

Dear Parent/Carers,

It has been a particularly busy and productive week in school. Our Year 11 pupils have successfully completed their Welsh Oral examinations, which contribute 50% towards their final GCSE grade. This is an important milestone in their academic journey. Alongside this, staff have been making phone calls home to ensure that all Year 11 pupils remain focused and well-prepared for the final seven weeks leading up to their written examinations. We appreciate your continued support during this crucial time. If you have any questions or would like to discuss current performance or revision, please contact us at the school.

We were also delighted to welcome colleagues from Y Pant School for a collaborative visit, providing a valuable opportunity to share best practice and strengthen partnerships.

Our thought for the day this week has been: *“Learning without reflection is a waste. Reflection without learning is dangerous.”* (Confucius). This reminds us of the importance of not only acquiring knowledge but also taking time to think deeply about our learning experiences.

Looking ahead to next week, we look forward to welcoming Year 8 parents to the Progress Evening on Thursday. We will also be hosting Year 6 for their school photographs and wish safe travels to all pupils and staff involved in the upcoming ski trip.

Finally, congratulations to all Year 9 and Year 10 pupils who took part in the recruitment process for the exciting school trip to Japan in the Summer term. Their enthusiasm and commitment were impressive, and we are very proud of them.

## Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 23rd March 2026	Year 10 Mock examinations
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Ski trip departs
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 8 Progress Evening
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter bonnet parade
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Leavers photographs
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
	Year 11 Leavers photographs



## Careers ACE day

The nursery pupils completed tasks for the Alternative Curriculum Event. The theme was people who help us. We were lucky to have some parental visitors came in to talk to us about their jobs. We learnt about being a vet, dentist, nurse, librarian and a mum.



## Leaver's Photographs

We are pleased to let families know that Colorfoto will be visiting the school soon to take this year's Leavers' Photos. These will be individual portraits, which will be available for families to purchase afterwards.

Pupils in Year 6 will have their photos taken on 27th March. Please ensure all pupils come to school in full school uniform, not PE kit, on this day.

Year 11 leavers' photos will take place on 15th April.

We look forward to giving our leavers a memorable keepsake from their time at school. Order and purchasing details will be given out to pupils by Colorfoto on the day.





## Celebration of Success

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

Nursery	Calon Hawkins & Oliver Cooper	Year 4	Esmee Collins & Alaya- Mae Benkhassib	Year 9	Anamaria Zedgindize & Jaycob Richards
Reception	Aurora Francis & Amy Blake	Year 5	Lennon Driscoll, Scarlett Palmer	Year 10	Hollie Williams & Finley Llewellyn
Year 1	James Hall	Year 6	Archie-James David , Zion Abodunrin	Year 11	Max Thomas & Mia Murrell
Year 2	Havana Pyne & Violet Williams	Year 7	Seren Bevan & Jal Harris		
Year 3	Joseph Cousins & Vaughan Hext	Year 8	Molly Jones and Kai Jones		

## SEREN visit



### Year 10 Seren Visit to Bath University

This week, our Year 10 Seren pupils visited Bath University, where they enjoyed a guided tour of the campus led by a student ambassador. Pupils gained valuable insights into university life and were particularly impressed by the outstanding sporting facilities—an exciting discovery given Bath’s strong reputation as a STEM-focused institution.

The visit helped broaden pupils’ thinking about their future pathways, with one student commenting, *“I would never have considered Bath before, but after seeing the sporting facilities, it will now be one of my options.”*

The day concluded with a Q&A session with a panel of student ambassadors, giving pupils the chance to ask questions and hear first-hand experiences of university study.



## Parental Workshop: Science

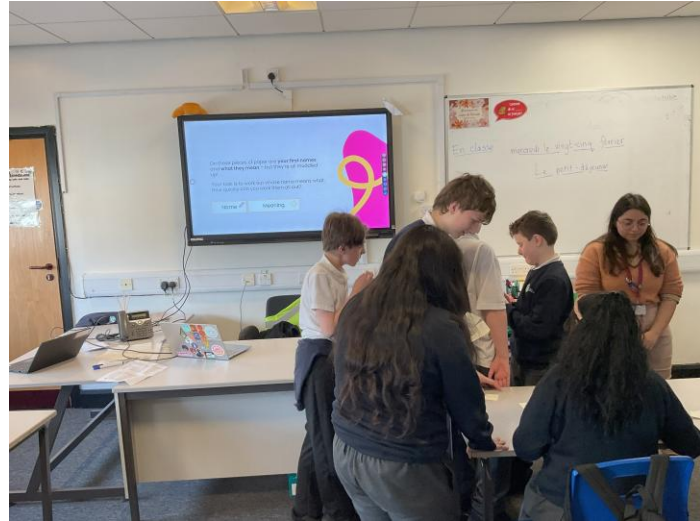
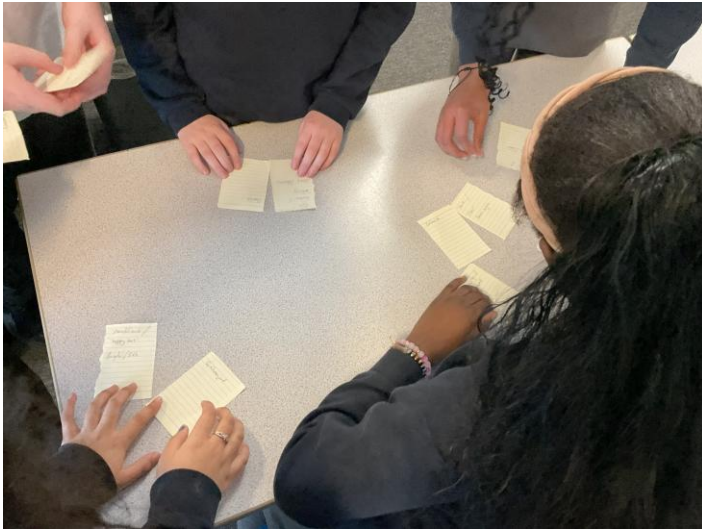
Children took part in a fun and interactive science workshop focused on colour science. Using skittles and warm water, the children carried out a simple experiment to observe how sugar dissolves and how the colours spread to form a beautiful rainbow. This hands-on activity helped the children see how substances dissolve in water while also creating an exciting visual science experiment.

During the session, the children also learned about primary and secondary colours and explored how colours can be mixed together. Through a colour-mixing activity, they experimented with combining different food colourings to create new colours, helping them understand how primary colours can be blended to make secondary ones. The workshop encouraged curiosity, creativity, and a love of science through practical learning.



## Modern Foreign Languages

Year 8 and year 9 have been participating in workshops with Hania from MFL mentoring, a programme that partners with Cardiff University. MFL Mentoring supports the ambition of the Curriculum for Wales for all learners to be ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world. Multilingualism is at the heart of all the mentoring sessions, workshops, and teaching resources.





## No Phone Zone

SPOTLIGHT ON



## OUR 'NO 'PHONE ZONE' POLICY

**As per our Afon Wen Way:**

- We are a 'no 'phone zone, from gate to gate'
  - Any 'phone seen on school site will be **confiscated and handed** in to reception for collection at the end of the school day
  - Further instances of mis-use of mobile 'phones on school site will result in additional sanctions, including a **requirement to hand 'phones / devices to reception at the start of every day**
- This rule applies to all devices, including air pods

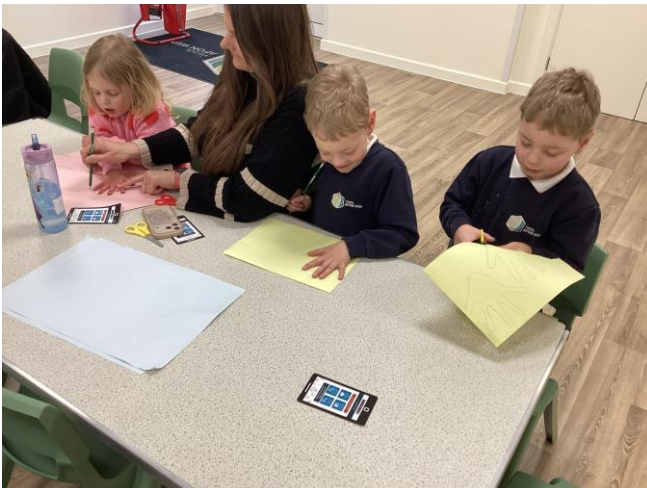
*We kindly ask for your support in ensuring our school remains a 'phone free zone where we can focus on in-person interactions without the distractions of social media. Can we also remind you to contact reception should you need to contact your child. We will be reminding pupils of the same expectation next week. As always, diolch for your continued support.*



## Parental Workshop: Numeracy

Children took part in an engaging workshop alongside their parents where they created their own personalised 'Maths Mat' to support and develop their numeracy skills. Using a range of colourful materials, the children designed mats filled with numbers, shapes, counting activities and simple sums. The activity encouraged creativity while also helping children practise key mathematical concepts in a fun and interactive way.

Parents worked closely with their children throughout the session, supporting them as they explored different numeracy ideas and helped bring their designs to life. The workshop created a positive learning environment where families could work together, build confidence with numbers, and discover simple ways to continue developing numeracy skills at home.





## Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

### Year 2 teacher

As you will be aware, Mrs G Binding has started her maternity leave. Miss K Sadler has the pleasure of taking over the class in her absence.



Dosbarth Glas are overjoyed to receive the feather duster award for the tidiest cloakroom and classroom in Activate.

### Nursery Chicks



The nursery have been so excited to welcome 11 fluffy bundles of chick fun to the nursery this week. We have 6 little ladies and 5 little boy chicks. After spending the weekend at Mrs Higgins house, they will spend one more week with us and then some will return to the farm give them room to grow. Some of our chicks have been adopted by our lovely nursery parents so we are hoping we can keep up to date with their progress as they grow.





## Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

### Easter bonnet parade

All pupils in Activate (Nursery to Year 3) are invited to take part in the easter bonnet parade that will take place on Friday afternoon. Some of our older pupils and governors will be in school to see the amazing creations in the parade. We will share the photographs for all parents/carers on Seasaw and in the newsletter.



### Easter Assembly



At Ysgol Afon Wen we welcomed Trish who came to tell us all about the Easter story.



YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 20.03.26

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

## Year 7 Fundraising



### YEAR 7 CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Year 7 have been hard at work this term creating presentations to raise money for their chosen charities.

We would like to invite you to come and support them next week on the 24th and 25th of March.

They will be raising money and taking food bank donations during the morning of the above dates.

**HOME START**  
Cymru

Home Start Cymru is a charity, working in Wales, that helps families in need to improve their lives through the challenges they face.

As the largest provider of family support services in Wales, we offer a range of services to help families overcome their difficulties. Our services include: emotional support, practical advice, financial support, help with housing, and help with children's education. We also offer support for families who are experiencing domestic violence, mental health issues, and substance misuse.

For more information, please contact us on 01443 47930 or visit our website at [www.homestartcymru.org.uk](http://www.homestartcymru.org.uk)

Get involved with us

**Contact us**  
01443 47930  
Email: [info@homestartcymru.org.uk](mailto:info@homestartcymru.org.uk)

#### ROWAN TREE CANCER CARE



THErapy.TREATMENTS . EVENTS . CHARITY SHOPS

ROWAN TREE CANCER CARE IS A  
WELSH CHARITY WITH  
2000+ VOLUNTEERS AND  
EMPLOYEES  
PROVIDING SUPPORT TO  
PATIENTS IN WELSH AND ENGLISH  
FROM EARLY STAGES UNTIL THEY  
HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY CANCER.

• 01443 47930

YSYCOL AFON WEN  
INVITES YOU TO  
DONATE FOOD!

7 WIS form is collecting  
donations for  
Pontypridd food bank  
24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> of March

We would only like you to  
bring canned food please.

Let's donate  
to those who  
need it

**PLANT YNG NGHYARRU**  
CHILDREN IN WALES

Children in Wales is a charity that provides support and advice to children and young people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. We offer a range of services including: emotional support, practical advice, financial support, and help with housing. We also offer support for families who are experiencing domestic violence, mental health issues, and substance misuse.

For more information, please contact us on 01443 47930 or visit our website at [www.childreninwales.org.uk](http://www.childreninwales.org.uk)





## Year 8 Progress Evening

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to **Year 8 Progress Evening** on **Thursday 26th March 2026** between **3:30pm and 5:30pm** at Ysgol Afon Wen.

This evening will give you the opportunity to speak to class teachers regarding your child's academic progress and personal development. As I am sure you realise, this is a very important evening; I hope that you will be able to attend.

Your child has been given an appointment sheet and will schedule appointments for you in conjunction with their class teachers. If you have any queries, please contact Miss L Burnett, Progress Leader for Year 8.

For your child to be successful, and to reach their full potential, it is important that both home and school work together in partnership and we look forward to strengthening this important partnership further during the evening.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Ysgol Afon Wen.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C O'Carroll  
Head of Achieve Phase

Miss L Burnett  
Year 8 Progress Leader



## Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

### Year 10 Mock Examinations

I am writing to inform you that there will be a Year 10 mock examination week for subjects that have GCSE examination modules taking place in the Summer examination series.

The GCSE Summer examination entries for YEAR 10 in Ysgol Afon Wen are as follows:

GCSE Subject	Examination	Summer of Yr 10 (June 2026)
Mathematics & Numeracy	Unit 1 Financial Mathematics Higher Tier only	30% of qualification
English Language & Literature	Unit 1: Context and Meaning	30% of the Single Award
History	Unit 3 Crime and Punishment	30% of qualification
Geography	Unit 1 Our Physical and Human World	30% of qualification
Triple Science	Unit 1 Biology, Unit 1 Chemistry, Unit 1 Physics	45% of each qualification

The mock examination series will be conducted to mirror the GCSE examination expectations in order to prepare your child for the Summer series. Unless stated on the timetable, examinations will be held in the Theatre or the small gym for pupils with access arrangements.

The mock examination timetable is below:

	AM	PM
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026		Year 10 Mathematics Unit 1
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 10 English Unit 1	Year 10 Geography Unit 1
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026		
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 10 Biology Unit 1	Year 10 History Unit 3
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 10 Chemistry Unit 1	Year 10 Physics Unit 1





## Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

### Year 11 Examinations

I am writing to inform you that there will be a Year 11 mock examination in English Language and Mathematics (Numeracy) during the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Please see timetable provided.

	AM	PM
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Year 11 Mathematics Numeracy Unit 1	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026		
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 11 Mathematics Numeracy Unit 2	Year 11 English Language

**GCSE Examinations**

**6 teaching weeks left**

**150 lessons left**

before the first examination on  
Thursday 7 May 2026

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

### Year 10 Work Experience

A reminder to Year 10 parents and carers to continue arranging a work-experience placement for the week beginning 29th June. The deadline for securing and submitting placement details is Wednesday 15th April.

If you would like any support or wish to discuss options further, please contact your child’s form tutor or Progress Leader, who will be happy to help.





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 20.03.26

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

## Community Events

YMa Half Term programme for children and families



### Week 1

## April Half Term

### Week 2



Day	Activity	Time	Age	Price
Monday 30th	Mini Makers	10:00 - 11:00	6 Mnths - 5 oed	£2.50 Per Child
	Clay Time	12:00 - 13:00	Age 6+	£4
	Family Dancercise	16:15 - 17:00	Families	£2.50
Tuesday 31st	Storytelling Fun 'Hwyl Y Stori'	10:15 - 11:00	Age 3 plus	£2.50 per child
	Activity Club	10:00 - 14:00	Age 8 - 12	£10
	Bouncy Castle Fun	11:00 - 12:30	Age 0 - 7	£2.50
Wednesday 1st	Seasonal Arts & Crafts	12:30 - 14:30	Families	£2.50 per child
Thursday 2nd	Activity Club	10:00 - 14:00	8 - 12yrs	£10
	Bouncy Castle	11:00 - 12:30	Age 0 - 7	£2.50
	CineYMa - Zootropolis 2	12:30pm	Rating PG	£2.50 Family £7.50
Saturday 4th	Easter Disco with Matt Langley Includes Drink, snack and face paints	13:00 - 15:00	Families	£6

Day	Activity	Time	Age	Price
Tuesday 7th	Stay & Play	09:30 - 11:30	0 - 3 years	£2.50 per child
Wednesday 8th	Arts Outdoors	10:30 - 11:15	Age 2 - 10	£2.50 per child
	Seasonal Arts & Crafts	12:30 - 14:30	Families	£2.50 per child
Thursday 9th	Activity Club	10:00 - 14:00	Age 8 - 12	£10
	Bouncy Castle	11:00 - 12:30	Age 0 - 7	£2.50
	Introduction to Boppers Creative Dance	15:00 - 15:45	Age 4 - 6	£3
	Introduction to Movers Creative Dance	16:00 - 16:45	Age 7 - 10	£3
Friday 10th	Stay & Play	12:00 - 14:00	Age 0 - 5	£2.50



For more information and to book, please scan the QR code  
\*Please note - we will be shut on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Find out more at: [www.ymaonline.wales](http://www.ymaonline.wales)  
Or Phone: 01443 490390



## Eco Club Top Tip






**GROW A PLANT**

Plants provide oxygen, improve air quality, and beautify our surroundings.

**GROW A FUTURE**

Grow a plant in your community or home today!






## Community Events

**CREFFTAU'R CHILDREN'S PASG I BLANT EASTER CRAFTS**  
**12:30 - 14:30**  
 Amgueddfa Pontypridd  
 Pontypridd Museum  
 Dim angen archebu! Dydd Mercher **01.04.26**  
**08.04.26** Wednesday  
 No booking necessary!  
 Am ddim Free event

**MEADOW STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN AND WOODLAND**  
**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
 THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 11:00 - 15:00  
 SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 11:00 - 15:00  
 DYDD IAU 2IL EBRILL  
 DYDD SUL 5ED EBRILL  
**FREE AM DIM**  
 HOT DRINKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM SPENSUM MOBILE BARISTA  
 MEADOW STREET, TREForest, CF37 1UD

### Easter Holidays with Pontypridd Town Council

Day	What?	Where?	When?	Who?
Tues 31st March	Easter Fun Day	Graig Community Centre CF37 INT	10:00 - 12:00 & 12:30-14:30	Fun for all the family!
Wed 1st April	Easter Arts and Crafts	Pontypridd Museum CF37 4PE	12:30 - 14:30	
Thurs 2nd April	Easter Egg Hunt	Meadow Street Community Gardens CF37 1UD	11:00 - 15:00	
Sun 5th April	Easter Egg Hunt	Meadow Street Community Gardens CF37 1UD	11:00 - 15:00	
Wed 8th April	Easter Arts and Crafts	Pontypridd Museum CF37 4PE	12:30 - 14:30	

**All events are free and no need to book!**

For further information contact 01443 490740 or [info@pontypriddtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@pontypriddtowncouncil.gov.uk)





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 20.03.26

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

## Community Careers



Funded by  
UK Government

### RHONDDA CYNON TAF Work & Skills Team

Are you  
16yrs+?

Live in  
RCT?

As part of the RCTCBC  
Work and Skills Programme  
we have an exciting  
opportunity for individuals  
to take part in our fully  
funded **Manicure, Gel  
Polish & BIAB Training**



Looking to start  
a career in

# Beauty?

The course is aimed at  
individuals wishing to gain  
sector specific knowledge and  
qualifications within the **Beauty  
Industry.**

The Main Criteria:

- 16yrs+
- Living within RCT
- Keen Interest to work within the Beauty sector

The training will include:

- Manicure Qualification
- Gel Polish Qualification
- BIAB – Builder Gel Qualification

**COURSE DATE:**  
**26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Thursday**

9.30<sup>am</sup> – 3.30<sup>pm</sup>

**Café Lido, Pontypridd**

Ynysangharad W.M. Park

CF37 4PE

**Book your place today**

Mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu â ni yn y Gymraeg  
You are welcome to communicate with us in Welsh



Gwaith a Sgiliau  
Work and Skills  
RHONDDA CYNON TAF



07385365643  
07780491700



**workandskills**  
@rctcbc.gov.uk



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Cymunedau  
am Waith  
Communities  
for Work



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

53022-57