

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful week in school, and it has been lovely to see our pupils taking part in several special events. Many students proudly celebrated St David's Day, sharing in the traditions and spirit of the day. Our thought for the week centred around St David, the patron Saint of Wales, who was not a wealthy man. He was well-loved because of his inspirational speaking and the humbleness of his life. His last words to his followers were "Byddwch Lawen a Gnewch y Pethau Bychain" - Be joyful and do the little things. Today, as we honour St David, remember to find joy in the little things we do.

The school was full of enthusiasm for World Book Day on Thursday, with pupils enjoying the opportunity to celebrate reading and their favourite stories.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the parents and carers who attended the Year 9 Options Evening; your support plays an important role in helping students make informed decisions about their future pathways.

Finally, a reminder to our Year 11 pupils that now is the time to begin focused revision in preparation for the upcoming GCSE examinations. Starting early, creating a clear revision plan, and seeking support from teachers will make a real difference in the months ahead.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 9 th March 2026	Year 11 Welsh Oral exam week Year 2-6 Reading & Maths Assessment week
Thursday 19 th March 2026	Year 11 targeted progress evening
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Ski trip departs
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 8 Progress Evening
Friday 27 th March	Easter bonnet parade Year 11 Leavers photographs
Monday 30 th March	Easter Holidays

St David's Day

We hope that you all enjoyed celebrating St David's Day as much as we did in Ysgol Afon Wen. See a wonderful poem written by Ella in Year 7.



Y Gornel Gymraeg

Diolch yn fawr to Ella, Yr 7, for this lovely poem celebrating Cymru.

My Wales

Wales is a place no other than home.
Wales is a place I can call my own.
From north Wales mountains to south Wales sea
there's no other place that's right for me
From Snowdown peaks to Brecon hikes
And then there's the Eisteddfod festivals that last until the night.
Canu a dawnsio that stay on 'til the light
Rygbi fans roar as Wales wins the game.
Pontypridd is where I got my name.
But in Swansea people get lots of fame.
Castle Coch towers over the people of south Wales
And you can find lots of Welsh tales.
Here in Wales we stand very proud
Making Welsh voices loud .
"Cymru am byth" we shout to the crowd
Wales is a place no other than home
Wales a place I can call my own.



World Book Day

World Book Day 2026: A Celebration of Reading

Our school had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day this year, with the focus firmly on the joy and importance of reading.

Pupils joined the celebration by dressing up as their favourite book characters and wearing clothing featuring their favourite quotes from stories they love. It was wonderful to see such a wide range of books represented across the school, with pupils proudly sharing the characters and stories that inspire them.

Throughout the day, classes took part in a variety of reading-focused activities. Pupils shared their favourite stories with their classmates, discussed the books they enjoy, and spent time reading together. Many classes also produced creative work inspired by books, including artwork, writing pieces, and other imaginative responses to the stories they explored.

Staff also played an important role in the celebration by promoting a love of reading throughout the day. Teachers shared books with their classes, talked about their own favourite stories, and encouraged pupils to explore new authors and genres.

A highlight of the day was our book swap, which proved to be very popular. Pupils brought in books they had already enjoyed and exchanged them for something new to read, helping to spread the excitement of reading while giving books a new home.

Overall, it was a wonderful celebration of reading across the school, and it was lovely to see pupils so enthusiastic about sharing their favourite books and discovering new ones. We hope the day has inspired even more reading at home as well as in school!

Happy Reading!



Book swap taking place on World Book Day.

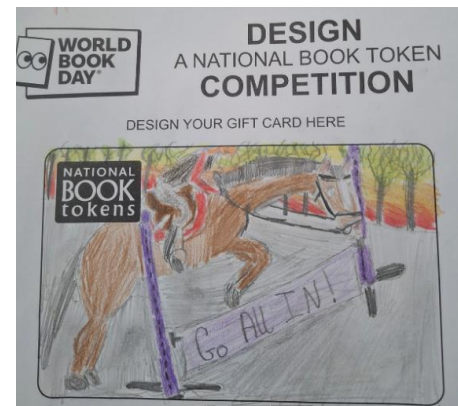
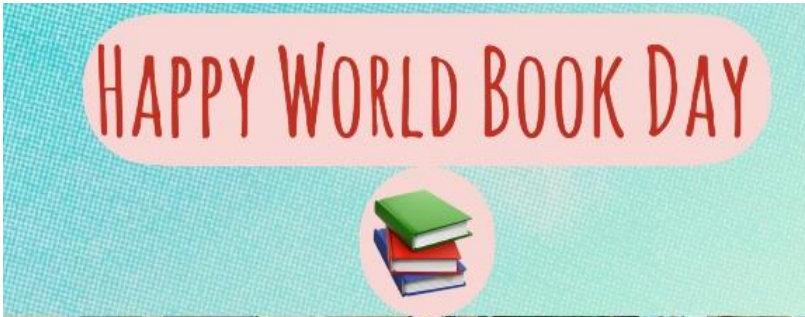


World Book Day

In true Ysgol Afon Wen style, our Activate staff and children were a personification of World Book Day with costumes and quotes galore! Some of the activities included buddying up to share stories with other year groups, designing book covers, book picnics and creating fantastic 3D story scenes. The book swap stalls were also a huge success- da iawn, pawb!



World Book Day



World Book Day



**WORLD
BOOK DAY
4B**



**Homemade World Book
day t-shirt**



World Book Day



Pupils in Year 3 have been transforming shoeboxes into a scene from their favourite book. Here are some amazing examples of their creations (Dog Man and The Snail and the Whale)



Word of the Week

Please see this week's *Word of the Week* below. We encourage you to support your child in learning and using this word at home!

How You Can Help at Home:

- **Say the word daily** – Encourage your child to pronounce the word correctly and use it in conversation.
 - **Ask questions** – Have your child explain what the word means in their own words.
 - **Make connections** – Talk about times when the word could be used in real life.
 - **Create sentences** – Challenge your child to say or write 3–5 sentences using the word correctly.
 - **Spot the word** – See if you can find the word in books, on TV, or in everyday conversations.
 - **Be creative** – Draw a picture, act it out, or create a short story using the word.
- Practicing just a few minutes each day helps strengthen vocabulary and builds confidence in reading and writing. Thank you for supporting learning at home!

Imminent (*adjective*)

Use this word correctly in your work in any lesson this week for a **positive behaviour point**.

Definition:

- Close in time
- About to happen (often with a sense of urgency)

Example and Non-Example:

- Dark clouds are rolling in, and we can tell that a storm is **imminent**.
- The FIFA World Cup is next year so it is **not imminent**.

Make it stick!

Can you think of something that is **imminent** for you right now, and something that isn't?





Celebration of Success

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

Nursery	Ruari Fleming & Arlo Rowlands	Year 4	Caelan Jones & Alana-Rose Baker-Smith	Year 9	Harry Sheldon & Alyssa Light
Reception	Bobbi Jones & Harrison Quarman-Chandler	Year 5	Millie Morgan & Rose May	Year 10	Delcie Redwood Jamie Webber
Year 1	Alethea Coomber & Bareera Akhtar	Year 6	Cavan Biggs, Alfie Fulcher	Year 11	Myri McCormack & Dylan Gane
Year 2	Morgan Jenkins &	Year 7	Jasmine Grant Serent Coles		
Year 3	Logan Williams, Farrel Preece & Maisie Clarke	Year 8	Harper Parkhouse DJ Wheeler		



Oliver travelled to Denmark with his swim club to compete in an International Swimming Gala. He made it to the semi-finals. We are very proud of his achievement.



Attendance

Nursery	81%	Year 4	88%	Year 9	84%
Reception	89%	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%		

Every Child, Every Day – Let’s Make Every Day Count!

We’re encouraging all pupils to aim for strong, consistent attendance this half term. Every day in school helps your child build knowledge, confidence, and positive routines that set them up for success.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend, please let us know as early as possible by:

- Using the My Child at School (MCAS) app, or
- Calling the school office and selecting the Attendance option

Your support in keeping us informed helps us work together to keep every child on track.

Thank you for your continued support. Every child, every day!





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Newsletter 06.03.26

Article 15: To meet with your friends and join groups and clubs

Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

Signs of Spring Walk



This week nursery have been celebrating the start of spring with our St. David's day celebrations, looking for signs of spring and colour-mixing and painting rainbows.



Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

Eisteddfod

We were very excited to celebrate St. David's Day with our Eisteddfod. Each class showcased a performance, and were judged on their beautiful handwriting and craft tasks. Congratulations to Elai who were our overall winners.



Family Workshops

Our LEGO, Maths and Science workshops have started this week, with lots of parental engagement. It has been wonderful to see families working together in our new Community Hub.

Nursery Fun

Our Nursery learners are in full party mode showing off their best dancing skills with scarves and ribbons.



Story Arms Trip Year 5

Year 5 Residential Visit – Storey Arms Outdoor Education Centre

The visit will take place in June, please see communication sent on MCAS app. During this time, your child will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of exciting activities including gorge walking, caving, canoeing, hill walking, and rock climbing.

For many children, this may be their first experience of staying away from home without you. Rest assured, Storey Arms and our school team will be on hand to encourage, support, and help your child develop confidence, independence, and resilience. The activities are designed to promote teamwork, perseverance, and personal growth.

PRE-COURSE INFORMATION

This pack contains information to help you in your preparations for your forthcoming visit to the Storey Arms. Please read it carefully.

Should you require any further information or have any queries, please contact Andy Meek, Head of Centre, or Claire Horwood / Carolyn Cummings, Centre Secretaries, on

01874 623598 or visit **www.storeyarms.com**

We look forward to seeing you!





Story Arms Trip Year 5

The Storey Arms Information & Ethos

The Storey Arms Centre is a residential outdoor education centre owned and run by Cardiff Council, with accommodation for a total of 56 people. Accommodation is split over two linked buildings, with one side sleeping 24 in bunk beds plus visiting leader accommodation for three; the other side sleeping 26, also in bunk beds, with a single room and a bunk bed room for three visiting leaders.

Communal areas include the dining area and the common room / teaching room; this can also be doubled as a TV room. There is also a drying room, showers and changing areas and a small shop which sells drinks, sweets and souvenirs.

Full board can be provided for all groups; your enquiry sheet will have details of your first and last meals. We ask you to bring your own lunch on the first day to help speed up the welcome process and have you outdoor as soon as possible!

There is an element of self-catering and participants are expected to play a full part in the domestic responsibilities of the Centre. Evening meals are prepared by Centre staff but food is set aside for groups to prepare their own breakfasts and packed lunches.



Ethos.....

The work undertaken on a Storey Arms course is physically demanding but well within the capabilities of the average young person. In many of the activities there may be apparent risk and young people can derive great satisfaction from overcoming their inhibitions and gaining success in a whole new field of learning. "Enjoyment", "Adventure", "Achievement", "Resilience" and "Friendship" are all key words at the Storey Arms and many young people return to the Centre time and time again to build upon their experiences.



Go to www.storeyarms.com or click on either of the links provided to see evidence of the benefits a residential visit can have - <https://youtu.be/S-AwnaxPN-I/> <https://youtu.be/We6z9ndx7FU>

A stay at the Storey Arms also offers all the benefits of residential education; for some this may be the first time away from home. Personality and confidence can be developed from living and sharing responsibility.




Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 8)

Careers

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

● How about becoming a chef? ●






What does a chef do?

A chef is someone who makes tasty and good-looking food. They plan what meals to cook, choose the best ingredients, and make sure everything tastes just right.

Chefs also lead the kitchen team, make food look nice on the plate, and keep the kitchen clean. They love trying new recipes and flavours to make people happy when they eat.

Chefs work in places like busy restaurants or cozy cafés, making meals special for everyone.

Family Learning

The children took part in an exciting science lesson focused on Earth science. During the session, they explored how volcanoes work by creating their own model volcanoes. They learned about magma, lava, and how pressure builds inside the Earth before a volcano erupts. The hands-on activity helped them understand these natural processes while having fun watching their volcanoes “erupt.”

The lesson also introduced the children to the water cycle, particularly how rain forms in clouds. Through simple demonstrations and discussion, they learned how water evaporates, forms clouds, and eventually falls back to Earth as rain. The activity encouraged curiosity and helped the children see how different parts of Earth science connect to the world around them.



Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

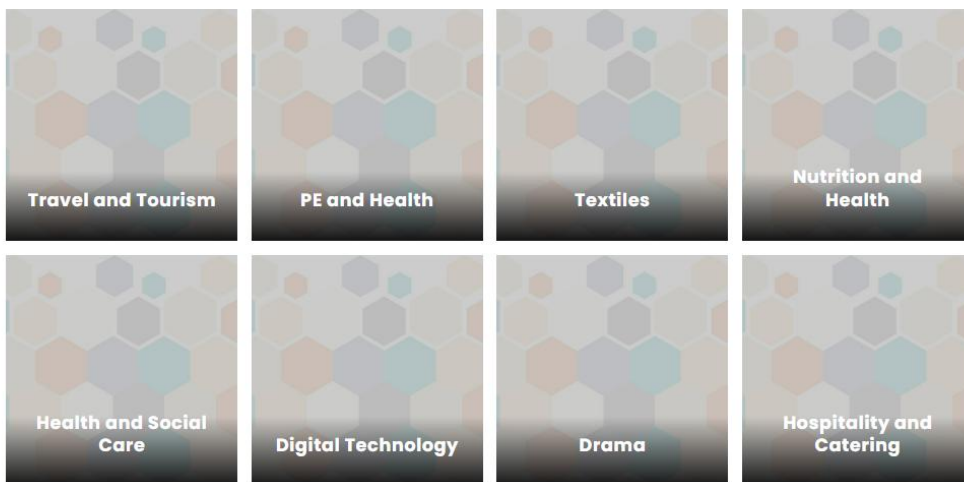
Year 9 Options Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 9 Options evening. We hope it was an informative evening.

If you were unable to attend the information provided can be given in paper copy by your form tutors. Videos and course information is available on the school website under our curriculum:

[Ysgol Afon Wen - Year 9 Options 2025-2026](#)

Yr 9 Option choices 2026	PDF	
Yr 9 Options Booklet 2026	PDF	



Please find below the new google form that will result in the creation of the option columns <https://forms.gle/uJqoqSHp2xTihjwS7>

Please complete this by **Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 4pm.**

The option columns will be confirmed next week for you to make the final choice.





Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

GCSE Examinations

8 teaching weeks left
200 lessons left

before the first examination on
Thursday 7 May 2026

[summer-2026-wales-and-eduqas-gcse-october-2025.pdf](#)

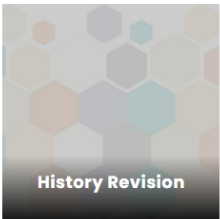
Please remember that revision resources are available on the school website. All pupils in Year 11 and 10 should be working towards a GCSE revision timetable in preparation for their Summer examinations. Timetables were given out this week. Any issues, please speak to Mrs Kelly, Examinations officer.

[Home](#) → [Our School](#) → [Curriculum At YAW](#) → [GCSE Revision Materials](#)

GCSE Revision Materials

This section of the website supports pupils with their learning both in and out of the classroom. It contains links to revision materials, practice questions, and helpful online resources to reinforce key knowledge and skills. Parents can use this area to understand what pupils are learning and to help support revision and independent study at home.

Yr-11-GCSE-Revision-Success-Booklet-2026.383676348	PDF	
Year-11-GCSE-Success-Evening-2026.383676348	PDF	





Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)



CAREER SPOTLIGHT:



CHEF



If you're good with your hands and have a passion for making fantastic food – even under pressure – then you could make a great chef.

What Types Of Chef Can You Be?

- Cook (in places like schools or hospitals)
- Short-order cook (in places where food moves quickly like fast-food shops)
- Commis chef (trainee or apprentice chef)

This is just the start. You can get managerial chefs, chefs specialising in one type of food... it's all down to your interests and experience!

Chefs

Weekly Pay	Annual Pay
£540	£28,080
Hours/Week	Hourly Pay
44h	£12

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth
0.2%

The workforce is projected to grow by 0.2% over the period to 2035, creating 300 jobs.

You might find this job in
Food & beverage services
Accommodation
Education
Health
Real estate

School, College And Training

When starting your journey as a trainee chef you don't need any qualifications. You may find you stand out to employers if you have GCSEs or the equivalent in subjects like English and maths, because communication with the team is part of being a chef, and when it comes to measuring ingredients and knowing cooking timings in a fast-paced kitchen you may need to have some confidence with numbers.

You could also do a GCSE in hospitality and catering.

There are lots of college courses and vocational courses you can study related to cooking. Useful qualifications for becoming a chef include:

- Level 2/3 certificate in hospitality and catering principles
- HNC/HND in Professional Cookery.

Where could you work?

- You could work in a huge variety of locations as a chef.
- Private, chain and hotel restaurants
- Schools, pubs and cruise ships
- In the NHS or in the armed forces
- In small family-run kitchens or huge venues.

Getting Into Chef Careers

Do you love trying out new flavours and recipes in the kitchen? Are you the one most likely to bake a surprise for a friend's birthday? If you've got stars in your eyes, is it a Michelin restaurant star you're aiming for? People will always love to eat so if you love to cook, becoming a chef could be a tasty recipe for a good career.

Useful Skills To Put On Your CV:

- Practical skills – you'll be good at working with your hands
- Self-management skills – you can't be watched by a supervisor all the time while you prepare food, so being able to organise yourself and your area is an important factor
- Good number and communication skills





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Article 15: To meet with your friends and join groups and clubs

Community Events

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A DREAM

DONATE TO MRS THORNE WHO IS RAISING MONEY FOR *DREAMS COME TRUE* TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHILDREN WITH LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS

★ **MARCH** ★

100 MILE WALK

Get on your walking shoes and help YAW walk 100 miles to support our struggling community



SCAN THIS CODE TO DONATE

As charity ambassadors we will be supporting Mrs Thorne and the *Dreams Come True* charity to raise funds for suffering children with life threatening conditions

Many people in our community struggle with life-threatening illness, and sadly don't have a lot of time left. We will be walking 100miles per person to get donations to make their dreams become a reality. So help YAW walk 100miles and donate to the cause!

Scan here to donate to families who need support to make their dreams come true



Moments of Magic. Lasting Impact.





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Community Events



Hawthorn Neighbourhood Watch

Community Litter Pick

**ALL
WELCOME**

Meet on Hawthorn
Village Green



**SUN
8th
MARCH
2PM
to
4PM**

Equipment Provided.
Please wear sturdy footwear,
suitable clothing and bring gloves.
Refreshments to follow.

Contact: 07890 144096



POP UP INFO HUB!

Visiting organisations
can help with...



- Benefits
- Transport to Hospital
- Water leaks & bills
- Environment issues
- Housing
- Local support
- Preventing falls
- Local clubs & activities
- and much more!

MARCH 20 | FROM 10:00 TO 14:30
HAWTHORN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Fairfield Lane, rear of Hawthorn Leisure Centre,
CF37 5LN | For more info: 07890155096

