YSGOL AFON WEN

# Newsletter 28.03.25

**Right of the month: Article 15: To meet with your friends and join groups and clubs**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been very lucky to have the NSPCC on site today delivering sessions for Year 8 and 9 about healthy relationships. The sessions were very informative and interactive and well received by the pupils.

For Year 11 pupils, having their second progress evening this week, taking home their final school report and having Colorfoto on school site to take their final school photography in preparation for their year book should be making the upcoming GCSE examinations feel even closer. We are all helping to support their revision in school and thank you for everything they are doing outside of the classroom to be as ready as possible. We want every pupil to have achieved the best they possibly could when they open their GCSE examinations results in August.

The school have had the opportunity to meet with members of the governing body this week and to see a draft version of the new Ysgol Afon Wen website which is coming along really nicely. We look forward to sharing with you as soon as it is ready.

We look forward to welcoming parents in for Nursery to Year 6 in for progress evening next week as well as Year 8 on Thursday.

## Dates for your diary

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd April 2025 | Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Progress Evening |
| Thursday 3rd April 2025 | Year 8 Progress Evening |
| Monday 7th April 2025 | INSET Day. School closed to pupils. |
| Thursday 10th April | Easter bonnet parade |
| Friday 11th April 2025 | Last day of Spring term |
| Monday 28th April 2025 | Pupils return to school for the Summer term |
| May 2025 | GCSE examinations start |
| Monday 5th May 2025 | May bank holiday. School closed to pupils. |
| Thursday 8th May 2025 | Year 7 Progress Evening |

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## Year 11 Examination preparation

Thank you for all of the year 11 parents who joined us for the progress evening on Thursday this week. We hope that you found it informative and that it helps to accelerate GCSE preparation and focus your child on the revision areas or deadlines needed. Please ensure that you have received the final written report if you did not attend the progress evening. Pupils will have brought copies home from school.

A reminder that there are practice examinations next week for the pupils. See timetable below.:

on EXAM countdown

4 teaching weeks remaining
20 school days
100 lessons

GCSE examinations start early May

| DATE | TIME | SUBJECT / PAPER |
|---|---|---|
| Monday 31st March 2025 | 8.30am – 10.00am* | Mathematics Paper Unit 1 Non- Calculator (1hr 30/45mins) |
| Monday 31st March 2025 | 11.10am – 1.10pm | Science "Walking talking" mock examination |
| Tuesday 1st April 2025 | 8.30am – 10.00am* | English Language Unit 2 (2 hours) |
| Tuesday 1st April 2025 | 11.10am – 1.10pm* | Mathematics Unit 2 Calculator (1hr 30/45mins) |
| Thursday 3rd April 2025 | 8.50-10.50am | Welsh "Walking talking" mock examination |

Please note: For Year 11 GCSE PE pupils who are involved in the moderation, they will complete the mock examinations missed on Wednesday 2nd April.

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## Year 11: Revision Sessions

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lunch | Music<br>(Demo room) | Music<br>(Demo room) | Music<br>(Demo room) | Music<br>(Demo room) | Music<br>(Demo room) |
| Afterschool | French **(Week 1)**<br>(2:45pm-3:15pm)<br><br>Hair and Beauty<br>(2:45pm-3:15pm) | English:<br>Clwb Saesneg<br>(2:45pm-3:45pm)<br><br>Practical Music Support<br>(2:45pm-3:30pm)<br><br>Art and Photography: A38<br>(2:45pm – 3:30pm) | Mathematics:<br>Higher: C4<br>(2:45pm-3:30pm)<br><br>Intermediate: C3<br>(3:00pm-4:00pm)<br><br>Foundation: C1<br>(2:45pm-3:30pm)<br><br>Additional:C4<br>(2:45pm – 3:30pm)<br><br>Product Design<br>(2:45pm- 4:15pm) | Religious Studies:<br>B1 (2:45pm-3:45pm)<br><br>Practical Music Support<br>(2:45pm-3:45pm)<br><br>Drama (2:45pm-4:30pm)<br><br>French (**Week 2**)<br>(2:45pm-3:15pm)<br><br>Argored Cymru and Welsh Baccalaureate<br>(3-5pm)<br><br>Product Design<br>(2:45pm-4:15pm)<br><br>Science<br>(2:45pm – 3:15pm)<br><br>Health and Social Care<br>**(Week 2)**<br>(2:45pm-3:30pm) | Argored Cymru and Welsh Baccalaureate<br>(3:00pm -5:00pm) |

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## Year 11 Examination preparation

This document was given to parents and carers in the Year 11 Progress Evening this week.

Not sure where to begin with revision for exams? Take a look at some of the ideas for revising below:

**Revision Tips at a Glance**

- Self Quizzing
- Using Prompt Cards
- Making revision stick-sticky notes
- Creating a timetable: spacing and interleaving
- Your Revision Environment

## How to Study: Self-Quizzing

***One of the biggest mistakes when revising is falling into the illusion of familiarity—you recognise something when you read it, so you assume you know it. But real learning only happens when you can recall information without looking and explain it with confidence.***

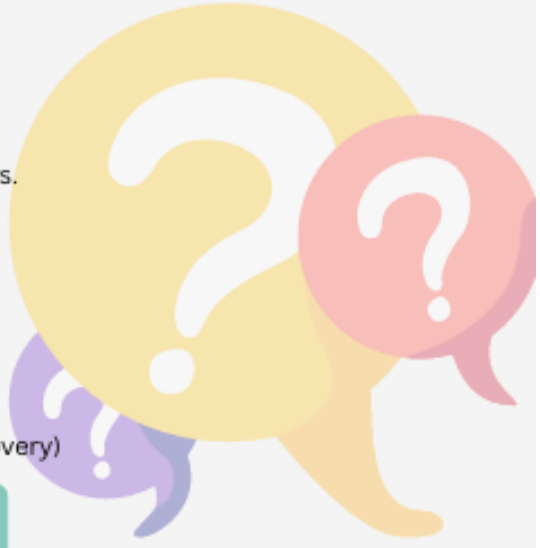
## What is Self-Quizzing?

**Self-quizzing is a simple and effective way to see what you know. It's great for remembering facts and key details, but it can also help with harder questions. You've likely seen different types of quiz questions before:**

- Basic recall: Who, when, what?
- Explanatory questions: Why or how?
- Comparison: What's the difference between X and Y?
- Problem-solving: Multiple-choice, true/false, or short answers.

**You can create your own questions for topics like:**

- Key definitions (e.g., what does osmosis mean?)
- Sequences (e.g., stages in an experiment or historical events)
- Diagrams (e.g., labelling parts of the heart)
- Explaining concepts in your own words
- Remembering key quotes (e.g., for English Literature)
- Retelling events (e.g., summarising a battle or scientific discovery)



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## School Lateness

Excellent school attendance is a priority for everyone at Ysgol Afon Wen and we are keen to encourage all pupils to take advantage of every teaching and learning opportunity available to them at school. This includes the very start of the school day.

Nursery to Year 6: School starts at 8.50am.

Year 7 to Year 11: School starts at 8.30am

In order to improve punctuality, pupils and parents/carers need to be aware that there will be sanctions placed on pupils who are late without a valid reason.

If a pupil is late to school the following actions will be applied.

- 1 instance of lateness in a week will result in the pupil meeting their Form /Class Teacher to discuss the reasons for, and impact of their late arrival.
- 2 instances of lateness in a week will result in the pupil being issued a breaktime detention by their Form/ Class Teacher.
- 3 or more instances of lateness in a week will result in an after school detention the following week.

The aim of these sanctions is to encourage an organised, calm start to the school day where all pupils are prepared and ready to learn.

Thank you for your continued support.

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## Nursery

A busy week in nursery. On Monday the pupils took part in a drama workshop. On Tuesday we completed a Spring Walk for Forest School and on Wednesday we started to make cards for Mothering Sunday

## Year 10 Work Experience

We understand that securing a work experience placement for your child takes time, and we truly appreciate the effort and support you are providing in arranging this valuable opportunity. To allow families additional time, we have extended the deadline for sourcing a placement until **Wednesday, 30th April**, after the Easter holidays.

A few key reminders:

- Work experience does not have to be within RCT; placements can be further afield if suitable.
- Employers must have **liability insurance in date** for the week of work experience. If this is not the case when organising the work experience, a copy of the renewed insurance document can be brought into school at a later date as long as this is before the work experience start date.
- A **copy of the liability insurance certificate** must be included with the completed form.
- Pupils should hand their completed forms to their **form tutors** once all details are confirmed.
- Work experience is about gaining valuable workplace skills, not necessarily in the exact field your child wishes to pursue. Some specific placements (e.g., certain hospital departments) may be difficult to secure, but related experiences (e.g., a care home) can still be highly beneficial.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and to those families who have already completed and returned the forms. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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## Activate Easter Bonnet Parade

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding an Easter bonnet parade for Activate pupils (Nursery to Year 3) on Thursday 10th April at 2pm in the school courtyard.

We encourage all children to participate in creating a unique and imaginative bonnet using recycled materials. The children have the next few weeks to design and construct their bonnets at home. A prize will be awarded to the creator of the winning bonnet in each year group. The judging will be undertaken by members of the school's governing body.

We understand that many parents would wish to attend the parade, however, due to logistical constraints, we regret to inform you that parents will be unable to attend the event itself. Nonetheless, we will ensure that all children wear their bonnets for collection at home time, providing you with the opportunity to admire their creations.

Please ensure your child brings their completed Easter bonnet to school on Thursday 10th April.

We look forward to a colourful and creative parade.

## No phones please

No phone from gate to gate.

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## Reception

Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their session with Looby Lou's storytelling company.

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## Celebration of Success

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been commended by their Progress leader or teachers.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nursery** | Archie Barnes | **Year 4** | Florence Lucas | **Year 9** | Alexis Welthagen |
| | Franki Webber | | Ella Dunn | | Ellis Griffiths |
| **Reception** | Everleigh-Sue Baker | **Year 5** | Rahmatullah Karo Khil | **Year 10** | Madison Bale |
| | Alethea Coomber | | Pako Malebye | | Max Thomas |
| **Year 1** | Ella Davies | **Year 6** | Jubril Olatunbi | **Year 11** | Cameron Brickell |
| | Havannah Pyne | | Tyler Hughes | | Emily Davies |
| | | | Lara May | | |
| **Year 2** | Romi-Rose Morris | **Year 7** | Emily Ackford | | |
| | Melissa Randyte | | Ibrahim Karasuwa | | |
| **Year 3** | Ayra Kong | **Year 8** | Shaye James | | |
| | Jaxon Jones | | Cameron Johns | | |

## Attendance

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nursery | 82% | Year 4 | 92% | Year 9 | 82% |
| Reception | 88% | Year 5 | 93% | Year 10 | 83% |
| Year 1 | 94% | Year 6 | 91% | Year 11 | 83% |
| Year 2 | 93% | Year 7 | 89% | | |
| Year 3 | 91% | Year 8 | 89% | | |

Congratulations to **Year 1** who have the highest attendance this week. The school expects every pupil to have at least 90% attendance to school. A high level of attendance to school supports high levels of attainment and wellbeing.