

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much to all of the families who attended the Numicon workshops hosted by the school this week. It was wonderful to see numeracy as a focus for everyone and we hope that you all learnt many new things. There is more information overleaf. Following the workshops we are very pleased to be using the new resources in the outside spaces and in the classrooms for Mathematics lessons.

In addition, thank you to all staff and pupils involved in today's Sports Relief activities, our YAW team spirit was very much in evidence again today!

As you are aware, the school completed a lockdown drill today. As with our fire drill, we practice on a regular basis to ensure that pupils are familiar with the process in case of emergency. Our children and staff were absolutely fantastic and the drill went very smoothly.

The children in the Activate phase are currently working on an enterprise project which we look forward to sharing more information about in the future. Below you will see some of our nursery pupils working on their family pictures as part of this project.



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 7 th 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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Newsletter 21.03.25

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

Numicon Workshop



Thank you to the families who took part in the Numicon sessions run this week.

Numicon is a multi-sensory maths teaching resource designed to help children develop a strong understanding of numbers and number relationships. It consists of colourful, structured plastic shapes—each representing a different number from 1 to 10—with corresponding holes that can be counted, touched, and visually compared.

The shapes help learners *see, feel, and manipulate* numbers, making abstract mathematical concepts more concrete and accessible. Numicon is widely used in early years and primary settings to support counting, addition, subtraction, number bonds, and place value. It's particularly effective for visual and kinaesthetic learners, and is often used to support learners with additional needs or those who benefit from a hands-on approach to numeracy.

By encouraging exploration and pattern recognition, Numicon helps children build confidence and fluency in maths from an early age.



The parental feedback was extremely positive and included comments such as:

- ◇ Lovely workshop - really enjoyed seeing her learning and can adapt learning at home to be more fun.
- ◇ Really loved this class, both Isaac and myself.
- ◇ Very good ideas.
- ◇ Found it very useful for providing new ideas on how to work on Maths with my son.





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Numeracy Across the Curriculum

Achieve



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A group of friends offers 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, determine how the remaining costs are shared among the others.



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A box contains red, blue, and green balls, with a total of 50 balls. If there are twice as many red balls as blue and 10 green balls, how many blue balls are there?



Advance

Activate



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

Year 11 GCSE examinations

Please use the support in place from teaching staff and the revision sessions organised to support your learning. Please note that all pupils must continue to attend lessons daily until Friday 23rd May to support them with their examination preparation. No study leave is authorised prior to this date. This is completed at the direction of the Welsh Government.

Please note the dates of the practice examinations below. 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.

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)



5 teaching weeks remaining
25 school days
125 lessons

GCSE examinations start early May

Year 11 Progress Evening

All parents have been invited to attend the Year 11 Parents’ Evening at Ysgol Afon Wen on **Thursday 27th March, 2025** to revise progress and to support revision plans for the upcoming GCSE examinations. A specific time has been provided for each pupil.





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Celebration of Success



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

Nursery	Brooks Powell	Year 4	Ioan Strange	Year 9	Nathan Sowerby
	Kai Minnard		Lucy Blakely		Chinaza Obioma
Reception	Harry Oliver	Year 5	Noah Kelly	Year 10	Salmah Alabi
	Harlow-Mae Bartlett		Zion Abodunrin		Jenson Davies
Year 1	Austin Loveridge	Year 6	Seren Coles	Year 11	George Hill
	Cohane Lewis		Jackson Wheeler		Gwenny McCarthy
			Eryn Williams		
Year 2	Tomos Haines	Year 7	C-Jay Mann		
	Ashton Yim		Poppy Ley		
Year 3	Jaxon Lovegrove	Year 8	Ellie-Mai Gale		
	Dylan Lott		Favour Oladipo		
			Rylee Morgan		

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	91%		

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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Congratulations to two of our pupils who have both excelled in football this week.

Evan, Year 9 played in the first ever Wales Deaf Youth football 11 a-side match. Evan has been training with the Wales Deaf Youth Academy since September and was selected to captain the side last Sunday



Teigan, Year 10 has been selected to represent BGC Wales in the upcoming international fixture away to Scotland. We wish Teigan all the best in her game.



Pupil safety

Many pupils in Ysgol Afon Wen ride bicycles to school and around in the community which is actively encouraged for health and fitness as well as being a green method of transportation. If your child is riding their bike, please could you ensure that they are wearing a helmet for their safety. All pupils are asked to dismount on school grounds for the safety of others.



Head Towards Safety,

Wear a Helmet

RISKS:

 **2023 Injuries**



405,923

bicycle-related injuries
treated in the ER for all ages



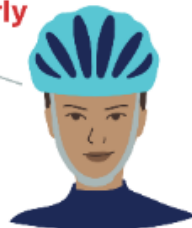
137,000

**bicycle & accessory
related head injuries**
treated in the ER for all ages

TIPS TO KEEP SAFE:

Wear it Properly

Sit it evenly
between your
ears and flat on
your head.



**Wear it low on your
forehead** 2 finger
widths above your
eyebrows.

**Tighten the chin
strap*** and adjust the
pads inside for a snug
and secure fit.

*Specific to bicycle helmets.



**Helmets are a
one-time use
product. Replace
your helmet
after impact.**



**Check the Label to
make sure it meets
CPSC standards.**



United States
Consumer Product Safety Commission

Access Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic
Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) Online Database

CPSC.gov
USCPSC



NSN
N911-10-100-004





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Safeguarding



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Safeguarding is Everybody's Business



Spotlight on Supporting and Safeguarding

Every week, we will be sharing information, tips and guidance we hope will support you to support your child. In order to ensure the information we provide is relevant and useful, please take two minutes to complete the brief Google form, via the QR code. Your input will assist us in developing our '*Spotlight*' updates. Diolch for your support.



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.
- ◇ 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 Miss Jenkins, Mr Jones or Mrs Stephens.