

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful week at Ysgol Afon Wen, our Thought for the Week reminds us of the importance of resilience and self-belief:

***"To help yourself, you must be yourself. Be the best that you can be. When you make a mistake, learn from it, pick yourself up and move on."* – Dave Pelzer.**

This message reflects the journey of all our learners, particularly our Year 11 students, who reached a significant milestone this week. On Thursday, Year 6 pupils lined the corridors to clap Year 11 out of the building following their final year group assembly. It was a wonderful and emotional occasion as students reflected on their time at both Afon Wen and Hawthorn High School through photographs capturing their growth, achievements and memories over the years. There were smiles, laughter and a few tears as we watched videos of Year 11 learning their dance in Expressive Arts, celebrating the friendships, experiences and determination that have shaped them into the young people they are today.

We are incredibly proud of every member of Year 11. They have shown resilience, character and commitment throughout their school journey, and we wish them every success as they take their next steps. Well done, Year 11 – you leave with our very best wishes and the knowledge that you will always be part of the Hawthorn community.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 15 th June 2026	Japan Trip
Tuesday 16 th June 2026	Year 10 Mathematics mock exam
Monday 22 nd June 2026	Storey Arms Trip Year 5
Tuesday 23 rd June 2026	Year 11 Prom 7pm
Thursday 25 th June 2026	Year 5 open evening 4.30-6.00pm
Friday 26 th June 2026	Advance Sports day
Monday 29 th June 2026	Year 10 Work experience
Tuesday 30 th June 2026	Year 1 celebration assembly 2.30pm
Wednesday 1 st July	Year 2 celebration assembly 2.30pm
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 3 celebration assembly 2.30pm



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:

- **Advance Phase: Year 4–Year 6: Monday 15th June 9am start – Parents invited**
- Advance Phase Year 7 & Year 8: Friday 26th June
- Achieve Phase Year 9: Friday 3rd July



You are invited to attend Sports Day at the time specified above. If you are attending, please note that parents and carers are expected to remain on site for the full duration of the event, which will take place on the astroturf. If you need to use the toilet facilities during this time, a member of staff will escort you. These arrangements are in place to safeguard all members of the school community as the school will remain in session during the Sports Day event. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We look forward to sharing this special event with you.



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	85%		

Attendance Matters: Final Summer Half Term

As we begin our final half term of the academic year, attendance remains a key priority for all pupils at Ysgol Afon Wen. Every day in school counts, and this final stretch of the year is particularly important for maintaining progress, routines, and positive habits.

We know that the summer term can be a busy time, but consistent attendance continues to make a significant difference. Pupils who attend regularly are more confident, better prepared for the next stage in their learning, and more connected to their peers and school community.

Why attendance still matters now

- Important learning continues right up to the end of term
- Teachers are consolidating key knowledge and preparing pupils for September
- Pupils benefit socially from finishing the year positively with their peers

How you can support your child

- Ensure your child attends school every day unless they are genuinely unwell
- Avoid booking holidays during term time
- Maintain routines, including punctual arrival each morning

We are proud of the efforts many pupils have made to improve their attendance this year, and we encourage everyone to finish the year strongly.

Thank you for your continued support, it makes a real difference.





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Newsletter 12.06.26

Article 12: I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously

Science Festival

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru



BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE NOW

USW COMMUNITY SCIENCE FESTIVAL

27 JUNE, 10:00-15:00

GLYNTAFF, PONTYPRIDD CAMPUS

Join us for a free, family-friendly science festival packed with discovery, fun, and hands-on experiments.

Take part in interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, and bookable workshops led by USW scientists and researchers. Solve forensic mysteries, explore DNA and microbes, experiment with colourful chemistry, discover fossils and dinosaurs, investigate wildlife, and experience engineering through robotics, 3D printing, LEGO labs, and bottle rockets.

From crime scene sleuthing and DNA magic to conservation crafting and fossil-hunting, there's something for everyone to enjoy.



BOOK NOW





Celebration of success

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

Nursery	Daisy Stokes & Rosie Riley-Williams	Year 4	Keeyana Williams & Leo Delaitre-Morgan	Year 9	Izzy Mardon-Hughes
Reception	Dosbarth Oren & Holly Hughes	Year 5	Katie Davies	Year 10	Ethan Baker & Lily Morgan
Year 1	Max Delaitre-Morgan & Ivy Herbert	Year 6	Jack Marchant & Gracie Rowe	Year 11	Madison Bale & Deagon Dragon-Shmylo
Year 2	Mizan Shah & Louise Jones	Year 7	Ella Lewis & Jessica Suret		
Year 3	Ashton Yim & Ewan Cowlishaw	Year 8	Riley Canning & Isla Cartlidge		

Year 7 - 11 Lunchtime option

WORLD CUP
THEME DAY MEAL DEAL
16TH JUNE 2026

'MOHAMMAD SALAH' SIZZLING ALL DAY BREKKIE BRUNCH

Sausage (Gluten, Soya, Sulphur Dioxide)
or Vegan Sausage* (V)

Bacon, Omelette (V) (Eggs, Milk)

Slice of buttered toast (V) (Gluten, Soya)

Chopped tomatoes (V)

or Baked beans (V)

and

World Cup Raspberry Ripple Ice cream (V) (Milk)

£3.30
MEAL AND DESSERT

*Gluten free options available, please pre-order





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Newsletter 05.06.26

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

ALN Primary Coffee Morning

YSGOL AFON WEN ALN COFFEE MORNING

We warmly invite
parents / carers of
primary aged pupils
to our next ALN
focused coffee
morning:



Friday, 19th June,
2026



Tŷ Tâf (YAW
Community
Hub)



10am - 11am



Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

Nursery visitor



On Tuesday, nursery had a special visitor. As part of their enterprise project, Ceri from ladybirds and lollipops pottery in Cwmbran visited the school to help the children create their own coaster. The children enjoyed the creative session and we are looking forward to seeing the final product when it has been glazed.

Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 9)

Year 7 Humanities



Over the course of this year, Year 7 have looked at a number of case studies within Medieval Wales and England. One such case saw the pupils learning about the valiant defeat of Harold Godwinson at the hands of William, Duke of Normandy, at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. During half-term, pupils were entrusted to make a shield so that we could re-enact the infamous shield wall used by the English. We also showed how a feigned retreat undermined this defensive tactic and cost the Anglo-Saxons the battle and control of England. A special mention has to be given to Lexi for the construction of her ornate griffin embellished shield made from solid plywood.



Year 9 examinations

The Year 9 examination week schedule is below. These examinations will take place in the sports hall.

Year 9	Lesson 1 (8.50am)	Lesson 3 (11.15am)
Wednesday 17th June 2026	Mathematics	Welsh
Thursday 18th June 2026	English	
Friday 19th June 2026	Science	Humanities

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience 27th June -3rd July 2026

A huge thanks to many families for securing placements for their children to go on work experience. We really appreciate your support. Unless you have heard from the school, or hear from us over the next week, your child's placement has been signed off by RCT. Please encourage your son/daughter to touch base with the employer before the start of the week to ensure that they are fully prepared with any further instructions to be able to begin the week successfully.

If your child is not attending a work experience, then they are to attend school as normal that week.



Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Miss Jenkins led the Year 11 leavers assembly this week, celebrating the success and hard work of the pupils. Miss Jenkins presented awards from the staff to pupils in different categories, the pupils celebrated and presented awards to members of staff and awarded their peers in different categories. It was a lovely ceremony followed by a brilliant compilation of old photos and videos. Year 11 were clapped out of the building by Year 6 to sign shirt as a memory and finished the event with an ice cream. We will see you next week for the final examinations and then for your last official school event, the Year 11 prom! We are very proud of you all. Congratulations for reaching the end of an era!





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Newsletter 12.06.26

Article 12: I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously

Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

Year 11 Leavers Assembly





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Year 5 Open Evening

YSGOL AFON WEN NOSON AGORED YEAR 5 OPEN EVENING

We warmly invite Year 5 pupils and families to our Open Evening. Key members of staff will be available to meet with you and provide information about school life at Ysgol Afon Wen as well as tour the facilities and learning areas. We look forward to welcoming you to our school! There is no need to book in advance.



Thursday, 25.6.26



4.30pm start - 6.00pm (approx.)



Ysgol Afon Wen, CF37 5AL

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ADHD Workshop

ADHD Parent Workshops



Next Steps
ADHD Coaching

Helping young people understand their ADHD and build tools that work for their lives.

@Tŷ Tâf, Ysgol Afon Wen

Tuesday 23rd June & Tuesday 7th July

Session 1: 9.30–10.30 (Years 3–6)

Session 2: 11.00–12.00 (Years 7–11)

Tuesday 23rd June

ADHD in Real Life: What Parents Need to Know

A clear, practical look at how ADHD shows up day to day. We explore common myths, the many ways ADHD can present, and what this means for your child's behaviour, emotions and learning.

Click on the session to book

[Session 1 \(yr3-6\)](#)

[Session 2 \(yr 7-10\)](#)

Tuesday 7th July

Daily Habits That Help: Sleep, Diet and Exercise

Focused on the everyday routines that support an ADHD brain. We look at sleep patterns, morning routines, food, movement, and simple changes that can make life feel calmer.

Click on the session to book

[Session 1 \(yr 3-6\)](#)

[Session 2 \(yr 7-10\)](#)

Who these workshops are for

Parents and carers who want to understand ADHD better and feel more confident supporting their child (diagnosis not necessary).

What you'll gain

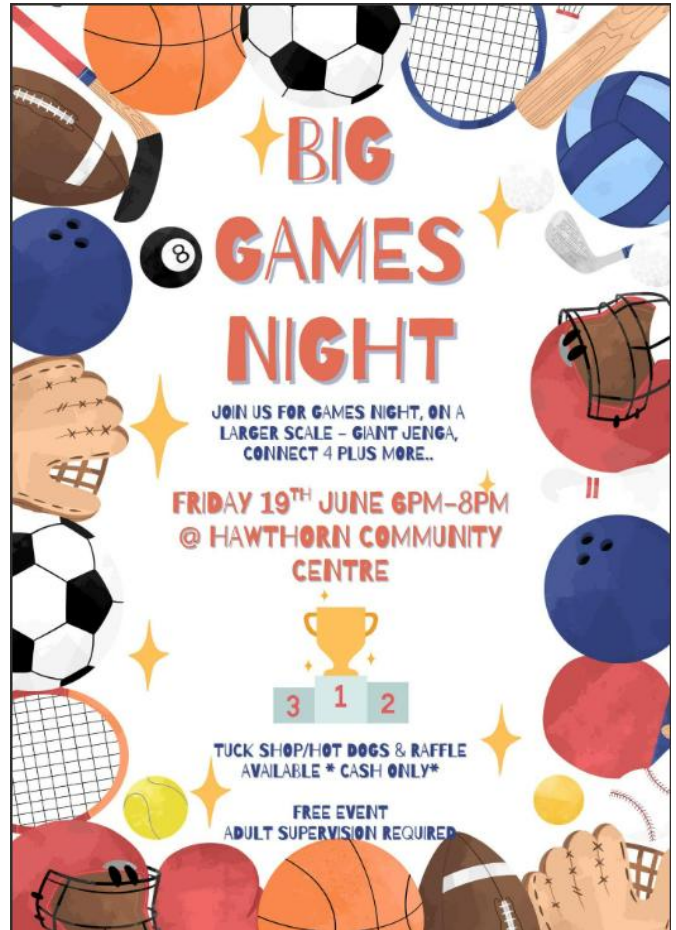
Clear explanations, practical ideas you can use straight away. A supportive space to ask questions.

Any questions please email sarah@nextstepsadhdcoaching.co.uk or take a look at my website www.nextstepsadhdcoaching.co.uk





Community Event



Our school is pleased to signpost the Citizens Advice drop-in clinic taking place in Tŷ Tâf (Community Hub) this Thursday, 18th 09:00-11:00. All families are warmly welcome to attend, learn about available support, and ask questions. Refreshments will be available, kindly provided by Fairtrade Pontypridd. We look forward to seeing you there. Everyone invited.

LET'S TALK MONEY

Money can be difficult to talk about...

That's why Citizens Advice RCT is working with schools across RCT to support families through our **Family Advice South Wales Project**.

We can help with:

- Checking for unclaimed benefits & grants
- Help with applications & appeals
- Emergency financial support
- Managing debt & money worries
- Boosting your family income

If you'd like support, contact us at familyadvice@carct.org.uk.

We're here to help.



#TalkMoneyWeek