

Dear Parent/Carers,

*“To keep the body in good health is a duty...otherwise we shall not be able to keep the mind strong and clear.” – Buddha*

This week’s reflection reminds us of the close link between physical wellbeing and a focused, resilient mind—something we continue to promote across all aspects of school life.

We were delighted to celebrate the success of Sports Day within the Activate Phase, where students demonstrated enthusiasm, determination and excellent sportsmanship. It was a fantastic occasion that highlighted not only physical achievement, but also teamwork and a positive spirit, with many students embracing the opportunity to challenge themselves and support one another.

We would also like to congratulate our Year 11 students, many of whom began their GCSE examinations this week with the 10-hour Art and/or Photography exam projects. This marks an important milestone in their academic journey, and we are incredibly proud of the commitment, creativity and focus they have shown as they begin this examination period.

Finally, we would like to remind parents that the Year 10 Parents’ Evening will take place on Thursday 7th May, followed by the Year 7 Parents’ Evening on Thursday 14th May. These evenings provide a valuable opportunity to discuss progress and next steps, and we strongly encourage attendance. Thank you for your continued support.


## Key Dates


Date	Event
Thursday 7th May 2026	Year 10 Progress Evening GCSE examinations start
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 7 Progress Evening
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	Year 6 Hay Festival Trip
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	Year 7 Hay Festival Trip
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Half term




## No phone from gate to gate

Pupils are being reminded of the school rules this week. Please could you reinforce this at home and ensure that your child is aware of the consequences if they break the rules.



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.*





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## Celebration of Success

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

<b>Nursery</b>	Osian Kipling & Kaiden Whitaker	<b>Year 4</b>	Ellie-May Shoemark & Taran Mantle	<b>Year 9</b>	Sofia McFarlane-Baxter & Daniel Ogunleye
<b>Reception</b>	Euan Simpson & Kai Minard	<b>Year 5</b>	Sofia Desmier & Junior Hughes & Harlan Webb	<b>Year 10</b>	Ethan Baker & Michelle Johnson-Ibe
<b>Year 1</b>	Eira Lloyd & Everleigh-Sue Baker-Jones	<b>Year 6</b>	Ruby Evans & Marnie Jones	<b>Year 11</b>	Gracie Evans & Ollie Murphy
<b>Year 2</b>	Evelyn Vaughan & Jacob Holliday	<b>Year 7</b>	Daisy Morgan & James Rees		
<b>Year 3</b>	Clayton Kulina & Leo Harris	<b>Year 8</b>			

## End of Year School Trips

We would like to inform parents and carers that letters for the Year 7 & 8 school trip and the Year 9 & 10 school trip have now been sent out via Bromcom. Please ensure you check your messages for full details.

Information regarding the Year 4, 5 and 6 school trip information will be shared next week and will also be sent out via Bromcom.

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.



## Attendance

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	90%		
Year 3	92%	Year 8	86%		

As we move into the summer term, regular school attendance is more important than ever. This term provides pupils with a wide range of valuable learning experiences that enhance and enrich the curriculum, including educational visits, school trips, outdoor learning opportunities and sports days. These activities support academic progress, personal development and wellbeing, and are an important part of each child's school experience.

To ensure pupils gain the full benefit from these opportunities, we strongly encourage attendance every day. If your child is unable to attend school, it is essential that their absence is reported through the correct channels on the first day of absence. Parents and carers can notify the school in the following ways:

- sending a message via the My Child At School app,
- contacting the school office by telephone,
- emailing the school directly.

Please ensure absences are reported promptly so that we can maintain safeguarding procedures and accurate attendance records.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting good attendance and helping every child make the most of the learning and experiences the summer term has to offer.



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## Girls First Programme



As part of the Girls First Programme, which aims to develop resilience and self-confidence, a group of Year 9 girls planned, organised and delivered a rugby festival for local primary schools at the Cardiff Arms Park on Wednesday.

The girls were fantastic, demonstrating clear improvements in both confidence and self-belief. Feedback from pupils and staff at the primary schools was outstanding.

We would like to thank Cardiff Rugby for delivering the programme and for their ongoing commitment to supporting the development of our girls.

*Da iawn*, girls – we are incredibly proud of you.





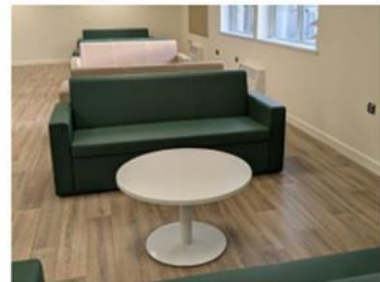
## Youth Wing



This week, we were pleased to open our new Youth Wing canteen facility. This additional space provides increased seating capacity for students and is expected to help reduce queues in the main canteen. The Snack Bar serves a range of cold food and drinks.

Students in Years 10 and 11 are invited to make use of this new seating area, which offers a comfortable and welcoming environment during break and lunchtime.

We would like to thank all pupils for the respect they have already shown towards these excellent new facilities. We encourage them to continue demonstrating this positive attitude and to uphold the YAW Way in how they use and care for the space.





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## Snack Bar

**HELP US NAME OUR NEW  
SNACK BAR!**

**If you have a suggestion that  
represents our school and /  
or our community, please  
share via the QR code!**



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## Celebration of Success



We are delighted to share the fantastic achievement of Oliver in Year 10, who competed in a Swimming Gala last weekend. Oliver delivered an outstanding performance in the pool, securing 1st place in the Boys' 100m event. In addition to this impressive victory, Oliver also contributed to a strong team effort, earning 3rd place in the Junior Relay. This is a wonderful accomplishment and a testament to Oliver's dedication and hard work in swimming. Llongyfarchiadau mawr!

On Friday our year 7 boys and girls attended Urdd 7's. A fantastic day of rugby, da iawn pawb!



We are delighted to share some wonderful news from our pupils' recent achievements. Two of our pupils have been recognised in a poetry competition with the theme of 'Festive'.

Congratulations to **Ffion E (Year 11)** and **Jessica S (Year 7)**, whose creative submissions were selected as winners. Their work demonstrated imagination, originality, and a strong engagement with the theme.

We are incredibly proud of their accomplishment and the way they have represented our school. Well done to both students!





## Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

### Sports Day

Thank you very much for the support for Sports Day. It was wonderful to see so many family members attending and watching the pupils work with the Year 9 team to achieve success.



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## Nursery news



Nursery have started their animal world topic, by looking at farm animals. We found farm animals in forest schools, we practised using the correct name for baby farm animals in a bingo game and we drew our favourite farm animal.



## Primary Menu

Due to Supply issues Tuesday 5th Menu options have change to Thursday 7th May option.

The options will be Tuna Pasta, Tomato Pasta or Veggie Curry. This is alongside our usual Jacket Potatoes. Thursday menu will then be Beefburger or fishless fingers.





## Year 3

This week, pupils in year 3 have been creating rainforest dioramas to bring their learning to life. How amazing do they look!





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## Art Club

We had such a fantastic time in Art Club this week! The room was full of creativity, imagination, and lots of smiles as everyone got stuck into their projects. Art Club is already off to a brilliant start!



## Advance Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

### Geography GCSE

GCSE Geography pupils undertook the fieldwork day for their unit 2 coursework this week. Pupils headed to Cardiff Bay to investigate how it has changed over time. Pupils interviewed members of the public, completed environmental surveys, footfall and traffic counts and land use surveys. Pupils will not use the data collected to complete their own write up that is with 25% of their overall GCSE Grade.





## Advance Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

### GCSE Examinations

As we approach the main examination period, I am writing to emphasise the importance of full attendance for all Year 11 pupils between now and the May half term. It is a requirement that all pupils in Year 11 attend school every day during this time. When pupils are not in a scheduled exam, they should continue to attend their normal lessons, where staff will provide valuable revision and support.

#### **Year 11 important dates:**

- GCSEs start Thursday 7th May - please see individual timetable
- Year 11 Leavers' Ceremony: Thursday 11th June 2026 at 1pm (**updated from letter**)
- Year 11 Prom has been organised for Tuesday 23rd June 2026
- GCSE results day: Thursday 20th August 2026
- Year 11 Success evening will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2026 at 6pm





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## Community Events

**HAWTHORN & LOWER RHYDYFELIN KIDS' CLUB PRESENTS**

**FRIDAY, 15TH MAY 2026**  
**6PM - 8PM**

# **GAMES NIGHT**

**HAWTHORN COMMUNITY CENTRE**

A safe space to hang out, play old favourites and find new ones. Suitable for anyone of any age who likes to sit and play board games!

**TUCK SHOP AVAILABLE!\***  
\*cash only

FOR MORE INFO SEARCH 'HAWTHORN AND LOWER RHYDYFELIN KIDS CLUB' ON FACEBOOK

All children must be accompanied by an adult