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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL
CWMTAWE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

CYLCHLYTHYR RHINI

Haf 2018

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 Tuesday, 4th September.

Annwyl Rieni,

Wrth i wyliau'r haf agosau mae'n bleser gennyf gyhoeddi ein cylchlythyr diweddaraf sy'n rhoi manylion i chi am amrywiol weithgarwch a llwyddiannau ein disgyblion. Hyderaf y byddwch yn ymlacio dros wyliau'r Haf ac edrychaf ymlaen at groesawu'r disgyblion yn ôl i'r ysgol ar ddydd Mawrth, 4 Medi.

Yours sincerely

Mr. C.L. Hitchings

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO

YOUTH COUNCIL / CYNGOR IEUENCTID

Anastasia Stockton (Head Girl) represented Neath Port Talbot Youth Council and Cwmtawe School at a meeting with the Minister for the United Nations and the Commonwealth, Lord Tariq Ahmad. The meeting was held in the Secretary of State for Wales' office in Cardiff.

Lord Tariq Ahmad will play an active role in the upcoming Commonwealth Youth Forum and was interested in canvassing the views of young people in the United Kingdom ahead of the event. During his visit to Cardiff he engaged with young people from across Wales to hear which issues were on their minds and discuss what they thought should be done in response to these.

As part of this discussion he was interested in learning both about issues faced by young people and about the global issues that matter to them.

Some of the policy areas discussed were:

- Youth Unemployment
- Climate change and its impact on oceans
- Disability rights
- Youth mental health



UNIFORM / GWISG YSGOL

All parents should have received our latest uniform guidance. Please ensure you read it carefully when purchasing uniform ready for September. Don't forget, the school is open during the Summer break for uniform purchases. Check our website for 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 the uniform or who damage items during the school day and it would be an excellent way of recycling clothes.

ATTENDANCE / PRESENOLDEB

High attendance is essential in ensuring your son/daughter reaches his/her potential in school. We ask for your full support in achieving this 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 any 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**

94.4%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR

9th July	Year 10 examinations	19th July	Activity Day
11th July	Year 11 Prom	20th July	Activity Day
14th to 18th July	Year 8 German Trip	23rd July	Last day of term
16th to 20th July	Year 10 Work Related Education Week	23rd August	GCSE Results Day
17th July	Sports Day (weather dependent)	3rd September	INSET Day
19th July	Music Department Barcelona Trip	4th September	First Day for pupils

SENIOR PREFECTS / UWCH SWYDDOGION

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

The 12 members oversee sixty prefects who monitor the school corridors during lunch periods to maintain the high standards of our school. On top of these duties our senior prefect team have made it their mission to improve the litter and waste issue within the school and our community. They have already presented assemblies to Key Stage 3 pupils, and were invited to attend an environmental day in Cardiff. During this environmental day our Head Girl, Libby O'Sullivan, was awarded with a £50 cash prize as runner up for her outstanding article 'Cwmtawe's Latest Landfill Site' in the Young Reporters for the Environment Litter Less National Competition for Wales 15-18.

As a school we feel this newly appointed team have already had an impact on staff and pupils and we wish them much success for the new academic year. The Head Boy and Head Girl will also become associate members of the school's Governing Body.



Front Row- Eden Palterman (Senior Prefect) Sophie Larcombe (Senior Prefect) Rebecca Thompson (Senior Prefect) Ellis Thomas (Senior Prefect) Tom Watson (Senior Prefect) Charlie Gould (Senior Prefect)

Back Row- Emily Rogers (Deputy Head Girl) Tilly Davies (Deputy Head Girl) Libby O'Sullivan (Head Girl) Scott Hawkins (Head Boy) Ben Walsh (Deputy Head Boy) Harry Truscott (Deputy Head Boy)



FRANCE / FFRAINC

Between the 14th and 19th June, eighty Year 7 pupils visited Château Beaumont, south Normandy, for a fun and exciting activity weekend 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 years 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. A great time was had by all!



OUR CAPITAL CITY / EIN PRIF DDINAS

At the beginning of July, thirty pupils from Years 8 and 9 spent two days 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 and the afternoon was spent white water rafting in the bay. During the evening, teams challenged each other to games of bowling in the ten-pin bowling centre.

The following morning a few hours were spent shopping in the city centre before going ice skating. The highlight of the weekend was a trip in a speedboat around Cardiff Bay before starting our way home on the Saturday afternoon.



GEOGRAPHY / DAEARYDDIAETH

New Year 10 pupils visited Borth for 2 days of coastal fieldwork as part of their GCSE Geography studies. The group investigated a range of coastal landforms and processes and looked at Borth's coastal defence scheme.



MATHEMATICS / MATHEMATEG

UK Junior and Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

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 thirty pupils from Year 11, ten pupils from Year 10, and ten pupils from Year 9 for the 2017 Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. For the Junior Mathematics Challenge the department entered thirty Year 8 pupils and twenty Year 7 pupils. 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, 12 Silver and 17 Bronze awards. The successful candidates were:-

Intermediate Maths Challenge

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

Junior Maths Challenge

Year 8 Awards

Isabel Williams - Silver Award
Teigan Jones - Silver Award
William Lake - Silver Award
Jack Morris - Silver Award
Lewys Jenkins - Silver Award
Dylan Davies - Silver Award
Owen Marquart - Bronze Award
Neo Seppman - Bronze Award
Samuel Davies - Bronze Award
Kyle Harris - Bronze Award
Kieran Preece - Bronze Award

Year 7 Awards

Sadie Matthews - Silver Award
Lacey Evans - Bronze Award
Keira Bater - Bronze Award



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / ADDYSG GREFYDDOL

On Wednesday 18th April, the Watoto choir 'Signs and Wonders' tour visited Cwmtawe School to perform to Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. Cwmtawe also hosted an evening performance for all school pupils, their families and the general public. Watoto Children's Choirs have travelled extensively since 1994, sharing a message of hope for Africa's orphans and widows. To date, the choir has toured six continents and performed to enthralled audiences in schools, retirement homes, churches, parliaments, state houses and royal palaces. The Watoto Children's Choir concert acts as a fundraising event for Watoto. Cwmtawe pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance, with pupils soaking up the tremendous energy exuberated by these young children and over £2,700 was raised.



MASTER DEBATORS / SIARADWYR CYHOEDDUS O FRI

On the 21st April, the Cwmtawe Rotary Youth Speaks team travelled to Lydiard Millicent near Swindon to compete in the final round of the competition. The team consisted of Anastasia Stockton, Kamila Stankevic and Hannah Murphy and were supported by Mrs Sails from the English Department. In the final, the team were up against three other teams of sixth-form students. The girls gave an outstanding performance but were pipped to the post for the overall prize. However, Hannah Murphy was awarded first prize for best chairperson.



CREATIVE WRITERS / AWDURON CREADIGOL

Mrs Sails's creative writers have been going from strength to strength. They recently entered a poetry competition run by 'Young Writers' entitled 'The Poetry Games', where they had to write poems about a topic that they felt passionate about. Milly Lee, Alissia Davies, William Lake, Lauren Gill, Anwen O'Brien, Keira Bater and Sadie Matthews were all successful in the competition and will be having their work published in a poetry anthology.

Milly Lee was also successful earlier in the year when she had her short story published in 'The Stranger Sagas' anthology.



'LITTER LESS' COMPETITION SUCCESS

Cwmtawe pupils recently entered a Young Reporters for the Environment Competition, entitled 'Litter Less' in association with Keep Wales Tidy. The competition focused on drawing attention to the increasing problem of litter within our society. A selection of Year 11 pupils and some of the school's new Senior Prefect Team entered newspaper articles in the nationwide competition. The articles had to be fair, balanced and contain objective reporting - as well as being informative and well researched. Cwmtawe's entries focused on the litter situation in school and the surrounding local area - but also linked these issues to a wider global context.

Another feature of the competition was that the articles had to be disseminated to an audience through a number of channels and this was done through Twitter, via communal plasma screens and by articles being used as stimulus materials with some Year 8 classes. Furthermore, the articles will also feature in this Autumn's edition of Tawe Times, the school's annual pupil magazine. Impressively, Year 10 pupil Libby O'Sullivan's entry came runner-up for the whole of Wales and she was awarded £50. As a winner, she also got to attend the famous Volvo Ocean Race Summit when it stopped off in Cardiff on the 5th June to receive her prize. As an Eco-School, Cwmtawe also sent a larger pupil delegation to the 'Big School's Day' event at the summit and the delegates had a great day out whilst completing activities and attending workshops that focused on raising awareness on how we can improve ocean health.



DRAMA

On June 4th, pupils performed a play called "Chicken" by Mark Wheeler to local councillors, the local Police Sargeant and PCSOs. On the following evening they performed in front of parents and the local community.

"Chicken" tells the story of two cousins, Tammy and Chris. The play explores their close relationship and their passion for cycling, along with promoting the strong message of road safety for cyclists. However, one fateful morning the cousins walk to school and there is a tragic accident following a reckless game of "Chicken." As one of the cousins dies the audience is left wondering how the other will be able to live with this dreadful secret.

"...there is no known cure for a moment's stupidity."

Pupils also enjoyed watching a performance of this moving play in assemblies during the following week. The performance was filmed and will be used next year during Year 7 pastoral lessons to inform and teach pupils about road safety.

The play will also be performed in Margam Park on 6th July for Crucial Crew.



MUSIC / CERDDORIAETH

Tesco Bags Of Help Scheme

The Ukulele Club won a grant of £4,000 from the local Tesco store in Pontardawe. The music department would like to thank all pupils and parents for their help and support.



Madison Martin performed during the Ukulele Festival of Wales 2018. She was invited back for a second year to perform for an hour including some of her own songs.

ART / CELF

Pictured in the Pontardawe Arts Centre, with their work, are talented artists Celyn Manorek-Price, Jessica Gaule and Alexandra Baugh. Celyn and Alexandra have the privilege of having their paintings displayed in the bar area of the Arts Centre and Jessica has designed the logo for the Friends of the Pontardawe Arts Centre group.



CHAMPION ON THE TRAMPOLINE / PENCAMPWR AR Y TRAMPOLIN

Ellis Thomas (Year 10) was placed fourth in the British Schools Trampolining Finals in the Under-19 elite category. He was placed first after his first bounce, fifth in the second round and the school shares his delight in being placed in fourth place overall. Three hundred athletes from over one hundred schools were competing in the finals.



BOXING CHAMPION / PAFFIWR O FRI

Brandon Scott is the current British Boxing Champion in the 48-52kg category. He will soon be attending the British training camp in Spain before competing in an international boxing championship in Serbia with the Welsh team.



PEN Y FAN

Climbing for Cancer

To raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, a group of pupils ranging from Year 7 to Year 10 climbed the highest mountain in South Wales (886 metres).

The adverse weather conditions did not dampen enthusiasm and, through teamwork and determination, the group reached the top in one hour and thirty minutes.

Over £70 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support.



RIVERSIDE CHALLENGE / HER GLAN YR AFON

Six Year 9 pupils attended an Agored Cymru, Essential Skills for Work and Life qualification at the Riverside Centre.

The qualification supports the development of skills needed for education, work and life and is aimed at those accessing learning in a wide range of environments.

The Riverside Centre facilitates the qualification and involves a more Forest Schools/Bushcraft type of learning environment which means a more hands-on method of education.



CAREERS / GYRFAOEDD

Year 10 attended a Careers Festival organised by Careers Wales on Thursday 21st June to open their eyes to the wide range of career options available to them.

This event was organised by Careers Wales and we are extremely grateful to Bobbie Rees our school careers adviser. She is currently working with this year group, generating interest in a wide range of post-16 college and employment options. We look forward to our Neath Port Talbot and Gower College Taster Days in the forthcoming weeks along with our School Work Experience week between 16th and 20th July.



PEER MENTORS / MENTORIAID

The Peer Mentors for 2018-19 were announced following a rigorous application and interview process which attracted over 80 applicants. Forty Year 9 Peer Mentors have been appointed and they began their duties on Induction Day with the Year 6 pupils on Tuesday, 26th 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 at lunchtimes.



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS / PENCAMPWYR PÊL-DROED

The school's Year 7 football team were the Afan Nedd League of Schools Football 7-a-side winners. In a keenly fought tournament they played 9, won 5 and drew 4.





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PASTORAL CARE / GOFAL BUGEILIOL

Each half term local PCSOs and our Police Liaison Officer, PC Michael Hodges, attend school to meet with representatives from all year groups for a Cwmtawe PACT meeting. This offers an opportunity for young people to share concerns they have about issues within the local community, get advice and also get involved in community activities. These meetings have already proved successful in improving anti-social behaviour issues as well as tackling issues with litter.



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