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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2019

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Nadolig 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

As we come to the end of a busy term I am delighted to bring you our latest newsletter, highlighting school events and the various successes of our pupils over the past term. I hope you enjoy reading it.

I would also like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. Have a relaxing break and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 7th January.

Yours sincerely

Mr. C.L. Hitchings

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO

Annwyl Rieni / Warcheidwaid

Ar ddiwedd tymor prysur 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 fwynhad o'i ddarllen.

Hoffwn ddymuno nadolig llawen a blwyddyn Newydd lewyrchus i chi gyd. Hyderaf y byddwn yn ymlacio dros yr Wyl ac edrychaf ymlaen at groesawu disgyblion nôl i'r ysgol ar ddydd Mawrth, Ionawr y seithfed.

GCSE RESULTS 2019 / CANLYNIADAU TGAU 2019

A comprehensive report of GCSE results achieved last year is available within the Governors' Annual Report to Parents.

- 73% of our pupils achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSE's A*-C.
- 52% of our pupils achieved at least 9 GCSEs at A*-C.
- 45% of our pupils achieved at least 10 GCSEs at A*-C.
- 10% of our 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. It is the pinnacle of five years of hard work and reflects the quality of education offered by the school. We wish pupils well as they embark on the next stage of their education or their chosen career".



ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS / SIARAD CYHOEDDUS Y ROTARI

On the 20th November, a group of Year 11 pupils competed in the annual Rotary Youth Speaks and Quiz competitions and were successful in winning both events. This was an outstanding achievement considering that they were competing against teams of 'A' Level pupils. The team will now move forward into the next round.

Pupils involved in the debating team were Rhyddian Kinsey-Jones, Fatemeh Tajdin and Christie Thomas. Members of the quiz team were Selina Jones, Rhyddian Kinsey-Jones, Joshua Mitchell and Daniel Flint.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY / DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

11 th December	Christmas Lunch	7 th January 2020	First day of term for pupils
13 th -15 th December	Year 7 weekend in Llangrannog	8 th January	English Literature GCSE Exam
17 th December	Year 8, 9 & 10 summary report to parents	14 th January	PTA Meeting at 5.30 p.m.
19 th December	Senior Citizens Christmas tea	15 th January	Year 9 Options Evening
20 th December	Last Day of Term	12 th -14 th January	Year 9 Examinations

REMEMBRANCE DAY / DIWRNOD 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 throughout the week.



MUSIC / CERDDORIAETH

In November, members of the school choir in Years 8-10 took part in the recording of the Wave's Big Christmas Single along with 300 other children. The song which will be released is 'O Holy Night' and all proceeds from sales of the song will go to *Cash 4 Kids*. The soloist on the record is Shellyann Evans, winner of the BBC's 'All Together Now' singing contest. Some of the pupils also got an opportunity to go on the Wave and Swansea Sound to talk about the day and sing a part of the song. Keep an eye out for it online and be sure to support by downloading when it is released in the next few weeks!

EUROS 2020

Year 7 enjoyed their first year group trip to Cardiff City Stadium on 19th November to watch Wales play Hungary in a vital 2020 European qualifier match. Over eighty Year 7 pupils attended and thoroughly enjoyed watching Gareth Bale, Daniel James and Aaron Ramsey, to name but a few. We had a thrilling time eating hot dogs and burgers and singing Welsh songs to cheer our amazing team on. Wales ended up winning 2-0 and qualifying for the European Championships in 2020. We captured some wonderful photos of our pupils enjoying themselves and have given them some memories to treasure forever.



KEY STAGE 2 SKILLS DAYS / DYDDIAU SGILIAU

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.

On 8th November our technology department ran a very successful Technology Skills Day for 130 pupils from Clydach, Alltwen, Godre'rgraig, Glais and Gwaun Cae Gurwen Primary Schools. Pupils developed their knowledge of forces and the design process while designing a car seat, seat belt and bumper to test what conditions provided the best protection during a crash test. Working in teams of five, pupils engineered, designed and marketed a protection system for their egg. It proved to be an 'eggcellent' day and pupils had a cracking time testing their designs.

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.



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.

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 surprise visitor on Thursday 3rd October as Swansea City FC star Aldo Kalulu arrived at the school to join celebrations.

Aldo Kalulu is a French professional footballer of Congolese descent. He is on loan to Swansea City this season from Swiss club FC Basel, and previously played for Lyon in France. He was also a French under-18 international player.

The Swans are well-known for attracting talented footballers from all over the world who have loved making Swansea their home. Indeed, many fans hope that Kalulu will join the Swans permanently at the end of this year's loan period.

Excited Year 10 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. Aldo Kalulu was delighted to join in and support the activities.

As Headteacher, Mr Hitchings, reported to the press during that week "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 is contributing 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."



CHARITY WEEK / WYTHNOS ELUSENNAU

Staff and pupils got heavily involved in a variety of sponsored events and activities during Cwmtawe's annual charity week. Almost £3,000 has been raised to support a number of local and national charities. The ingenuity of the pupils in devising ways of raising money knew no bounds. Amongst the diverse activities were a mud slide, raffles, splat the teacher, sponsored events and staff versus children sports matches.



ANNUAL FUN RUN / RAS HWYL BLYNYDDOL

The annual PTA Fun Run has become an eagerly anticipated event in our school calendar. Both pupils and staff made an outstanding effort to dress up and raise money for the PTA, as can be seen from the images below. These funds are used to enhance provision for your children. In recent years the PTA has funded resources, pupil rewards, presentations as well as new sports equipment. This year, Cwmtawe also welcomed Godre'graig School pupils to join in the walk.



Brave pupils take on muddy challenge in aid of charity.

What better way to end a year than spending a day climbing trees, swinging on ropes, diving in murky pools, sliding into muddy pits, and cycling from Pontardawe to Mumbles and back. This is what pupils and staff from Cwmtawe did at the end of the summer term. Along the way they raised an amazing £1,178 which has been donated to Ty Hafan, LATCH and Miss Hodson's Pastoral Welfare Fund at Cwmtawe. Both pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are now looking forward to equally challenging activities next year.



PRESENTATION EVENING / NOSON WOBRWYO

Cwmtawe was proud again this year to present awards for academic achievements 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 GCSE success. It was a pleasure to see our 2019 leavers returning and we wish them well for the future.



ENGLISH / SAESNEG

Many of our talented pupils have had their work published this term. Thirty-seven of our young writers, many of whom attend 'Ink', Cwmtawe's creative writing club, were published in "Mission Chaos", an anthology of exciting survival stories which are sure to leave you paranoid for an apocalypse! Work by a further three of our pupils was also published in "Poetry Escape", an anthology of inspiring poetry which was all about raising your voice, speaking your truth and taking a stand. Congratulations to our amazing authors!

Any pupils who want to get involved with 'Ink', and maybe see their own name in published print, are welcome to come to 'Ink' in E6 every Friday lunchtime.



Pictured is Rosie Ridd-Davies whose work was published in both anthologies.

PASTORAL CARE / GOFAL BUGEILIOL

All pupils had road safety sessions on 4th September which were delivered by the Child Pedestrian Training Coordinator for Neath Port Talbot. Pupils were given examples of how to be safe when arriving and leaving school.

On 1st October, Year 7 pupils received bus safety training throughout the day. They watched a video on how to stay safe on the bus, wearing seatbelts and how to evacuate a bus safely.



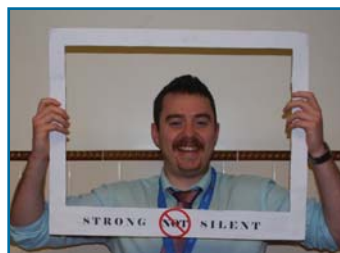
PASTORAL DAY / DYDD BUGEILIOL

Year 10 pupils had a carousel of various lessons which promoted citizenship and wellbeing. Sessions were delivered by HAFAN on positive relationships and PC Hodges delivered a session on keep safe work. There were also opportunities to explore key issues facing young people today together with positive discussions and valued contributions being offered. Topics included LGBT, trolling and mental health issues.



NEATH PORT TALBOT YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH FORUM / FFORWM IECHYD MEDDWL

Excellent work continues with the forum and information has been cascaded into school. There will be a launch of "I wish my teacher knew" boxes in Year 7 registration classes and the drive to support young people having any difficulties continues, encouraging all to be "Strong Not Silent". We are looking forward to the mental health conference which will be held in January 2020.



NEATH PORT TALBOT YOUTH COUNCIL / CYNGOR IEUENCTID

Bethan Nicholas-Thomas, Flynn McGinley and Lola Thair were all successful in the NPT Youth election. Nine pupils from Cwmtawe opted to put themselves forward for this prestigious opportunity. Several pupils prepared manifestos and voting took place in school on 11th October. Llongyfarchiadau!

CHWARAEON / SPORTS

Congratulations to Zac Davies, Year 10, who has represented Wales in the indoor athletics championship in Glasgow.

Year 7 pupil Ashton Parry has been chosen to represent West Wales in the cross country championship in Brecon.

Imogen Harris, Year 9, is in the Afan Nedd County Netball Squad and Beth Jones, also from Year 9, has been in the Afan Nedd County Netball Development Squad.



The school would like to thank CGI for sponsoring the netball dresses and football kit.



FOOTBALL / PÊL-DROED

The girls pictured here competed in an under 13 EFL Inter-Regional Football tournament at Play Football Swansea, winning 8 out of 10 matches. They will now progress to the regional EFL tournament, competing for a place to represent Swansea City at Wembley stadium in May 2020.

All girls played fantastically and all girls scored during the tournament, including goal keeper Paige Mace! Squad members are Bronwen Donovan (Captain), Courtney Reagan, Caitlin Weston, Lola Thair, Emma Thomas, Paige Mace, Grace John & Ellie Gibbins.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD / GWOBR DUG CAEREDIN

Year 9 pupils take on Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Waterfalls Hike.

To complement their training for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition, 21 pupils from Year 9 undertook a gruelling hike from Clyngwyn in the upper Neath Valley around the four waterfalls in Pontneddfechan. They were able to go behind Sgwd Yr Eira which, although wet, was an exciting experience for them all. They finished the hike with a campfire in Pont Melyn Fach where the warmth and toasted marshmallows were very much appreciated. Some pupils and staff also experienced the freezing temperatures of the river but even this was enjoyable. They are all now looking forward to the real expedition, hopefully in the summer term, which will be a little warmer. It was an experience they will never forget.



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



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