



Newsletter 31.01.25

Right of the month: Article 3: All adults should make decisions in the best interest of children.

Dear Parents/Carers,

New parent governors have joined the Governing Body this week and we have had the opportunity to meet the Governing Body and show them around the school and some of the work that the pupils have been doing. We are excited that Blossom Early Years is opening shortly and they have already held afternoons and invited members of the community.

It was an exciting week for the pupils in the Reception classes who had visits from some reptiles and learnt about different animals. The school Senedd meet this week and members of the Children’s Commissioners team has been discussing children’s rights. See information further on in the newsletter.

Dates for your diary

Date	What’s happening?
Friday 7th February	ACE day (no pens day)
Thursday 13th February	Year 9 Core subjects Parents’ Evening
Friday 21st February	Eisteddfod
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 Options Evening

Year 9 Options Process

Please refer to letter sent via Class Chart for more information. Pupils need to start making appointments to see their core subject teachers: English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh.



Thursday 13th February 2025

Year 9 Core subject parents evening

3.15pm – 6.00pm



Thursday 6th March 2025

Year 9 Options evening

3.15pm – 6.00pm





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School books and bags

All pupils in Year 7 to 11 have received information highlighting the importance of bringing their school exercise books home daily in order to revise, complete homework tasks set or additional work to reinforce what they have been learning in class.

As teachers and parents, we understand how critical it is for pupils to have regular opportunities to review and practise the material outside of school hours.

We ask for your support in ensuring your child brings a bag large enough to carry their equipment for school and school books home each day. A consistent revision routine can make a significant difference in their academic success and overall confidence.



10 teaching weeks remaining
50 school days
225 lessons

GCSE examinations start Early May

Equipment needed daily





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Activate & Lower Advance Menu

MEHEFIN 2023 - MEHEFIN 2024 JUNE 2023 - JUNE 2024 WYTHNOS 1 / WEEK 1 BWYDLLEN YSGOLION CYNRADD / PRIMARY SCHOOL MENU

DYDD LLUN MONDAY	DYDD MAWRTH TUESDAY	DYDD MERCHER WEDNESDAY	DYDD IAU THURSDAY	DYDD GWENER FRIDAY
PRIF BRYD MAIN MEAL				
Bolognese Pasta Neu Pizza Caws Cwbiau Tatws & Pherlysiau Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o India-corn, Pys, Salad tymhorol Pasta Bolognese Or Cheese Pizza Mains served with a choice of Herby Diced Potatoes, Sweetcorn, Peas, Seasonal Salad	Byseidd Pysgod Neu Pei Caws a Thatws Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o Tatws, Ffa Pob, Pys, Salad tymhorol Fish Fingers Or Cheese & Potato Pie Mains served with a choice of Potatoes, Baked Beans, Peas, Seasonal Salad	Brest Cyw Iâr Neu Filed Figan 'Quorn' Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o Tatws Foron, Swëds, Ffa Gwyrdd, Grefi, Salad tymhorol Chicken Breast Or Quorn Vegan Fillet Mains served with a choice of Potatoes Carrots, Swede, Green Beans, Gravy, Seasonal Salad	Ham Gamwn Neu Pasta â saws Caws a Thomat Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o Tatws Lysiau Cymysg, Pys, Salad tymhorol Gammon Ham Or Cheese & Tomato Sauce with Pasta Mains served with a choice of Potatoes Mixed Vegetables, Peas, Seasonal Salad	Selsig Porc Neu 'Dippers' Figan Quorn Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o Sglodion Tatws Pys, Ffa Pob, Salad tymhorol Pork Sausages Or Quorn Vegan Dippers Mains served with a choice of Chipped Potatoes Peas, Baked Beans, Seasonal Salad

PWDIN DESSERT				
Ffrwythau a Hufen Iâ Fruit & Ice Cream	Browni gellyg Fruity Pear Brownie	Crymbi Afalau gyda Chwstard Apple Crumble and Custard	Jeli ffrwythau Fruit Jelly	Ffrwythau Dydd Gwener Fruity Friday

hefyd ar gael

- Ffrwythau wedi'u paratoi'n ffres. Freshly prepared fruit.
- logurt wedi'i rew'i neu saws a chiaceti. Frozen Yoghurt or cheese and crackers.
- Llaeth a diwr ar sael gyda phob pryd. Milk and water available with every meal.
- Bara 50/50 di-ben-draw. Unlimited 50/50 bread.

Also available daily!

Gallwn hefyd ddarparu ar gyfer diet fegan a diet a ragodwyd yn feddygol. We can also provide for vegan & medically prescribed diets. Mae ein prydau'n cydymffurfio â gofynion rheoladau Safonau a Gofynion Maeth Llywodraeth Cymru. All our meals comply with the Welsh Government's Food & Drink Standards

MEHEFIN JUNE 2023				
Dydd Llun	Dydd Mawrth	Dydd Mercher	Dydd Iau	Dydd Gwener
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	01	02	03
26	27	28	29	30

GORFFENNAF JULY 2023				
Dydd Llun	Dydd Mawrth	Dydd Mercher	Dydd Iau	Dydd Gwener
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21

MEHEFIN 2023 - MEHEFIN 2024 JUNE 2023 - JUNE 2024 WYTHNOS 2 / WEEK 2 BWYDLLEN YSGOLION CYNRADD / PRIMARY SCHOOL MENU

DYDD LLUN MONDAY	DYDD MAWRTH TUESDAY	DYDD MERCHER WEDNESDAY	DYDD IAU THURSDAY	DYDD GWENER FRIDAY
PRIF BRYD MAIN MEAL				
Cyw Iâr a Thomat Pasta wedi'u Pobi Neu Selsig Llysieuol Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o Tatws Ffa Pob, Broccoli, Salad tymhorol Chicken & Tomato Pasta Bake Or Veggie Sausage Mains served with a choice of Potatoes Baked Beans, Broccoli, Seasonal Salad	Pizza 'Chicago Town' Neu 'Dippers' Figan Quorn Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o Pyffs Tatws Pys, India-corn, Salad tymhorol Chicago Town Pizza Or Quorn Vegan Dippers Mains served with a choice of Potato Puffs Peas, Sweetcorn, Seasonal Salad	Tafelli o Dwrci Neu Selsig Figan 'Quorn' Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o Tatws Foron, Broccoli, Lysiau Cymysg, Grefi, Salad tymhorol Sliced Turkey Or Quorn Vegan Sausage Mains served with a choice of Potatoes Carrots, Broccoli, Mixed Vegetables, Gravy, Seasonal Salad	Darnau o Cyw Iâr Brest Neu Olynyion Caws Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o Tatws Ffa Gwyrdd, Ffa Pob, Salad tymhorol Chicken Breast Chunks Or Cheese Wheels Mains served with a choice of Potatoes Green Beans, Baked Beans, Seasonal Salad	Ffiled o Bysgod Bara Neu Rholyn Selsig Figan Prif gyrsiau wedi'u gweini gyda dewis o Sglodion Tatws Pys, Ffa Pob, Salad tymhorol Breaded Fish Fillet Or Vegan Sausage Roll Mains served with a choice of Chipped Potatoes Peas, Baked Beans, Seasonal Salad

PWDIN DESSERT				
Sbwng Taffi Afal a Chwstard Toffee Apple Sponge & Custard	Ffrwythau mewn Jeli Fruit in Jelly	Cwci â darnau o Afal Cookie with Apple Slices	Ffrwythau a Hufen Iâ Fruit & Ice Cream	Ffrwythau Dydd Gwener Fruity Friday

hefyd ar gael

- Ffrwythau wedi'u paratoi'n ffres. Freshly prepared fruit.
- logurt wedi'i rew'i neu saws a chiaceti. Frozen Yoghurt or cheese and crackers.
- Llaeth a diwr ar sael gyda phob pryd. Milk and water available with every meal.
- Bara 50/50 di-ben-draw. Unlimited 50/50 bread.

Also available daily!

Gallwn hefyd ddarparu ar gyfer diet fegan a diet a ragodwyd yn feddygol. We can also provide for vegan & medically prescribed diets. Mae ein prydau'n cydymffurfio â gofynion rheoladau Safonau a Gofynion Maeth Llywodraeth Cymru. All our meals comply with the Welsh Government's Food & Drink Standards

MEHEFIN JUNE 2023				
Dydd Llun	Dydd Mawrth	Dydd Mercher	Dydd Iau	Dydd Gwener
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

GORFFENNAF JULY 2023				
Dydd Llun	Dydd Mawrth	Dydd Mercher	Dydd Iau	Dydd Gwener
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

WWW.RCTCBC.GOV.UK/ARLWYO WWW.RCTCBC.GOV.UK/SCHOOLCATERING

WYTHNOS 1 WEEK 1 WYTHNOS 2 WEEK 2

PHYLLEN PRISARAU PILLAU 18.45h - WWW.RCTCBC.GOV.UK/ARLWYO SEE FURTHER DATES ON - WWW.RCTCBC.GOV.UK/SCHOOLCATERING RHONDDA CYNON TAY

Next week 3rd February we will be on the WEEK 2 menu



Upper Advance & Achieve Menu

Secondary School Menu

JUNE 2024 -
JUNE 2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEK 1

Main Menu with Dessert & Cup of Drink - £3.10

BBQ Spring Chicken
Curly Fries
Garden Peas
& Sweetcorn
or Baked Beans

Homemade Minced
Beef Pie
Boiled Potatoes
or Simply Wedges
Green Beans
& Mixed Vegetables
Gravy

Sausages
Mashed Potatoes
Sliced Carrots
& Broccoli
Gravy

Curry of the Day
Brown Rice
or Simply Wedges
Mini Naan Bread
Garden Peas

Fish Fillet
Oven Baked Chips
or Jacket Potato
Baked Beans
or Garden Peas

Vegetarian with Dessert & Cup of Drink - £3.10

Spicy Vegan Balls
Curly Fries
Garden Peas &
Sweetcorn
or Baked Beans

Cheesy Potato Bake
Green Beans
& Mixed Vegetables

Vegetarian Sausages
Mashed Potatoes
Sliced Carrots
& Broccoli
Gravy

Vegetarian Curry of
the Day
Brown Rice
or Simply Wedges
Mini Naan Bread
Garden Peas

Moroccan Falafels
Oven Baked Chips
or Jacket Potato
Baked Beans
or Garden Peas

Dessert

Eves Pudding
& Custard

Chocolate Beetroot
Cake topped with
Dream Topping

Cocoa Cookie

Peach Dump Cake

Fruit & Ice Cream
Sundae

WEEK 2

Main Menu with Dessert & Cup of Drink - £3.10

American Style
Beef Burger
in a Brioche Bun
Curly Fries
Garden Peas, Coleslaw
Seasonal Salad
or Baked Beans

Gammon Ham
Boiled Potatoes
Green Beans
& Mixed Vegetables
Parsley Sauce

Chicken Breast
Mashed Potatoes
Cauliflower, Broccoli
& Carrot Batons
Gravy

Curry of the Day
Brown Rice
or Simply Wedges
Mini Naan Bread
Garden Peas

Fish Fillet
Oven Baked Chips
Baked Beans
or Garden Peas

Vegetarian with Dessert & Cup of Drink - £3.10

Quorn Burger
in a Brioche Bun
Curly Fries
Garden Peas, Coleslaw
Seasonal Salad
or Baked Beans

Cauliflower & Broccoli
Cheese
Boiled Potatoes
Green Beans
& Mixed Vegetables

Quorn Breast
Mashed Potatoes
Cauliflower, Broccoli
& Carrot Batons
Gravy

Vegetarian Curry
of the Day
Brown Rice
or Simply Wedges
Mini Naan Bread
Garden Peas

Cheese & Potato Pie
Baked Beans
or Garden Peas

Dessert

Peach Melba Slice

Marble Cake drizzled
with Cocoa Sauce

Jam & Cream Scone

Chocolate Orange Cake
topped with Dream
Topping

Cocoa Cookie

Also available daily: Variety of Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt, Jacket Potatoes and Baguettes offered with a Variety of Fillings including Salmon (please pre order). Plated Salads, Fresh Salad Pots, Cold Pasta Pots, Hot Pasta Dishes, Pizzas, Street Food Choices.
Additional Seasonal Salad is available with all Main Meals.

We can also provide for vegan & medically prescribed diets. All our meals comply with the Welsh Government's Food & Drink Standards.

Next week 3rd February we will be on the WEEK 2 menu



Progress Leaders and Phase leads

	<p>Mr I Dwight (Assistant Headteacher) leads the team of Phase leaders and Progress leaders.</p>	
<p>Associate Assistant Headteacher ACTIVATE PHASE Mrs K Connor</p>		<p>Progress Leader ACTIVATE PHASE Mrs N Rowland</p>
	<p>Associate Assistant Headteacher ADVANCE PHASE Mrs C O'Carroll</p>	
<p>Progress Leader Year 7 Miss L Burnett</p>		<p>Progress Leader Year 8 Miss L Phillips</p>
	<p>Associate Assistant Headteacher ACHIEVE PHASE Mr D Jones</p>	
<p>Progress Leader Year 10 Miss M Jenkins</p>		<p>Progress Leader Year 11 Mrs C Morgan</p>






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ACE Day



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**FRIDAY
7TH FEB**

A MORNING OF ~~NO PENS~~

On the morning of Friday 7th February, Ysgol Afon Wen are putting down their pens/pencils in Activate, Advance and Lower Achieve

At Ysgol Afon Wen, we are committed to fostering creativity, collaboration, and new ways of learning. That's why we're excited to host a No Pens morning for our Activate and Advance phases. This morning is designed to encourage our pupils to develop their communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills—without the use of pens or pencils!

This innovative morning will help pupils up to and including Year 9 to engage in hands-on activities, meaningful discussions, and teamwork across all subjects, focusing on the power of spoken language and practical learning.

Creativity
Pupils can expect to verbalise their learning and talk their ideas through with one another.

Innovation
Pupils can expect to problem solve through talk and collaboration

Life
Pupils can expect to critically think about ideas related to their learning.

Benefits of No Pens activities:

- **Enhances Verbal Communication:** Encourages pupils to express themselves clearly and confidently.
- **Promotes Collaboration:** Fosters teamwork through group discussions, problem-solving, and shared activities.
- **Boosts Engagement:** Hands-on and interactive tasks help pupils stay motivated and excited to learn.
- **Supports Inclusion:** Provides opportunities for all learners, especially those who may find traditional written tasks challenging, to shine.
- **Develops Critical Thinking:** Encourages creative approaches to learning without relying on traditional tools.
- **Strengthens Speaking and Listening Skills:** Builds skills essential for debates, discussions, and real-world interactions.

We look forward to seeing our pupils thrive in this dynamic learning environment and discovering the many ways they can communicate and learn beyond the written word!





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A Voice For All: Senedd Representatives Lead the Way

This Tuesday, form representatives and deputies from across the three phases—Activate, Advance, and Achieve—gathered for the second Senedd meeting of the academic year. Elected by their peers, these dedicated learners play a vital role in ensuring that Ysgol Afon Wen facilitates 'A Voice for All' within our school community.

Learners conducted themselves wonderfully, discussing a wide range of topics—from online classrooms to outdoor spaces, from learning styles to after-school clubs. Their ability to articulate their own and others' experiences in Ysgol Afon Wen is truly valued, and demonstrates their commitment to shaping a school environment that meets the needs of all learners.

Next, the focus shifts to turning discussion into action. Ideas and suggestions will be developed through our three faculties—Creativity, Innovation, and LiFE—as well as through Phase and Progress Leads. Additionally, the student sub-committees will play a key role in bringing these proposals to life.

A huge well done to all involved for their maturity, enthusiasm, and leadership. The Senedd continues to be a powerful platform for student voice, proving that together, we can drive positive change across our school.





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Animal Encounters

Reception class have been finding out about the year of the snake for Chinese New Year. They thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Animal Encounters and meeting some very friendly snakes





Children's Commissioner Visit

Children's Commissioner for Wales Visits Ysgol Afon Wen

On Monday, 27th January, Ysgol Afon Wen had the privilege of welcoming a delegation from the Children's Commissioner for Wales to our school. Their visit was an inspiring opportunity for our learners to deepen their understanding of children's rights and the vital role the Commissioner plays in ensuring every child in Wales is heard and supported.

The day began with a whole-school assembly for Reception to Year 6 pupils, where learners engaged with the importance of rights and how these shape their lives. The session encouraged children to think about their own rights, responsibilities, and the role of the Children's Commissioner in upholding them.

Following the assembly, two interactive and thought-provoking workshops were delivered:

- The first session brought together our Advance Class Representatives and Rights Committee, allowing them to explore and discuss rights in greater depth.
- The second workshop engaged our Achieve Form Representatives and their Deputies, encouraging them to reflect on key issues and contribute their ideas to Ysgol Afon Wen's Rights Respecting School Silver Award Development Plan.

A key focus of the visit was January's "Monthly Matter", which highlights Article 27 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):

"Governments should make sure families have access to good housing."

Learners explored the difference between needs and wants, discussed the importance of safe and secure housing, and considered how these rights impact families across Wales and beyond.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for our learners to engage in meaningful discussions, express their views, and further embed the values of a Rights Respecting School within our community.





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Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award



UNICEF UK RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD

BRONZE – RIGHTS COMMITTED

Ysgol Afon Wen

is committed to placing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of their ethos and is working towards becoming a Rights Respecting School.

Philip Goodwin
Chief Executive UNICEF UK

Martin Russell
Programme Director

Date 18/12/2024

Valid until 18/12/2026

United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK),
Registered Charity No. 1072612 (England & Wales), SC043677 (Scotland).



Rights Respecting Schools

UNITED KINGDOM

unicef 





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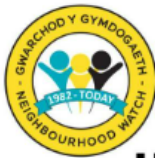
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No Phone Zone



No mobile 'phones
or other devices to
be seen / heard /
used
We are a No Phone Zone
From Gate to Gate

Community Event



Hawthorn Neighbourhood Watch

Hawthorn Litter Picks

Sat 8th Feb 2-4pm Meet on Village Green

Sun 9th Mar 10am-12 Meet at Upper
Boat Sports Pitches (River Bank Pick)

Wear sturdy footwear, suitable
clothing for the weather
Bring a drink if wished.

Picking sticks, high-vis, bags &
hoops provided.

Bring gloves if wished.

NOTE: - Young children need to be
accompanied by a responsible
adult at all times.



**For more information
contact...**



07890144096



hawthorn.neighbourhoodwatchrct@gmail.com



Hawthorn Neighbourhood Watch

Appropriate Risk
Assessments and
Public Liability
Insurance in
place





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Attendance

Nursery	84%	Year 4	92%	Year 9	81%
Reception	88%	Year 5	89%	Year 10	85%
Year 1	94%	Year 6	92%	Year 11	82%
Year 2	94%	Year 7	90%		
Year 3	92%	Year 8	91%		

Congratulations to **Year 1 and 2** 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.

Celebration of Success



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

Nursery	Ali-Rae Birch	Year 4	Ella Dunn	Year 9	Lucy Crockett	
	Cohan Reed		Millie Morgan		Courtney Shinton	
	Torvi Lewis		Saffia Price		Jamie Webber	
Reception	Amira Benkhassib	Year 5	Hattie Thomas	Year 10	Scarlett Parkhouse	
	Cherrin Healy		Faith Wilson		Jacob Caruso	
Year 1	Miya Bray-Powell	Year 6	Levi Shepherd	Year 11	Millie Barnes	
	Taran Woods		Amelia Findlay		Franky Bonner	
			Ella Heydon			
			Payton Jones			
Year 2	Iwan Cowlsh	Year 7	Abigail-Jane Parton			
			Poppy Jeans-Gunn			
Year 3	Louie Joyce	Year 8	Autumn Jones			
	Chase Francis		Bobby McCabe			
			Ava Emerson			





Exciting News from Year 10: A Creative Dive into Polyprinting!

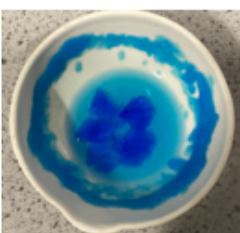
This term, our Year 10 students have been on a journey into the world of textiles, exploring the dynamic technique of polyprinting! With polymer-based printing methods, they've been transferring vibrant, intricate designs onto fabric, igniting their creativity and honing both their artistic and technical skills.

The hands-on nature of this process has allowed our pupils to experiment with a stunning variety of textures, colours, and patterns, giving them the freedom to transform fabric into something truly unique. From delicate prints to bold statements, each project showcases their growing understanding of design and textile production. Stay tuned for more updates as these talented students continue to push the boundaries of design!



Next stop Science.....

As part of their 'Earth and Space' topic, Year 5 pupils designed and made rockets in their specialist science lessons this week. There were some very creative and colourful designs! Pupils then incorporated a practical aspect by setting these rockets off in the classroom. Pupils were really enthusiastic and were very excited to see their rockets 'blast into space'.



Staying in Advance, Our brilliant Year 8 students have been diving into the fascinating world of chemistry, exploring the exciting reactions of acids! As part of their learning, they took on the challenge of creating a **soluble salt** from an **insoluble base and an acid**—and the results were nothing short of spectacular! Through careful experimentation, patience, and a touch of scientific magic, they produced **vibrant blue copper sulfate crystals** that look like precious gemstones! 💎 Check out these incredible photos of their work—proof that science isn't just educational, it's **beautiful too!** Fantastic work, Year 8! Who knows? We may have some future chemists in the making! 🚀💧



Finally.....Ultimate Destination: Mathematics! + ÷ - X

Year 5 have been securing success through deepening their knowledge of fractions. Using their solid understanding of times tables facts, learners have been able to apply this to not only finding equivalent fractions, but also when converting between mixed and improper fractions. Also, big congratulations to Dosbarth Saffir and 8HPT for winning the most recent TTRS competition. Learners enjoyed a well-deserved movie afternoon for their efforts.

In Achieve, It's a **GCSE Showdown!** 🦾

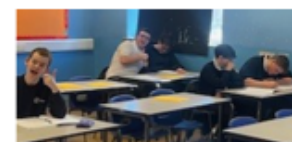
The stakes are high, and the competition is fierce! ✨ Our GCSE groups are going head-to-head to see who can claim victory in the ultimate battle of grades. Will it be **Soper's Superstars** dazzling us with their brilliance, or **Hopkin's Heroes** charging to glory with their determination? 🦾

The journey to the top is on—who will take the crown? 🦾🦾 Let's cheer them on as they push boundaries and strive for excellence! ✨

This week, our amazing **Mathletes** took on the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge—and what a challenge it was! 🦾🦾 A huge well done to them for showing incredible **resilience** and tackling some seriously tricky problems.

But here's the real kicker... the **last question** had even the Maths department scratching their heads for a good 20 minutes! 🦾 (We *totally* blame the long workday for that—definitely not the question itself! 🦾).

We wonder... could any of you parents crack it? 🦾 Or would it be a "coffee first, maths later" situation? 🦾✖️÷ Let us know if you're brave enough to give it a go! 🦾



The diagram shows a rectangle which has been dividing into four triangles. The areas, in cm^2 , of three of the triangles are as shown. What is the area of the shaded triangle?

