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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Haf 2022

Dear Parents and Carers / Annwyl Rieni a Gofalwyr

With the Summer break fast approaching I am delighted to bring you our latest newsletter, outlining a selection of the activities and achievements as we have slowly and steadily returned to normality following the pandemic. I would like to wish you all a relaxing Summer and look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 6th September.

Gyda'r gwyliau Haf yn prysur agosau mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno ein cylchlythyr diweddaraf. Mae'n amlinellu amrywiaeth o weithgareddau a llwyddiannau'r disgyblion wrth i ni droedio yn araf bach yn ôl at normalrwydd. Hoffwn ddymuno haf ymlaciol i chi ac edrychaf ymlaen at groesawu ein disgyblion yn ôl i'r ysgol ar Dydd Mawrth 6 Medi.

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!

If you are interested in applying to join Cwmtawe in September – or have friends, brothers or sisters who wish to apply, please contact the school as soon as possible at cwmtaweschool@hwbcmru.net or **01792 863200**.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY / DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

22 August - GCSE results day

6 September - 1st day of term for pupils

ESTYN THEMATIC VISIT / YMWELIAD GAN ESTYN

During the Spring term Cwmtawe received an Estyn Thematic visit. Estyn were extremely impressed with the school and commented on the calm and purposeful atmosphere around the building.

Feedback comments included:

- Strong, caring culture of the school based on wellbeing and high achievement.
- Positive attitudes to learning demonstrated by pupils.
- A measured approach to new initiatives and developments, to avoid overwhelming pupils and staff.
- Pupil centred approach to all aspects of the school, resulting in high impact.
- High quality work evident in books with meaningful comments and very few gaps.
- Children were able to clearly articulate where they were in their learning and how to improve.
- Pupils really valued effective verbal feedback and spoke extremely positively where this was done well.

Estyn has asked the school to submit two effective practice cameos for publication linked to assessment and quality assurance.

ARMED FORCES DAY / DYDD Y LLUOEDD ARFOG

Iwan Bowden from Year 8 was on parade for the Armed Forces Day in Swansea. (Pictured right)



YOUTH SERVICE / GWASANAETH IEUENCTID

Neath Port Talbot Youth Service have been holding engaging activities every Thursday for a group of pupils. To celebrate Youth Work week, the Mayor of the county visited and saw them showing their creative sides as well as the importance of teamwork



PEER MENTORS / MENTORIAID

The Peer Mentors for 2022/23 were announced following a rigorous application and interview process which attracted over 60 applicants. 34 Year 9 peer mentors have been appointed and they received a full day's training before beginning their duties in September.

Well done to all pupils and staff involved!

[illegible]

Physical Education / Addysg Gorfforol

CRICKET / CRICED

On 23rd June an excited coach load of pupils watched Glamorgan play cricket at Sophia Gardens. It was a thrilling game with Glamorgan winning after a superb performance.



Congratulations to Joe Hall (Year 8) on being selected for the South Wales cricket team in June.

Ynystawe Cricket Club hosted the Year 7 and 8 West Glamorgan girls cricket festival. The girls played four competitive games and displayed great skills.



FOOTBALL / PÊL-DROED

Congratulations to the Under 13s football team on winning the Afan Nedd Under 13s Schools Football Tournament!



DANCING / DAWNSIO

Phoebe Davies (81) will be competing with her team IDM Megacrew, in the World Hip Hop Championships in Arizona on August 6th, representing the UK.



ATHLETICS / ATHLETAU

Soffia Haeney won a gold medal in the Welsh Schools Championship with a throw of 37.18 metres, which was her personal best.

She then went on to earn a silver medal in the Welsh Championships, with a throw of 34.81.

She is also one of twelve young people throughout Wales who was selected to visit Switzerland with the Guides, representing her country.



BOXING CHAMPION/ PENCAMPWR PAFFIO

Congratulations to Year 8 pupil Alfie James who has had major successes in the boxing ring. In May, he became Welsh School Boys 'B' Champion. In June, he travelled with the Wales squad to Dundee, winning silver in the British Championships.

FOOTBALL STAR / SEREN PÊL-DROED

Zak Phillips from Year 9 was presented with his district schoolboy cap.



TENNIS / TENIS

Talented tennis player Oliver Page was offered a wild card into the Under 14s Wimbledon qualifying games in Roehampton. This is an event open to the top European players. He has a very promising sporting future.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES / GÊMAU'R GYMANWLAD

The Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay passed through Margam Park at the end of June. Three of our Silver Young Ambassadors were fortunate enough to be selected as baton bearers on the day - Dafydd Hyett, Nia Thomas and Daniel James, all from Year 11.



The History Department / Yr Adran Hanes

JUBILEE/ JIWBILI

Pupils who attended the Jubilee lunchtime club and members of 8U made bunting, flags, paper chains and commemorative plates. They also learnt about British culture and values as well as the history of Queen Elizabeth II.



DIGITAL DIALOGUE WALES / CYFATHREBU DIGIDOL YNG NGHYMRU

During the Summer Term the History Department participated in Digital Dialogue Wales.

This programme is aimed at connecting pupils with local and national politicians using online platforms such as Zoom and Teams. It gave pupils a rare opportunity to engage with their elected representatives and build understanding and relationships that lead to real and tangible changes in their communities. A workshop day was held in school for Year 8 learners. During this event activities were undertaken to enable learners to become ethically informed citizens. In July, pupils took part in a virtual surgery with Jeremy Miles, Minister for Education and the Welsh Language.



FUNDRAISING / CODI ARIAN

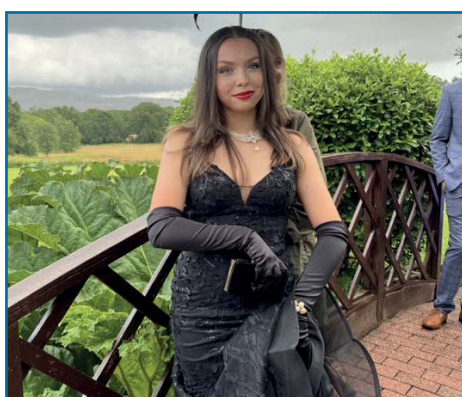
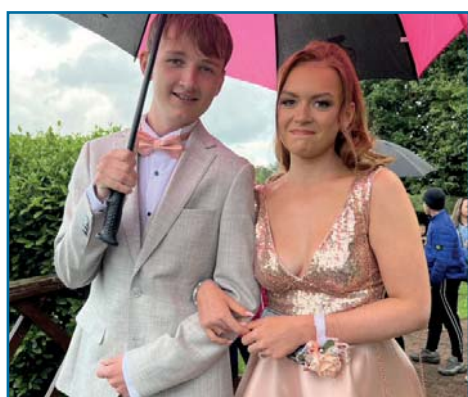
Pupils took part in a lunchtime Football Fundraising Challenge, raising funds for the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund. Year 7 and 8s were especially keen to 'kick the ball into Ronaldo's mouth' and an impressive £92.61 was raised. The overall winner, taking home a new football, was Year 8's Josh Cleave, who scored 4 goals and edged out Year 7's Felix Kift who scored 3. A fun time was had by all, and some valuable funds were raised for Ukraine in the process.



PROM

The Year 11 Leavers' Prom was held on Thursday 30th June at the Glyn Clydach Hotel. Head of Year, Mrs Louise Lloyd and Assistant Head of Year, Miss Carys Price, had spent many hours organising and planning an extremely successful celebration of pupils' last five years at Cwmtawe.

The divine and dazzling dresses, as well as the slick and stunning suits, were a treat for the spectators who gathered to catch a glimpse of our Year 11 students. Pupils enjoyed posing for photographs, taking 'selfies' with friends and strutting along the red carpet as they made their entrances. Following delicious food and music, it was time for our 'Prom Awards'. Our main awards of the evening went to Alex Dowdells who was voted 2022 Prom King and Angel Paton who was voted 2022 Prom Queen. We're sure that all the pupils will treasure the memories of their Prom for many years to come.



PROM CONTINUED



YEAR 8 CAREERS FAYRE / FFAIR GYRFAOEDD BLWYDDYN 8

As pupils choose their GCSE options a Careers Fayre was held to guide and advise them. Over 35 employers and agencies attended the event to offer guidance and advice to pupils.



English / Saesneg

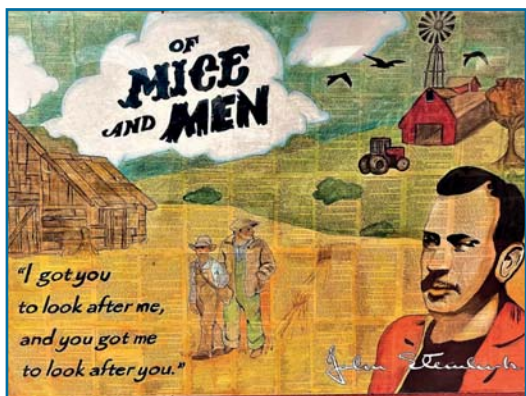
VISIT TO THE HAY FESTIVAL / YMWELIAD Â GWYL Y GELLI GANDRYLL

As part of the creative writing club 'Ink', a group of students in Year 7 to Year 10 went on a trip to the Hay Festival, the largest book festival in the world. In order to go on the trip, the students were tasked with writing a poem about something they felt passionate about, with topics ranging from music, identity, and climate change. During the trip the students had the opportunity to attend a number of events with various writers including the iconic children's author, Jacqueline Wilson, and activist Laura Bates. The group were thrilled to be able to meet some of the writers at the event throughout the day and finished the day with an ice cream in the sun.



MURAL / MIRLUN

Some students from Year 9 have created a mural for the English communal area for their GCSE text 'Of Mice and Men'. The main students involved were Phoebe Dawson, Summer Coughlan, Elinor Alden, Louisa Thompson, Jessica Tucker, Nia James, Reece Gillard and Madeleine Herdman.



SEREN – HIGH ACHIEVERS

At the beginning of July, a group of Year 10 pupils embarked on a long bus journey to Oxford in the early hours of the morning. Upon arrival, pupils were in awe of the rich architecture of the university buildings. The day began with a lecture, discussing how to develop thinking capabilities.

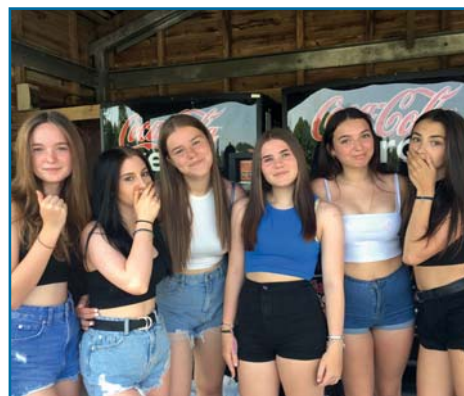
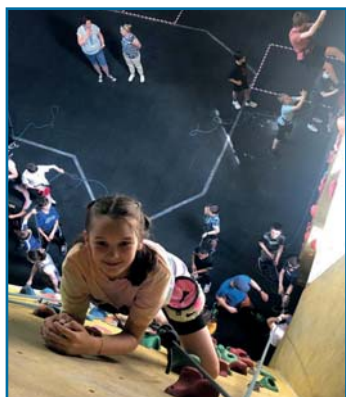
Lunch was provided in the great hall of Jesus College, surrounded by the portraits of previous well-known students, including Harold Wilson and Lawrence of Arabia. There followed a tour of the 'City of spires' where pupils visited the esteemed Bodleian Library and passed well known landmarks such as the 'mock' Bridge of Sighs and locations where the Harry Potter film was shot.



END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES / GWEITHGAREDDAU DIWEDD BLWYDDYN

Yn ystod wythnos olaf y tymor trefnwyd tridiau o weithgareddau i gloriannu blwyddyn lwyddiannus. Yn wir, roedd rhywbeth at ddant pawb!

During the last week of the term a range of activities were organised to crown a successful year. Indeed, there was something to suit everyone. Pupils enjoyed the thrilling rides in Oakwood Theme Park, watched the film Jurassic World Dominions in Pontardawe Arts Centre, went surfing, climbed in Dynamic Rock, played golf on Pontardawe Golf Course, with the older pupils enjoying a Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Musicians savoured an ukulele picnic, artists improved their artistic skills and our technology experts spent time coding. The pictures reflect the pleasure pupils derived from these activities.

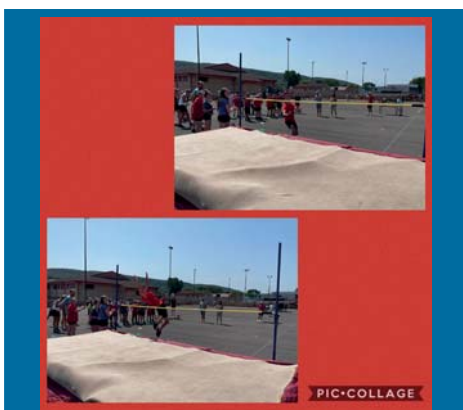


END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES / GWEITHGAREDDAU DIWEDD BLWYDDYN



SCHOOL SPORTS DAYS / MABOLGAMPAU'R YSGOL

Sports days were held over three days during the last week of term – Year 7 on the Monday, Year 8 on the Tuesday and Year 9 on the Wednesday. Pupils keenly competed in a range of competitions to win points for their team colours and registration classes. They took part in high jumps, long jumps, shot, races as well as relays. A few school records were also challenged / broken.





YEAR 10 PASTORAL DAY / DIWRNOD BUGEILIOI BLWYDDYN 10

Pupils in Year 10 responded extremely well to a hard hitting and educational day. The link with the local PCSOs, agencies and clubs mean that pupils are aware of the risks facing them. The day began with a powerful assembly, delivered by John Davey, on his experience of knife crime. PC Lewis Jones introduced pupils to the risks posed by alcohol, and they examined the law, physical and mental wellbeing as well as antisocial behaviour.

Cwmatawe has also been working in partnership with Spectrum to help our pupils keep themselves safe online. The day highlighted the diverse range of activities that are available to them within the local community.



HELP THE PTA / HELPWCH Y GYMDEITHAS RHINIENI AC ATHRAWON

Would you like to help Cwmtawe School's Parent Teachers Association?

This lively group helps raise funds and support the school, enabling us to buy minibuses, technology equipment as well as gym equipment.

They meet once a term and are already planning events for the future. If you would like to join please get in touch with Mrs. Gemma Morgan, Assistant Headteacher, at the school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM / GWISG YSGOL

Applications for the Welsh Government's Pupil Development Grant are now open.

You may be entitled to financial support to help with the purchase of:

- School uniform, including coats and shoes;
- School sports kit, including footwear;
- Uniform for enrichment activities, including but not limited to, scouts, guides, cadets, martial arts, sports, performing arts or dance;
- Equipment, e.g. school bags and stationery;
- Specialist equipment where new curriculum activities begin such as design and technology;
- Equipment for out of school hours trips such as outdoor learning, e.g. waterproofs.
- Laptops or tablets.

You can find out if you're eligible and apply for the grant on the NPT Council website here: www.npt.gov.uk/1316

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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