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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Easter 2018

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Pasg 2018

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to present you our latest newsletter, packed with activities and events that pupils have been involved in across the school. The highlights in the newsletter give a flavour of the outstanding achievements and breadth of opportunities experienced over the last few months. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Annwyl Rieni,

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. Hyderaf y bydd yr uchafbwyntiau yn y cylchlythyr yn rhoi blas i chi o lwyddiannau'r disgyblion ynghyd â gwybodaeth am y rhychwant o gyfleoedd a brofwyd dros y misoedd diwethaf. Rwy'n gobeithio y byddwn yn mwynhau ei ddarllen.

Yours sincerely

Mr. C.L. Hitchings

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO

**SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
CURRENTLY
STANDS AT
93.5%**

This would not be possible without your support as parents/carers in ensuring your children attend regularly. It would also be appreciated if you could organise medical and dental appointments outside the school day whenever possible.

Good attendance has a direct impact on pupil achievement.

EXAMINATIONS / ARHOLIADAU

It is essential that pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 avoid taking time off school for any reason during the Summer term. External examinations start at the beginning of May, run throughout June and cannot be re-scheduled. Dates for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 internal examinations are detailed in the pupil planner.

PTA NEWS / NEWYDDION Y GYMDEITHAS RIENI

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

29 March	INSET Day	4 June	New Year 10 timetable begins
16 April	Pupils return after the Easter closure	6 June	Year 8 Parents' Evening
16-24 April	Year 11 French/German/Welsh GCSE oral exams	15-19 June	Year 7 French Trip
18 April	Concert by Watoto Choir in the evening	19 June	New Intake Parents' Evening
18 April	Year 10 English department theatre visit	22 June	Year 7 History Trip to Cardiff
20 April	Urdd Rugby Competition	26 June	New Year 7 Induction Day
25 April	Year 7 Parents' Evening	27 June	New Year 7 CSI Day
25-27 April	Year 9 Internal Examinations	30 June	Welsh Trip to Cardiff
4 May	GCSE Leavers' Day	9-12 July	Year 10 Internal Examinations
7 May	School closed for May Day Bank Holiday	11-13 July	Year 7 Forest Skills
8 May	GCSE Examinations start	14-18 July	Year 8 German Trip
16 May	Governing Body meeting	17 July	Sports Day (provisional)
17 May	Year 7 French trip meeting - 6.00 p.m. in the school hall	19-20 July	School trips
22-25 May	Years 7 and 8 Internal Examinations	23 July	Last day of term for pupils
25 May	Year 9 reports out to parents	24 July	INSET Day

PTA NEWS / NEWYDDION Y GYMDEITHAS RIENI

The PTA organises and runs activities and events in order to:-

- raise money to purchase equipment and fund activities for the benefit of the pupils;
- provide fun social activities for the children;
- foster relationships between staff, parents and the local community.

Some of the fundraising activities we have supported in the past have included:-

- Fun Run; Fashion Show; bike ride and BBQ; Summer Fair; Christmas Fair.

We have also held information evenings for parents in partnership with external agencies.

ICE HOCKEY / HOCI IA

On Wednesday 7th February some Year 10 pupils attended a year group trip to the Ice Arena Wales, Cardiff, to watch the Cardiff Devils ice hockey team take on the Sheffield Steelers in a semi-final cup match. The match ended 7-1 to the Devils and the match lived up to its heightened expectation with some ferocious attacking play and the odd "disagreement on the ice" which the pupils particularly enjoyed. The hot dogs were pretty incredible too as was the behaviour of all pupils on the trip. They were a pleasure to take out for the evening. The journey home was equally good with a year group 'sing-song' to some classics even Max Boyce would have been proud of. A big thank you to our accompanying staff, Miss H Watkin-Rees, Mr K Williams and Mrs G Morgan.

Bring on the next trip!



FUN WITH FLIGHT! / HWYL WRTH HEDFAN!

'Fun with Flight' was a 50-minute 'jet fuelled' presentation exploring the physics of flying. Students discovered how the physics they study in the classroom is an integral part of the work that engineers undertake in the RAF and other engineering organisations. Using exciting demonstrations, pupils were invited to take part in some literally jaw dropping experiments. Drones, balloons, airships and even jet engines were explored in a way that literally made their hair stand on end. They also learned about the microlight world altitude record and the physics behind how the RAF achieved their goal.

It was delivered to Year 8 and Year 9 on 22nd January.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated every year on 27th January. This is the day when the UK remembers all those affected by the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur. All across the UK, hundreds of thousands of people were marking the day in 2018 in many public and private sectors. Cwmtawe Community School honoured Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 through daily presentations in morning registration and year group assemblies.

The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was 'The Power of Words'. Lauren Jones (9EG) sang as pupils entered the assembly. Throughout each assembly pupils learnt about Renie Inow, who was a young Jewish girl in Germany when the Holocaust began and in later life went on to educate school children about her experiences of the Holocaust. Throughout the presentation, the Cwmtawe School Choir created an emotional and reflective atmosphere, singing a medley of songs. Learners appreciated that it is important that we stand up to injustice and we must use the power of our words for good!



LLANGRANNOG

The Welsh Department ran its annual, fun-packed activity weekend to the Urdd Residential Centre in Llangrannog last December. There were a host of activities for pupils which included a dry ski slope, horse riding, a swimming pool, tobogganing, go-karts, quad bikes, archery, a climbing course, astroturf football, games in the sports hall as well as trampolining.

Evening quizzes were a chance to relax informally after the day's exertions.

The centre and surrounding picturesque area has a distinct Welsh environment which gave pupils the opportunity to improve their language skills through leisure activities.

Course co-ordinator and Welsh teacher Caryl Evans said "many pupils return regularly to the Centre, reflecting their enjoyment of the course. It is a combination of fun and learning new skills and it's just as well that the centre's food is tasty and sumptuous after all the open-air activities. Pupils thoroughly enjoy the beautiful coastline and countryside at Llangrannog and it's rewarding to hear them practising their Welsh with the staff at the centre".



EISTEDDFOD

The annual School Eisteddfod was an overwhelming success with pupils competing to earn points for their houses in a wide range of competitions such as street dance, music, recitation and disco dancing.

Hours were spent rehearsing under the enthusiastic guidance of pupils from Years 10 and 11. Winners in homework competitions in all subjects were also awarded prizes.

Pupils were dressed in their house colours and at the end of an exuberant day the victorious house was the Blue House.

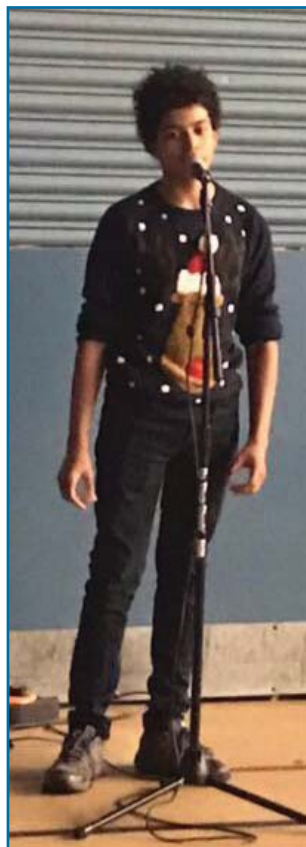


SHARING CHRISTMAS CHEER / HWYL YR WYL

Over 100 senior citizens shared Christmas cheer as guests of the school on the last day of the Christmas term. A special Christmas dinner was served by pupils to members of local pensioners' associations, who were also entertained by the talented youngsters.

One of Cwmtawe School's annual charities is Age Concern and the pupils had collected for several months to provide the lunch as well as gifts of hampers. These were distributed by special guests Father and Mother Christmas in the School's cheerfully decorated main hall.

Chairman of Cwmtawe School Governors, Clive Osborne, said "it has been a worthwhile venture by our young people, showing how much they respect and value older residents in our community. This celebration of Christmas has brought different generations together and everyone said that it had been a wonderful event".



PANTO SEASON / TYMOR Y PANTO

It was panto season at the school when the pastoral staff team took to the stage to entertain our pupils in a traditional performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Mr. Dellow's script provided plenty of laughs and slapstick comedy as some well-known school characters were teased in the jokes. Thanks to the teachers for being such good sports in taking part.



ON THE PISTE IN AUSTRIA / AR Y PISTE YN AWSTRIA

A group of Year 10 and Year 11 pupils enjoyed an exhilarating week of skiing in Mautendorf, Austria, over the February half-term break. Pupils skied in all weather conditions – from blue skies and sunshine to fresh powder snow falling! They enjoyed being fully immersed in the Austrian culture and were able to sample traditional food at its best on the slopes. As well as enjoying skiing every day, they also threw themselves into evening activities such as a quiz night, bowling, swimming and ski foxing.

On arrival at the resort, most pupils were beginners, only ever having been skiing on Pembrey dry ski slope in the weeks before departure. By the time they left Austria they were all skiing down the mountain on blue and red slopes with some even skiing black slopes too - what a result! A fantastic time was had by all.



ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS / SIARAD CYHOEDDUS Y ROTARI

After winning the local round of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition in September, our team of three Year 11 girls, supported by Mrs Sails, competed in the area finals of the competition and won. Anastasia Stockton won best speaker and Hannah Murphy won best chairperson. Kamila Stankevic also gave an excellent performance as vote of thanks, but was pipped to the post for the prize. The team will now compete in the regional finals in Abergavenny in March. They were presented with the award by a former pupil of the school, Chief Justice Sir Clive Lewis.



ROTARY YOUNG CHEF / COGYDD IFANC Y ROTARI

Rhea Price and Cerys Gill in Year 10 represented the school in the district final of the Rotary Young Chef Competition in Cowbridge on 5th February. They produced appetising three course meals, including Rhea's Italian inspired menu with a main meal of smoked salmon filled homemade ravioli pasta, and Cerys' baked cod, with pesto and cous cous. Both girls should be very proud of their achievements and I look forward to tasting their Food and Nutrition practical outcomes in Year 11!



BUSINESS STUDIES / ASTUDIAETHAU BUSNES

Year 11 Business Studies pupils were given the opportunity to interview local business owners for their controlled assessment earlier this term. Donna Edwards from 'No6hundred' coffee shop in Ynystawe, Mike Frost from 'Frosty's Greengrocers' in Pontardawe and Wendy Brown from 'Brown's of Neath' were questioned by pupils about their pricing and promotional strategies and learnt first hand about both the rewards and problems of running a business. We are grateful to the business owners for supporting the school and to Donna Edwards for the delicious desserts she brought for the pupils to sample.

ICELAND / GWLAD YR IA

The Geography Department started half term early with an amazing trip to Iceland with 38 Year 9 pupils. The group had a packed few days of snowy adventure including visits to the Blue Lagoon, Gullfoss waterfall, the Great Geysir, Seltun geothermal area and the Bridge Between Continents. Pupils learned about geothermal energy, Iceland's tectonic activity and enjoyed the stunning scenery.

However we were disappointed to miss the infamous Swansea earthquake!



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD / DANGOSWCH GERDYN COCH I HILIAETH

Lauren Jones from Year 9 has won a prize in a leading anti-racism competition for young people in Wales. Her poster won first prize from a national entry of 7,000.

Show Racism the Red Card is an anti-racism charity. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness amongst young people of the current issues surrounding racism in society. As sport has a tremendous influence on young people, Show Racism the Red Card Wales use it as a tool to engage with them to tackle racism.

The award ceremony will take place at the Marriott Hotel in Cardiff and Lauren will attend a formal lunch and meet Welsh football stars before receiving the award.



MATHEMATICS / MATHEMATEG

Intermediate Mathematics Challenge 2018.

The Mathematics Department entered 50 pupils across Years 9, 10 and 11 in this prestigious national competition. The pupils received 2 gold awards, 5 silver awards and 10 bronze awards with 2 pupils qualifying for the next round.

The UKMT individual maths challenges are lively, intriguing multiple choice question papers, which are designed to stimulate interest in maths and problem solving. Over 600,000 pupils enter the challenges with only the top 6% achieving a gold award and the top 8,000 being invited to take part in the next round.

Year 11 Awards

Samuel James	Gold Award	Qualified for Next Round
Ryan Mattick	Gold Award	Qualified for Next Round
Vrishank Shrivastava	Silver Award	
Connor Williams	Silver Award	
Iwan Thomas	Silver Award	
Morgan Williams	Bronze Award	
Llian Davies	Bronze Award	
Hannah Murphy	Bronze Award	
Rhianna Kinsey-Jones	Bronze Award	
Corie Jarrett	Bronze Award	
Lewis Morris	Bronze Award	

Year 10 Awards

Rebecca Thompson	Silver Award
Abbie Jones	Bronze Award
Ellis Thomas	Bronze Award

Year 9 Awards

Rhydian Kinsey-Jones	Silver Award
Amy Myles	Bronze Award
Joshua Mitchell	Bronze Award

GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAMS / TÎMAU PÊL-DROED MERCHED

Here is the photograph of our Under-13 girls wearing our new Girls football strip which was very generously donated to us by Mr Ray Pennock who works for Macron. His daughters are in Year 8 and Molly plays and is in the picture. Both the Under-13 and Under-15 girls teams were eliminated from the Welsh Cup competition this season in the last 16 (round) but as a school we are delighted to have two brand new and smart looking kits for the Under-13 and Under-15 teams to re-start their campaign next year.

The Under-13s team lost 3-0 on penalties following a 1-1 draw with Rhymney High School.

The Under-15s team lost 7-1 to a very strong Garth Olwg side.

We'll be back next season!



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES / IEITHOEDD TRAMOR MODERN

Our Year 9 pupils spent a day doing a carousel of modern foreign languages careers workshops to raise awareness of the enhanced opportunities available to pupils who study a modern foreign language.

Some of the activities included:

- RAF workshop.
- Session with Tim Penn, a business language champion.

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

Pupil Language Ambassadors Evan Williams, Rhys Evans, Cameron Williams, James Fleming, Jessica Taylor, Ellie Sanders, Fatemeh Tajdin and Mia-Jayne Harries took part in a training day at Swansea University. They particularly enjoyed a question and answer session with Huw Edwards (BBC).



PROM FASHION SHOW

The end of school prom is one of the eagerly anticipated events of the school year for Year 11 pupils and a fitting celebration of their five years at Cwmtawe. As a taster, pupils organised a prom fashion show during the Spring term, which raised funds towards the costs involved in running the prom.

The evening was adeptly compered by Miss Ardolino and models were joined by many talented musicians who performed on the evening.

They are all now eagerly anticipating the real prom, to be held at the Manor Park Clydach on Wednesday 11 July.



ALCOHOL AWARENESS DAY

As part of our commitment to ensuring that children in the community are aware of the issues with alcohol and drug abuse, Cwmtawe joined forces with the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) and other partners to organise an awareness event. The multi-agency initiative, which took place in February at the school, included a wide range of partners and focused on the effects and influence both drugs and alcohol can have.

Year 10 pupils were given the opportunity to hear a thought provoking talk by Paul Pugh on 'Paul's Pledge'. His positive response to suffering severe life-changing injuries in an unprovoked attack is both remarkable and inspiring. Four men were jailed for inflicting those injuries on him. His pledge is to ask people to show support and vow to never condone violent behaviour, to walk away from aggression and violence and to encourage friends and family to do the same.



Assistant Headteacher, Gemma Morgan, said:

"After speaking to the Whole School Council and local PCSOs we felt that alcohol awareness should be addressed in all year groups, particularly Year 10. Cwmtawe School has been working closely with CAP for almost a year to offer alternatives to our young people and to highlight the clubs and activities on offer in the local community. Pupils heard from many different organisations including the police, medical profession, WCADA and Paul Pugh. The highlight for many of the pupils was the activities carousel held in Pontardawe Leisure Centre, where many of these organisations and clubs had displays, with more information on show".

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

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2018 / DYDD DIOGELWCH AR Y WE 2018

Safer Internet Day 2018 (SID) was celebrated in school with a week of assemblies focusing on digital wellbeing. All pupils were shown how digital interactions have had both a positive and negative effect on our lives and how we can all make a positive impact on the internet. The local PCSOs were also in school at lunch times to discuss any issues the pupils had with online interaction. More information on digital wellbeing can be found on Young Minds (<https://youngminds.org.uk/>) and Childline (<https://www.childline.org.uk/>)



NPTCBC WELLBEING TEAM - CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

Year 10 pupils Madison Martin and Danny Smyth-John are representing Cwmtawe School on this forum. The aim is to raise awareness of mental health issues within our schools. All secondary schools will have two representatives and the forum will meet every six to eight weeks. The purpose of the group will be to:

- Raise awareness of mental health issues within our school;
- Deliver training which can then be cascaded down to peer mentors;
- Hold open days for parents/carers and possibly training events;
- Representatives will go in to primary schools and deliver some basic workshops on mental health issues;
- Get all schools to pledge to the 'Time to Change' manuscript;
- Design some 'child-friendly' posters to go up on display and within the schools;
- Collate evidence from school regarding mental health statistics;
- Ensure that all pupils and parents/carers are aware of what support is available to them;
- Work in partnership with the schools and mental health specialists.
- Look at what can be done within schools to promote wellbeing and resilience;
- Look at developing resources to be used within schools.



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