

Article 24: Children have the right to the best health and medical care.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week's thought for the week was inspired by John Quincy Adams, who said, *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."* Pupils were encouraged to reflect on the idea that leadership is not just about titles or positions, but about the positive influence we have on others through our everyday actions. Discussions focused on setting a good example, showing responsibility, and supporting those around us, helping pupils understand that everyone has the potential to be a leader in their own way.

In assembly, the focus was on "I am what I am," celebrating individuality, self-acceptance, and respect for differences, while also ensuring pupils clearly understand where and how to access support should they need it, including identifying trusted adults within school.

We are also delighted to share the excitement surrounding the opening of the new Youth Wing, which will provide additional dining facilities as well as valuable space for community working and collaboration, further enhancing opportunities for pupils and the wider school community.



Advanced notice for coffee mornings being held in the school for parents/carers to come in and discuss any aspect of school life or anything surrounding your child. Please come to join us in the theatre.

- Tuesday 3rd February will be for Year 7, 8, 9 parents/carers 9-10am
- Wednesday 4th February will be for Year 4, 5, 6 parents/carers 9-10am
- Thursday 5th February will be for Year 1, 2, 3 parents/carers 9-10am



Celebration of Success

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

Nursery	Kaiden Whittaker & Tilly Channon	Year 4	Ashley Bishop & Jayden Lee	Year 9	Maia Amos & Jacob Griffiths
Reception	Maisie Hayes & Noah James-Kuras	Year 5	Junior Hughes & Millie Morgan	Year 10	Princess-Mia Bowles & Corey Hall
Year 1	Allister Yim & Georgia Elley	Year 6	Allayah Jones & Mia Tomaszewski	Year 11	Daniel Agbo & Le Qi Lin
Year 2	Ada Collins & Bobby Kizmus	Year 7	Deborah Akinniran & Jacob Mountjoy		
Year 3	Aliya John & Sonny Jugessur	Year 8	Riley Francis & Nia Southway		

Year 7 boys football played a friendly against away at Cardinal Newman on Thursday.



Celebration of Success

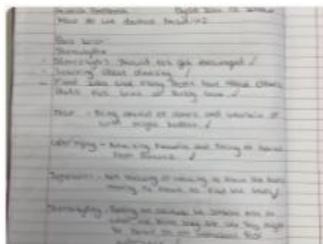
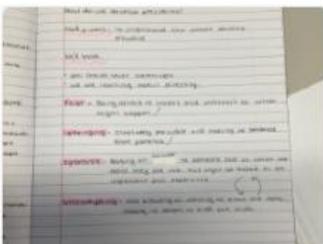


Some of our cross country athletes who competed in the Glamorgan Valleys competition on Monday. Well done to everyone involved.

Congratulations to Kayla (Y11) who represented Coleg y Cymoedd who played in a Rugby Sevens against Millfield College.

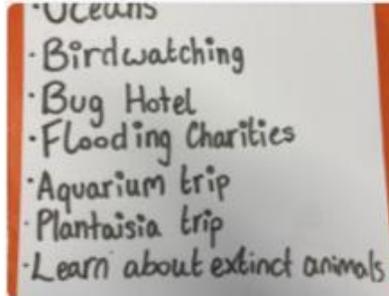
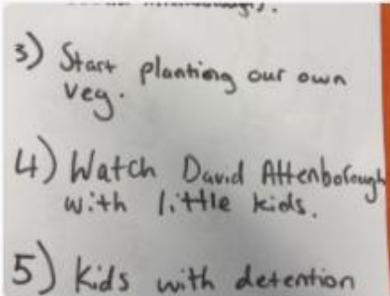


Year 10 have been looking at different types of prejudice in Equality and Diversity. They have been discussing the effects they have not only them but the School and wider community too.



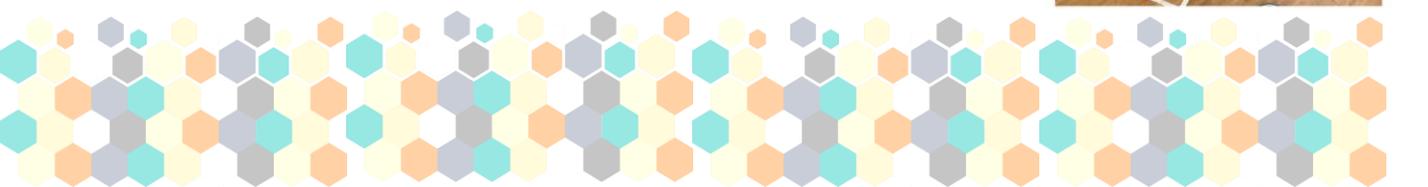
Celebration of Success

Eco Club has a successful first meeting back this term. We have been busy planning new initiatives for this term.



Some learners visited St Fagan's National Museum of History to celebrate how Welsh history, culture and society have shaped our 'Cynefin'.

Best line of the day from a student: "We picked the perfect rainy day to come - classic Welsh weather."



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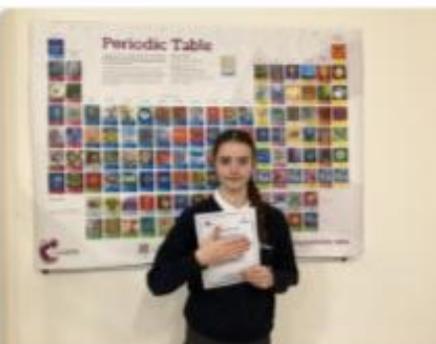
Celebration of Success



Recently, pupils took part in the **Top of the Bench Science Competition** hosted at **Swansea University**. This exciting event is run in partnership with the **Royal Society of Chemistry** and is designed to inspire young people to enjoy and explore chemistry.



The competition involved teams of pupils working together to complete a range of **fun science challenges**. These included interactive quiz questions and **hands-on laboratory activities**, where students demonstrated practical skills such as following instructions carefully, working safely, and applying their scientific knowledge.



Taking place in a real university setting, the event gave pupils a valuable opportunity to experience what studying science at university can be like. It also helped to build **teamwork, confidence, and problem-solving skills**, while encouraging curiosity and enthusiasm for science.

All pupils represented the school brilliantly, showing excellent behaviour and engagement throughout the day. Well done to everyone involved for their hard work and enthusiasm!



New Community Hub

Ysgol Afon Wen Opens Its Stunning New Community Hub

Today marked a proud moment for Ysgol Afon Wen as we officially received the keys to our brand-new Community Hub – a space designed to bring people together and strengthen our school's role at the heart of the community.

The handover was attended by our Headteacher, members of the Governing Body, the Senior Leadership Team, and representatives from RCT, all celebrating this exciting milestone. The new facilities are truly impressive: a conference space for meetings and events, a dedicated family engagement room, clinical space, and modern offices to support a wide range of services for pupils and families.

The other half of the building has been transformed to enhance daily life for our learners, providing extra canteen space and a comfortable seating area for older year groups – a perfect spot for socialising and study.

This development reflects our commitment to being a Community Focused School, offering opportunities for collaboration, support, and engagement. We look forward to welcoming families and partners into this fantastic new space and making it a hub of activity and connection.



Spring Extra Curricular Activities

Extra Curricular Activities Spring Term

TUESDAY

Football (Years 5-6) 15:15-16:00 Venue: Astro Turf
Mathematics Club (Year 11) 14:45-15:45 Venue: C Block
Debate Club (Years 7-8) 13:15-13:45 Venue: C11
YEPS Gaming Club (Years 7-11) 14:45-16:15 Venue: B1
YEPS Swimming (Years 7-11) 14:45-15:45 Venue: Swimming Pool
GCSE Science Revision (Years 10-11) 15:15-16:00 Venue: A32
GCSE Art Coursework Catch Up Club (Year 11) 15:00-16:00 Venue: A36

WEDNESDAY

Football (Year 9) 15:00 - 16:00 Venue: Astro
Just Dance (Years 1-2) 15:15-16:00 Venue: Lower Heartspace
Minecraft Club (Year 3) 15:15-16:00 Venue: A11
Textiles Club (Years 10-11) 15:15-16:00 Venue: A19

THURSDAY

Choir (Years 1-6) 15:15-16:00 Venue: Activate
LEGO Club (Year 2) 15:15-16:00 Venue: Activate
U13 Girls Football (Y7-Y9) 14:45-15:45 Venue: Astro
School Report Club (Years 7-11) 14:45-15:45 Venue: C11
Clwb Saesneg (Years 10-11) 14:45-15:45 Venue: C14

Senedd 2: Respect and Inclusion

At Ysgol Afon Wen, respect and kindness are at the heart of our school culture – and our recent Senedd meetings showed just how much pupils recognise and appreciate this. Learners spoke proudly about the strong sense of community and shared ideas to make things even better.

Pupils praised the support already in place, such as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, ELSA staff, and the welcoming areas like the Heart space. They also suggested exciting ways to build on this success: introducing buddy benches to help everyone feel included, adding worry boxes in classrooms, and creating more opportunities to celebrate diversity through cultural fairs and themed weeks. The Senedd continues to play a key role in shaping a positive environment where every voice matters. Together, we're ensuring that respect and empathy remain at the centre of life at Afon Wen.



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Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

Year One have immersed themselves in cross-curricular learning this week: Building Minecraft castles, designing new shields and creating odd and even dragons. Ardderchog!



A fabulous RWI session in Mrs Rowland's group this morning. The children thoroughly enjoyed their library session.



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Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 8)

Extra Curricular activity opportunities

Our NumBots and Times Tables Rock Stars sessions are in full swing, and we are delighted to celebrate the fantastic start made by pupils in Year 4-6

Our pupils are building vital fluency and confidence in foundational number, multiplication and division facts to support their success in the classroom. A huge well done to all our current Rock Stars for their dedication to precision and speed and a big thank you to our Year 11 volunteers who are helping facilitate the session. Keep up the brilliant work!

A huge thank you to Favour, Faith and Temidola Keeli, Deagan and Xavier in Year 11 for their support.



There was such a buzz of excitement with the first session of STEM Club organised and run entirely by our STEM Lead Learners. 23 year 5 and 6 pupils learnt about the human skeleton. We are looking forward to next week.





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Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 8)

Cooking in food technology this week:

Year 7 / 8 / 9 making scones: Students have learnt about the importance of accurate measuring and baking.



Year 7 / 8 / 9 making loaded fries: Students have learned key knife skills and learn about the power of good seasoning.



Year 7 have also been taking part in literacy challenges in form time this week by reading a book called: "You Are Awesome".



Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

Year 9 Options process

At this time of the year we start discussing option choices with Year 9 pupils in preparation for their move into Year 10 and the start of their GCSE courses.

For the first time in their school life, pupils will be able to have a choice over the subjects they take during the next two years. These are very important decisions that may well influence their career choices in the future. In light of this, we want to assure you that we will help and support you and your child to make informed choices which are appropriate for them as individuals.

As we prepare to move to the options process for Year 9 pupils, we would like to outline some key dates and signpost support that is available online for you as parents. This will help shape and understand how you can support your son/daughter to make informed choices.

What subjects will pupils study in Year 10 and 11?

Some familiar subjects that the pupils have studied in Key Stage 3 will continue into Key Stage 4 and will lead to GCSE or equivalent qualifications. There are four compulsory core subjects; Mathematics, English, Science and Welsh. In addition, it is a statutory requirement that students receive Ethics & Philosophy (Religious Studies) and core PE lessons until the age of sixteen. Pupils can also choose to take a formal GCSE qualification in these subjects within the option choices. The school also timetable pupils to gain additional qualifications in the Welsh Baccalaureate (worth the equivalent of one GCSE) and the BTEC Teamwork qualification.

Finally, pupils will also have the opportunity to **select three option subjects** to study for the next two years. These will include subjects that your child has studied previously, along with subjects that are only offered from Year 10. For example, Art, Drama, Hairdressing, Hospitality & Catering, Travel & Tourism, Public Services, Health and Nutrition, French, Geography, History, IT, Digital Film and Media, Music, PE, Photography, Product Design and Textiles.

Over the coming weeks, we will deliver a programme of advice and support so that your child is equipped to make an informed choice about their future studies and career plans.

Please see the option process on the letter sent home via the pupils on paper or sent on the My Child at School App.

