

Dear Parent/Carers,

This week, our school community has focused strongly on two important themes: maintaining our “No Mobile Phone – Gate to Gate” expectations and continuing to show respect both in school and within the wider community. We are grateful for the support of parents and carers in reinforcing these expectations, which help to create a calm, purposeful and respectful environment where all pupils can learn successfully.

Our thought for the week came from Malcolm X ***“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”*** This message is particularly relevant at this time of year, as many of our pupils work hard towards their goals and future aspirations.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Year 10 Progress Evening on Thursday. Your continued engagement and support play a vital role in helping our learners achieve their full potential as they prepare for the important year ahead.

We would like to recognise our Year 11 pupils, who this week began their GCSE examination journey. This is an important milestone, and we are incredibly proud of the mature and positive approach pupils have shown so far. We encourage all Year 11 learners to continue working hard over the coming weeks. Your effort, preparation and resilience will pay off. Teachers will be here to support you. Keep attending lessons as these will focus on final revision preparation for the examinations.

We would also like to congratulate our Nursery pupils for their fantastic efforts during Sports Day. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, determination and enjoyment from all involved.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school and our pupils.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 14 th May 2026	Year 7 Progress Evening
Thursday 21 st May 2026	Year 6 Hay Festival Trip
Friday 22 nd May 2026	Year 7 Hay Festival Trip
Monday 25 th May 2026	Half term



Children's Commissioner

On Thursday, members of the Pupil Voice Rights Sub-Committee had the exciting opportunity to meet with the Child Commissioner for Wales, Ms R Cifuentes.

During the meeting, our learners confidently presented their findings on social media usage at Ysgol Afon Wen, sharing their research, ideas and reflections on an issue that is highly relevant to young people today.

The pupils represented the school exceptionally well, demonstrating maturity, professionalism and a strong understanding of children's rights and digital wellbeing. We were incredibly proud of the way they communicated their views and engaged in meaningful discussion.

This experience forms part of the committee's ongoing work to promote and protect children's rights within our school community and beyond. As a Bronze Rights Respecting School, pupils at Ysgol Afon Wen have been working hard to embed children's rights in school life and are actively working towards achieving the Silver Award. We look forward to continuing to support the pupils as they develop their important work and ensure that our young people's voices are heard across Wales.



"I hope that the school and I will continue to work together to give young people more of an influence on their politics."

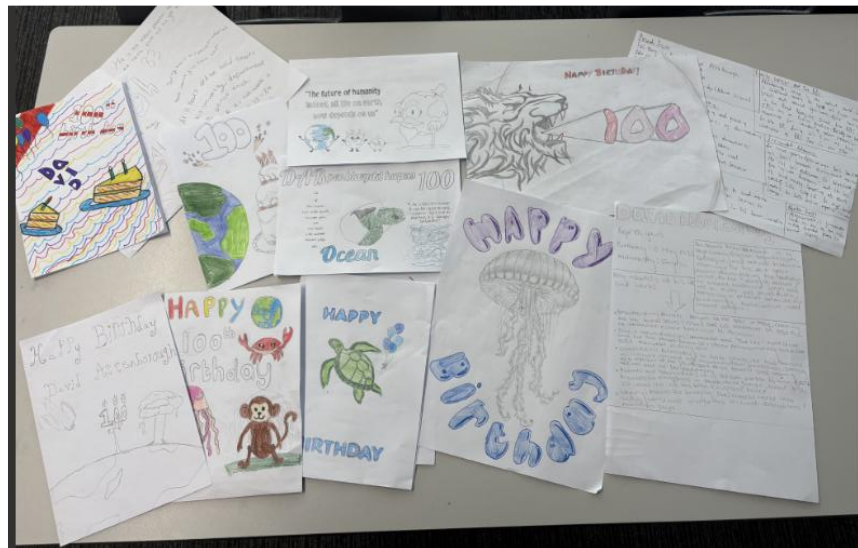


Celebration of success

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

Nursery	Alba Lawton & Nova Collins	Year 4	Phenyo Malebye & Annabel Mathias	Year 9	Jorge Reid & Phoebe Grant
Reception	Harrison Quarman-Chandler & Torvi Lewis	Year 5	Mason Ashton & Ellie-Jane Nutall-Jones	Year 10	Lucy Crockett, Jake Fisher, Jasmine England & Ryley Bengough
Year 1	Elle Rowe & Leo Brittain	Year 6	Lewan Williams and Georgie King	Year 11	Kayla Webley Curtis and Divinespencer Cyril Ukachukwu
Year 2	Oliver Baker & Isla Noble	Year 7	James Rees & Deborah Akinniran		
Year 3	Rico-Luke Davies & Romi-Rose Mann	Year 8	Esme Parfitt and Indie Phillips		

Pupils celebrated David Attenborough's 100th birthday today in Humanities. They spent some time researching the importance of his work, before making fact files and birthday cards!





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Newsletter 08.05.26

Article 6: You have the right to life and to grow up to be healthy.

Celebration of success



Year 9 making school cake this week 🍰

Year 11's completing their final cooking lesson, with some rewards for all achieving a great grade in their coursework! 🎉



Celebration of success

Year 9 pupils took their learning outdoors this week as they investigated how exercise affects the heart. Using practical activities such as timed runs and pulse checks, they explored how heart rate changes during physical activity and why these changes matter for overall health. The session blended science with real-world experience, helping pupils build confidence in data collection and deepen their understanding of the body's response to movement.



Year 7 pupils brought brilliant energy to Show and Tell, creating imaginative 3D models to represent different types of Forces using recyclable materials. Their work showcased not only creativity but also a growing confidence in scientific thinking as they explored ideas like push, pull, friction and gravity through hands-on design. From cardboard contraptions to bottle-built machines, each model reflected thoughtful effort and a real enthusiasm for learning.



Uniform and lost property



**Uniform
Swap Shop**

Thursday 14th
May 2026
@3.05pm

Outside Reception

YAW SWAP SHOP



The Uniform Swap Shop will be set up outside the school on Thursday. This is a great opportunity to donate or pick up any pre-loved uniform items.


We will also have all lost property outside at the same time, so please take a moment to check for any items belonging to your child. Thank you for your support.







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.



Attendance

Nursery	82%	Year 4	89%	Year 9	84%
Reception	90%	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 further into the summer term, we would like to remind all families of the importance of ensuring that pupils attend school every day and arrive on time.

Regular attendance is vital for your child's learning, progress, and overall wellbeing. Each day in school provides valuable opportunities to build knowledge, develop skills, and maintain positive routines. Missing school time can lead to gaps in learning that are difficult to catch up on, particularly as we approach the end of the academic year.

We kindly ask for your support in:

- Ensuring your child attends school every day unless they are unwell
- Making sure your child arrives on time and ready to learn
- Avoiding unnecessary absences during term time

Strong attendance not only supports academic success but also helps children feel confident, settled, and connected to their peers and teachers.

We appreciate your continued support in helping all pupils make the most of the opportunities this term.





Article 6: You have the right to life and to grow up to be healthy.

Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

VE Day

Dosbarth 2B have been busy celebrating VE Day designing flags and bunting.



Article 6: You have the right to life and to grow up to be healthy.

Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

Nursery Sports Day



On Wednesday, the nursery children enjoyed their annual Sports Day. They took part in many different races, including sprint, egg and spoon, obstacle and a "Throw the welly" competition. They each made their own medal, which they wore proudly home on the day! Da iawn meithrin!





Year 5 PIRLS (Reading) Survey

I am writing to inform you that your child's class has been selected to participate in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2026. This letter provides you with information about the study and what's involved.

What is PIRLS?

PIRLS is an international study that takes place every five years and gathers data from over 60 countries, including Wales. PIRLS looks at the reading skills of 9–10-year-olds around the world. The results are used by our government, and governments from around the world, to improve their education systems, so it's vitally important that schools and pupils participate. Further information on the study is available from the Pearson website -

As part of the assessment materials pack, you will have received printed home questionnaire online log in instructions for parents/carers. The Home Questionnaire asks about pupil home reading and literacy learning. You may give a log in sheet to each pupil to take home or share log ins with parents online via an email. Only one parent/carer needs to complete the home questionnaire.

Parents/carers can access the Home Questionnaire online via this link: <https://pirls.iea-online.net/PDC-HQ-en-WLS> and their login info will be in the letter.

Year 4, 5, 6 Summer Reward Trips

Information about the summer reward trip is available on Bromcom.

On 14 July, pupils will have the opportunity to attend either bowling or the cinema as part of this reward trip.

Please ensure the consent form is completed, including your child's chosen trip option.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 8)

Year 7 success

Year 7 students taking part in a reward after school cooking lesson for great behaviour and attendance!

They have made some great cookies this afternoon! 🍪





Year 10 Examinations

Highlighted exams are next week

GCSE Subject	Date of Examination	Examination	Qualification value
Geography	Monday 11 th May 2026 PM	Unit 1 Our Physical and Human World	30% of qualification
Mathematics & Numeracy	Tuesday 12 th May 2026 AM	Unit 1 Financial CMC class Higher Tier only	30% of qualification
English Language & Literature	Friday 15 th May 2026 AM	Unit 1: Context and Meaning	30% of the single award
Public Services	Wednesday 20 th May AM	Unit 1 (Computer based exam)	25% of qualification
Triple Science Biology	Monday 8 th June 2026 AM	Unit 1 Biology,	45% of qualification
History	Tuesday 9 th June 2026 AM	Unit 3 Crime and Punishment	30% of qualification
Triple Science Chemistry	Friday 12 th June 2026 AM	Unit 1 Chemistry,	45% of qualification
Triple Science Physics	Monday 15 th June 2026 AM	Unit 1 Physics	45% of qualification

Additional revision sessions have been arranged for Year 10 pupils in the lead-up to their examinations. These sessions are designed to reinforce key knowledge, address areas where pupils may need extra support, and build confidence ahead of assessments. They will provide structured opportunities for guided practice, exam technique development, and targeted feedback to help pupils maximise their attainment.

revision

Week 2	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Thursday 7 th May 2026			Yr 10 Science lesson	Science BIO revision	Science Revision
Friday 8 th May 2026	<u>Yr10 Geography lesson</u>	Geography revision (JME)			
Week 1					
Monday 11 th May 2026	Maths revision (CMC class only)	Maths revision (CMC class only)	Year 10 Maths lesson	GEOG EXAM	GEOG EXAM
Tuesday 12 th May 2026	MATHS EXAM CMC class only	MATHS EXAM CMC class only			
Wednesday 13 th May 2026	Science CHEM Revision	Science Revision	Year 10 Maths lesson	English Revision	Yr10 English lesson
Thursday 14 th May 2026					
Friday 15 th May 2026	ENGLISH EXAM	ENGLISH EXAM		Science PHY Revision	Year 10 Science lesson



Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

Year 10 revision

This week GCSE Geography pupils took part in targeted revision sessions ready for their first exam on Monday afternoon. Pupils have shown a brilliant attitude to learning in these sessions and I wish them the best for all of their exams this year! - Mrs McCabe



Year 11 Examinations

Year 11 important dates:

- GCSEs start Thursday 7th May - please see individual timetable
- Year 11 Leavers' Ceremony: Thursday 11th June 2026 at 1pm 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 3rd December 2026 6pm







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Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)


Exam Success



2026 Exam Success: Your Essential Preparation Guide







Plan Your Exam Day Journey & Stay Well




**9:00 AM
START**

**Know Your
Essentials**


-  Venue
-  Seat Number
-  Exam Number
-  Tier of Entry



**1:00 PM
START**






**Arrive Early for
a 9:00 AM Start**
Ensure a smooth
check-in process.









**Arrive Early for
a 1:00 PM Start**
Find your seat
and prepare.

Your Exam Kit (What to Bring)

-  **Clear Pencil Case:**
All stationery must be stored in a completely transparent case or clear plastic bag for inspection.
-  **Black Ink Pens Only:**
Bring at least two black ink pens; please note that blue ink is strictly prohibited for exam scripts.
-  **Approved Equipment:**
Bring an approved calculator, ruler, and protractor only for exams where they are specifically permitted.
-  **Label-Free Hydration:**
You may bring a clear water bottle, but it must have all labels removed before entering the hall.


Prohibited Items (Strictly Forbidden)

-  **NO Watches of Any Kind:**
This includes all types: analogue, digital, and smartwatches are strictly banned from the exam desk. 
-  **No Phones or Mobile Devices:**
All types of mobile phones must be turned off and stored away according to venue rules. 
-  **No Revision Notes:**
Ensure no study materials, papers, or notes are in your pockets or on your person when the exam begins. 

Exam Hall Protocol



Identification & Labels:
Always use your LEGAL name and unique candidate number on all answer booklets.




Follow invigilator instructions:
You must follow all staff directions; communicating with other candidates may result in disqualification from ALL exams.




Ask for Assistance:
If you have a question or need help, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to come to your desk.


Healthy Habits for Success



Fuel Your Body & Mind:
Maintain high Vitamin C levels and stay hydrated to keep your focus sharp throughout the season.



Rest & Recovery:
Prioritize consistent sleep schedules and take regular breaks during study sessions to prevent burnout.



Active Planning:
Use planning tools to organize your study time and incorporate exercise to manage stress.



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Community Events

Pontypridd Theatre company brought Panto to the pupils of Afon Wen last December with great success.....they are now bringing the SOUTH WALES PREMIER of Frozen the West End Musical in June at Tylorstown Welfare Hall. Scan the QR Code on the poster to book and A discount of 10% using PTC10 has been applied for Afon Wen.

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI)
ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK

PONTYPRIDD THEATRE COMPANY'S
PRODUCTION OF
THE SOUTH WALES PREMIERE

DISNEY'S
BOOK BY JENNIFER LEE

FROZEN

THE WEST END MUSICAL

TICKETS: ADULTS: £12
CHILD UNDER 10
& CONCESSIONS 65+: £10
FAMILY TICKET: £38
(2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN UNDER 10
OR 1 ADULT & 3 CHILDREN UNDER 10)


JUNE 2026
FRIDAY 19TH 7PM
SATURDAY 20TH:
12PM & 4PM





TYLORSTOWN WELFARE HALL
Purchase tickets - www.ticketsource.co.uk
Tylorstown Box Office
Group bookings email drk_wltrs@yahoo.co.uk

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
KRISTEN ANDERSON-LOPEZ
& Robert Lopez

BASED ON THE DISNEY FILM
WRITTEN BY JENNIFER LEE &
DIRECTED BY CHRIS BUCK & JENNIFER LEE

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED ON BROADWAY BY MICHAEL GRANDAGE
ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

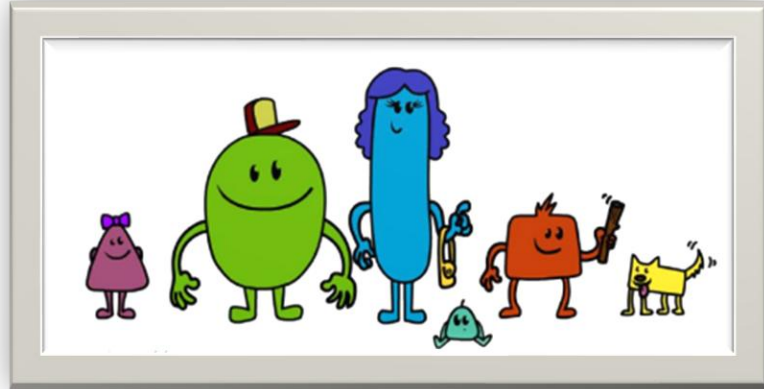


 Funded by  UK Government  Wedi ei ariannu gan Llywodraeth y DU 



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Resilient Families



We continue to host our monthly drop-in session for parents and carers who may be interested in support from Rhondda Cynon Taf's Resilient Families Service. The sessions will take place on the second Thursday of every month, from 9:15am to 11:30am, in our Community Hub. The next drop-in session is this **Thursday, 14th May**.

The Resilient Families Service offers short-term, practical support to families across RCT. The service focuses on building family resilience and can support with a range of issues such as:

- establishing routines
- family relationships
- education and attendance
- housing or financial worries
- speech, language and communication needs
- emotional wellbeing

The drop-in sessions will be a relaxed and informal opportunity to find out more about the service, ask questions, and speak directly with a member of the team about any support that may be helpful for your family. There is no referral needed to attend.

Refreshments will be available, so please feel free to pop in at any point during the session.

