

Dear Parent/Carers,

This has been another busy and exciting week across the school, with many opportunities for our pupils to celebrate their achievements and prepare for the future.

Our Year 6 pupils have enjoyed their Transition Week, taking part in a range of activities designed to help them settle into the next stage of their education. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence as they begin to familiarise themselves with school life.

We have also been treated to a series of fantastic Celebration Assemblies from pupils in the Activate phase. These assemblies provided an opportunity for pupils to showcase their learning, talents and achievements, and we are incredibly proud of the confidence, creativity and effort they demonstrated.

On Monday, our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils took part in Sports Day, enjoying a day of friendly competition, teamwork and determination. It was wonderful to see pupils encouraging one another and embracing the spirit of the event.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 pupils have been out on work experience, gaining valuable insight into the world of work and developing important skills for their future. We hope they have enjoyed the experience and thank the employers who have supported them throughout the week.

We were also delighted to welcome the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Rocio Cifuentes, to our school this week. It was a privilege to host her and share some of the events and activities members of the school Senedd work and subcommittees have been involved in this year and the fundraising taking place across our school community. Her visit provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate our pupils' voices and the positive impact they have on shaping school life.

Finally, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended our events this week. Your encouragement and support make a real difference to our pupils, and we greatly appreciate your continued involvement in our school community.





Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 6th July	Year 10 Trip to Bryn Celynog 6th form
Tuesday 7th July	Year 6 celebration assembly 2.00pm
Wednesday 8 th July	Activate Enterprise Fayre 3pm Theatre
Thursday 9th 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 20th August	GCSE results day

Advanced notice of dates

The school will have **four** INSET days at the beginning of term

Monday 31st August 2026 Last day of the summer holiday (bank holiday)

Tuesday 1st September INSET day (closed for pupils).

Wednesday 2nd September INSET day (closed for pupils).

Thursday 3rd September INSET day (closed for pupils).

Friday 4th September 2025 INSET day (closed for pupils).

First day of the Autumn term will be Monday 7th September 2026.





Japan Trip



Pupils who visited Japan had the opportunity to visit a school in Tokyo. They had the opportunity to meet other pupils, work with them engaging in musical and calligraphy workshops and to see what education would be like.





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Japan Trip



Pupils in Year 9 and 10 came back from their trip to Japan last weekend, with hundreds of photographs and stories about their experience. They will be leading assemblies for others next week sharing their experience.



Visit from the Children's Commissioner



We were honoured to welcome the Children's Commissioner for Wales, **Rocio Cifuentes**, to our school this week. It was a privilege to showcase the outstanding work of our School Senedd and its subcommittees, highlighting the wide range of initiatives, events and fundraising activities that pupils have led and supported throughout the year.

We were also proud to share the significant work pupils have undertaken as part of our journey towards becoming a Rights Respecting School, celebrating the successful achievement of the Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award and the continued commitment of pupils and staff as we work towards Silver accreditation. Her visit provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate the strength of pupil voice at Ysgol Afon Wen and the positive contribution our learners make to shaping school life.

During her visit, Ms Cifuentes listened attentively as pupils shared their experiences and spoke openly about the challenges they face, particularly the impact that school transport has on their education and wellbeing. They also discussed wider issues affecting their daily lives and explored ways in which these could be improved. Ms Cifuentes praised the confidence and maturity with which the pupils expressed their views and encouraged members of the School Senedd to continue championing the voices of their peers. She offered advice on how they can ensure those voices continue to influence positive change, both within Ysgol Afon Wen and across the wider community.



First Give Success

First Give Final Inspires Future Changemakers

On Wednesday 1st July, Ysgol Afon Wen hosted its First Give Final, bringing together our Year 7 finalists for an afternoon of inspiring presentations, community spirit and passionate advocacy for local charities. The event showcased the hard work, teamwork and commitment that pupils have demonstrated throughout the programme.

Representatives from five Year 7 classes presented to a panel of judges, highlighting the important work carried out by their chosen charities and explaining why these organisations deserve support. Charities represented included Home Start Cymru, Children in Wales, Pontypridd Food Bank and Rowan Tree Cancer Care.

We were also delighted to welcome a number of our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils from the primary phase as members of the audience. They listened attentively to the presentations and saw first-hand how young people can make a positive difference in their communities. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, and we hope the experience has inspired many of them to take part in First Give themselves in the years ahead.



After a difficult deliberation, the judging panel announced 7-5 (LPL) as this year's winners. Representing Rowan Tree Cancer Care, Deborah A, Temidire O, Pahan R and Daisy W delivered an excellent presentation and were awarded the £1,000 First Give grant for their chosen charity.

Neil from Rowan Tree Cancer Care expressed his gratitude following the announcement: "Thank you to Miss Powell's class for selecting Rowan Tree Cancer Trust as their chosen charity. The money will make a huge difference to the lives of those battling through the most difficult of circumstances. To present like that, at 11 and 12 years of age, is so impressive, and you should be incredibly proud of yourselves. Thank you!"



First Give Success

The First Give programme continues to provide valuable opportunities for pupils to develop confidence, public speaking skills and an understanding of social responsibility. We are incredibly proud of all Year 7 finalists who represented their classes so well and demonstrated the compassion and leadership that make our school community such a special place.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our judging panel: Sharon Rees, Cabinet Secretary for Education at Rhondda Cynon Taf; Mrs M. Bolderson, Business Manager at Ysgol Afon Wen; Miss M Price, Year 7 Progress Lead; and Mr. Chris Gibbins, Vice Chair of Governors. Their thoughtful questions, careful deliberations and ongoing support helped make the event such a success. We are grateful for the time they gave to celebrate and recognise the achievements of our pupils.

Congratulations once again to 7-5 and thank you to everyone who helped make this year's First Give Final such a memorable event.





Celebration of Success

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

Nursery	Oliver Cooper & Jaden Arun Kumar	Year 4	Humaid Akhtar & Nansi Sims	Year 9	Pheobe Grant & Dewi James
Reception	Lenny Meech &	Year 5	Sofia Desmier & Dylan Taylor	Year 10	Jayden Hobbs & Muhamed Sharif
Year 1	Olivia Holt & All of 1B	Year 6	Amelia King		
Year 2	All of 2A & Jack O'Dwyer	Year 7	Jal Harris & Daisy Morgan		
Year 3	Sonny Jugessur & Farrel Preece	Year 8			

Year 10 success



[YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | Young Minds](#)

Congratulations to Ashon in Year 10 who has been raising money by walking 60 miles in June for Youngminds, supporting children with mental health issues and has so far raised over £300. Well done.

Year 9 success

Year 9 have been making bread this week! 🍞 🧄 🧑🍳



Scholars Program



Thirteen pupils recently completed the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme, working with university lecturer Dr Chesse on the thought-provoking question, “*What makes a good Prime Minister?*” Throughout the programme, pupils developed their research, critical thinking and academic writing skills before submitting a final university-style essay which was marked by Dr Chesse. Feedback praised the pupils’ use of evidence, detailed analysis and strong effort, with one essay described as “*an informed, detailed and sustained examination*” and “*a strong effort worthy of a similarly strong result.*” .

The programme concluded with a memorable graduation ceremony at Bath University, where pupils celebrated their achievements and enjoyed the opportunity to explore the university’s impressive facilities. We are incredibly proud of all 13 scholars for their dedication, resilience and success





Attendance matters

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

Attendance Matters: Just 2 Weeks to Go!

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

Regular attendance helps pupils stay engaged in lessons, 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 helping pupils prepare 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 two weeks.

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



Sports Awards

A selection of pupils have been invited to the Ysgol Afon Wen Sports Awards Evening, a special event to celebrate the hard work, commitment, and achievements of our pupils in physical education and school sport throughout the year.

The evening will recognise students who have demonstrated outstanding effort, progress, commitment, and sporting excellence across our extracurricular activities. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge the positive attitudes and resilience shown by many of our learners in developing their health, fitness, and well-being.

Please make a member of the PE Department aware if your child has represented a sport at county, regional level or above

Please complete the following google form to confirm your attendance if you have received a letter.

[Confirmation of attendance](#)



Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

Year 3 celebration



Wow Year 3! We are so proud of you! Our celebration assembly showed the amazing, confident and kind hearted pupils you are! You should all be so proud of yourselves, we definitely are.

Da iawn ti!

Pupils in Year 3 have started painting their enterprise creations for next week.



Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

Nursery

This week, nursery have been putting the finishing touches to their hand-painted coasters for their enterprise project. We have been creating individual booklets for every child to document their project as well and we are looking forward to taking them home next week.





Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

Year 1 celebration

Year 1 have been thinking about transition, and designing their dream schools. Ardderchog!



YEAR 1 HAVE WORKED INCREDIBLY HARD ON THEIR PERSUASIVE POSTERS, READY FOR ENTERPRISE SALE NEXT WEEK.





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Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 9)

Year 8 Duke of Edinburgh

Year 8 pupils should have all come home with this letter today about the Duke of Edinburgh opportunity available in school. More information on the letter.

To: Year 8 Pupils and Parents/Guardians

From: Miss Watkins, Duke of Edinburgh Award Coordinator

Subject: Application Process for Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award – Year 9 Cohort 26/27

Dear Parents/Guardians and Year 8 Pupils,

We are delighted to announce the launch of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award programme at Ysgol Afon Wen for students currently in Year 8 who will be in Year 9 in the upcoming academic year.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a highly respected and nationally recognised youth achievement programme that helps young people develop essential skills for life and work. We are proud to offer this opportunity as part of our commitment to developing well-rounded, resilient, and community-minded individuals.

Year 9 Options letter

All year 9 pupils have received confirmation of the options that they have selected for the next academic year. Please ensure that the options are correct and speak to Mrs Brewer, Deputy Headteacher if there are any concerns.





Summer reward trips

The Summer Reward Trips are almost here, please read the information below carefully for final details.

Without the completed consent form or full payment your child will not be allowed on the trip.

Tuesday 14th July

Year 4, 5 & 6

- Choice of Cinema or bowling (selection made as part of consent form)
- Departure time: 9.30am
- Return to Ysgol Afon Wen: 12.30pm
- Pupils need to come to school at their normal time and collection will be at the usual time
- Pupils must be in school uniform
- Pupils will be back in school for their lunch.

- Film: Toy Story 5





Summer reward trips

Wednesday 15th July

Year 7 & 8

Cinema and Bowling at Nantgarw

- Arrive to school for 8.30am as normal
- Departure time 9.30am, return to Ysgol Afon Wen 2.00pm
- Leave school at 2.45pm as normal
- Pupils need to take lunch
- Non school uniform
- Pupils may bring money for snacks
- Lunch will be provided for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.
- Film: Toy Story 5

Paintballing, Cowbridge

- Arrive to school for 8.30am as normal
- Departure time 9.30am, return to Ysgol Afon Wen 2.00pm
- Leave school at 2.45pm as normal
- Pupils need to take lunch
- Non school uniform
- Pupils may bring money for snacks
- Lunch will be provided for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.

Trip 3 Alton Towers

- Arrive to school by 6.45am, buses to Alton Towers are departing at 7.00am.
- Buses are due to arrive back at Ysgol Afon Wen at 7.30pm
- Pupils need to take lunch
- Non school uniform
- Pupils may bring money for snacks
- Lunch will be provided for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.





Summer reward trips

Thursday 16th July

Year 9 & 10

Cinema and Bowling at Nantgarw

- Arrive to school for 8.30am as normal
- Departure time 9.30am, return to Ysgol Afon Wen 2.00pm
- Leave school at 2.45pm as normal
- Pupils need to take lunch
- Non school uniform
- Pupils may bring money for snacks
- Lunch will be provided for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.
- Film: Toy Story 5

Paintballing, Pentrych

- Arrive to school for 8.30am as normal
- Departure time 9.30am, return to Ysgol Afon Wen 2.00pm
- Leave school at 2.45pm as normal
- Pupils need to take lunch
- Non school uniform
- Pupils may bring money for snacks
- Lunch will be provided for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.

Trip 3 Thorpe Park

- Arrive to school by 6.45am, bus to Thorpe Park is departing at 7.00am.
- Buses are due to arrive back at Ysgol Afon Wen at 7.30pm
- Pupils need to take lunch
- Non school uniform
- Pupils may bring money for snacks
- Lunch will be provided for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.





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Community corner

BRAND NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH PIPYN

We are delighted to announce that we will be working in partnership with Pipyn in September. Our first block of weekly workshops will focus on family cooking and healthy eating and will run for 8 weeks during Autumn Term 1 on a Thursday afternoon. If you are a parent of a child aged 3 - 7 and interested in attending these workshops, please scan the QR code.

Further information will follow in September.

Pipyn

PWYSAU IACH
PLANT YNG
NGHYMRU

HEALTHY CHILDREN
HEALTHY WEIGHT
IN WALES

Do you live in Merthyr, Rhondda or Taff Ely?

Do you have children aged 3-7?

PIPYN can support you with ...



Practical Cooking



Active Play



Fussy eating



Healthy Snack Ideas



Healthy teeth



Reducing Screen Time



Positive Parenting



Sleep Routines

... and much more!

#HealthyHappyFamilies



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Community corner

GWEITHGAREDDAU ACTIVITIES

SUMMER FUN DAYS

FREE family events across Pontypridd this summer!

Everyone is invited to join the fun.
There is something for everyone!

Pickleball



Ysgol Bro Taf, Cilfynydd
Tuesday 21st July

Hopkinstown Cricket Club
Tuesday 28th July

Crafts



MUGA at Graig Park
Tuesday 4th August

Taff Meadow Community Centre
Saturday 8th August

Golf



Badminton



Ysgol Afon Wen
Tuesday 11th August

Glyncoch Community Centre
Thursday 13th August

Music



Circus Skills



11AM-2PM

GTFM

TYMOR YR HAF
CYNGOR TREF
PONTYPRIDD
TOWN COUNCIL



AMGUEDDFA
PONTYPRIDD
MUSEUM

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