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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL  
**CWMTAWE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

## CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Haf 2019

### Dear Parents,

As we approach the Summer break I am pleased to bring you our latest newsletter outlining the activities and achievements of our pupils. I wish you all a relaxing Summer and look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Wednesday, 4 September.

Yours sincerely

**Mr. C.L. Hitchings**

**HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO**

### Annwyl Rieni,

Wrth i wyliau'r Haf agosau mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno ein cylchlythyr diweddaraf sy'n cynnwys manylion am amwryol weithgarwch a llwyddiannau ein disgyblion. Hyderaf y byddwch yn ymlacio dros wyliau'r Haf ac edrychaf ymlaen at groesawu'r diwgylion yn ôl i'r ysgol ar ddydd Mercher, 4 Medi.



## UNIFORM / GWISG YSGOL

All parents should have received our latest uniform guidance. Please ensure you read it carefully when purchasing uniform ready for September. The school is open during the Summer break for uniform purchases. Please check our website for opening times.

We would also welcome donations of second hand items of uniform that are in a good condition but are too small for your children - even shoes. They could help others who have difficulty affording uniform or who damage items during the school day. At the same time it would also be an excellent way of recycling clothes.

## MUSIC / CERDDORIAETH

Our school ukulele club "The Ukulaliens" performed again in this year's Big Weekend in Ystradgynlais, on Saturday 15th June, "rocking" the large crowds. Pupils received lots of positive comments from the audience.



## ATTENDANCE / PRESENOLDEB

High attendance is essential if your son/daughter is to reach his/her potential in school. We ask for your support by:-

- Reinforcing the importance of good attendance and punctuality;
- Liaising with the school as soon as your son/daughter is unwell;
- Ensuring your son/daughter catches up quickly on any missed work;
- Organising medical or dental appointments outside school hours;
- Avoiding taking holidays during term time.

90% attendance is the equivalent of missing six months of learning over the five years of secondary school.  
80% attendance is the equivalent of missing one year of learning over the five years of secondary school.

**School attendance  
currently stands at**

**94.6%**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

25 June	New Year 7 Induction Day	17-18 July	Activity Days
5-12 July	Year 7 Eco Focus Week.	19 July	Last Day of term
8-11 July	Year 10 Internal Exams	22 August	GCSE Results Day
12-17 July	Year 8 German Trip	2-3 September	INSET Days
16 July	Sports Day	4 September	First Day for Pupils

## SENIOR PREFECTS / UWCH SWYDDOGION

Our senior team of pupils has been appointed for the next academic year.

The twelve members oversee sixty prefects, who monitor the school corridors during lunch periods to maintain the high standards of our school. In addition to these duties, our senior prefect team have made it their mission to improve the litter and waste issue within the school and our community.

As a school, we feel this newly appointed team has already had an impact on staff and pupils and we wish them every success for the new academic year. Our head boy and head girl also become associate members of the school's governing body.

*Front Row: Eve Morgan (Senior Prefect), Rhyddian Kinsey-Jones (Senior Prefect), Mia Bending (Senior Prefect), Kyle Lewis (Head Boy), Carriann Jones (Senior Prefect)*

*Back Row: Ellie Sanders (Deputy Head Girl), Malaika Kumar (Senior Prefect), Elliott Kiernan (Deputy Head Boy), Rhys Evans ((Senior Prefect), Luke Brown (Senior Prefect), Evan Williams (Senior Prefect), Molly Richards (Head Girl).*



## MACMILLAN HILL WALK / TAITH GERDDED MACMILLAN

Cwmtawe pupils supported the Swansea Valley Macmillan Hill Walk on 12th May. Fifty Cwmtawe pupils from Years 9 and 10 gave up their Sunday to help support the local Swansea Valley Hill Walk. The school is on target to raise over £1,000 in sponsorship for Macmillan. The school has been involved in this worthwhile community event since it was set up in 2016. A big thank you from Macmillan for the support of all the pupils and staff who took part!



## QUIZ CHAMPIONS / PENCAMPWYR CWIS



A team of Year 9 pupils won a quiz competition organised by the Glantawe Lions, competing against four other schools. It was all very tense, with Cwmtawe School needing to beat one other team in the play-off in the Geography round.

*Team members were:- William Lake, Lewys Jenkins, Owen Marquart, Arwel Thomas, Isabel Williams and Vritika Shrivastava.*



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES / ASTUDIAETHAU CREFYDDOL

## Year 9 - 'The Creation, The Fall and The Flood'

At the beginning of the Summer term, Year 9 students had the opportunity to experience 'The Creation, The Fall and The Flood' delivered by the CiCS (Christians in Cwmtawe School) team. This presentation engaged students with the various religious and non-religious views on creation and enthused them to ask fundamental questions surrounding the creation of the world. Students thoroughly enjoyed being able to explore various aspects of creation such as fossils, evolution and Adam and Eve and how these might impact our lives today. We look forward to the continuation of posing these fundamental questions and delving a little deeper into religious and philosophical themes throughout the Religious Studies GCSE course.

## DRAMA

Year 9 Drama students have been diligently preparing a dramatic presentation depicting the effects of bullying. This moving performance in the school drama studio on June 19 delivered a firm, stark message on how bullying can adversely impact people's lives.



## MATHEMATICS / MATHEMATEG

The UK Mathematics Trust is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. It organises national mathematics competitions for UK secondary school pupils.

The Mathematics Department entered 50 pupils from Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 for the 2019 Intermediate Mathematics Challenge and 50 pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 for the 2019 Junior Mathematics Challenge. The challenge is a national competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust to identify the top mathematicians in the country.

From a national entry of over 250,000 pupils for each challenge, only the top 6% receive gold certificates, the next 13% receive silver awards and the following 21% receive bronze awards.

**The school's pupils were very successful gaining 2 gold, 8 silver and 22 bronze awards.** The successful candidates are listed below.

### Year 11 Awards

Rebecca Thompson	Bronze
Kieran Thomas- James	Bronze
Libby O'Sullivan	Bronze
Benjamin Walsh	Bronze
Kaitlin Evans	Bronze

### Year 10 Awards

Tommy Griffin	Gold
Alex Lewis	Silver
Matas Valikonis	Bronze
Rhydian Kinsey-Jones	Bronze
Joshua Mitchell	Bronze

### Year 9 Awards

William Lake	Gold
Evan Watts	Silver
Isabel Williams	Bronze
Neo Seppman	Bronze

### Year 8 Awards

Beth Jones	Silver
Lacey Evans	Silver
Morgan Amirat	Silver
Thomas Price	Silver
Evie Norris	Bronze
Keira Bater	Bronze

Zahid Islam	Bronze
Jacob Harris	Bronze
Pranaya Haidaya	Bronze
Katie Richards	Bronze
Jake Ascroft	Bronze
Eva Campbell	Bronze

### Year 7 Awards

James Guiney	Silver
Carys Morgan	Silver
Eleanor Marquart	Bronze
Emily Saunders	Bronze
Ava Phillips	Bronze
Evangeline Griffiths	Bronze

# ENGLISH / SAESNEG

## Our Hay Day

On the 24th of May a group of 15 "Inklings", accompanied by Mrs Williams, Mrs Sails and Mr Rogers, travelled to Hay-on-Wye for the school's first visit to the Hay Festival, which celebrates books, readers and writers.

Pupils were enthralled by talks from the authors Sarah Crossan, David Baddiel and Marcus Sedgwick and thoroughly enjoyed the bookshop where all three authors carried out book-signings and chatted with the group from Cwmtawe.

After a thoroughly inspiring day, the pupils headed home full of enthusiasm for writing.



## AM'S VISIT TO CWMTAWE

Jeremy Miles, Assembly Member for Neath, visited Cwmtawe School on Monday 20th May to have a discussion with the Whole School Council. Pupils asked questions about Brexit, Education and support for young people's mental health. They asked some very challenging questions. Pupils also shared some of the work they have been undertaking to improve the provision for young people's mental health. Jeremy passed on his thanks to all the pupils. He was really impressed with them as a group, the work that they have been doing especially in terms of mental health and was looking forward to seeing the finished results. He also thanked them for being so challenging in their questions. It is important for the pupils to have the opportunity to learn first-hand how politics work.



## DIWRNOD BUGEILIOL BLWYDDYN 10 / YEAR 10 PASTORAL DAY

Pupils in Year 10 responded extremely well to a hard hitting and educational day. The link with the local PCSOs, agencies and clubs means that pupils are aware of the risks and effects of alcohol misuse. The day also highlighted diversionary activities that are available to them within the local community. The introduction of a lesson on County Lines, which was delivered by PC Hodges, highlighted a current issue facing young people. The feedback from pupils has been tremendous, they felt that Paul's Pledge proved highly emotive as Paul was a local boy who many of the pupils could identify with. As he says, what happened to him as a result of alcohol induced violence could happen to anyone.



## ART / CELF

Pictured right, with their work, are talented artists Rosie Ridd Davies, Amber Viney and Tammy Jenkins. Their outstanding work has been selected as the strongest pieces in this year's Eisteddfod, Welsh Landscape drawing competition. Well done girls!





# FRANCE / FFRAINC / FRANCE

Between the 13th and the 18th June, eighty Year 7 pupils visited Chateau Beaumont, South Normandy, for a fun and exciting activity week to soak up the French culture and practise their linguistic skills. Pupils were entertained by a French-themed evening with tasters of snails and frogs legs. They thoroughly enjoyed the visit to the village of Dinard (where the Welsh team was based during the historic Euro tournament two year ago). Mont St. Michel was also a great hit with both staff and pupils, but the ultimate end to the trip was the day at Eurodisney. All involved had a great time.



# WELSH / CYMRAEG

## Cardiff / Caerdydd

**Forty eight Year 9 pupils spent two days in May improving their Welsh skills at the Urdd residential centre, Cardiff.**

They stayed at the Urdd hostel behind the Millennium Centre, in the heart of Cardiff Bay. Pupils enjoyed a tour of the Principality Stadium, free time shopping, canoeing in the water centre, ice-skating as well as a trip on a speedboat around Cardiff Bay. During the evening, teams challenged each other to games of bowling in the ten-pin bowling centre.



# LLANGRANNOG

Our annual weekend away in Llangrannog proved popular with Year 7 pupils. They enjoyed the host of activities offered in this picturesque setting - skiing, toboggans, the new zip wire, climbing, archery, quad bikes, swimming and horse riding. The centre's natural Welsh environment also affords pupils the opportunity to practise their Welsh speaking skills in a leisure environment.



# EISTEDDFOD YR URDD

For the first time the school won two gold medals at the National Urdd Eisteddfod, held in Cardiff during Whitsun half term. Head girl, Molly Richards, won the individual hip hop / street dance competition and a group of Year 8 and Year 9 Welsh learners performed a poem in the Welsh learners group recitation competition.





# Physical Education / Addysg Gorfforol

## COUNTY ATHLETICS / ATHLETAU Y SIR

Congratulations to Zac Davies and Sam Davies, both in Year 9, who were recently crowned County Athletics Champions in hurdles and high jump respectively.



On the 15th and 16th June they took part in the Welsh Athletics Championship in North Wales. Zac won first place in the under 15s hurdles and second prize in the long jump competition, whilst Sam Davies won third prize in the high jump competition.

## RUGBY / RYGBI

Year 9 and Year 10 boys enjoyed two days at the Urdd 7s tournament in Cardiff, with the Year 9 team reaching the quarter finals and the Year 10s reaching the semi finals of the cup competition.

Year 9 boys recently competed at the Bishopston School 7s tournament and won the Bowl Final, beating Llandovery College 14-10 in the final.



## BRITISH CHAMPION / PENCAMPWRAIG PRYDAIN

Congratulations to Year 10 pupil Victoria Perkins who is now WRSA Senior British Champion.

## NETBALL / PÊL-RWYD

The Year 8 netball team were runners-up in the finals of the Afan Nedd Netball Tournament.



## FOOTBALL / PÊL-DROED

Year 11 recently won the national schools 5-a-side football tournament in Cardiff. The commitment displayed by all seven players was awesome.



## UNICEF SOCCER AID – CWMTAWE'S CONTRIBUTION

On Friday 14th June, Cwmtawe pupils took part in fundraising events for UNICEF Soccer Aid. Pupils brought in £1 donations for non-school uniform and at lunch time, many pupils took part in a 'Football Playground Challenge' where they had to navigate a football obstacle course before kicking the ball inside Ronaldo's big mouth! All participants were put into a prize draw with lots of Swansea FC kit up for grabs. In addition to these fundraisers, staff also took part in a sweepstake for the Women's World Cup, helping the school raise £648 for UNICEF. As a bonus, for every £1 raised by schools for Soccer Aid, the UK Government will match the fundraising, doubling the difference that fundraisers have made to children's lives across the globe.





# RIVERSIDE PROJECT 2018-2019 / PROSIECT GLAN YR AFON 2018-19

## Level 2 Award in Work Related Education

A group of six Year 9 pupils were selected to attend the Riverside Centre at Pontardawe.

The group achieved Entry Level 2 Award for Essential Skills for Work and Life by attending the academy over a six month period, taking part in a variety of activities and challenges, both individual and team-based, within the woodland/riverside setting.

To achieve the Level 2 Award in Work Related Education, the pupils, who were split into two groups, designed and made coffee tables, within workshop settings which they constructed themselves.

The group also achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, which included climbing Pen y Fan, a practice Expedition in the Brecon Beacons and the final Expedition in the Gower. The group also took part in activities such as First Aid, Campcraft, Navigation and general outdoor management.



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## PEER MENTORS / MENTORIAID

The peer mentors for 2019/2020 were announced following a rigorous application and interview process which attracted over 60 applicants. Forty Year 9 peer mentors have been appointed and they began their duties on Induction Day with the Year 6 pupils on Tuesday, 25 June. They received a full day's training before induction day and had an opportunity to speak to previous peer mentors. Responsibilities will include offering support to new Year 7 pupils, being visible on the school yard at break times and also working with groups in the peer mentoring room and study at lunchtimes.



## ECO-SCHOOL / YSGOL-ECO

On April 2nd, the Whole School Council, SNAG and Eco-school members took part in a Litter Pick with Keep Wales Tidy for the Great Big School Clean. They spent 2 hours collecting rubbish from around Pontardawe. They found a range of interesting items and were in competition to see who could collect the most bags!



## SAFER INTERNET DAY / DYDD GOFAL AR Y RHYNGRWDYD

The school celebrated Safer internet Day 2019 with a series of assemblies about consent. As digital users we often give too much consent to social media and other apps and websites. The assemblies showed how we are tracked and provide 'Big Data' to social media sites which is then used to tailor our social media timeline. For more information on the assemblies and how you can stay safe online visit the school online safety page <http://bit.ly/ccsonlinesafety>



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