



# Newsletter 14.02.25

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

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.

Next week 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.

## 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.

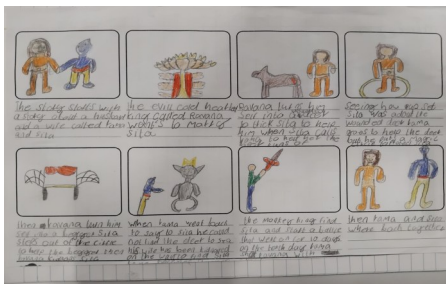
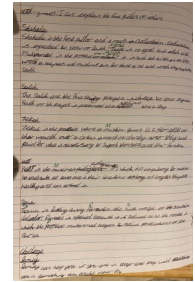
The car parks will be affected for this short period, and I ask everyone for their patience and continued support.



## 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.

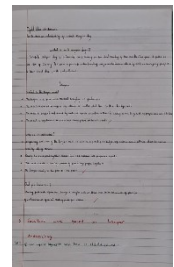
Firstly, Dosbarth Saffir explored the 5 Pillars of Islam. Dosbarth Saffir wrote in detail about these 5 pillars and what they mean, and their understanding was then tested with a quiz. As a challenge, the class wrote about which pillar was most important in their lives.



Pupils in Year 4 looked at the Hindu religion, they watched a video of the Hindu story Rama and Sita and created a story-board 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 respect.



## 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

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## Celebration of Success

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



Nursery	Year 4	Year 9
Reception	Year 5	Year 10
Year 1	Year 6	Year 11
Year 2	Year 7	
Year 3	Year 8	

## Attendance

Nursery	82%	Year 4	88%	Year 9	82%
Reception	86%	Year 5	92%	Year 10	82%
Year 1	95%	Year 6	93%	Year 11	84%
Year 2	93%	Year 7	92%		
Year 3	93%	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.



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## Mrs L Walters, Deputy Headteacher

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

## Year 9 options 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.

<b>Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 6th March 2025: 3.15-6.00pm</b>								
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 - 4.45pm	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
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Session 6 5.50 - 6.00pm	Leadership team & Progress Leader available to answer any questions <b>Dining Hall</b>							



YSGOL  
AFON WEN

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## 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