

Dear Parent/Carers,

It's been a wonderfully busy week here at school, filled with learning, fun, and important experiences for our pupils.

Earlier in the week, we were delighted to welcome the School Dental and nursing Team, who spoke to pupils about the importance of good oral hygiene and healthy habits. The sessions were informative and engaging, helping pupils understand how to take care of their teeth and why regular brushing and check-ups are so important.

On Friday, the school was filled with colour and creativity as everyone dressed up for Children in Need Day. It was fantastic to see so many bright outfits and happy faces around the school! We are very proud of the pupils' enthusiasm and generosity in supporting such a worthwhile cause — thank you to all families for your kind donations.

Throughout the week, pupils have also been working hard on their practice Welsh National Tests in Literacy, Numeracy, and Reasoning. These practice sessions give pupils valuable experience and help them feel more confident when it comes to completing the real assessments later in the year. Teachers have been really pleased with the effort, focus, and positive attitudes shown.

It's been a full and productive week, and we are very proud of everything our pupils have achieved. Well done, everyone!

Key dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 18th November 2025	Alternative Curriculum Day
Friday 28th November 2025	Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations
Monday 1st December 2025	Year 11 Mock Exam week
Wednesday 3rd December 2025	Christmas Concert 5pm
Thursday 4th December 2025	GCSE Success evening 6pm (Yr 11 2024/5)
Monday 8th December 2025	Year 4, 5 & 6 Christmas show 2.15pm
Tuesday 9th December 2025	Year 4, 5 & 6 Christmas show 2.15pm
Wednesday 10th December 2025	Year 2 & 3 Christmas Show 9.15am
Thursday 11th December 2025	Reception & Year 1 Christmas Show 9.15am
Friday 12th December 2025	Nursery Show 9.15am
Monday 15th December 2025	
Tuesday 16th December 2025	Year 4, 5 & 6 Cinema Trip
Wednesday 17th December 2025	Year 7 & 8 Cinema Trip
Thursday 18th December 2025	Year 1 & 2 Christmas cinema on site Christmas Pantomime Year 3-7 Year 9 –11 Cinema trip
Friday 19th December 2025	Staff pantomime & end of term
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET DAY (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Pupil return for Spring Term



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Celebration of Success

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

Nursery	Sophia Packwood & Millie Quinn	Year 4	Lowen Mae Llewelyn & Finley Evans	Year 9	Darcie Brickell & William Davies
Reception	Oakley Short & Ella O'Leary	Year 5	Halen O' Leary & Olivia Bogocz	Year 10	Brogan Gill & Layla Ford-Searl
Year 1	Elle Rowe & Everleigh-Sue Baker-Jones	Year 6	Caitlin Owen & Kobi Jones	Year 11	Tristan Lowbridge & Molly Bulley
Year 2	Eddie McFadden & Evelyn Vaughan	Year 7	Dylan Evans & Isla Collins		
Year 3	Freddie Morgan & Aliya John	Year 8	Beissan Driai & Charlie Whiles		

Numeracy Pupil of the Month







The importance of attendance and punctuality

Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children succeed—academically, socially, and emotionally. When pupils attend school consistently, they build stronger connections with teachers and classmates, develop good work habits, and keep up with the learning that happens each day.

Even missing a few days here and there can add up. A pupil who misses just **two days a month** loses more than **three weeks of learning** over the course of a year. That can make it harder to stay on track with reading, maths, and other subjects—and can affect a child’s confidence and enjoyment of school.

Arriving at school on time each day sets a positive tone for your child’s learning. When pupils arrive promptly, they start the day calmly, are ready to learn, and don’t miss out on the important first few minutes of lessons — a time when teachers explain the day’s plans and key learning points.

Being just **10 minutes late each day** may not seem like much, but it adds up to **over 30 hours of missed learning time** across the school year. Regular lateness can make it harder for pupils to settle into class routines, catch up with lessons, and can even affect their confidence.

We understand that some mornings are busier than others and that unexpected things happen. We also know that a small number of absences are unavoidable. When that happens, please let the school know right away and help your child catch up on missed work. However, avoiding unnecessary absences—such as holidays during school time or “just a day off”—makes a big difference.

You can help by:

- Setting a consistent bedtime and morning routine
- Planning medical appointments outside school hours when possible
- Encouraging your child to look forward to school and talk about their day
- Preparing uniforms, bags, and lunches the night before
- Leaving a few minutes earlier to allow for traffic or delays
- Talking positively about school and the importance of being ready to learn
- Communicating with teachers, Progress Leaders or the school office if your child is struggling with attendance

When pupils show up every day, they build habits that will serve them for life. Together, we can make sure every pupil has the best chance to learn, grow, and thrive.



SPOTLIGHT ON ATTENDANCE

EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY YSGOL AFON WEN

Do you know what your attendance is?

Days Absent	Days in School	Attendance %	Grade
0	190	100%	Excellent record
10	180	95%	Good record
19	171	90%	Needs to improve
29	161	85%	Caution for concern
38	152	80%	Poor record
47	143	75%	Very poor record

ATTENDANCE = ATTAINMENT
Moving up by one 5-point attendance band (e.g. 90-95% – 95-100%) significantly increases the likelihood of achieving at least C grades in English and Maths. Even pupils at the other end of the scale, the most severely absent, can benefit from an increase in the time spent in school. Pupils who increase their attendance from below 50% to 60-65% (equating to approximately an extra 4-6 weeks in school) are twice as likely to meet the standard expected at GCSE. Every day counts!

MCAS - HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE APP?
All home school communication is shared via the 'My Child at School app'. Please ensure you download the app to monitor and record your child's absences. If your child is too unwell to attend, you can inform us via the app. If we don't hear from you before 9.30am, we will contact you.



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THE AFON WEN WAY



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We've been working hard to improve our post-pandemic attendance and are proud to say our whole school attendance rate continues to improve. But we're not done and have ambitions to continue to build on progress made.

We know the challenges are real and that no two students face the same barriers. That's why we've put a range of support in place to help every pupil succeed.

Building Routine – missing the first week of term can lead to 'persistent absences' and good attendance starts with good sleep. Screen-free time before bed and consistent wake-up calls help set a regular routine leading to calmer more predictable mornings.

Tackling Financial Barriers – the cost of living crisis has impacted many in our community. We've introduced a number of measures to support our students and their families; including our uniform Swap Shop. The Welsh Government also provides a grant to eligible families to help with the School Essentials; including uniforms and learning equipment. Applications are now open, closing 31st May 2026. Financial support can make a big difference to how your child experiences school. If you need any help in applying please speak to reception.

Positive Relationships – while there is always a focus on engagement, high-quality and purposeful teaching, we know the value of building a community at YAW. Beyond our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and reporting routes: through our YAW WAY codes of conduct, routines and expectations and on-site YEPS officer, Eye 2 Eye Counsellors, and our partnerships with teams such as the Attendance and Wellbeing service, Resilient Families and CAMHS, we're here to equip our pupils with the skills and resilience to cope with every-day school life; building a safe and inclusive environment for all.

Supportive return to school plans following extended absences - We understand that returning to school can be daunting. We are here to help and can create a bespoke plan to support a smooth and happy return to school.

If we can support in any way, please contact your child's Progress Leader who is more than happy to help.



**EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY
POB PLENTYN, POB DYDD**



Wellbeing support

As always, we will continue to ensure your child is supported in all aspects of school life this year. Your child's class teacher / form tutor will always be your first point of contact. Should you require any additional support, please reach out.

Nursery – Year 3	Mrs N Rowland
Year 4 – Year 6	Mrs V Geach
Year 7	Mr A Williams
Year 8	Miss L Burnett
Year 9	Miss L Phillips
Year 10	Miss H Boyce
Year 11	Miss M Jenkins
ALNCO	Mr S Lock

[Ysgol Afon Wen - Help and Support](#)



Progress Evenings

Thursday 12th February 2026	Year 9 Core Progress Evening
Thursday 5th March 2026	Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 19th March 2026	Year 11 Targeted Progress Evening
Thursday 26th March 2026	Year 8 Progress Evening
Wednesday 22nd / Thursday 23rd April 2026	N-Year 6 Progress Evening
Thursday 7th May 2026	Year 10 Progress Evening
Thursday 14th May 2026	Year 7 Progress Evening





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Attendance this week

Nursery	82%	Year 4	88%	Year 9	86%
Reception	88%	Year 5	88%	Year 10	81%
Year 1	87%	Year 6	88%	Year 11	81%
Year 2	91%	Year 7	92%		
Year 3	93%	Year 8	86%		

Congratulations to **Year 3** who have the highest attendance this week. The school expects every pupil to have at least 90% attendance to school. A high level of attendance to school supports high levels of attainment and wellbeing.

Punctuality

"Success starts with showing up on time."

Let's Keep Punctuality on Track!

Arriving on time helps pupils start the day calmly and ready to learn. We appreciate your support in making this happen.

Our approach:

- If a pupil is late **twice in the same week**, they will receive an **after-school detention on Friday**.
- If a pupil is late on a Friday, this will count towards the following week's total.
- A pupil is late if they arrive to school after the first bell at 8.30am.

Thank you for working with us to ensure every child gets the best start to their school day!

Top Tips for a Smooth Morning

- 🕒 **Prepare the night before:** Lay out clothes, pack bags, and check homework.
- 🌙 **Set a consistent bedtime:** A good night's sleep makes mornings easier.
- 🔔 **Use alarms wisely:** Set one for waking up and another as a "time to leave" reminder.
- 🍳 **Plan breakfast ahead:** Quick, healthy options save time.
- 🕒 **Leave a buffer:** Aim to be ready 10 minutes before you need to leave.





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Numeracy across the curriculum

Numeracy challenges for this month. Please give your teacher/maths teacher your answer.



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Activate

Mrs. Green has a basket of fruit.

- There are **apples, bananas, and oranges.**
1. There are **3 apples** and **2 bananas**. How many pieces of fruit are there in total?
 2. If Mrs. Green adds **1 more orange**, how many pieces of fruit are there now?
 3. Can you draw all the fruit in the basket?

Bonus: If you eat **1 banana**, how many fruits are left in the basket?



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Advance

Ysgol Afon Wen is organising a trip. Each bus can carry **25 children**.

1. If there are **123 children going on the trip**, how many buses are needed?
2. Each child pays **£7** for the trip. How much money is collected in total?
3. If the school pays **£85 per bus**, how much profit do they make from the trip?





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Numeracy across the curriculum

Mathematics After School Club

After school every Tuesday



2:45pm- 3:45pm



C Block



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Achieve

A school is organizing a festival. Tickets are sold at different prices:

- Standard ticket: £8
- Student ticket: £5
- VIP ticket: £12



On the first day, they sell **40 standard tickets**, **30 student tickets**, and **10 VIP tickets**.

1. Calculate **the total income from the first day**.
2. On the second day, the school wants to make **at least £1,000** in total over the two days. If they expect to sell **50 student tickets** and **20 VIP tickets**, how many standard tickets must they sell on day 2 to reach their target?
3. If every VIP ticket sold comes with a free drink worth £2, calculate the **total value of the free drinks** given on day 2.
4. Bonus: If the school wants the **average ticket price** across both days to be £8, how many standard tickets should have been sold in total?



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Year 11 Pathways



Nurturing Success

Ysgol Gyfun
BRYN CELYNNOG
Comprehensive School

Penycoedcae Road
Beddau
Pontypridd
Rhondda Cynon Taff
CF38 2AE

Telephone: 01443 203411 • Fax: 01443 219619 • Headteacher's Fax: 01443 219629 • Email: school@bryncelynnog.org.uk
Headteacher: Ms. Debra Baldock, B.A., N.P.Q.H.
Deputy Headteacher: Mr. Chris Davies, B.Eng.

Sixth Form Sports Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to invite you to our Sixth Form Sports Academy Open Evening at Bryn Celynnog School on Thursday 20th November, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. This is aimed at current Year 10 and Year 11 students, and will be held in our main canteen.

The evening will provide an opportunity to learn more about our exciting Football and Netball Academies, which offer talented and enthusiastic Year 12 and 13 students the chance to develop their sporting skills alongside their academic studies. You will be able to meet the teaching staff involved, hear about the structure of the programme, and find out how we support student-athletes to reach their full potential both on and off the field.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bryn Celynnog School to learn more about the opportunities our Sports Academy can offer your child.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bell

Head of Physical Education





Christmas Card Congratulations

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news! Two of our talented learners, Temidola O (Y9) and Faith O (Y9), have achieved 1st and 2nd place in the age 12+ category of a recent community competition organised Pontypridd Museum. This is an incredible accomplishment, and we are so proud of their creativity and hard work.

Even more exciting, Temidola has been invited to switch on the Christmas lights in Pontypridd town, a wonderful honor that highlights the growing connections between Ysgol Afon Wen and Pontypridd Town Council. These partnerships are opening up amazing opportunities for our learners to shine beyond the classroom and contribute to the wider community.

Certificates and prizes will be delivered to the school next week, and we look forward to celebrating this achievement together. [Congratulations](#) to Temidola and Faith—you are fantastic ambassadors for our school!



Temidola's winning design



Antibullying Week

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Launch Peer Support Scheme

We are proud to announce that our **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors** have successfully launched their **Peer Support Scheme** across Years 4–11. This initiative is designed to create a **safe and supportive environment** where students can speak openly about any bullying-related concerns.

Our ambassadors are trained to listen, offer guidance, and ensure that every student feels heard and respected. By providing this peer-to-peer support, we aim to strengthen our school community and promote kindness, empathy, and inclusion.

In addition, **all pupils in Years 4–11 recently participated in a National Anti-Bullying Live Lesson**, re-inforcing the importance of standing together against bullying and learning practical ways to support one another.

If you or someone you know needs to talk, please reach out to one of our ambassadors—they are here to help.

Children in Need

Longyfarchiadau mawr to these fantastic and kind-hearted pupils on their swimming efforts to raise money for Children In Need. All three are members of Pontypridd Swimming club who collectively raised £450!

Ieuan Coles

Noah Kelly

Mathilda Brookman

Da iawn also to our very own Mrs Leach who also took part! We are proud of you all!





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Please see attachment with the newsletter

Active School Travel

Walking, wheeling or cycling to school is good for the environment and good for our health. It also gives us the opportunity, as children or adults, to meet friends on the way.

It may not always be possible for the whole journey to be completed using active travel, but even the last 5 or 10 minutes can make a difference.

However we choose to travel, it should be an enjoyable experience but we need to stay as safe as possible.

As a parent or carer, it is vital that we set a good example going to and from school as children notice everything!

Follow our tips to make the journey fun for all.

BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Day or night, it is important to be able to see other road users and for them to see us. When the clocks go back in October it could be dark going to or from school, so make yourself visible to other road users.

Wear fluorescent or light-coloured clothing during poor daylight conditions and at dusk.



Wear or carry something reflective at night such as footwear, armbands, a waistcoat or jacket.

These can be seen up to three times as far away by drivers or riders using headlights compared to non-reflective materials.

That is why our dedicated School Crossing Patrols are always so easy to spot - even on cold, gloomy days!



RHONDDA CYNON TAF



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Life Faculty news

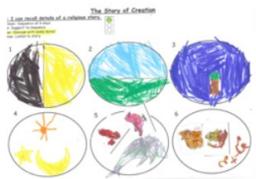
Remembrance day - In Humanities lessons this week we have been discussing the importance of remembrance and complete activities in class to show our respect.

"Life" in Activate

Commemorating Remembrance day in many different ways across Activate.



Nursery have been looking at the Christian story of Creation



In Nursery and Reception we have been completing some work on the importance of handwashing to keep all of those nasty germs at bay.



YAW ECO CLUB

Eco Club is starting back up this week!

If you are interested in joining please use the QR code to register.

It will be held in B7 on Tuesday during registration.

Join the Eco Club! Help protect our planet, plant trees, recycle, and make our school greener. Together, we can make a big difference for our future! 🌍💚





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Life Faculty news

Year 8 developing their teamwork & oracy skills learning about safe relationships.



Reminder of extra-curricular activities



Boys' rugby training on Wednesday after-school

Pupil Shoutouts

Subject	Yr	Name
PE	7 8 9	Summer Pugh Lydia Mason-Cann Lucy Hitchins
Humanities	8 8 8 9	Tavis Healy Ryan Burrows Amelia-Lileigh Clutterbuck Mohen Sharma
Geography	11 10	Amelia Weyman Muhammed Sharif
History	10 11	Reina Turkalp Lewys Morgan
Welsh Baccalaureate	10 10	Brogan Gill Ethan Johnson
Health and Social Care	11 10	Lydia Lewis Lily Baker



GIRLS FOOTBALL



Influencers
Nevach
Emily
Isla
Hallie
Izzy
Indy



Y5/6

Tuesday afterschool

COME AND TRAIN
NOW !!

Boys & Girls welcome

**UNDER
13s**

Thursday afterschool



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Life Faculty news

Netball Fixtures vs Y Pant

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 Netball teams travelled to Y Pant, to compete in a netball fixture. All 35 students represented YAW in the best possible way and were a credit to the school community.

Seren Y Gem Blwyddyn 7 ☆:Emily and Payton

Seren Y Gem Blwyddyn 8 ☆:Indie and Ava

Seren Y Gem Blwyddyn 9 ☆:Maia Bria

Da lawn Merched!



Year 8 vs Llanhari- RCT cup

Our year 8 boys football played Llanhari in the RCT cup. Both teams a fantastic game with YAW winning 4-3 for their first win of the season!

Da lawn boys, onto the next round!



Upcoming Fixtures:

Tuesday 18th Nov: 7,8&9- y Pant & Cardinal Newman (Triangular fixture) Venue: TBA

Thursday 20th Nov: U13's Girls football v Afon Taf (H) / Boys football- Cardinal (A)

Friday 21st Nov: U13's (girls) RCT 5-a-side cup tournament (A)

Wednesday 26th Nov: 7,8&9 Netball- Llanharri (A)

Tuesday 2nd Dec: Year 7 Urdd Netball (A)