

Dear Parent/Carers,

Despite the heavy rain this week, it's been an exciting and eventful time here at Ysgol Afon Wen! The wet weather certainly didn't dampen our spirits, and the children have continued to impress us with their energy, creativity, and resilience. From engaging classroom activities about a veteran turning 100, completing the Pupil Attitude to School and Self survey to support wellbeing across the school and also the rehearsals for the future production of Annie, there's been plenty to celebrate – and we're excited to share some of the highlights with you in this week's newsletter.

## Meet the teacher



We would like to invite parents/carers of Reception to Year 6 pupils to attend our Meet the Teacher evening on **Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September**. During this event we will share your child's school day, the school curriculum and important information that will help to support you this academic year.

The event will be held over two sessions, the first at 3:15pm and repeated in the second at 4pm. We look forward to meeting with you.

## Key dates

Date	Event
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025	Nursery to Year 6 meet the teacher
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Nursery – Year 6 School Photos
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> & Thus 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Nursery – Year 6 Progress Evenings
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025	Yr 11 Progress Evening
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Week of October half term

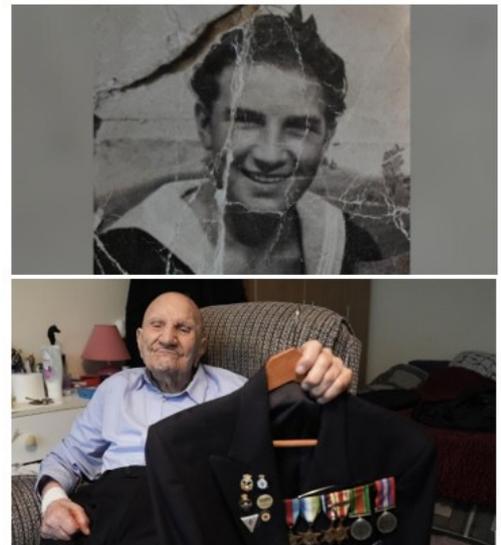


## Happy birthday Dougie

This week, our school has learnt about Dougie Shelley who turns 100 on the 23rd September 2025. A BBC article requested people to send 100th birthday cards to a World War Two veteran in a bid to make his big day extra special.

Dougie Shelley joined the Royal Navy at the age of 17, serving as a seaman gunner. The sailor, from Southend-on-Sea, was on a ship in Hong Kong when the news of Germany's surrender filtered through.

In response, Ysgol Afon Wen will be joining many others in sending cards as a way to show our support, compassion and provided another way to teach the children about empathy, kindness, and community responsibility .



100<sup>th</sup> Birthday cards for Dougie Shelly . A true hero of D Day and also The Arctic Convoys. Produced at Ysgol Afon Wen and signed by pupils.





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Right of the month: Article 28: I have a right to go to school and an education.

## Happy birthday Dougie



This is a poem, written by Temidire to celebrate your incredible life.

**Dougie, on your 100th Birthday...**

**The waves of history bow  
to your courage.**

**From the freezing winds  
of the Arctic Convoy  
to the shores of Normandy.**

**Your service safeguarded  
freedom and lit a path  
for generations.**

**Today, the world salutes  
not just your years but  
Your legacy – a century  
of strength, honour and resilience.**

**May your days be calm seas,  
your nights filled with  
starlight, and your heart  
warmed by the gratitude  
Of countless sails.**



100<sup>th</sup> Birthday cards for Dougie Shelly . A true hero of D Day and also The Arctic Convoys. Produced at Ysgol Afon Wen and signed by pupils.

**Penblwydd Hapus Dougie!**

**Happy Birthday to you!**

**Congratulations on 100 years – what a milestone!**

**Pupils and staff at Ysgol Afon Wen High School,  
Pontypridd, South Wales are sending kindest regards on  
this very special occasion.**

**You are a true hero and we are all very grateful for your  
service and sacrifice.**

**Have a great birthday. Wishing you many happy returns.**



## Student Leadership Team

### Celebrating Our New Lead Learner Team

We are delighted to announce the appointment of this year's **Lead Learner Team**, who will play a vital role in representing the voices of our learners and leading initiatives across the school. Drawn from our Year 11 learners, the Lead Learners will work alongside the newly appointed **Form Representatives**, together ensuring that every learner in every year group has a platform for their ideas, concerns and ambitions.

The standard of applications was incredibly high this year, with each learner presenting thoughtful ideas and demonstrating real commitment to making a difference. Applicants were assessed against clear criteria, including the quality of their application letter, their previous experience, their vision for the role, and the personal qualities they would bring. The panel, made up of SLT and Miss Jenkins, Progress Lead, were hugely impressed by the dedication and maturity shown by all candidates.

The Lead Learner structure allows for both whole-school leadership and targeted focus on key areas of school life. This year's appointments are:

- **Lead Learners:** Nmesoma & Sophie
- **Deputy Lead Learners:** Tehila & Lucas
- **Head of Activate:** Madison (Deputy: Keeli)
- **Head of Advance:** Emma (Deputy: Salmah)
- **Head of Achieve:** Divinesspencer (Deputy: Mubarak)
- **Head of Creativity:** Kira
- **Head of Innovation:** Deagan
- **Head of LiFE:** Emilie

Our learners impressed staff with their vision, confidence and commitment to making a difference. From improving community engagement, to supporting younger learners, to leading on issues such as attendance, wellbeing and school pride, this group has shown a real passion for strengthening school life at Ysgol Afon Wen.

Together with our **Form Representatives**, the Lead Learners will ensure that learner voice continues to shape our school development and that every learner feels heard, supported and



## Celebration of Success

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been commended by their Progress leader or teachers. Well done!

<b>Nursery</b>	Tilly Channon & Dylan Brice	<b>Year 4</b>	Riley Hughes, Dylan Lott & Ocean Mann	<b>Year 9</b>	Ben Jones & Marnie-Mai Jenkins
<b>Reception</b>	Cohan Reed & Mia Lewis-Morgan	<b>Year 5</b>	Ayla Williams, Dylan Taylor & Albie Brickell	<b>Year 10</b>	Laila James & Jack Rees
<b>Year 1</b>	Isaac Jenkins & Poppy Perry	<b>Year 6</b>	Faith Wilson & Riley Davies	<b>Year 11</b>	Nmesoma Obioma & Sophie Speed
<b>Year 2</b>	Tommy O'Leary & Austin Loveridge	<b>Year 7</b>	Isabella Clissold & Ella Heydone		
<b>Year 3</b>	Harry Gay & Logan Powderhill	<b>Year 8</b>	Jacob Barnhouse & Jayden Mason		

Congratulations to Lexi in Year 4 who is in the coral squad for Allstars gymnastics. On Sunday 14th September she competed in the South Central Classic competition. Lexi won 2 bronze medals and a gold medal. She came 6th overall which puts her as first reserve for the Welsh finals in October. Ffantastig!

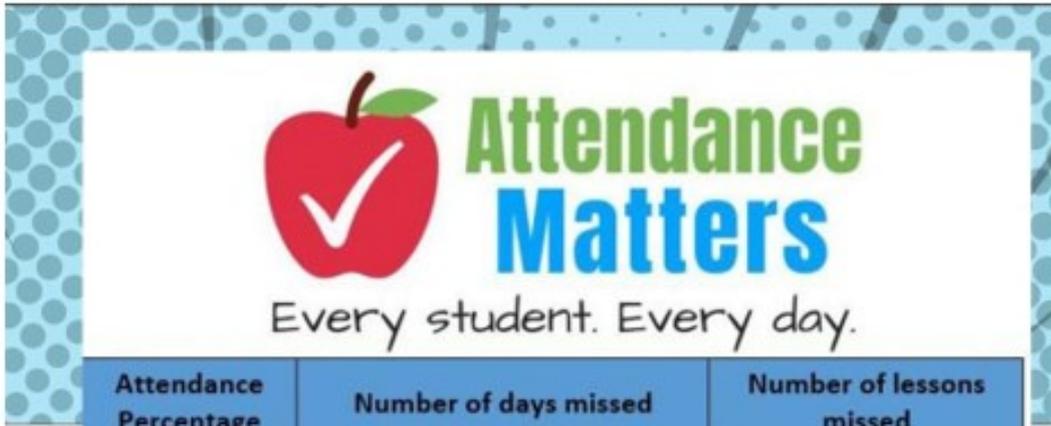




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## Attendance



Attendance Percentage	Number of days missed	Number of lessons missed
100%	0 days	0
99%	2 days	18 lessons missed
97%	6 days (more than a week!)	54 lessons missed
95%	9 days	81 lessons missed
94%	11 days (more than 2 weeks!)	99 lessons missed
93%	13 days	117 lessons missed
92%	15 days (3 full weeks!)	135 lessons missed
91%	17 days	153 lessons missed
90%	18 days	144 lessons missed
85%	28 days (over 4 weeks!)	252 lessons missed



### EVERY STUDENT... EVERY DAY

We have really enjoyed welcoming all pupils back to school and witnessing new learning, new experiences and new friendships.

We kindly ask families to work with us in promoting good attendance. We will also strive to continue to work with families in order to remove any barriers to attendance. Please contact your child's Progress Lead for any additional support.

**Your child's target is 95%+.**

We also kindly remind all families of our start times:

Nursery – Yr 6: 8.50am

Yr 7 – Yr 11: 8.30am.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Community partnerships

This week we had a very successful meeting with Hawthorn neighbourhood watch representative, Mr M Scudamore. We discussed the up and coming plans for our local community and the exciting events that we are keen for our pupils to participate in. More detail will follow.

Please can we remind all parents to park in a safe manner and pay due consideration to our local residents.

## Careers information

### **Supporting Your Child's Future: Careers Guidance at Ysgol Afon Wen**

At Ysgol Afon Wen, we're committed to helping every pupil explore their future pathways with confidence. Our website offers a dedicated Careers Support area designed to guide both pupils and parents through the exciting journey of career planning.

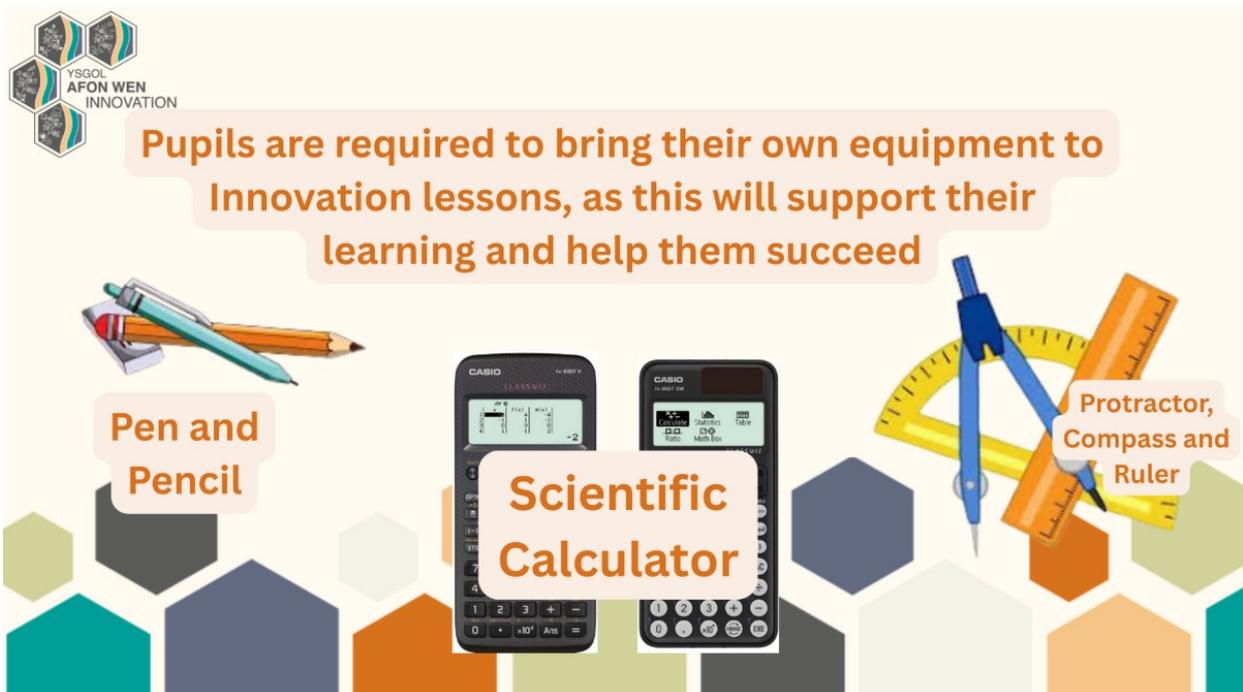
### **Where to Find Careers Information:**

You can access careers support by visiting the [Ysgol Afon Wen website](#) and navigating to:

[Careers Google Site](#) – A hub of resources including career exploration tools, advice for supporting your children in all phases, links to Careers Wales and post 16 information.

Together, we can help your child take confident steps toward a bright future!

## Equipment



The infographic features the Ysgol Afon Wen Innovation logo in the top left corner. A central text box states: "Pupils are required to bring their own equipment to Innovation lessons, as this will support their learning and help them succeed". Below this, three categories of equipment are shown with callout boxes: "Pen and Pencil" (with a blue pen and orange pencil), "Scientific Calculator" (with two Casio scientific calculators), and "Protractor, Compass and Ruler" (with a yellow protractor, blue compass, and orange ruler). The background consists of a pattern of colorful hexagons.

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INNOVATION

Pupils are required to bring their own equipment to Innovation lessons, as this will support their learning and help them succeed

Pen and Pencil

Scientific Calculator

Protractor, Compass and Ruler



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## Creativity Faculty news

**Clwb Saesneg / English Club** runs every Thursday after school in rooms C15 and C9. The club offers extra support with classwork and homework for pupils who want to improve their English skills. It's a great opportunity to get help in a relaxed environment. All pupils are welcome—come along and give it a try!

**Debate Club** is an exciting new club running this year, for those pupils who love to express their opinions and discuss topical issues from around the world each week.

It's open to all pupils from Year 7 to 11, with the opportunity for the older pupils to act as mentors for younger members.

The pupils can choose which topics they'd like to discuss each week, depending on current affairs and topical news stories. From politics to pizza toppings - we want to hear your views!

ARE YOU AN ASPIRING JOURNALIST OR A PASSIONATE WRITER?

DO YOU WANT TO CREATE CONTENT TO BE SHARED ACROSS THE SCHOOL?



**BBC**  
**SCHOOL REPORT CLUB**

Every Thursday until 3:45pm  
Miss Frost / Miss Crossen's room



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CROESO I EIN  
**CRIW CYMRAEG**

What we do...

- Play Welsh games.
- Learn new Welsh vocabulary.
- Create posters for around the school to promote Welsh ethos.
- Learn about Welsh stories like the Mabinogion.



Croeso i Gymru  
Welcome to Wales



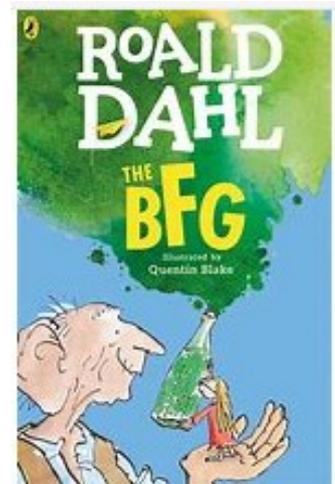
MRS HOLLAND  
C16  
EVERY WEDNESDAY ON  
WEEK 2  
2:45-3:15

## Creativity Faculty news

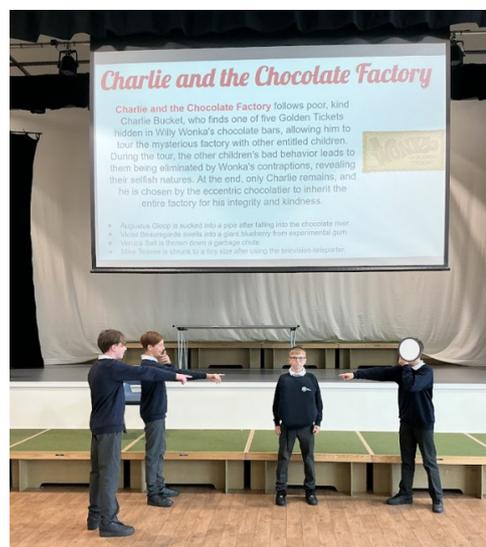
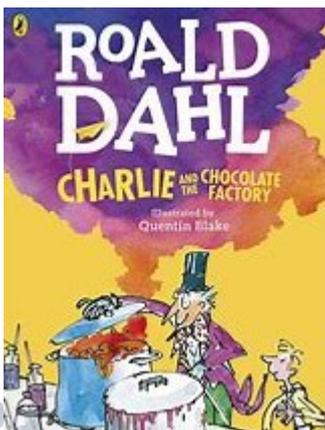
### Roald Dahl day—13th September

Roald Dahl Day is a wonderful opportunity to encourage a love of reading and creativity in children. It helps students explore new vocabulary, develop their imagination, and enjoy storytelling together. Here are some more examples of the work completed by pupils in Activate and Advance.

The first is the Reception pupils making dream catchers from the BFG:



The second is Year 8 pupils acting out sections of Charlie and the Chocolate factory:





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## Creativity Faculty news

### Advance Expressive Arts Trip

We are running a reward trip for all pupils in Years 6 and 7 to the Wales Millennium Centre to see the Welsh National Opera perform the exciting performance of *Candide*. The children will also be experiencing the Senydd and the artistic features of Cardiff Bay.

#### **Details and Dates are as follows:**

**Day:** Friday 26th September – Years 6 & 7

**Time:** Arrive at school as normal at the start of day. We will be leaving site at 9.10am and arriving back for the end of the school day.

**Travel:** We will be using Mainline coach company to travel to and from Cardiff Bay

**Cost:** Contribution of **£3** to be paid via 'Pay It' on the RCT website by **Thursday 18th September**

**Staff attending:** Expressive Arts Teachers, Year 6 Teachers and support staff.

**Other information:** Students **must** wear school uniform for the trip. Students will be back in school for the end of the school day and they may bring snacks with them as well as their packed lunch.

**Consent:** please scan the code below to give permission or complete the google form:



**WNO** WELSH NATIONAL OPERA CENEDLAETHOL CYMRU

**RSPB**

WNO Schools Concert  
**An Operatic Aviary!**





## Catering Menus

<b>Secondary School Menu</b>				
September 2025 – March 2026				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>WEEK 1</b>				
<b>Main Menu with Dessert &amp; Cup of Drink – £3.20</b>				
BBQ Spring Chicken Herby Diced Potatoes, Peas & Sweetcorn or Baked Beans <b>NEW!</b>	Homemade Minced Beef Pie, Boiled Potatoes or Simply Wedges, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables & Gravy	Sausages, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Broccoli & Gravy	Curry of the Day, Brown Rice or Simply Wedges Mini Naan Bread & Peas	Fish Fillet, Oven Baked Chips or Jacket Potato, Baked Beans or Peas
<b>Vegetarian with Dessert &amp; Cup of Drink – £3.20</b>				
Spicy Vegan Balls, Herby Diced Potatoes Garden Peas & Sweetcorn or Baked Beans <b>NEW!</b>	Cheesy Potato Bake, Green Beans & Mixed Vegetables	Vegetarian Sausages, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Broccoli & Gravy	Vegetarian Curry of the Day, Brown Rice or Simply Wedges, Mini Naan Bread & Peas	Moroccan Falafels, Oven Baked Chips or Jacket Potato, Baked Beans or Peas
<b>Dessert</b>				
Eves Pudding & Custard	Chocolate Beetroot Cake topped with Dream Topping	Cocoa Cookie	Peach Dump Cake	Fruit & Ice Cream Sundae
<b>WEEK 2</b>				
<b>Main Menu with Dessert &amp; Cup of Drink – £3.20</b>				
Loaded Beef Burger in a Bun, Curly Fries, Peas or Coleslaw & Salad or Baked Beans <b>NEW!</b>	Chicken Pie, Boiled Potatoes, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables & Gravy <b>NEW!</b>	Turkey & Stuffing with Cranberry Sauce, Mashed Potatoes Cauliflower or Broccoli, Carrots & Gravy <b>NEW!</b>	Curry of the Day, Brown Rice or Simply Wedges Mini Naan Bread & Peas	Fish Fillet, Oven Baked Chips, Baked Beans or Peas
<b>Vegetarian with Dessert &amp; Cup of Drink – £3.20</b>				
Quorn Burger in a Bun, Curly Fries, Peas or Coleslaw & Salad or Baked Beans	Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese, Boiled Potatoes, Green Beans & Mixed Vegetables	Quorn Breast, Mashed Potatoes, Cauliflower or Broccoli, Carrots & Gravy	Vegetarian Curry of the Day, Brown Rice or Simply Wedges, Mini Naan Bread & Peas	Cheese & Potato Pie, Baked Beans or Peas
<b>Dessert</b>				
Peach Melba Slice	Marble Cake drizzled with Cocoa Sauce	Jam & Cream Scone	Chocolate Orange Cake topped with Dream Topping	Cocoa Cookie
<p>Also available daily: Variety of Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt, Jacket Potatoes and Baguettes offered with a Variety of Fillings including Salmon (please pre order). Plated Salads, Fresh Salad Pots, Cold Pasta Pots, Hot Pasta Dishes, Pizzas, Street Food Choices.</p> <p>Additional Seasonal Salad is available with all Main Meals.</p> <p>We can also provide for vegan &amp; medically prescribed diets. All our meals comply with the Welsh Government's Food &amp; Drink Standards.</p>				



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## Catering Menus

# BWYD STRYD

# STREET FOOD

£2.32

Dydd Llun	Dydd Mawrth	Dydd Mercher	Dydd Iau	Dydd Gwener
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p style="color: pink; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">WEEK 1</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Pulled Pork in a Roll</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">NEW!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Beef Chilli or Veggie Chilli Loaded Wedges</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Jumbo Dirty Hot Dog</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">NEW!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Southern Style Chicken Goujons loaded into a Soft Open Wrap, topped with Salad</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">NEW!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Spicy Vegan Balls, Brown Rice, drizzled with Sweet Chilli Sauce and topped with Spring Onion</p> 
<p style="color: pink; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">WEEK 2</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">NEW!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Chicken Gyros wrapped in a Flatbread, filled with Salad &amp; drizzled with a Mint Yogurt Sauce</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">NEW!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Katsu Curry &amp; Rice</p> <p style="color: pink; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">£2.32</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Pulled Pork in a Roll</p> 	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">NEW!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Southern Style Chicken Goujons loaded into a Soft Open Wrap, topped with Salad</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Dirty Fries</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">(*no bacon)</p>





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## Catering Menus

# Back To School MEAL DEALS

September 2025



### BREAKFAST BUNDLE

Porridge Pot, Fresh  
fruit and Milk or Water 

£2.00

\* only available at early breakfast or Mid Morning Break



### PROTEIN BOOST

Egg Bagel, Yoghurt Pot   
and a Viva Milkshake or  
Bottle of Water

£2.20



### HOMEWORK HOTPOT

Cold Pasta Pot of the day  
with a Flapjack and Bottle  
of Water or Radnor Fizz

£2.50

(Tuna Mayo, Chicken Mayo or Tomato Pasta )



## Catering Menus

<b>Price List</b>		<b>September 2025 - March 2026</b>	
<b>Mid Morning Break</b>		<b>Extras</b>	
Toast	£0.27	Baked Beans	£0.71
Crumpet	£0.49	Gravy	£0.71
Bacon Bap	£1.32	Curry Sauce	£0.71
Cheese on Toast	£0.66	Boiled Rice	£0.66
Beans on Toast	£1.25	Boiled Potatoes	£0.66
Cheese Toastie	£1.32	Simply Wedges	£1.44
1/2 Cheese Toastie	£0.66	Chips - FRIDAYS ONLY	£1.54
Cheese Bagel	£0.66	Sausage - WEDNESDAYS ONLY	£0.71
Small Pizza Slice	£0.88	<b>Desserts/Snacks</b>	
Vegan Sausage Roll	£0.61	Fresh Fruit	£0.47
Cheese Bake	£0.61	Fruity Pots	£0.68
Porridge Pots	£1.05	Fresh Fruit Salad Pot	£1.16
Tea Cake	£0.56	Fruit Yoghurt	£0.58
Cereal Box with Milk	£0.83	Fruit Alpro Yoghurt	£0.75
<b>Meal Deals</b>		Cheese & Crackers	£0.30
Set Menu with Dessert	£3.20	Home Baked Cocoa Cookie	£0.68
Set Menu without Dessert	£2.94	Fairy Cake	£0.68
Street Food	£2.32	Home Baked Flapjack or Brownie	£0.68
Meal Deals	£3.20	Pancakes	£0.42
<b>Burgers &amp; Pizza</b>		Welsh Cake	£0.68
Beef Burger - MONDAY ONLY	£1.98	Homemade Shortbread	£0.31
Chicken Breast Burger	£1.98	Packs of Biscuits	£0.31
Pizza Wedge	£1.32	Mini Muffin, Flapjack or Brownie	£0.52
<b>Sandwiches, Baguettes &amp; Wraps</b>		<b>Hot Drinks</b>	
Sandwiches with a Variety of Fillings	£1.66	Barista Hot Drink	£1.16
Baguettes with a Variety of Fillings	£1.98	Bean-to-cup Hot Drink	£1.10
Chicken Goujon Hot Wrap	£2.32	Tea	£0.78
Tuna Melt Quesadilla	£1.20	<b>Cold Drinks</b>	
<b>Pasta, Salad &amp; Jacket Potatoes</b>		Fresh Semi-Skimmed Milk	£0.80
Salad Pot or Plated Salad	£2.32	Yazoo Flavoured Milk	£1.05
Plated Salad with Ham, Cheese, Tuna or Salmon	£2.94	Princes Gate Still Water	£0.71
Cold Pasta Pot	£1.70	Viva/Mooies Milk Drink	£0.66
Pasta with Cheese	£2.00	Hydra Juice (50% Juice)	£1.05
Hot Pasta with Sauce	£2.10	Radnor Fizz (50% Juice)	£0.78
Hot Pasta with Sauce and Cheese	£2.44	Frappé	£1.54
Jacket Potato with a Variety of Fillings and Salad	£2.00	IPRO	£1.26
		Suzo Can	£1.16
		Appletizer Can	£1.26