



WELSH / CYMRAEG

At the end of November, 12 pupils from Years 8-10 spent two days at the Urdd Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay improving their Welsh language skills and enhancing their knowledge of Wales and its rich culture. This was an award by the Urdd for winning second prize in the Urdd National Eisteddfod in the Welsh Learners recitation competition.

They visited the set of the celebrated Welsh soap opera, Pobl y Cwm; had a guided tour of the Senedd; watched the show "Tiger Bay" in the Millennium Centre; had a back stage tour of this wonderful theatre and ended the Saturday afternoon shopping in Cardiff Centre.



MODERN LANGUAGES / IEITHOEDD MODERN

Jordan Ayew

Pupils had a surprise visitor last term as Swansea City AFC star Jordan Ayew arrived at the school to take part in celebrating the the diversity of Languages.

The Swans star is a Ghana international player and began his professional career in France with Marseille and Breton club Lorient.

The Swans are well known for attracting talented footballers from all over the world who have loved making Swansea their home.

Delighted Year 11 pupils took part in a question and answer session, asking the player about how much he likes living in Wales and being part of the team.



Headteacher Mr Lee Hitchings said "We are proud of the school's links with Swansea City as several academy players are Cwmtawe pupils. We were very pleased to welcome a senior club player who has contributed so much to the Swans' success."

"Our pupils have learned a great deal today about how learning different European languages can widen horizons and open up new opportunities."

AGORED CYMRU

Six Year 9 pupils are attending the Riverside Centre in Pontardawe every Monday to work towards the Agored Cymru Essential Skills for Work and Life qualification. Pupils are involved in experiential learning, developing a wide range of skills which are deemed important for work and everyday life. Feedback from our pupils and the Riverside Centre has been overwhelmingly positive.



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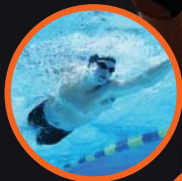
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PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Pupils and staff enjoyed a very successful afternoon on Friday 8 December, raising funds by holding Christmas Fayre activities in their year group areas. Over £2,000 was raised on the day for Cwmtawe PTA, which will all be used to support the school and its pupils.



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