

Dear Parents/Carers,

The pupils have worked hard this week preparing for the Eisteddfod and the event today organised by the Welsh department did not disappoint. We hope that you enjoy looking at some of the photographs on the next pages.

Next week is half term, so we hope that every one gets to rest and recuperate and wish a Bon Voyage to the Ysgol Afon Wen ski trip. Have a superb time and stay safe on the slopes. In Austria.

After half term, we are looking forward to celebrating National Careers Week.



## Dates for your diary

Date	What's happening?
Monday 24th February	Half term
Wednesday 26th February	Ski trip departs
Monday 3rd March	All pupils return to school after half term
Wednesday 5th March	Ski trip returns
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Thursday 6th March	Year 9 Option Evening
Tuesday 18th March	Nursing service on site for vaccinations (Yr9)

## Carpark

**ADVANCED NOTICE: Please be advised that from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 until 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025, there will be no parking facilities onsite for parental use. Our car park will not be accessible during this period.**

Breakfast club drop off will operate as usual, with our central gate manned during this period.

This is due to the ongoing site works at the school during this final phase of the school's redevelopment, involving the youth wing refurbishment and to enable Tarmac works.

The car parks will be affected for this short period, and I ask everyone for their patience and continued support.





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 21.02.25

Right of the month: Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## Eisteddfod 2025





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 21.02.25

Right of the month: Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## Eisteddfod 2025



The whole school results were as follows:

In 4<sup>th</sup> place is TAF

In 3<sup>rd</sup> place is Cynon

In 2<sup>nd</sup> place is Rhondda

In 1<sup>st</sup> place is Elai

Heddiw oedd ein diwrnod Eisteddfod. Yr Eisteddfod gyntaf fel Ysgol Afon Wen! Gwnaeth dosbarthiadau derbyn i flwyddyn 9 cymryd rhan yn y diwrnod. Roedd llawer o weithgareddau fel canu, dawn-sio cadeirio'r bardd a gweithgareddau ymarfer corff fel pêl-rwyd, a phêl-droed! Roedd y diwrnod yn llawer o hwyl!

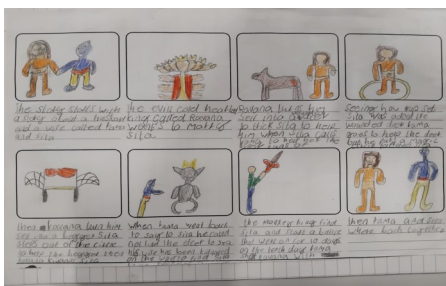
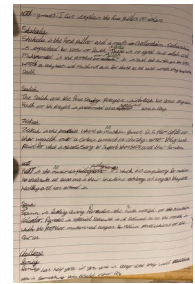
Today was our Eisteddfod day. Our first Eisteddfod as Ysgol Afon Wen! Reception to year 9 classes took part in the day. There were lots of activities like singing, dancing, chiring of the bard and PE activities such as netball and football. The day was lots of fun!



## World Religion Day at Ysgol Afon Wen By Emilie, Keeli, Xavier & Deegan

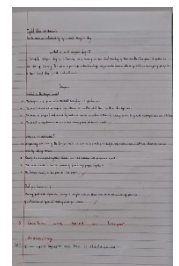
World Religion Day is a day used to recognise and celebrate other people’s beliefs and religions. It was created by the National Spirit Assembly in 1950, to promote understanding and solidarity between all religions, to overcome their differences and come together as an international community. World Religion Day was celebrated this year in Ysgol Afon Wen during the week of Monday the 20th of January and there were many activities undertaken to learn about the event.

Firstly, Dosbarth Saffir explored the 5 Pillars of Islam. Dosbarth Saffir wrote in detail about these 5 pillars and what they mean, and their understanding was then tested with a quiz. As a challenge, the class wrote about which pillar was most important in their lives.



Pupils in Year 4 looked at the Hindu religion, they watched a video of the Hindu story Rama and Sita and created a storyboard of this. Rama and Sita were married, when one day the demon king Ravanna kidnaps Sita and takes her to his palace and, with the help of the monkey king Hanuman, Rama looks for her. They find her on Ravanna’s island and there is a great battle, the demon king is finally defeated with Rama’s magic arrow and people light small lamps called divas in their windows to guide the couple home. Year 4 retold this story to this class.

Mr Couldrick’s class then focused on Langar in the Sikh religion, a communal meal shared by all of those who come to the gurdwara and this has been part of the Sikh religion since the time of Guru Nanak. The rules of Langar state that all of the food is free and given to all those who visit the gurdwara.



Years 7,8 and 9 had discussed the importance of community and what it means to them as an individual as well as designing a logo for Ysgol Afon Wen that represents their community.

Finally, for world religion day Year 10 conducted a social experiment based on respect and active listening. Half of Mrs Haines' class stood against the wall, with the other half sat on chairs, with their backs to the board, and the people on chairs were not allowed to look at the board. The people who were able to see the board then followed the instructions on it, for example: “talk to the person in front of you.” They then had to ignore that person, and then speak to the person next to them and more, to teach them about feeling ignored and how one moment a person can be your best friend, and the next, you do not exist to them. Highlighting the importance of re-



## World Book Day

We are very much looking forward to **World Book Day on Thursday 6th March**; it is always one of the highlights of the year. On the day, there will be many opportunities for pupils to celebrate their love of reading and share their favourite books with their peers.

### Wear a Quote

Instead of the more traditional practice of dressing up as characters from books, we are encouraging pupils in Activate and Advance to "wear a quote" from their favourite book, author, or literary piece. This will encourage creativity and enable pupils to reflect thoughtfully on the books they have experienced throughout their life.

### **What does "Wear a Quote" mean?**

Pupils can choose a quote that resonates with them from any book or author they love. They can then find a way to "wear" it. Here are some ideas:

- ◇ Write or design the quote on a piece of paper and pin it to their jumper.
- ◇ Create a homemade badge, sash, or headband displaying the quote.
- ◇ *Use fabric paints or pens to write a quote on a t-shirt.*

We believe the "Wear a Quote" day will also reduce the need for parents to buy or create costumes in an effort to support both family wellbeing and environmental sustainability. If parents and pupils would prefer to dress up as a character from a book, they may do so. **If not wearing a quote, or dressing up, pupils must otherwise wear normal school uniform on the day.**

We want to hear about the books pupils love to read and to inspire other children to read too and so pupils are encouraged to bring in the book that the quote comes from, so they can share with the class.

### Designing a Bookmark Competition

We are inviting pupils to **design their own bookmark** based on the theme "**Read Your Own Way.**" This is a fantastic opportunity for them to express their love of reading in a creative way!

Whether they choose to showcase their favorite books, characters, or reading places, we can't wait to see their imaginative designs. Pupils can use drawings, quotes, or any artistic style that represents how they enjoy reading.

We would love for as many children as possible to take part, and winners will receive the opportunity to get their bookmark printed!

Entries should be given to class teachers (Nursery - Year 6) and Literacy teachers (Year 7 and Year 8).

### World Book Day Vouchers

Activate and Advance pupils will be given a World Book Day book token.

They can choose one of the £1 books FREE with their £1 book token. Alternatively, children can swap their £1 token to get £1 off a full price book. Please note that the World Book Day book tokens cannot be used for online purchases. *You are able to use the Book Tokens at the following local retailers in Pontypridd: Storyville Book Shop, Lidl, The Works., Sainsburys or Tesco*



## Blossom Childcare facility

A new childcare facility offering Flying Start and Childcare Offer places has successfully opened at Ysgol Afon Wen – complementing the major recent investment that has provided first-class education facilities in Hawthorn. See more information below

[New childcare setting blossoming at modern school in Hawthorn](#)



## Celebration of Success

### **Gold Medal Glory: Giorgi Kirvalidze Qualifies for British Schools Judo Championship!**

Ysgol Afon Wen is incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Giorgi Kirvalidze, who has secured gold in the Welsh Judo Association Regional Schools Championships and has now qualified for the British Schools Judo Championship in Sheffield on Saturday, 8th March.

Competing in the Boys Years 10-13 under-66kg category, Giorgi demonstrated exceptional skill, strength, and determination to dominate his opponents and claim the top spot on the podium. His methods of victory showcased a well-rounded judo arsenal, with decisive Ippon wins—securing victories through expertly executed throws and submission techniques.

Beyond his sporting success, Giorgi is a dedicated and hardworking student, approaching his studies with the same focus and determination that he brings to the mat. He is a respectful and humble young man who leads by example, earning the admiration of both staff and peers. We are confident that his resilience and commitment will serve him well in Sheffield and beyond. Best of luck, Giorgi — everyone at Ysgol Afon Wen is cheering for you!



Welsh Judo Association  
Cymdeithas Judo Cymru

# Newsletter 21.02.25

Right of the month: Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## Celebration of Success



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

<b>Nursery</b>	Oakley Evans, Lucian Williams, Jonah Mansfield	<b>Year 4</b>	Millie Morgan Erin McCall	<b>Year 9</b>	Layla Ford-Searl Somilya Liyanage
<b>Reception</b>	Alethea Coomber, Adrian Crollman-Coombe, Bareera Akhtar, Thea Edwards	<b>Year 5</b>	Ruby Edwards Jensen Harris	<b>Year 10</b>	Karen Lee Cian Phillips
<b>Year 1</b>	Dottie Andrews, Ella Davies, Alba Edwards, Megan Strange	<b>Year 6</b>	Taran Leach Lily Rexhepi Dylan Jones	<b>Year 11</b>	Thomas Davies Josephine Ayandeji
<b>Year 2</b>	Jacob Thomas, Kyrian Ugochukwu, Sarsha Freeman, Ryan Rodgers	<b>Year 7</b>	Hakeem Jackson-Ali Darla Sharp		
<b>Year 3</b>	Bella Hann, Lowen-Mae Llewellyn, Harry McKenzie, Alaya Benkhassib	<b>Year 8</b>	Sienna Wilson		

## Attendance

Nursery	82%	Year 4	88%	Year 9	82%
Reception	90%	Year 5	91%	Year 10	81%
Year 1	93%	Year 6	89%	Year 11	81%
Year 2	90%	Year 7	87%		
Year 3	91%	Year 8	90%		

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.



## Mrs L Walters, Deputy Headteacher

Ysgol Afon Wen is delighted to introduce Mrs Walters, who is joining the team temporarily as acting Deputy Headteacher.

Mrs Walters is seconded from Porth Community School. Mrs Walters is part of the senior leadership team at PCS and has experience across all stages of learning.

## Year 9 Option evening: Thursday 6th March 2025

The year 9 options evening on Thursday 6th March will be run as a fair starting at 3.30pm and finishing at 6.00pm. Pupils and parents will be asked to select a subject information session during each time slot. You can attend as many or as few as you require. The information provided about the option choice schedule at 3.30pm will be repeated at 4.50pm. Please note that you child has already completed a free option choice and should be able to tell you the three subjects that interest them the most at the moment for their three GCSE option choices. The school recommends attending at least four subjects to gain information in case the creation of the option columns restricts individual choices.

Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 6th March 2025: 3.15-6.00pm								
Session 1 3.15 - 3.30pm	Explanation of options process and information on core subjects Mrs S Brewer, Deputy Headteacher <b>Theatre</b>							
Session 2 3.30 - 3.45pm	ART Room A36 Mr J Cox	HISTORY Room A34 Mrs H Boyce	MEDIA Room A35 Mrs C O'Carroll	PRODUCT DESIGN Room A16 Miss J Lawrence	MUSIC Room A37 Mrs L Fitzgerald-Lombard	PUBLIC SERVICES Room A33 Mr Alex Tucker	FRENCH Room A32 Ms R Crossen	GCSE PE Room A15 Mr J Campbell
Session 3 3.50 - 4.05pm	DRAMA Room A37 Mrs K Jones	GEOGRAPHY Room A34 Miss B Warbarton	PHOTOGRAPHY Room A35 Miss M Jenkins	HOSPITALITY Room A17 Miss M Price	COMPUTER SCIENCE Room A18 Mr D Spear	TRAVEL & TOURISM Room A33 Mrs Jo McCabe	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE Room A32 Mrs E Khelifi	NUTRITION & HEALTH Room A15 Miss Lara Phillips
Session 4 4.10 - 4.25pm	ART Room A36 Mr J Cox	RE GCSE Room A34 Mrs C Haines	MEDIA Room A35 Mrs C O'Carroll	TEXTILES Room A19 Miss J Lawrence	MUSIC Room A37 Mrs L Fitzgerald-Lombard	PUBLIC SERVICES Room A33 Mr Alex Tucker	FRENCH Room A32 Ms R Crossen	GCSE PE Room A15 Mr J Campbell
Session 5 4.30 - 4.45pm	DRAMA Room A37 Mrs K Jones	HISTORY Room A34 Mrs H Boyce	PHOTOGRAPHY Room A35 Miss M Jenkins	PRODUCT DESIGN Room A16 Miss J Lawrence	COMPUTER SCIENCE Room A18 Mr D Spear	TRAVEL & TOURISM Room A33 Mrs Jo McCabe	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE Room A32 Mrs E Khelifi	NUTRITION & HEALTH Room A15 Miss Lara Phillips
Session 5 4.50 - 5.05pm	Explanation of options process and information on core subjects Mrs S Brewer, Deputy Headteacher <b>Theatre</b>							
Session 5 5.10 - 5.25pm	DRAMA Room A37 Mrs K Jones	RE GCSE Room A34 Mrs C Haines	MEDIA Room A35 Mrs C O'Carroll	HOSPITALITY Room A17 Miss M Price	MUSIC Room A37 Mrs L Fitzgerald-Lombard	PUBLIC SERVICES Room A33 Mr Alex Tucker	FRENCH Room A32 Ms R Crossen	GCSE PE Room A15 Mr J Campbell
Session 5 5.30 - 5.45pm	ART Room A36 Mr J Cox	GEOGRAPHY Room A34 Miss B Warbarton	PHOTOGRAPHY Room A35 Miss M Jenkins	TEXTILES Room A19 Miss J Lawrence	COMPUTER SCIENCE Room A18 Mr D Spear	TRAVEL & TOURISM Room A33 Mrs Jo McCabe	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE Room A32 Mrs E Khelifi	NUTRITION & HEALTH Room A15 Miss Lara Phillips
Session 6 5.50 - 6.00pm	Leadership team & Progress Leader available to answer any questions <b>Dining Hall</b>							



YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 21.02.25

Right of the month: Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## Catering Survey for Year 7—11

English (United Kingdo...)

### School Meals Consultation

Young Wales are conducting a consultation on school meals for the Welsh Government. You are invited to share your views.

[Start now](#)

Young Wales are conducting a consultation on school meals for the Welsh Government. You are invited to share your views.

<https://forms.office.com/e/HH6G7cmhUV>

## Community Event

HAWTHORN & LOWER RHYDYFELIN KIDS' CLUB PRESENTS

FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2025  
6PM - 9PM

# GAMES NIGHT

HAWTHORN COMMUNITY CENTRE

A safe space to hang out, play old favourites and find new ones. Suitable for anyone of any age who likes to sit and play board games!

TUCK SHOP AVAILABLE!

FOR MORE INFO SEARCH 'HAWTHORN AND LOWER RHYDYFELIN KIDS CLUB' ON FACEBOOK

All children must be accompanied by an adult

## Lego Therapy

A selection of parents have been attending the Lego therapy course in YAW aimed at building team work skills and enhancing relationships. All pupils have been developing their fine motor skills and some excellent Lego creations.



Right of the month: Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country



In Year 8 Textiles, the 'Dragon Eye' project was a resounding success, with students showcasing their unique artistic interpretations and techniques. This activity not only developed their skills in using soft chalk pastels but also encouraged a deeper appreciation for art and mythology. The vibrant and imaginative designs produced by each student reflect their creativity and hard work, making the classroom feel like a gallery of mythical artistry. **Overall, the Year 8 Textiles class's work was a fantastic blend of creativity, learning, and teamwork, leaving each student with a unique piece of art and a memorable experience.**



These photos above showcase our No Pens Day activities, where our Year 6 students explored the concept of variation. The students demonstrated the diversity within the class through various methods: height was illustrated using a continuous variable graph, while hair colour, eye colour, and tongue rolling abilities were represented using bar charts, with each pupil serving as a column in the charts.

## TTrockstar Competition!

Attention all students in Advance and Lower Achieve Phase! Get ready for an electrifying challenge with our TTrockstar competition! This is your chance to showcase your times tables skills and earn the title of our ultimate maths champion! The competition kicks off next week, and we encourage everyone to take part.

Practice your multiplication and division skills on the TTrockstars platform, where you can compete against your classmates and climb the leaderboard! The more you practice, the better you become, and the more points you can earn!

The excitement doesn't end there! The winner of the competition will be rewarded with a fantastic movie afternoon, complete with popcorn and treats, to celebrate your amazing achievement!



**Win the battle of Ysgol Afon Wen**

Be the class/form class to win the battle.

Winning class/form class gets a Movie Afternoon.

**21/2/25 - 03/03/25**



## Hospitality and Catering Practical Exam

Congratulations to all the students who recently completed their GCSE practical cooking exams! We're proud to announce that everyone did an excellent job, demonstrating impressive culinary skills and creativity.

Well done on all your hard work and dedication—keep up the fantastic effort!

**Here are just a few of the amazing dishes that the year 11 GCSE students created last week!**

This exam involved the students cooking for 3 straight hours, where they had the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and creativity in the kitchen. We even had a taste testing session for the teachers to offer feedback to the students. The students loved hearing how much everyone enjoyed their fantastic dishes!

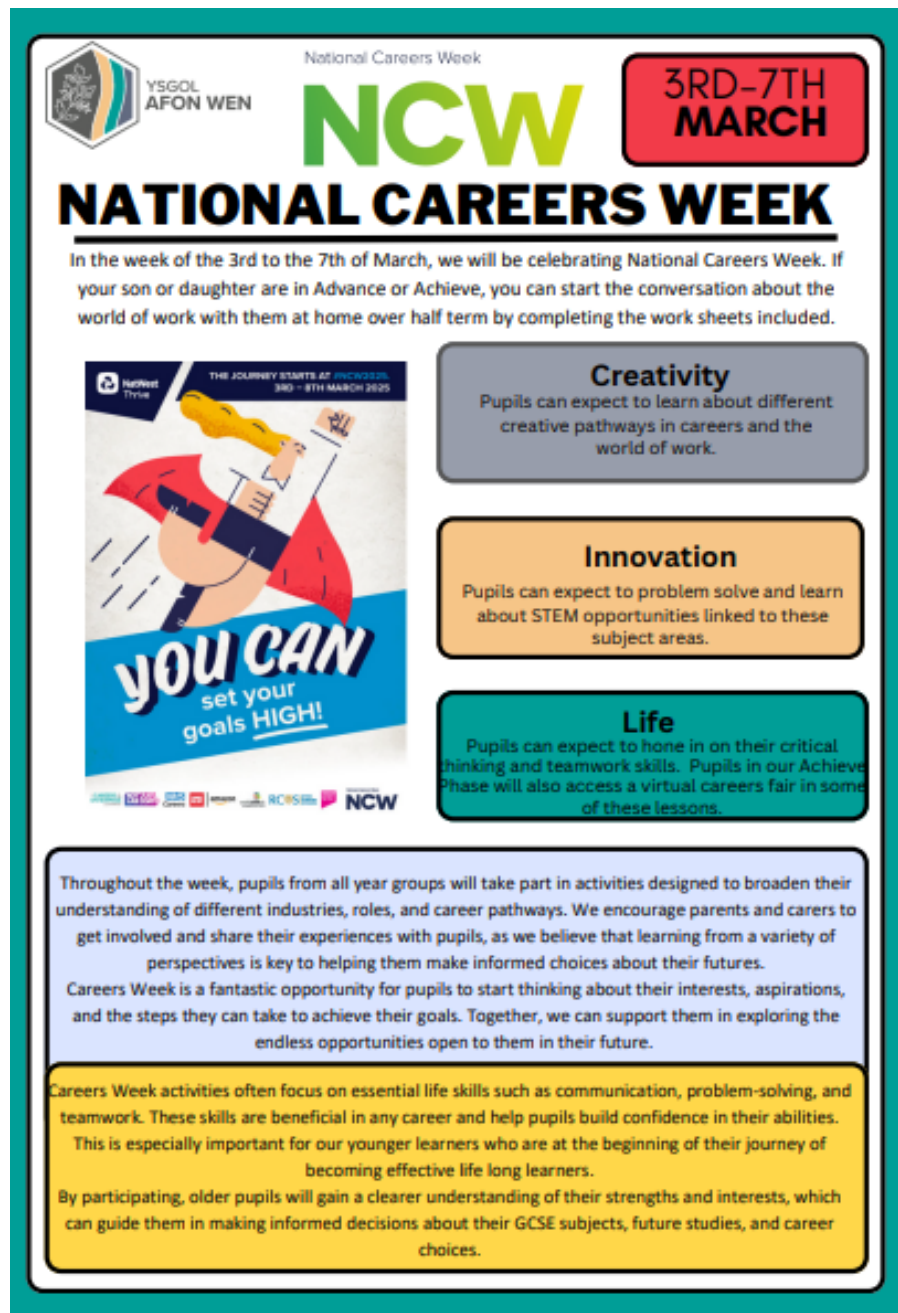


# Newsletter 21.02.25

Right of the month: Article 7: I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

## National Careers Week

During the week 3rd-7th March, we will be celebrating National Careers Week. See the attached for more details and how you can support your child at home too.



National Careers Week  
YSGOL AFON WEN  
**NCW**  
**3RD-7TH MARCH**

**NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK**

In the week of the 3rd to the 7th of March, we will be celebrating National Careers Week. If your son or daughter are in Advance or Achieve, you can start the conversation about the world of work with them at home over half term by completing the work sheets included.

**Creativity**  
Pupils can expect to learn about different creative pathways in careers and the world of work.

**Innovation**  
Pupils can expect to problem solve and learn about STEM opportunities linked to these subject areas.

**Life**  
Pupils can expect to hone in on their critical thinking and teamwork skills. Pupils in our Achieve Phase will also access a virtual careers fair in some of these lessons.

Throughout the week, pupils from all year groups will take part in activities designed to broaden their understanding of different industries, roles, and career pathways. We encourage parents and carers to get involved and share their experiences with pupils, as we believe that learning from a variety of perspectives is key to helping them make informed choices about their futures. Careers Week is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to start thinking about their interests, aspirations, and the steps they can take to achieve their goals. Together, we can support them in exploring the endless opportunities open to them in their future.

Careers Week activities often focus on essential life skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. These skills are beneficial in any career and help pupils build confidence in their abilities. This is especially important for our younger learners who are at the beginning of their journey of becoming effective life long learners. By participating, older pupils will gain a clearer understanding of their strengths and interests, which can guide them in making informed decisions about their GCSE subjects, future studies, and career choices.

## Work Experience for Year 10 pupils

Year 10 pupils will have the exciting opportunity to take part in a week's work experience in the week commencing 23rd June 2025. Please read the attached information as we are asking you as parents to secure the work placement for your son/daughter. This information will also be given to your child in paper format to bring home with them today.

