

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you very much for all of your support and understanding this week. It is always an incredibly difficult decision for the school to close to pupils; however, temperatures reached levels that we have not previously experienced. The wellbeing and safety of all member of our community will always remain our priority, and the decision to close due to the extreme heat forecast was made in order to ensure that pupils and staff were not placed at unnecessary risk.

Our Year 11 Prom was a superb occasion, and all pupils looked amazing. We hope that everyone had a wonderful evening and enjoyed celebrating the end of their time at school together. The staff who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event and were incredibly proud to see how mature and confident our pupils have become. We look forward to welcoming them back on GCSE Results Day (Thursday 20th August 2026) and wish them every success for the future.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 29 th June	Year 10 Work experience Year 6 transition week Year 7 & 8 Upper Advance Sports day
Tuesday 30 th June	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
Friday 3 rd July	Moving up afternoon (Nursery to Year 6)
Tuesday 7 th July	Year 6 celebration assembly 2.00pm
Wednesday 8 th July	Activate Enterprise Fayre 3pm Theatre
Thursday 9 th July	Reception Celebration assembly 2.30pm
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 4, 5, 6 reward trip
Wednesday 15 th July	Year 7,8 reward trip
Thursday 16 th July	Year 9, 10 reward trip
Monday 20 th July	INSET day. School closed for pupils.
Thursday 20 th August	GCSE results day



Teachers for next academic year

As we approach the end of the academic year, our thoughts naturally turn to transition, moving on to new classes and looking ahead to the future. Our new school year brings some changes. Miss M Fawkes will commence a period of maternity leave. I am sure that you will join us in wishing her the very best for her pending arrival. Miss B Stringfellow will join Ysgol Afon Wen to cover for this period.

We have finalised out staffing structure for the new academic year and teachers are looking forward to meeting their classes. Below you will see an outline of the teachers for each year group. Please discuss this with your child in preparation for the change. Pupils will be meet the teacher on Friday 3rd July and bring home information about the staff supporting the class and next academic year's curriculum.

Year group	Teacher
Nursery	Mrs A Calved
Reception	Miss C Greenman & Miss K Sadler
Year 1	Mrs N Rowland & Mrs P Sheppard/Mrs H Williams
Year 2	Miss B Jones & Miss B Stringfellow
Year 3	Mrs S Wallace & Miss R Harry
Year 4	Mrs K Jones & Ms N Kafai
Year 5	Mrs V Geach & Mr G Medd
Year 6	Mr G Couldrick & Mr K Webster





Attendance

Nursery	82%	Year 4	89%	Year 9	84%
Reception	90%	Year 5	90%	Year 10	79%
Year 1	87%	Year 6	88%	Year 11	81%
Year 2	89%	Year 7	90%		
Year 3	92%	Year 8	85%		

Attendance Matters: Just 3 Weeks to Go!

As we enter the final three weeks of the academic year, attendance remains a key priority at Ysgol Afon Wen. Every day counts, and these last few weeks are an important opportunity for pupils to consolidate their learning, maintain positive routines, and finish the year successfully.

Regular attendance helps pupils stay engaged, strengthen friendships, and feel confident as they prepare for the next stage of their education in September.

Why attendance still matters:

- Important learning and enrichment activities continue until the end of term.
- Teachers are reviewing key knowledge and preparing pupils for September.
- Pupils benefit from ending the year positively alongside their peers.

How you can support your child:

- Ensure they attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- Maintain established routines and punctual arrival each morning.

We are proud of the progress many pupils have made with their attendance this year and encourage everyone to make the most of these final three weeks.

Let's finish the year strong together. Thank you for your continued support.





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Newsletter 26.06.26

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

Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

Reception Class

The children enjoyed dipping their feet in water today to cool down.





Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 9)

Storey Arms

Although the weather cut the time short, this didn't stop the endless amounts of fun and adventure that Year 5 pupils experienced at Storey Arms this week! Pupils kept cool canoeing, gauge walking and taking part in a range of team building activities. The residential trip was a wonderful experience and the children returned home with lasting memories, new friendships, and smiles on their faces.



Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 9)

Year 6 into 7 transition

26th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

During the week commencing **Monday 29th June**, Year 6 pupils will participate in our annual Transition Week. The four days will include many fun learning activities and provide a fantastic opportunity to forge new friendships and meet with key staff members who will be supporting them during their time in Year 7 and beyond.

The transition days will run from **Monday 29th June 2026, until Thursday 2nd July 2026**. Your child will have the exciting opportunity to take part in taster lessons exploring the Ysgol Afon Wen way. They will take part in activities within each area of our curriculum and will also have the opportunity to complete literacy and numeracy tasks to help us to support their progress moving forward.

All pupils will need to bring a packed lunch and a snack for break. Please be advised we are a nut free school. If your child is entitled to free school meals, a cold packed lunch will be provided.

The week will culminate in a showcase of work and a New Intake Parents' / Families' Evening which will take place on **Thursday 2nd July 2026 at 3:30pm**. Therefore, we kindly request that all Year 6 pupils stay with us here at Ysgol Afon Wen until parents and families join us in the main Theatre. Your child will then leave with you after this meeting. Please can all pupils bring a small, extra packed tea / snack for this day only. Important information regarding school life at Ysgol Afon Wen and arrangements for the start of Autumn Term 2026 will be shared during this meeting.

We are delighted to be able to share the next chapter of your child's Ysgol Afon Wen journey and look forward continuing to develop positive relationships with all families.

Cofion cynnes,

Miss M Jenkins

Progress Leader Year 7 September 2026



Year 10 Work Experience

What to expect and how to make the most of it (Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July 2026)

Next week our Year 10 pupils begin their work experience placements, a brilliant and exciting opportunity to grow practical skills, build confidence and put learning into the real world.

A message to parents

Thank you for supporting your child to take part in work experience. These five days give pupils the chance to develop real workplace skills: punctuality, teamwork, communication, resilience and problem-solving. Employers value these skills and it will help them in their GCSEs, sixth form, college, apprenticeships or jobs in the future. Your encouragement and practical support (e.g. helping them prepare clothing, travel plans and a positive mindset) makes a big difference. Please share the following with your children to help prepare them:

A message to pupils

This is your chance to show what you can do. Employers are looking for attitude as much as ability. Small things like arriving on time, asking good questions, and being respectful will help you stand out. Treat every task as a learning opportunity.

Conduct we expect:

1. Be punctual and ready to start each day. Aim to arrive 10 minutes early so you can settle in.
2. Dress appropriately for the placement. If the employer gave clothing guidance, follow it; when in doubt, choose smart, practical and tidy clothes.
3. Be polite and respectful to colleagues, customers and other people you come in contact with. Use kind language and listen when people speak to you.
4. Show a willingness to learn. Ask questions, take notes, and accept feedback. If you don't know how to do something, say so and ask for guidance.
5. Keep your phone on silent and use it only where the employer permits. Focus on the work and conversations around you.
6. Follow all health & safety and safeguarding instructions from your employer. If something feels unsafe or uncomfortable, tell your placement supervisor and contact the school immediately.
7. Be honest and reliable. If you are unwell or delayed, call your placement and the school as soon as possible.



Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

Year 10 Work Experience

Practical tips for pupils (what will help you shine)

- Take a small notebook and pen to jot down tasks, names and anything you learn.
- Prepare a short “about me” line: name, year group, what you’re hoping to learn as this will help with introductions.
- Think of one or two specific goals for the week (e.g. “learn how the reception works,” “observe a team meeting,” “practise customer service phrases”) and review them each day.
- Say thank you at the end of the placement, a short, polite message or email to your supervisor makes a strong impression.

Quick checklist for parents to run through tonight

- Travel arrangements confirmed and tested.
- Appropriate clothes ready and labelled.
- Packed lunch / money if needed.
- Placement details/ number saved in your phone.
- Remind your child of our core values: Ready, Respectful, Responsible and that this is a chance to practise them.

If you have any concerns whilst they are on placement, please call the school. We will support them to resolve the issue quickly. Please also inform the school if they are going to be absent from their placement at any point due to illness/medical etc. Thank you for helping our pupils make the most of this valuable learning experience. We look forward to hearing about their successes when they return.

Please note that any pupils who have not secured a work placement are expected to be in school as normal. They will follow an amended curriculum for the week. Please meet in the dining hall on Monday morning.





Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 prom was incredibly successful with all of the pupils looking amazing and demonstrating the maturity they have already displayed during their exams. We are so proud of you all.



Year 11 Prom Speech from Miss M Jenkins, Progress Leader

Dear Year 11,

As we come together tonight to celebrate the end of your Year 11 journey, I want to start by saying how proud I am of each and every one of you. Over the past five years, I have watched you grow from nervous students finding your way around the school corridors into the young adults sitting before me tonight.

There have been challenges, successes, setbacks, and achievements along the way. Through it all, you have shown resilience, determination, and the ability to keep moving forward, even when things have been difficult.

As you leave school and begin the next chapter of your lives, I would like to leave you with one simple message: never take people for granted.

Throughout your life, there will be people who support you, guide you, encourage you, and sometimes challenge you because they want the best for you. Parents, carers, teachers, friends, colleagues, and mentors all play a part in helping us become who we are. It can be easy to overlook their efforts when life gets busy, but taking a moment to appreciate those around you can make a huge difference.

Remember that manners cost nothing. A simple "please," "thank you," or "I appreciate what you've done for me" can mean more than you realise. Respect, kindness, and gratitude are qualities that will take you much further in life than any exam result ever could. Success is not measured only by qualifications or career achievements. It is also measured by the way you treat people. The most respected individuals are often those who remain humble, who show gratitude, and who recognise the value of others.

As your Head of Year, it has been a privilege to support you throughout your time here. There have been moments that have made me laugh, moments that have made me proud, and moments that have tested us all. But through it all, I have always believed in your potential.

I wish every one of you happiness, success, and fulfilment in the years ahead. Thank you for the memories, thank you for the lessons you've taught me, and thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey.

Enjoy your evening, stay safe, and remember: the people who help you along the way deserve to know that they matter. You all have a sparkle that deserves to be shared with the world. Shine bright, and good luck, Class of 2026.

Miss M Jenkins






Community Corner

Thank you to our guest speaker, Mrs S Jakeman and to all members of the school community to attended the session this week. A second session will take place on Tuesday 7th July.

ADHD Parent Workshops



@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



Session 1: 9.30–10.30 (Years 3–6)

Session 2: 11.00–12.00 (Years 7–11)

[2. ADHD and Parenting: Daily Habits That Help Sleep, Diet and Exercise](#)
[Tuesday 7th July 9.30am-10.30am](#)

[2. ADHD and Parenting: Daily Habits That Help Sleep, Diet and Exercise](#)
[Tuesday 7th July 11.00am - 12.00 noon](#)





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Community Corner

Morgannwg Ganol

RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Cymoedd Morgannwg

HWYL YR HAF

DYSGWYR CYMRAEG

WELSH LEARNERS

RHCT

11/08/2025

BL / YR 4-6 - 10:00-12:00

YMa Pontypridd, Stryd Taff,
Pontypridd, CF37 4TS

**BORE O HWYL GYDA'CH FFRINDIAU
- GEMAU, CREFFT, CERDDORIAETH
A LLAWER MWY! YN ADDAS I
DDYSGWYR CYMRAEG.
FUN-FILLED MORNING WITH YOUR
FRIENDS - GAMES, CRAFTS, MUSIC
AND MUCH MORE! SUITABLE FOR
WELSH LEARNERS.**

Am ddim/
Free

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Morgannwg Ganol neu Cymoedd
Morgannwg /
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Valleys

AM FWY O WYBODAETH: sinead@urdd.org
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 07976003355



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Year 7 -10 PE Cricket trip

CRICKET TRIP

Glamorgan V Middlesex
T20 BLAST Friday 3rd July



If you would like to attend the trip, please collect a letter from the PE department. Places are limited and will be allocated once payment of £15 has been made. Please complete this at your earliest convenience.

FRIDAY 3RD JULY
5:30PM - 9:30PM





Safeguarding information

HOT WEATHER = COLD WATER DANGER

THINK BEFORE YOU JUMP

RIVERS

CANALS

LAKES

QUARRIES

RESERVOIRS

WATER MAY LOOK INVITING... BUT IT CAN BE DEADLY.

- ✗ HIDDEN CURRENTS
- ✗ SUDDEN DEEP WATER
- ✗ UNDERWATER HAZARDS
- ✗ COLD WATER SHOCK
- ✗ SLIPPERY BANKS AND EDGES

COLD WATER SHOCK CAN:

- Make you gasp uncontrollably
- Take your breath away
- Cause muscles to stop working properly
- Lead to drowning, even for strong swimmers

STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER

SWIM ONLY AT SUPERVISED LOCATIONS

STAY WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

KEEP AWAY FROM QUARRY EDGES AND RESERVOIRS

LOOK OUT FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

BE WATER AWARE IT CAN CHANGE IN SECONDS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 999 AND ASK FOR THE COASTGUARD

IF YOU SEE SOMEONE IN TROUBLE IN THE WATER CALL 999

#RESPECTTHEWATER #WATERSAFETY #STAYSAFE #HOTWEATHER #COLDWATERSHOCK #SUMMERSAFETY

RESPECT THE WATER

