

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and productive week here at Ysgol Afon Wen, with pupils across the school engaging in a wide range of learning opportunities and important milestones in their academic journeys.

Our programme of parental workshops has continued this week, with sessions focused on Lego-based learning, science, and numeracy. These workshops provide valuable opportunities for parents to explore the strategies we use in school to support learning, while also offering practical ideas that can be used at home. We would like to thank all the parents who attended and contributed so positively to the sessions.

For our Year 11 pupils, the GCSE examination period has now begun. This week has focused on Welsh Oral examinations, where pupils have demonstrated their speaking and communication skills in Welsh. In addition, the GCSE Physical Education moderation has taken place, allowing pupils to showcase the practical skills and understanding they have developed throughout the course. We wish all our Year 11 learners the very best as they continue through the revision period. There are seven weeks left until the start of the Summer examination period.

Meanwhile, Year 9 pupils have been taking an important step in planning their future studies. They are currently selecting their GCSE options from the published option columns, carefully considering their interests, strengths, and future aspirations. Staff are supporting pupils through this process to ensure they make informed choices that will support their progress over the coming years.

As always, we encourage our pupils to reflect not only on their learning but also on the values that help build a strong and supportive school community. Our thought for the week comes from American writer and civil rights activist Audre Lorde:

*"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognise, accept, and celebrate those differences."* This powerful reminder encourages us all to value diversity and to celebrate the unique perspectives and experiences that make our community stronger.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school and of your children's learning. Happy Mother's Day to all the mother figures in our community.



## Key Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 11 targeted progress evening
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 Year 6 Leavers photographs
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Holidays
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 11 Leavers photographs

## Parental Voice: Social Media Use

The Rights Resecting School team are asking parents to complete the following survey on the update being discussed to social media.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDY4P63lvYIBdxwQlf1E\\_EWQeFDzHC10WCdgAJ\\_ujrDLsb4w/viewform?usp=publish-editor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDY4P63lvYIBdxwQlf1E_EWQeFDzHC10WCdgAJ_ujrDLsb4w/viewform?usp=publish-editor)

Pupils of YAW have generated both parent and pupils responses to analyse both data before submitting their report to the children's commissioner

## 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!

<b>Nursery</b>	Luca Dickson & Harlow Palmer	<b>Year 4</b>	Charlie Stephens & Lowen Llewelyn	<b>Year 9</b>	Jake Moon & Doua Alborany
<b>Reception</b>	Brooks Powell & Marlowe Driscoll	<b>Year 5</b>	Harley Tyrie	<b>Year 10</b>	McKenzie Mills
<b>Year 1</b>	Thea Edwards & Evan Wilson	<b>Year 6</b>	Ruby Edwards	<b>Year 11</b>	Fola Sanu & Gareth Bond
<b>Year 2</b>	Chester Lucas & Alba Edwards	<b>Year 7</b>	Max Morgan & Daisy Urwin		
<b>Year 3</b>	Malia Rees & Oscar Pope	<b>Year 8</b>	Darla Sharp & Christopher Eboigbe		

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## Attendance

Nursery	82%	Year 4	89%	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%		

## Thank You for Supporting Your Child's Attendance

As we move into the final weeks before the Easter break, please continue to help us maintain strong attendance by ensuring your child is in school **every day, unless genuinely unwell**. Every lesson counts, and good routines now help set pupils up for a successful end to term.

Your commitment makes a real difference to their progress, wellbeing, and confidence.

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

Thank you once again for working with us to give every child the best possible start each day.





## Food Technology



Year 7 / 8 / 9 have learnt key skills when making shortbread biscuits. They have learnt a range of practical and transferable skills. They have developed measuring and weighing skills by accurately selecting the correct amounts of ingredients, which has helped to build their understanding of quantities and following instructions. Our students have also practiced mixing and rubbing-in techniques, learning how ingredients combine to form a dough.

While shaping and cutting the biscuits, they have improved their fine motor skills and creativity. In addition, they have gained experience in time management and organisation, as they must follow the recipe steps in the correct order and monitor baking time. Finally, the activity has encouraged teamwork, independence, and hygiene awareness, as our students work safely, clean their workspace, and evaluate the finished product.

**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.



Year 7 have been making homemade pasta sauce with spaghetti this week



## Community partnerships

This week, Ysgol Afon Wen held a LEGO workshop where parents and children build Lego models together. This was an opportunity for families spend time together while learning new skills.

Children learnt how to communicate, share ideas, and work as a team. Parents supported their children by helping them, encouraging them, and celebrating what they built.

Building with Lego improves creativity and concentration. The workshop created a relaxed space where families can learn through play and enjoy working together. It is a simple and enjoyable way to strengthen family relationships.



## Celebration of Success

Year 7 football vs Cwm Rhondda 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the RCT cup, a fantastic effort from the boys!



Year 7/8 boys' rugby beat Porth 41-34 this week. An excellent performance.



## Careers ACE day

On Friday, 6th March, pupils from Years 3 to 10 took part in our alternative curriculum engagement focused on careers and the world of work. Activities ranged from Year 3 pupils discussing what a career is and sharing their dreams for the future, to Year 10 pupils participating in a Welsh Bacalaureate challenge.

Additionally, Years 7, 8, and 9 hosted Big Ideas Wales, where five entrepreneurs ran sessions with each year group aimed at inspiring pupils to start their own business ideas. These sessions provided valuable insights into the skills needed to become entrepreneurs of the future.

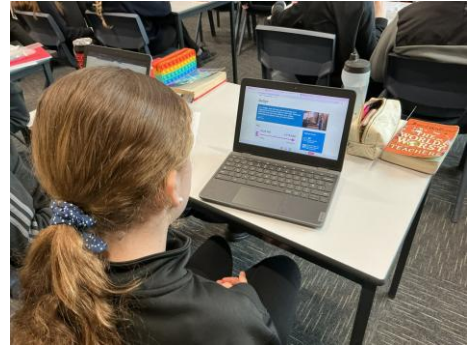
Some feedback from our Year 8 pupils included comments such as:

- "It was really fun and inspiring, and it made me believe I can succeed with my future dream job."
- "Everyone can accomplish something. It's not that hard to get where you want to be, and you can all be successful."
- "I learnt today that anyone can be an entrepreneur."



## Careers ACE day

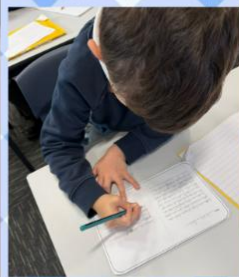
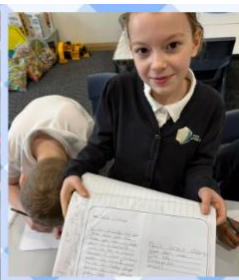
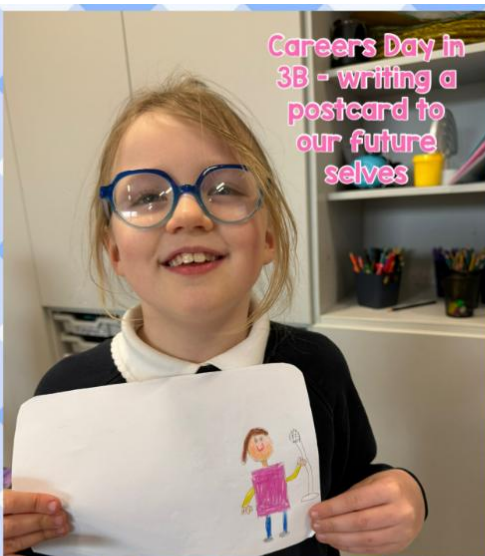
6B explored 'Careers city' resources. Pupils completed the 'Buzz quiz' matching their personality traits and attitudes towards possible career paths. They were able to find out more about qualifications needed and, excitingly, potential salaries in different roles.



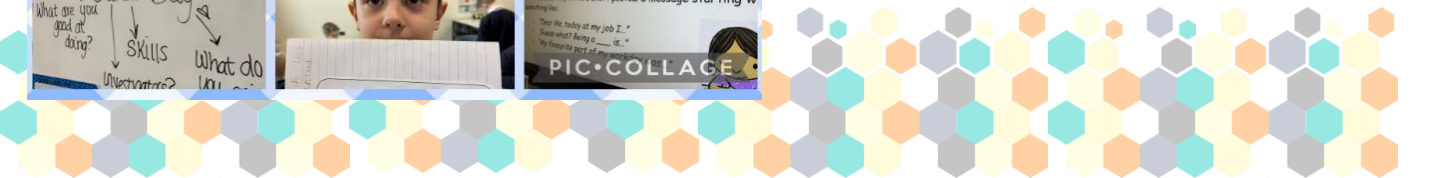
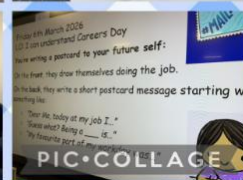
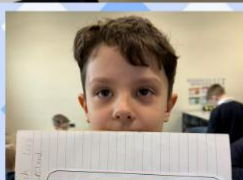
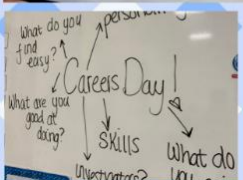
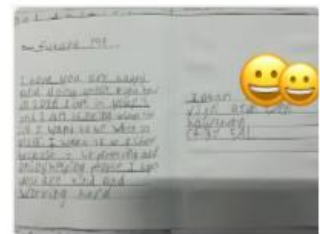
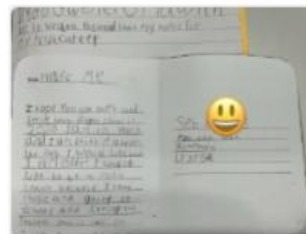
Y9 Humanities students have been learning about the careers linked to humanities subjects.



Careers Day in 3B - writing a postcard to our future selves



Year 3 were writing postcards to our future selves. We have spoken about what a career is, and what careers we would like.



## Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

### Nursery visitors

Nursery we were lucky to have two visitors from our local community yesterday. Two librarians from Rhydyfelin library visited the school to talk about their job, the role of the library and share the story of "The Hungry Caterpillar" and "Dear Zoo".



### Year 2 work

This week Dosbarth Glas have been looking at the differences and similarities between Wales and Japan. As a class we have been busy creating beautiful art work based on cherry blossom trees after researching the Cherry Blossom Tree Festival, Hanami.





## Transition

Year 6 pupils from Parc Lewis and Ffyonn Taf have been working in Science and Technology this week as part of the transition to Year 7. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet them again and ensure that they become familiar with the facilities and teaching staff here in Ysgol Afon Wen.



Note: Ysgol Afon Wen 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.

## Eco Club Top Tip!

LIVE CLOSE?



START WALKING!

- REDUCE CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS
- GET IN EXERCISE
- ENJOY NATURE!





## Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

### Year 9 Options

As discussed during the evening, the options columns have been organised from the open option choice completed by the pupils into the blocks below. Your child is asked to select one option in each column.

Option A	Option B	Option C
Art	Digital Media & Film Studies	Art
History	Photography	Photography
Drama	Digital Technology (IT)	French
Product Design	Textiles	Music
GCSE PE	GCSE PE	Construction
Religious Education (RE)	Health and Social Care	Geography
Travel and Tourism	Public Services	Hospitality and Catering
Hospitality and Catering	Construction	Nutrition and Health

**Please note: These options are subject to change and the course will be dependent on pupil numbers to make the course viable. Selecting an option does not guarantee your place on the course.**

### Year 10 Mock Examinations

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 Mock 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

It is important for the pupils to practice the examination questions and timing once more prior to the summer examination series. Please note that there are revision sessions taking place every

**Tuesday:** Mathematics GCSE in room C4

**Wednesday:** English GCSE in room C14

**Thursday:** Science GCSE in room A33

### Year 11 Revision

# GCSE Examinations

**7 teaching weeks left**

**175 lessons left**

before the first examination on  
Thursday 7 May 2026

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





## LIFE Faculty News

### Pupil Shoutouts

Subject/Class	Year	Name
PE	Y7 Y8	Harper-May Meech Darcey Norman
Humanities	Y7 Y8 Y9	Daniel Fiske Sukhmanjot Kaur Mason Behit
History	Y10 Y11	Evan Parker Lillie-May Jones
Welsh Baccalaureate	Yr 10	Cayson Dix Jayden Hobbs
Welsh Baccalaureate	Year 11	Emilie Rees Lily Jones

### Health and Social Care deadlines



WATKINSA255@HWBCYMRU.NET

29/01	Task 2 - Influences
05/03	Task 3 - Effects
19/03	Task 4 - Assessing Government Guidelines
23/04	Task 5 - Analysis

## COURSEWORK 2 DEADLINES



## YAW EXTRA CURRICULAR - SPRING TERM



Day	Activity
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Y7/8 Boys Football All Girls Rugby All Girls Cricket Lunchtime - Cheer
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Y7/8 Boys Rugby Y9/10 Boys Football All Girls Football All Girls Netball

For all extra-curricular activities, please meet at the changing rooms.



## LIFE Faculty News

# Welsh Baccalaureate

## Key Deadlines



Year 10 Community Challenge - 23rd March ( 25%)

Year 11 Individual Project - 9th March (50%)

### Year 4 Rugby Six Nations HIIT Session with Sport RCT

Year 4 students took part in an energising Rugby Six Nations-inspired HIIT (High-Intensity Interval Training) session, delivered by **Sport RCT**, designed to combine fitness, skill development, and fun. The session focused on building cardiovascular endurance, agility, and strength whilst having fun!





## Community Event

# 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.





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 13.03.26

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

## Community Event

Admission by FREE ticket only

HAWTHORN & LOWER RHYDYFELIN KIDS' CLUB PRESENTS

# EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH  
6PM 'TIL 8PM  
HAWTHORN  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Easter crafts and  
competitions,  
prizes and games!

Raffle, tuck shop and hot  
dogs!

EGG HUNT

To register for your FREE ticket  
CONTACT 0774251191

Suitable for all ages - children must be accompanied by an adult

## Uniform Swap Shop

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>  
March 2026  
@3.15pm  
Theatre

YAW SWAP SHOP

