

Dear Parent/Carers,

Ysgol Afon Wen would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and carers, from Year 6 through to Nursery, who took the time to attend our recent Parents' Evening. It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you into school and to have the opportunity for meaningful conversations about your children's learning, progress and wellbeing. These meetings are an important part of building strong partnerships between home and school, and your support is greatly appreciated.

During the week, pupils spent time reflecting on our Thought for the Week: "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world." This inspiring quote prompted thoughtful discussions across the school about the power of education and the role everyone can play in shaping the future. Pupils considered how small actions, combined with determination and opportunity, can lead to significant change.

Alongside this, pupils attended an assembly focused on understanding artificial intelligence (AI). They explored what AI is, how it is increasingly used in everyday life, and why it is important to approach it thoughtfully and responsibly. A key message from the assembly was that, while technology can support us in many ways, it is our uniquely human qualities of empathy, understanding and compassion that must guide how we use it. Encouraging pupils to think critically about technology and its impact is an important part of preparing them for the future.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Friday 1st May 2026	Activate Sports Day
Thursday 7th May 2026	Year 10 Progress Evening GCSE examinations start
Thursday 14th May 2026	Year 7 Progress Evening
Thursday 21st May 2026	Year 6 Hay Festival Trip
Friday 22nd May 2026	Year 7 Hay Festival Trip





Autism Awareness Month

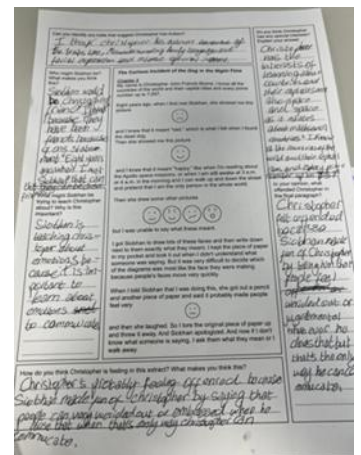
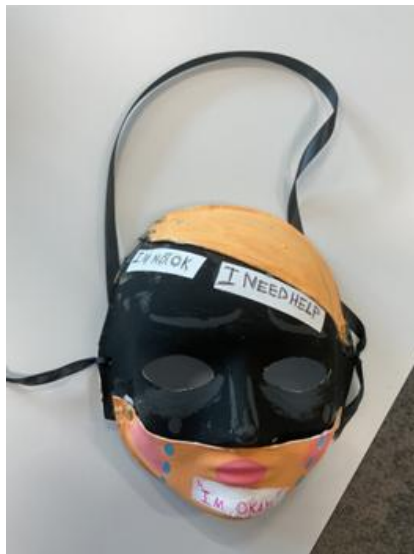
We are celebrating World Autism Acceptance Month at Ysgol Afon Wen. World Autism Acceptance Month takes place in April and is an opportunity for everyone to come together and raise awareness, acceptance, and create a society where autistic people are supported and understood.

Although Autism isn't strictly associated with one specific colour, staff and students were invited to wear an item of clothing that was either red, blue or yellow on 17th April to represent the neurodivergence rainbow infinity symbol.

Teachers are delivering lessons on Autism relating to their subject. For example, Expressive Arts analysed what artwork suggests about masking, before creating their own pieces of art. English explored the implied representation of Autism in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

Students from the ASD Hub worked hard creating handmade accessories for staff to purchase. They also delivered an assembly on World Autism Acceptance Month to a range of year groups. In total, Ysgol Afon Wen has raised £250.71 - this money will be donated to National Autistic Society.

"I enjoyed learning about autism so I know how to understand people better who have it"



I enjoyed learning about Autism because now I can understand other people's perspectives and how others see things



Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra Curricular Activities Summer Term

TUESDAY

Art (Year 3) 15:15-16:00 Venue: A10
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

Dance (Years 7-11) *Week 2 only* 12:15-12:45 & 13:15-13:45 Venue: Astro
Athletics (Years 7-11) 15:00-16:00 Venue: Sports Hall
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

Boys Football (Y7-Y11) *Week 1 only* 14:45-15:45 Venue: Astro
Boys Rugby (Y7-Y11) *Week 2 only* 14:45-15:45 Venue: Astro
Girls Rugby (Y7-Y11) 14:45-15:45 Venue: Sports Hall
Girls Cricket (Y7-Y11) 14:45-15:45 Venue: Sports Hall
Choir (Years 1-6) 15:15-16:00 Venue: Activate
LEGO Club (Year 2) 15:15-16:00 Venue: Activate
School Report Club (Years 7-11) 14:45-15:45 Venue: C11
Clwb Saesneg (Years 10-11) 14:45-15:45 Venue: C14

Sports Days

The summer term brings the excitement of Sports Days. We are pleased to share the following schedule, and parents are warmly invited to attend where indicated:

- Activate Phase: Friday 1st May (Reception & Year 1 at 9:00am; Year 2 & 3 at 1.00pm) – Parents invited
- Advance Phase: Year 4–Year 6: Friday 12th June 9am start) – Parents invited
- Advance Phase Year 7 & Year 8: Friday 26th June
- Achieve Phase Year 9 & Year 10: Friday 3rd July

SPORTS DAY





Celebration of Success

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been nominated for the celebration of success this week.

Nursery	Toby Pincott & Zac Palmer	Year 4	Lexi-May Johnson & Joey Edwards	Year 9	Baylee-Renae Thomas & Iestyn Jenkins
Reception	Lucas Hickey & Toby Whittington	Year 5	Blu Bouldin	Year 10	Cayson Dix & Madison Rowley
Year 1	Isabella Michaud-Pugh & Jarrad Close-Kedward	Year 6	Kobi Jones & Nia Gibbons	Year 11	Ruby Pearce & Jacob Thompson
Year 2	Miya Bray-Powell & Lewis Ivin	Year 7	Abigail-Jane Parton & Jackson Wheeler		
Year 3	Cariad Davies, Evan Withers & Jacob Thomas	Year 8	Brianna Morris & Oliver Geisel		



Our year 9 boys football team are through to the RCT plate final with a 7-3 semi-final win vs Llanhari! [Congratulations](#) boys, good luck in the final!





Celebration of Success



Year 1 have worked incredibly hard researching, and then designing these fantastic habitats in a box

As part of our transport topic, nursery have been making their own boats using recycled materials. We look forward to testing them out in our baths at home.



First Give Project

Thank you to Children in Wales for visiting our year 7's as part of their First Give project!

Empowering young people; igniting a spark of social conscience.



Attendance

Every Day Matters – Especially in the Summer Term

As we move through summer term, we would like to remind families of the importance of regular school attendance. Every school day provides valuable learning opportunities, from consolidating key skills to building confidence, friendships and good learning habits. Even missing a small number of days can make it harder for children to keep up and feel secure in their learning.

We understand that warmer weather, family events and tiredness can make routines challenging at this time of year. However, unless your child is unwell, we school attendance is essential every day until the end of term. By coming to school consistently and on time, children give themselves the best chance to succeed and to enjoy the summer weeks of learning and activities with their classmates. Thank you for your continued support in helping us make every day count.

Nursery	82%	Year 4	88%	Year 9	84%
Reception	89%	Year 5	90%	Year 10	80%
Year 1	87%	Year 6	88%	Year 11	81%
Year 2	89%	Year 7	91%		
Year 3	92%	Year 8	86%		



ALN Coffee Morning

YSGOL AFON WEN ALN COFFEE MORNING

Following on from our last ALN coffee morning, we are pleased to invite you to our next ALN focused coffee morning:



9.30am



**Friday, 15th May,
2026**



**YAW Community Hub
(please meet in
school main reception)**

Staff members from The Behaviour Support Hub in Pontypridd and also from the RCT Education Psychology team will be in attendance to meet with families. We look forward to welcoming you back to our school.



YAW
WAY



Community behaviour

As you are aware as a school, we strongly promote our ethos of respect through the YAW WAY. We politely remind parents and pupils that we do not walk on the property of houses in the local community and ensure that young people do not walk on their walls whilst parking in a considerate way. Smoking or vaping in the proximity of the school or local neighbours is also strongly discouraged. We thank you for your cooperation.



Community information



Defibrillator Training for Parents

At Ysgol Afon Wen, we are committed to supporting all families within our community. Following feedback and parental voice gathered during our previous coffee mornings, a request was made for defibrillator training.

We are delighted to confirm that we have secured a training session on **Monday 18th May 2026**, between **9:30am** and **11:30am**.

If parents are interested in learning this important life-saving skill and would like to attend the session, please complete the sign-up form by scanning the QR code below.

