

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you very much for your support this week with the change in parking facilities at the school. The understanding from everyone in the community has been really appreciated. We look forward to the work on Phase 3 being completed and the children being able to use the amazing new MUGA in the front of the school as well as the lunchtime seating and see the final landscaping effect.

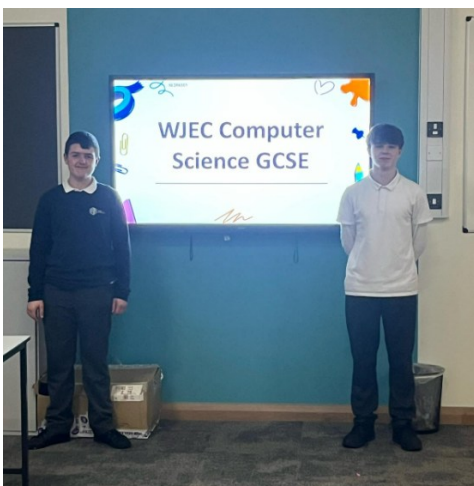
As you have been made aware via letter at the beginning of the week, Mrs Crockett (Headteacher) will have a short period of absence. Mrs S Brewer will assume Acting Headteacher effective of 10.3.25 on a temporary basis until her return. She will be supported by Mrs K Gwyn, Senior Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Officer, Mrs L Walters Acting Deputy Headteacher and the wider leadership team.

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Final Year 9 options deadlines & Pi Day
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year 9 Vaccinations
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET Day. School closed to pupils.
Thursday 3rd April	Year 8 Progress Evening

## Celebration of Success

Congratulations to Samson in Year 11 who can be seen here signing autographs with younger pupils as he has been signed by Cardiff Blues rugby. Samson plays a forward and trains twice a week, playing matches in Cardiff Arms Park stadium for the U16 team. The Year 6 pupils were asking for his autograph whilst quizzing him on the position he is playing on the pitch and finding out more about the team.



Congratulations to Seth and Tom who took responsibility for the Year 9 Computer Science GCSE information session. They were incredible and clearly demonstrated why they are part of the student leadership team. They are already preparing a year 9 taster session for pupils once the options have been chosen.

They are going to be excellent leaders of the future. Well done.





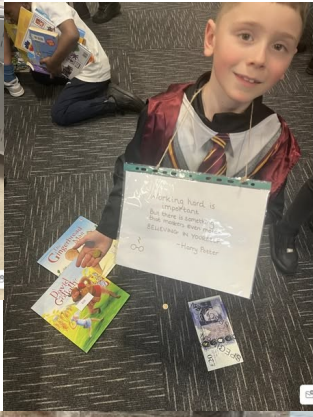
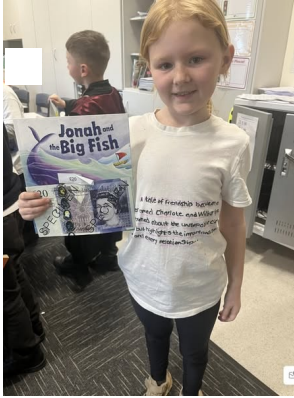
YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 06.03.25

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

## World Book Day

Diolch also to our wonderful staff and pupils or their efforts to bring stories to life! [#WorldBookDay](#)

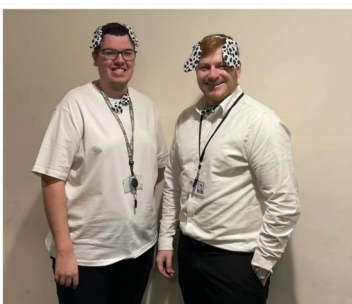


### The Importance of Reading

Just 20 minutes of reading a day exposes children to 1.8 million words per year!

Reading improves memory, focus, and problem-solving abilities – skills essential for all subjects.

Children who enjoy reading are more likely to report higher levels of happiness and self-confidence.





## World Book Day

### The Importance of Reading



Reading is one of the most powerful ways to support a child's overall educational development. Research consistently shows that regular reading leads to higher academic achievement, stronger language skills, and improved well-being.

### What do the facts say?

Just 20 minutes of reading a day exposes children to 1.8 million words per year, significantly boosting vocabulary, comprehension, and academic success

Reading improves memory, focus, and problem-solving abilities – skills essential for all subjects.

Children who enjoy reading are more likely to report higher levels of happiness and self-confidence.

### What can you do to help?

- **Make Reading a Daily Habit** – Set aside at least 20 minutes each day to read together or independently.
- **Read Together and Talk About Books** – Read aloud using expression and voices, and ask questions about the story.
- **Use the Local Library** – Libraries offer free access to books, e-books, and audiobooks. There is a library in Pontypridd and Rhydfelin.
- **Be a Role Model** – When children see parents / guardians reading, they are more likely to develop the habit themselves.





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## Celebration of Success



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

<b>Nursery</b>	Tomas Cowlshaw	<b>Year 4</b>	Thomas Davies	<b>Year 9</b>	Hollie Collins
	Marlowe Driscoll		Halen O' Leary		Ava Ryan
<b>Reception</b>	Florence Palmer	<b>Year 5</b>	Amelia King	<b>Year 10</b>	Caitlin Perry
	Isaac Jenkins		Cameron Hickey		Ewan Clothier
<b>Year 1</b>	Ire Omotoso	<b>Year 6</b>	Maddison Williams	<b>Year 11</b>	Codie Patterson
	Romi-Rose Mann		Izobel Williams		Grace Peace
<b>Year 2</b>	Cariad Davies	<b>Year 7</b>	Jacob Gay		
	Aliya John		Fiona Huang		
<b>Year 3</b>	Abdul Karo Khil	<b>Year 8</b>	Leo Townley		
			Cameron Johns		

## Attendance

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

Congratulations to **Year 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.



## Young Carers

**HAPPY** **HEALTHY** **READY** **RESPECTFUL** **RESPONSIBLE**  
*Hapus Iachus Barod Parchus Cyfrifol*

**Young Carers Action Day 2025: Wednesday 12th March**



**Young Carers Action Day**  
**Wednesday 12 March 2025**

Young carers and young adult carers are people under 25 that look after family members because of illness, disability or addiction.

With so much responsibility on their shoulders, they have little time for themselves.

They need time out from caring to rest, recharge and focus on themselves – a hobby, studying, or simply spending time with friends.

Help give young carers a break.

Find out more and get involved:  
[carers.org/ycad](https://carers.org/ycad)  
 #YoungCarersActionDay


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At Ysgol Afon Wen, we know that some of our young people care for family members.



We are here to support you.  
**Every day.**

**Mrs Natale-Vaughan** (*based in C block*) is our **Young Carers Lead** and is available should you need a chat or some advice. If you do care for a family member and haven't shared this with school, please let us know so that we can support you.



**Young Carers Action Day**  
**Wednesday 12 March 2025**

**Give Me A Break!**

Are you under 25 and looking after a family member because of illness, disability or addiction? Or does this sound like one of your friends?

Young carers and young adult carers have so much responsibility on their shoulders. They need a break from caring to have time for themselves – maybe for a hobby, or just hanging out with friends.

Help us give young carers a break.

Download our social media assets to get involved:  
[carers.org/ycad](https://carers.org/ycad)  
 #YoungCarersActionDay

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## Immunisations

**YEAR 9**

**Immunisations are important!!**

- Immunisation is a way of helping to protect you against serious diseases
- Your body will be better at fighting these diseases if you come into contact with them
- Having a vaccine protects you and vulnerable people in the community e.g. babies and people unable to have vaccines. This is called herd immunity.
- **Please return your consent form to school ASAP!!**
- **Vaccines session 18.03.25 – have breakfast, wear short sleeve top, don't worry 😊**

Immunisations are estimated to save **2-3million** lives across the world every year

## Community Partnerships

### **Building Bonds with Lego Therapy**

Activate learners have been busy unlocking the power of play through Lego Therapy sessions this term. The first sessions introduced the concept to parents, highlighting the many benefits—boosting social skills, improving communication, and fostering teamwork. Parents saw first-hand how structured play can help learners develop problem-solving skills and confidence in a fun and engaging way. As the sessions progressed, the focus shifted towards key skills such as communication, relationships, and collaboration. Learners worked in teams to follow instructions, take turns, and express their ideas—laying the foundations for stronger friendships and a greater sense of belonging. The room buzzed with creativity and concentration as teams built impressive Lego structures, proving that play isn't just for fun—it's a powerful tool for growth!

### **Senedd —Learner Voices in Action**

Our learners have been sharing their thoughts loud and clear in our latest Senedd discussions, and the results have been inspiring! Many positive points were raised, highlighting what's working well and what could be improved. Behind the scenes, our sub-committees have been working hard, making real progress on the issues raised by learners. From making learning spaces more accessible to ensuring that every student's voice is heard, we are committed to making meaningful changes that benefit everyone.

### **A Visit from the Children's Commissioner for Wales**

This half term, we had the privilege of welcoming the Children's Commissioner for Wales' team, who led insightful sessions on children's rights and January's Monthly Matter. Learners explored their rights in an engaging and interactive way, gaining a deeper understanding of their place in the world and how they can advocate for themselves and others. The visit was a fantastic opportunity to reinforce the importance of being informed and empowered young citizens.

### **Feathered Friends and Cross-Phase Collaboration**

Nature and teamwork came together beautifully as Advance and Achieve learners joined forces for the RSPB Big Bird Watch. This cross-phase initiative encouraged students to appreciate the wildlife around them while working together to identify different bird species. Armed with binoculars and bird guides, learners eagerly took notes, compared findings, and deepened their connection with the natural world. It was a brilliant way to blend science, teamwork, and outdoor learning—all while contributing to an important conservation project.

### **Rights Respecting Schools—Our Journey Continues**

Ysgol Afon Wen remains dedicated to achieving the Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award. A series of thought-provoking assemblies focused on mutual respect, encouraging learners to reflect on how they can contribute to a more inclusive and supportive school community. Staff have also been involved in this journey, taking part in a special after-school twilight training session on children's rights. This ensures that every member of our school community understands the importance of upholding and promoting these rights. Want to learn more? Watch this informative video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuG0ItHTRUM>.

With so much happening this term, it's clear that Ysgol Afon Wen continues to be a place where learning, inclusion, and respect flourish. Here's to more exciting opportunities next half term!



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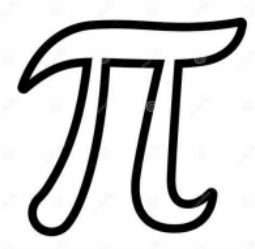
## Pi Day

Join us for an exciting celebration of Pi Day! We have an array of circle-themed lessons for Year 8 and below, exploring the fascinating world of circles through engaging activities. Pupils will have the unique opportunity to win an Amazon Voucher in each phase by reciting as many digits of Pi as they can remember!

For our Years 7-11 students, come to the theatre during lunchtime to participate in the thrilling Pi OFF! Show off your skills and see if you can outdo your peers. Meanwhile, our younger pupils in Years 6 and below are invited to the Upper Heart Space at lunchtime for their own challenge. Don't miss this chance to enjoy maths and celebrate Pi Day in style!




Pi Day  
3.14  
14th March



**Pi OFF!**  
LEARN THE DIGITS OF PI

Come to the Theatre during lunch time on the 14th March (3.14) and recite as many Pi digits as you can. Winner in each phase will get a prize.



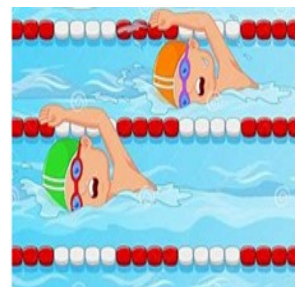
## LIFE Faculty

### Pupil Shout outs

Year/ Subject	Name
Welsh Baccalaureate	Year 10- Mikayla Davies, Emilie Rees, Keeli Slocombe, Xavier Warner, Deagan Dragon - Shmylo , Daniel Agbo Year 11- Ruby Ford, Brooke Harvey, Jay Cummings, Leila Cox
Humanities	Year 7 - Frankie Jonathan, Ava Perry, Owain Matthews, Jayden Mason Year 8 - Molly Mills & Hayden Booker Year 9 - Lily-Mae Gardener, James Beese, Michelle Johnson-Ibe
Ethics	Year 10 - Tehila Goje, Evie Webber, Emma Davies Year 11 - Emily Davies, Sam Meredith, Evan Arnold, Leon Jackson, Jayden Lewis
Geography	Year 10 - Daniel Agbo & Karen Lee Year 11 - Lexie Walsh & Franky Bonner
History	Year 10 - Kaila Hansen-Spure Year 11 - Emily Davies
Physical Education	Year 7 - Danny Betts, Tyler Winter, Indie Reece, Darla Sharp, Payton Treeby Year 8 - Sofia McFarlane-Baxter Year 9 - Evie Hopkins, Courtney Shinton, Olivier Mason, Gwen Owen Year 10 - Emma Davies, Kaila Hansen-Spure

### RCT Swimming lesson interventions

14 students from Year 7 have been working closely with RCT Swim Coaches to reach the national swim standards. This programme goes up to Easter and students have been working well to graduate from this programme.



## Welsh Baccaulaureate

On the 3rd March, Year 10 were busy teaching younger students of the school about social issues. The year 10 pupils worked really hard and prepared lots of resources to use for the Year 8 pupils.

This community challenge makes up 25% of the pupils overall Welsh Baccaulaureate grade. Da iawn pawb!



Year 10 - Community Challenge ( with 25% of overall grade) **Monday 31st March 2025**

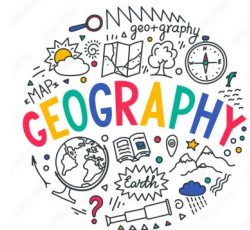


**Year 11 - Equality & Diversity deadline**

All coursework booklets need to be completed by Easter half term.

## GCSE Geography

GCSE Geography revision sessions are now running every Wednesday after school, 2:45 - 3:30 pm in B8 (Miss Warburton's room). These sessions will cover content from both year 10 and 11 and exam technique. All GCSE Geography students welcome. Unit 1 exam is Tuesday 13th May and Unit 2 exam is Friday 6th June for year 11!



## Year 6 Netball Tournament



On the 28th of February, our year 6 netballers ventured to Treorchy Comprehensive School and played in a Sport RCT tournament where they played 7 games. They won 4, drew 1 and narrowly missed out on 2 games. They went through to the final of the tournament on goal difference and lost 4-2. They scored 23 goals throughout the course of the tournament and were an absolute pleasure to watch from game 1 until the final. We are very proud of them!





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## PE Curriculum

Students in Year 7 have been engaging in a new creative / aesthetic activity...**Parkour!**

An activity chosen as part of student-voice, Parkour is also known as “free running” whereby students develop the **jumping, traversing, vaulting and safety roll skills** to travel through, over and under obstacles with **fluency and flair**.

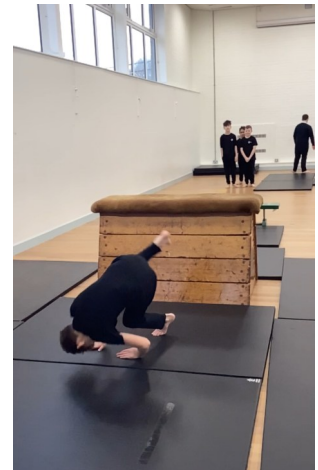
This unit has been delivered through a “Teaching Personal and Social Responsibility” approach which places students in positions of responsibility to promote positive social environments through the **monitoring and evaluation of personal behaviours, attitudes and dispositions**. Additionally, students have applied the concept of “**motivation**” across the unit to explore the role it plays in **setting meaningful personal goals and celebrating success throughout their lives**. Well done, all!



Name: *Opayemi Adebisi*  
 Year Group: *7/21/22*  
 Teacher: *Ms Campbell*

**My Self-Responsibility Checklist**

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6	Lesson 7	Lesson 8
<b>My self-control</b>								
I did no name calling or making fun of others	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I did not allow others to make me angry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
If I got mad, I tried to have self-control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I did not interrupt when somebody was talking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I stopped when the teacher blew the whistle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I held the equipment still whilst listening	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>My involvement</b>								
I listened to all directions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I tried all activities with enthusiasm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I worked even when I did not feel like it	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>My self-responsibility</b>								
I followed all directions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I was responsible for myself and my behaviour	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Even though I saw someone doing something wrong, I chose to mind my own business	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>My caring</b>								
I asked somebody to join my group, even though they were not my friend	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I took care of the physical education equipment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I encouraged people when things went wrong	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I said something nice to someone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



## BACK TO HOCKEY

### NEW & RETURNING PLAYERS



*Back To Hockey is fun, social and informal. We encourage Women of all ages and abilities to pick up a stick whether it is for the first time or returning after a number of years. Join us for fun and interactive sessions, in a super-friendly and relaxed environment - sticks provided!*

Social Sessions: Mondays & Thursdays 18:00-19:00  
 @ Ysgol Afon Wen, Hawthorn, CF37 5AL  
 Only 10 mins from M4 J32

**RHONDDA LADIES ARE A FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING CLUB, FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES**



Text Kay for more info: 07973 923066



Want to try something new? Give hockey a go!

## JUNIOR HOCKEY FREE TASTER SESSIONS

Junior Training (School years 3-9)  
 Mondays 6-7PM  
 Ysgol Afon Wen, Hawthorn, CF37 5AL

### GIVE HOCKEY A GO! ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED



Text Kay for more info: 07973 923066





## Health and Wellbeing

In Year 4 we have been looking at the importance of CPR. Pupils took part in the British Heart Foundation online, interactive course.

Pupils used their jumpers to practice CPR.

We talked through some scenarios where we may need to use CPR.



## “Life” in Nursery

In our P.E. sessions, we have been focusing on working with partners. Whether it be through performing a traditional Welsh folkdance or completing an obstacle course with a partner. Team work makes the dream work!



With Shrove Tuesday this week, we learned about the significance of the period and traditions of Lent to Christians. We also made pancake fruit faces to celebrate.

