

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today in school was Pi day. Pupils had the opportunity to learn more about circles and had a Pi off to see how many digits of Pi they could remember. It was very interesting and you will see more about this in the later pages of the newsletter!

Thank you for your continued support and understanding whilst the building company complete Phase 3 of the building work. The grounds of Ysgol Afon Wen is really starting to take shape and I am sure that the pupils cannot wait to be able to walk quickly between the buildings and start to use the amazing new MUGA in front of the building as well as the new picnic benches and outdoor classroom. Please continue to be mindful of members of the community and local businesses to ensure that the temporary limited parking is not negatively affecting others. Additional parking is available at the Leisure centre. We will focus on site safe practice next week with all pupils and would appreciate everyone revisiting these important messages as pupils travel to and from school and around the local community.



Final preparations are also taking place for Year 11 pupils as the GCSE examination series in May/June is six teaching weeks away. There are many revision sessions taking place in school and pupils should have prepared revision timetables for their independent work and have started their vital revision. Please see information overleaf specifically for Year 11.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Friday 14 th March 2025	Final Year 9 options deadlines & Pi Day
Tuesday 18 th March 2025	Year 9 Vaccinations
Wednesday 2 nd & Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Progress Evening
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Year 8 Progress Evening
Monday 7 th April 2025	INSET Day. School closed to pupils.
Friday 11 th April 2025	Last day of Spring term
Monday 28 th April 2025	Pupils return to school for the Summer term



Year 11 information: Examination Practice

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming English, Mathematics and Science GCSE Mock Examinations that your child will be undertaking. These examinations present a valuable opportunity for your child to practise examination and revision techniques, as well as further strengthen their understanding of individual strengths and areas for development. They will also provide a useful opportunity for class teachers to focus on key elements of the subject to revisit ahead of the summer examinations. The Mathematics and English papers will be a practice examination, whereas the Science paper will be a walk-through session with teaching staff to explain how to answer questions. We hope that the combination of techniques will support all learners.

As always, your child will be supported by their class teachers and will be well-prepared for this useful opportunity. Consideration for any access arrangements in place to support individual needs will also be in place during these mock examinations to ensure all pupils are able to perform to the best of their abilities.

Details of these mock examinations are as follows:

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 1 April 2025	8.30am – 10.00am*	English Language Unit 2 (2 hours)
Tuesday 1 April 2025	11.10am – 1.10pm*	Mathematics Unit 2 Calculator (1hr 30/45mins)

* If your child is entitled to extra-time in line with individual access arrangements, the end time will be extended to reflect this. All pupils will access usual break / lunch times.

If you have any queries regarding this important mock examination period, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Godfrey (English), Mrs Renault (Science) or Mrs Soper (Mathematics).

We recognise the importance of the weeks that lie ahead as we prepare for the examination period and remain committed to securing the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

Year 11 information: GCSE timetables

An overview of the GCSE examination dates have been published to pupils and parents via Class Charts and on paper in order to support pupils to plan a revision timetable. Individual GCSE examination timetables will be released in April.



6 teaching weeks remaining
30 school days
150 lessons

GCSE examinations start Early May

Year 11 information: Study Leave

Please note that Year 11 pupils are required to attend scheduled lessons daily until May half term. Even when the GCSEs start in early May, pupils are expected to attend school every day. If they have an examination, they go to the exam venue, if they do not they attend normal lessons. After the May half term, pupils can attend for examinations and scheduled revision sessions only with the permission of their parents. A programme of revision is being created to support the pupils prior to examinations.

Year 11 information: Year book & friendship photographs

We are delighted to inform you that ColorFoto will be visiting us on the 28th of March to capture both individual and friendship photos for Year 11 learners. The cost for each friendship photo is £5 per person, and payment will be taken on the day of the shoot.

To ensure that all your preferences are noted, please complete the questionnaire that is on the Year 11 Google Classroom Page, listing the names of those you wish to include in your friendship photo. Only one representative from each friendship group should fill in the form. Remember, your child may appear in more than one friendship photo; just make sure to include your name on each relevant list. The cost will remain at £5 for each photograph your child appears in. The questionnaire is to be completed by 21st of March.

Additionally, every pupil will have their new school photo taken, which will be compiled into a Year 11 group photo for 2024/2025. These photos will be included in the yearbook, allowing students to cherish these memories for years to come. We encourage all students to participate and look forward to capturing these precious moments!

Year 11 information: Welsh Oral Examinations

The Speaking Exams are an important part of the GCSE assessment process, and we want to ensure that your child is fully prepared and informed. These exams will be conducted in two parts, referred to as Unit 1 and Unit 2. Students will be assessed in pairs or small groups and will need to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills in Welsh.

Unit 1 Exams will be held on **18th, 19th, and 20th March**. Students are required to report to the A22 holding room on the day of their exam. They will remain there until they are called to watch a clip, which will form part of the exam preparation. After watching the clip twice, students will have 10 minutes to revise and prepare before recording. For students entitled to extra time, an additional 2.5 minutes will be provided for preparation. Students will then enter the exam room to complete their speaking tasks with their Welsh teacher.

Unit 2 Exams will be held on **25th, 26th, and 27th March**. For Unit 2, the assessment will be based on an infographic rather than a clip. The recording time will differ depending on the group size. Students in a group of three will have up to 10 minutes for the recording, while students in pairs will have 8 minutes, which is the same as the time for Unit 1.

There will be a changeover of students for the afternoon sessions, and a different clip will be shown to those in the PM sessions.

Please see more information in the letter sent home via class charts.



Progress Evenings

Nursery Progress Evening will be held over four afternoons during the week commencing 31st March. Mrs Calvad has already arranged appointments with parents/carers.

Year 8: Progress Evening to be held on THURSDAY 3rd APRIL in Theatre. Pupils have received an appointment schedule. Please remind all Year 8 pupils to book an appointment with their class teachers.

Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Progress Evening will be held on Wednesday 2nd April or Thursday 3rd April. Class teachers will be discussing which date/time is mutually convenient.

Sport Relief

This year's Sports Relief is on Friday the 21st of March and we will be supporting this worthy cause. .

The activities planned are:

- A beat the form tutor quiz in form time.
- A basketball shoot out for early break.
- A staff v student netball game for early lunch.

Pupils will be expected to wear normal school uniform on this day, however, if anyone would like to support the fundraising please use the QR code which will support Sport Relief.



Tesco "Fruit for friends"

When you go to Tesco to do any shopping in April please put in blue tokens into the collection for our project called Fruit for Friends at Ysgol Afon Wen.

These are the stores that we will have our blue token collection points:

3063 Pontypridd Extra CF37 5SN

5673 Treforest Express Express CF37 1BT

5726 Church Village Express Express CF38 1PW

6238 Llantwit Fardre Express Express CF38 2LT

6492 Pontypridd Taf St Express Express CF37 4UY



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

Celebration of Success



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

Nursery	Tobias Whittington	Year 4	Josie Wither	Year 9	Oliver Hughes
	Ronnie Dembiniok		Bradley Davies		Taylor Canning
Reception	Finley Rees	Year 5	Oscar Williams	Year 10	Favour Kola-Olusa
	Max Delaitre-Morgan		Cody Pitman		Thomas Hughes
Year 1	Carson Pitman	Year 6	Callum Matthews	Year 11	Finley Dyer
	Jacob Holliday		Carys Haines		Roza Almaghribi
Year 2	Shevin DeSilva	Year 7	Hallie Davies		
	Evan Humphries		James Rossiter		
Year 3	Lexi Chant	Year 8	Rowan McKinney-Harris,		
	Jake Jones		Archie McFarlane-Baxter Cody Webber		

Attendance

Nursery	82%	Year 4	92%	Year 9	83%
Reception	86%	Year 5	93%	Year 10	83%
Year 1	93%	Year 6	91%	Year 11	83%
Year 2	93%	Year 7	89%		
Year 3	91%	Year 8	90%		

Congratulations to **Year 1, 2 and 5** 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.





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Innovation Faculty News



Trockstar Winners:

Congratulations to 7RCN and Dosbarth 6X for winning the February Half Term Trockstar competition. Both classes will enjoy a movie afternoon on the 21st of March.



Science:

Year 5 has been continuing to learn about Earth and Space in Science lessons this week. They have been designing and testing out Mars landers to successfully land astronauts (eggs) on Mars. Despite some casualties, most 'astronauts' made it there safely!



Numeracy Challenge:

Give the questions a go, answer on your year group Google Classroom and gain some ClassChart Points

YS GOL AFON WEN

A group of friends agrees to pay for a meal that costs £120. If three of them agree to pay an equal share, how much does each person owe? If one friend pays half of the total, assuming how the remaining costs are shared among the others.




YS GOL AFON WEN

A box contains red, blue, and green balls, with a total of 30 balls. If there are twice as many red balls as blue and 10 green balls, how many blue balls are there?



YS GOL AFON WEN

There are 24 cookies in a jar. If one-quarter of them are chocolate chip, how many chocolate chip cookies are there?






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Innovation Faculty News



Numeracy Pupil of the Month:

We are thrilled to announce our Numeracy Pupils' of the Month! This accolade goes to an exceptional students' who has not only demonstrated outstanding numerical skills but has also effectively applied numeracy across the curriculum. Whether calculating angles in geometry, analysing data in science, or managing budgets in our Maths projects, these pupils' have consistently showcased their ability to connect numeracy with real-world applications. Their dedication and enthusiasm for learning inspire their peers and contribute greatly to our learning community. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition; we are excited to see what you will achieve next!





Innovation Faculty News



Pi Day

We are thrilled to share the highlights from our recent Pi Day celebrations, an event that brilliantly blended Creativity, Life and Innovation, and a bit of friendly competition!



A standout feature was the much-anticipated Pi Off competition, where pupils showcased their memorisation skills for a chance to win £10 Amazon vouchers.

Throughout the three phases of YAW, our talented students astonished us with their ability to recite an impressive 43 digits of Pi.



In the spirit of Innovation, students participated in the exhilarating Pi in the Sky Challenge, merging mathematics with scientific inquiry to explore the significance of Pi in various contexts. In mathematics, students investigated Pi and discovered the relationship between the diameter and the circumference of a circle.

Creativity thrived in our Creativity Faculty, where students crafted imaginative stories featuring numbers they don't encounter daily, all while engaging with a reading comprehension task centred on Pi.

Additionally, our Life Faculty students dug deeply into history, taking on the sensitive topic of the Holocaust and creating a Responsibility Pie, fostering a meaningful dialogue around this crucial subject.



In our Activate phase, Reception embarked on a thrilling bear hunt, discovering circles in nature around them. Our young learners then crafted beautiful Pi necklaces, proudly showcasing the digits of Pi. To top it off,

they utilised Scratch to develop a fun Pi generator, blending creativity with coding. What a fantastic day of mathematics and discovery! Overall, our Pi Day celebrations were a resounding success, inspiring a love for mathematics in our students while promoting creativity and critical thinking!

