

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy week full of opportunities for our pupils in Ysgol Afon Wen. Groups of pupils in Year 7 and 8 took part in workshops linked to real life scenarios that may occur in their future, a small number of Year 10 pupils have begun college placements, our Eisteddfod activities have been in full swing, and Year 1 enjoyed an exciting trip to Cardiff Castle.

Teachers have also been speaking with Year 11 about preparing for their summer examinations and effective revision techniques, as well as supporting Year 9 as they begin thinking about their GCSE option choices. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Year 11 revision techniques and exam success presentation on Thursday. The resources can be found at [Ysgol Afon Wen - Curriculum at YAW](#).

Parents in Year 10 and 11 will have received advanced notice of mock examinations for the pupils and Year 9 pupils and parents will be looking forward to attending the Year 9 options evening on Thursday. The pupils are aware of the importance of the information provided during this evening.

Moving forward, this newsletter will only be shared via the My Child at School app.

## Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	Activate (N-Year 3) Eisteddfod
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	World Book Day Year 9 Options Evening 3.15pm -6.00pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	ACE Day (Careers focus)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 11 Welsh Oral exam week



## Celebration of Success

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

<b>Nursery</b>	Toby Pincott & Ava Williams	<b>Year 4</b>	Skylah Elston Lexi Street	<b>Year 9</b>	Mason Behit & Saalihah Alabi
<b>Reception</b>	Tymoteusz Stebelko-Sobien	<b>Year 5</b>	Lennon Driscoll Mason Ashton	<b>Year 10</b>	Mohammed Sharif Betsy Pearce
<b>Year 1</b>	Maisie-Rae Lott & Jesse Taylor	<b>Year 6</b>	Cody Pitman Ruby Evans	<b>Year 11</b>	Favour Kola-Olusa & Jesse Dau
<b>Year 2</b>	Thea Blakeman	<b>Year 7</b>	Deborah Akinniran		
<b>Year 3</b>	Ashton Yim	<b>Year 8</b>	Sophia Williams		

## Eisteddfod Success

Lower Advance (Year 4 – 6) celebrated Eisteddfod today with a mixture of poems, extended writing, performance and singing. We are excited to announce the winners next week. We are very proud of all the work that has been produced and they should be proud of the many certificates that were presented today. Da iawn! Activate phase Eisteddfod will take place on Monday.



## St David's Day event

### **Y11 Students Represent Ysgol Afon Wen at St. David's Day Event**

Two of our outstanding Year 11 students, Tehila and Amelia, proudly represented Ysgol Afon Wen at the St. David's Day celebrations held at Cynon Linc, Aberdare. The event included a special visit from the First Minister of Wales, Eluned Morgan, who was warmly welcomed by the students upon her arrival.

Tehila and Amelia presented the First Minister with a beautifully prepared hamper, after which she spent time speaking with them and asking thoughtful questions about life at our school. Their confident and mature responses reflected the very best of Ysgol Afon Wen.

Throughout the event, the students conducted themselves wonderfully. They joined in a heartfelt rendition of the Welsh National Anthem, served bowls of traditional *cawl* to older members of the Cynon Linc community, and engaged in conversations with Assembly Members and representatives from Rhondda Cynon Taf.

We are incredibly proud of Tehila and Amelia for their exceptional conduct, enthusiasm, and sense of pride in representing our school on such a significant occasion.





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 27.02.26

Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## Eisteddfod

Some of the amazing Year 4 work for the Eisteddfod. Judging these was extremely difficult. Well done to everyone who took part





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 27.02.26

Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## St David's Day event



### Y Gornel Gymraeg

Pupils in Yr4-7 have been learning about our beautiful mural in Pontypridd this week. The mural, created by local artist Tee2Sugars has really captured our pupils' imagination. Da iawn, bawb!





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 27.02.26

Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## St David's Day event



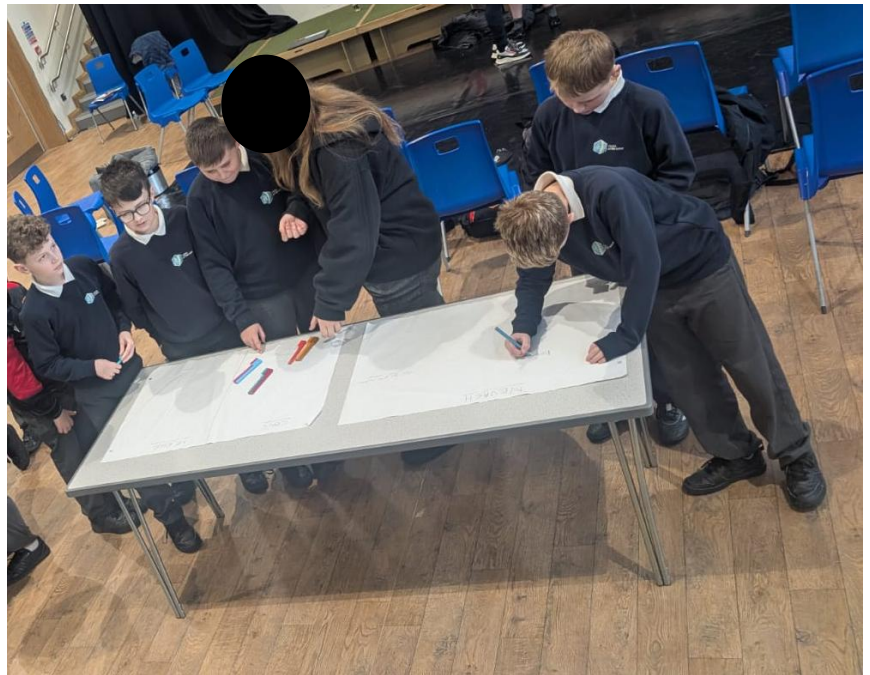
## Y Gornel Gymraeg

This week, the nursery children have been learning about the beautiful country we call home. We have been painting daffodils, creating fluffy sheep and performing a Welsh folkdance. We have also been completing Eisteddfod tasks ready for Monday's Activate Eisteddfod. Da iawn bawb!



## In Real Life (IRL) workshop

This week, our students took part in Spectacle Theatre's *IRL (In Real Life)* performance and workshop. Learners were fully engaged as the play presented compelling real-life scenarios that young people may face as they move through their formative years. The follow-up workshop allowed students to explore these themes further, helping them develop confident, informed choices about relationships, online behaviour and personal responsibility. The experience reflects The Afon Wen Way, reinforcing our school's commitment to a culture of respect and positive decision-making.



## Attendance

As we begin the new half term, we are encouraging every pupil to aim for strong, consistent attendance. Every single day in school truly makes a difference — helping pupils keep up with their learning, grow in confidence, and make the most of all the opportunities on offer.

Nursery	81%	Year 4	88%	Year 9	84%
Reception	88%	Year 5	89%	Year 10	79%
Year 1	87%	Year 6	88%	Year 11	81%
Year 2	89%	Year 7	91%		
Year 3	92%	Year 8	86%		

### **Our Goal for This Half Term**

Let's work together to boost attendance across the school. A small improvement each week can make a big difference by Easter!

### **How Families Can Help**

- Encourage pupils to get a good night's sleep and a calm start to the morning
- Aim to arrive at school on time every day
- Avoid term time holidays and unnecessary absences
- Contact school if you need support — we're here to help

Thank you for your continued support in making sure our pupils get the very best from their education. Let's make this half term a positive, productive, and successful one for everyone.



## Year 10 Senedd Election Workshop

A group of Year 10 pupils took part in an engaging Senedd Election Workshop led by Branwen Miles MS. During the session, pupils explored the importance of having their vote and learned how political decisions shape their lives, their education, and the wider community.

It was a valuable opportunity for pupils to develop their understanding of democracy and the impact their voices can have.





## Park and Stride

### SPOTLIGHT ON

# PARK AND STRIDE CAMPAIGN, WITH SUPPORT FROM OUR PCSO



### PARK AND STRIDE 2025 - 2026

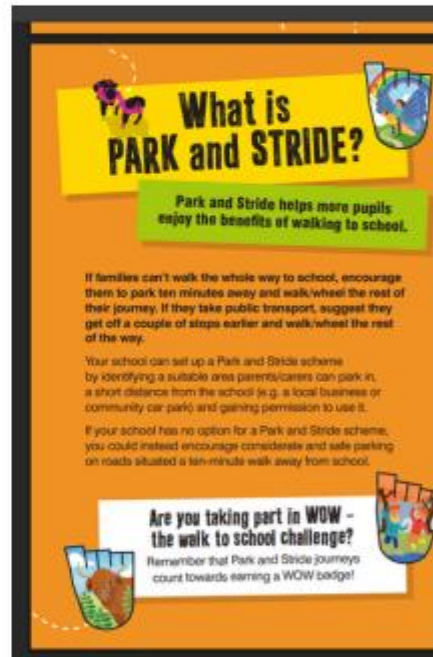
As you are aware, our school is committed to our PARK AND STRIDE CAMPAIGN. As well as increasing daily physical activity, this campaign helps to keep the roads and streets that all members of our community use as safe as possible.

You are welcome to park in the Hawthorn Leisure Centre car park or the Taff Fields car park and walk to school.

Please do not park in School Lane and please also be considerate of local homeowners and businesses.

### Are you a Park and Strider?

Car stickers will be handed out at drop off and pick up next week - grab yours for free!





## Careers Week

Please see attached information about Careers week.



National Careers Week

# NCW

2ND-6TH  
MARCH

## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

In the week beginning 2nd March, we will be celebrating National Careers Week. If your son or daughter are in Advance or Achieve, you can start the conversation about the world of work with them this weekend by completing the work sheets included.



### Creativity

Pupils can expect to learn about different creative pathways in careers and the world of work.

### Innovation

Pupils can expect to problem solve and learn about STEM opportunities linked to these subject areas.

### Life

Pupils can expect to hone in on their critical thinking and teamwork skills.

Throughout the week, and especially on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> for our Careers themed ACE day, pupils take part in activities designed to broaden their understanding of different industries, roles, and career pathways. We encourage parents and carers to get involved and share their experiences with pupils, as we believe that learning from a variety of perspectives is key to helping them make informed choices about their futures. Careers Week is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to start thinking about their interests, aspirations, and the steps they can take to achieve their goals. Together, we can support them in exploring the endless opportunities open to them in their future.

Careers Week activities often focus on essential life skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. These skills are beneficial in any career and help pupils build confidence in their abilities. This is especially important for our younger learners who are at the beginning of their journey of becoming effective life long learners.

By participating, older pupils will gain a clearer understanding of their strengths and interests, which can guide them in making informed decisions about their GCSE subjects, future studies, and career choices.





## Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

### Monday's Menu

Please note that there will be a specific menu on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to celebrate St David's Day. In Nursery to Year 6 there will be no jacket potatoes served, it will follow the menu below.

**PRIMARY 2ND MARCH 2026  
ST DAVID'S DAY**

Welsh Pork Sausage (Gluten, soya, sulphur dioxide)  
 Gluten-free Pork Sausage (Soya, sulphur dioxide)  
 or Quorn Sausage (Gluten)

**V** Served with Welsh Cheesy Mash (Milk, \*may contain: gluten, sulphur dioxide)  
 or Homemade Plain Mash,  
 Peas & Baked Beans,

**V** Welsh Marios Caramel Swirl Ice-Cream (Milk)  
 or  
 Mango Sorbet Tub

**V** Vegan  
**V** Vegetarian

HONDDA CYNON TAF



YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 27.02.26

Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

### Cardiff Castle

Year One have had a fantastic day at Cardiff Castle, showcasing their incredible knowledge. Their behaviour was exemplary.





## Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

### LEGO Workshop

Thank to our Year One parents for attending the LEGO workshop this week. We look forward to welcoming our Year Two and Three parents next week.



Y1 LEGO  
workshop



PIC • COLLAGE



## Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

### Year 10 Work Experience

#### **Year 10 Work Experience – Important Information for Parents and Guardians**

We are preparing for the Year 10 work experience week starting 29th June 2026 and are asking that parents and carers secure a placement for their child. A detailed letter with full instructions and forms to complete is attached for your reference and you can also find more information on our [website](#).

Key points to note:

- Parents/guardians must complete Section A of the Learner and Employer Details form, and the employer must complete Section B.
- A current copy of the employer's valid Employer Liability Insurance (covering the placement week) must be submitted with the forms.
- If your child's placement is with a family member's business, a Parent/Guardian Work Experience Agreement Form must also be completed. This confirms your responsibility for the placement's safety and supervision.
- Please encourage your child to seek placements locally.
- All completed forms and employer liability insurance documents must be returned to form tutors by **Wednesday 15th April 2026** to allow necessary checks by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring a safe and valuable work experience for our pupils. If you or your child has any questions, support can be accessed from their form tutor, Miss Boyce, Mrs Stephens and Miss Phillips.



## Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

### Year 9 Options Evening

The Year 9 Options Evening will take place on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026** between 3:15pm-6:00pm. This will be a vital evening to support your child making the decision on their three GCSE option subjects for next academic year.

The options evening will be run as a fair where multiple subjects will run a 15-minute session over a period of eight different time slots. During each time slot, you can choose the subject information that you would like to listen to. Teachers will be explaining the nature of the course, what to expect, how it is examined and the expectations of pupils selecting this subject. You may choose to go to as many or few option talks as you feel necessary. There will be an information session in the theatre explaining the options process and deadlines. This session is from 3.15-3.30pm and the information repeated at 4.50 – 5.05pm.

Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 5th March 2026: 3.15-6.00pm								
Session 1 3.15 - 3.30pm	Explanation of options process and information on core subjects Mrs S Brewer, Deputy Headteacher <b>Theatre</b>							
Session 2 3.30 - 3.45pm	MEDIA Room A38 Mrs C O'Carroll	HISTORY Room A34 Mrs H Boyce	ART Room A36 Mr J Cox	PRODUCT DESIGN Room A16 Mr N Williams	MUSIC Room A37 Mrs L Fitzgerald-Lombard	PUBLIC SERVICES Room A33 Mr A Tucker	FRENCH Room A32 Mdme R Crossen	GCSE PE Room A15 Miss R Maggs
Session 3 3.50 - 4.05pm	DRAMA Room A38 Mrs C O'Carroll	GEOGRAPHY Room A34 Miss J McCabe	PHOTOGRAPHY Room A35 Miss M Jenkins	HOSPITALITY Room A17 Miss M Price	DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY Room A18 Mr D Spear	TRAVEL & TOURISM Room A33 Miss T Nicholas	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE Room A32 Miss A Watkins	NUTRITION & HEALTH Room A15 Miss L Phillips
Session 4 4.10 - 4.25pm	MEDIA Room A38 Mrs C O'Carroll	RE GCSE Room A34 Mrs E Kheifli	ART Room A36 Mr J Cox	TEXTILES Room A19 Mrs M Madley	MUSIC Room A37 Mrs L Fitzgerald-Lombard	PUBLIC SERVICES Room A33 Mr A Tucker	FRENCH Room A32 Mdme R Crossen	GCSE PE Room A15 Miss R Maggs
Session 5 4.30 - 4.45pm	DRAMA Room A38 Mrs C O'Carroll	HISTORY Room A34 Miss H Boyce	PHOTOGRAPHY Room A35 Miss M Jenkins	PRODUCT DESIGN Room A16 Mr N Williams	DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY Room A18 Mr D Spear	TRAVEL & TOURISM Room A33 Miss T Nicholas	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE Room A32 Miss A Watkins	NUTRITION & HEALTH Room A15 Miss L Phillips
Session 6 4.50 - 5.05pm	Explanation of options process and information on core subjects (repeated session) Mrs S Brewer, Deputy Headteacher <b>Theatre</b>							
Session 7 5.10 - 5.25pm	MEDIA Room A38 Mrs C O'Carroll	RE GCSE Room A34 Mrs E Kheifli	ART Room A36 Mr J Cox	HOSPITALITY Room A17 Miss M Price	MUSIC Room A37 Mrs L Fitzgerald-Lombard	PUBLIC SERVICES Room A33 Mr A Tucker	FRENCH Room A32 Mdme R Crossen	GCSE PE Room A15 Miss R Maggs
Session 8 5.30 - 5.45pm	DRAMA Room A38 Mrs C O'Carroll	GEOGRAPHY Room A34 Miss J McCabe	PHOTOGRAPHY Room A35 Miss M Jenkins	TEXTILES Room A19 Mrs M Madley	DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY Room A18 Mr D Spear	TRAVEL & TOURISM Room A33 Miss T Nicholas	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE Room A32 Mrs E Kheifli	NUTRITION & HEALTH Room A15 Miss L Phillips
Session 9 5.50 - 6.00pm	Leadership team & Progress Leader available to answer any questions <b>Dining Hall</b>							

Pupils have already received information during special option assemblies outlining the courses on offer and what they involve. They have been asked to provisionally select four subjects that interest them on this google form <https://forms.gle/U2F2BWujmYAsrbidA> by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**.





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 27.02.26

Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## Your voice matters

**Your Voice Matters**

**LLAIS** 

Eich llais mewn iechyd Your voice in health  
a gofal cymdeithasol and social care

**Public Event**  **Merthyr Tydfil**

Listening to the voices of young people (Age 14–16)

**CAMHS & Neurodevelopmental Services**



**Join the Conversation**

**Monday 30 March**

**9:30 am – 2:00pm**

**Orbit Business Centre**

**Rhydyar Business Park**

**Merthyr Tydfil**

**CF48 1DL**

**\*\*\* Free Event \*\*\***

- Tell us about your experiences
- What needs to change
- Help improve services for everyone
- Enjoy Refreshments & Goodies

Scan here

to book  
your place



For more information contact

**Your Cwm Taf Morgannwg Llais Team**

**Tel: 01443 405830**

**Email: [CTM@llaiscymru.org](mailto:CTM@llaiscymru.org)**

