

Right of the month: Article 31: Your right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been really busy half term and we are sure that all of the pupils are looking forward to enjoying the week's break. It was wonderful to welcome parents/carers from Nursery to Year 6 into the school to discuss their child's progress and how they have settled in with class teachers. Progress evening is always an invaluable opportunity to bolster the home school partnership and we are grateful for your time and support.

In assembly this week, pupils have been learning about the history of and listening to messages about safety during Halloween and Firework events. We hope all families have a safe, restful and relaxing break together and look forward to welcoming pupils back refreshed and ready to learn.

Dates for your diary

- ⇒ Half term Monday 28th October until Friday 1st November 2024
- ⇒ November GCSE examinations for English Language, Mathematics and Numeracy
- ⇒ Monday 4th November: Year 9 interim report published

Date	Component Title
Mon 04 Nov	English Language Unit 2 Description
Tue 05 Nov	Maths-Num UNIT1 Higher Noncalculator
Wed 06 Nov	English Language UNIT3 Argumentation
Thu 07 Nov	Maths-Num UNIT2 Higher Calculator
Mon 11 Nov	Maths UNIT1 Foundation Noncalculator
Wed 13 Nov	Maths UNIT2 Foundation Calculator

There are some pupils in Year 11 taking the November examination series for Mathematics, Numeracy and English Language. These are the dates if your child is being entered. Individual statements of entry have been published. Please follow exam timetable.

Careers Wales newsletter

Please see attachment for the Careers Wales Autumn Newsletter. Some useful Year 9 and 11 information and advice.



PARENT/CARER NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2024
For parents and carers of young people in mainstream education

Welcome

Welcome to our autumn newsletter for parents and carers. In this edition we share some helpful advice for supporting your child through transitional years. We share Sam's story on how he asked for support when he wasn't enjoying one of his A Levels. Also read about the fantastic partnership created between Kier and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryntawe and the positive impact it made. We hope you find all the information and stories useful when supporting your child.

Year 9 subject options

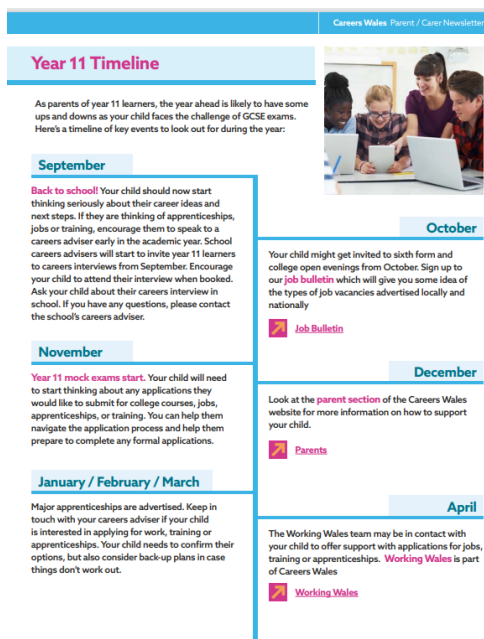
If your child is in year 9, they will soon need to pick their subjects for year 10 and 11.

Choosing GCSE subjects can be an exciting opportunity to have a meaningful conversation with your child about their future aspirations, interests, and the subjects they enjoy studying.

While it may seem early to be making decisions that could influence their career path, these choices shape the options available to them later such as courses, qualifications, apprenticeships, A-Levels and university.

But don't worry, this process doesn't have to be overwhelming.

[Read our tips for choosing subject here.](#)



Careers Wales Parent / Carer Newsletter

Year 11 Timeline

As parents of year 11 learners, the year ahead is likely to have some ups and downs as your child faces the challenge of GCSE exams. Here's a timeline of key events to look out for during the year:

September

Back to school! Your child should now start thinking seriously about their career ideas and next steps. If they are thinking of apprenticeships, jobs or training, encourage them to speak to a careers adviser early in the academic year. School careers advisers will start to invite year 11 learners to careers interviews from September. Encourage your child to attend their interview when booked. Ask your child about their careers interview in school. If you have any questions, please contact the school's careers adviser.

October

Your child might get invited to sixth form and college open evenings from October. Sign up to our **job bulletin** which will give you some idea of the types of job vacancies advertised locally and nationally.

[Job Bulletin](#)

November

Year 11 mock exams start. Your child will need to start thinking about any applications they would like to submit for college courses, jobs, apprenticeships, or training. You can help them navigate the application process and help them prepare to complete any formal applications.

January / February / March

Major apprenticeships are advertised. Keep in touch with your careers adviser if your child is interested in applying for work, training or apprenticeships. Your child needs to confirm their options, but also consider back-up plans in case things don't work out.

December

Look at the **parent section** of the Careers Wales website for more information on how to support your child.

[Parents](#)

April

The Working Wales team may be in contact with your child to offer support with applications for jobs, training or apprenticeships. **Working Wales** is part of Careers Wales.

[Working Wales](#)

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School Uniform

The pupils look extremely smart and well presented in their new school uniform. Thank you very much for your support during the first half term of Ysgol Afon Wen.

As the term progresses and pupils grow out of items, the school are going to start a Uniform Swap Shop where members of the community (including the pupils themselves) can drop off items to reception to be recycled for others to reuse. The school will then open this facility for pupils and families to come and pick up items free of charge.

Please could we take this opportunity to remind you of the school uniform requirements: A navy jumper/cardigan and a white polo shirt with a charcoal grey base (including grey tights). This is worn with plain black waterproof shoes.



Further information on school uniform expectations:

[Our New School Uniform update | Ysgol Afon Wen](#)







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Enrichment offer for Year 3—6:

ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE

Below is the timetable for extra curricular activities for Autumn half term 2, the clubs will begin on the 4th of November and run until December 9th. If interested please see scan the QR code to register your child.
Clubs will begin from the week of November the 4th and run for 6 weeks. Please scan QR code to sign up.

AUTUMN 2	TUESDAY	FOOTBALL (MUGA) YEAR 5 AND 6 3:15-3:50 MR MEDD / COULDRICK	CRAFTING CLUB YEAR 4/5/6 3:15-3:50 MRS GEACH / KAFAI	
	WEDNESDAY	NETBALL (MUGA) YEAR 5 AND 6 3:15-3:50 MISS HUXTABLE	JUST DANCE YEAR 3 AND 4 3:15-3:50 MRS FAWKES	GLEE CLUB YEAR 3-4 3:15-3:50 MISS DAVEY / MR GUNTER
	THURSDAY	CHOIR YEAR 2-6 3:15-3:50 MRS ROWLAND	COOKING CLUB (EVERY WEEK 2) 3:15-3:50 MISS PRICE	

Numeracy Competition for Year 3—9



Win the battle of Ysgol Afon Wen

Be the class/form class to win the battle.

Winning class/form class gets a Movie Afternoon.

25/10/24 - 4/11/24

Years 3-6, the competition will be running as classes and for Year 7-9, the competition will be as a form class. For those who are unfamiliar with TTRockstars, it is a platform we use within Ysgol Afon Wen to help with the pupil's multiplication and division skills.

To win the 'Battle of Class', each pupil will have to gain points on their TTRockstar accounts (more questions, more points). The class/form class that come out at the top will win an afternoon Movie experience in the school. There is going to be 2 separate competitions to keep the competition fair.

All pupils should have a login, if not see their class teacher or Maths teacher



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Celebration of Success

Congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved the most positive points this week. Well done!

Nursery	Sophia James Annie Brown	Year 4	Katie Davies Halen O' Leary	Year 9	Teni Abodunrin- Connor Morgan
Reception	Billy Mckenzie Jarrad Close Kedward	Year 5	Ruby May Mia Tomaszewski	Year 10	Le Qi Lin Lucas Parsons
Year 1	Lucas Granelli Hunter Oliver	Year 6	Ella Heydon Elijah Thurlow Seren Coles	Year 11	Roza Almaghribi Caleb Edwards
Year 2	Romi Rose Morris Farrel Preec	Year 7	Molly Jones Saboor Yadgari		
Year 3	Lexi-May Johnson Aneira Johns	Year 8	Layla Burgess Zion Matthew		

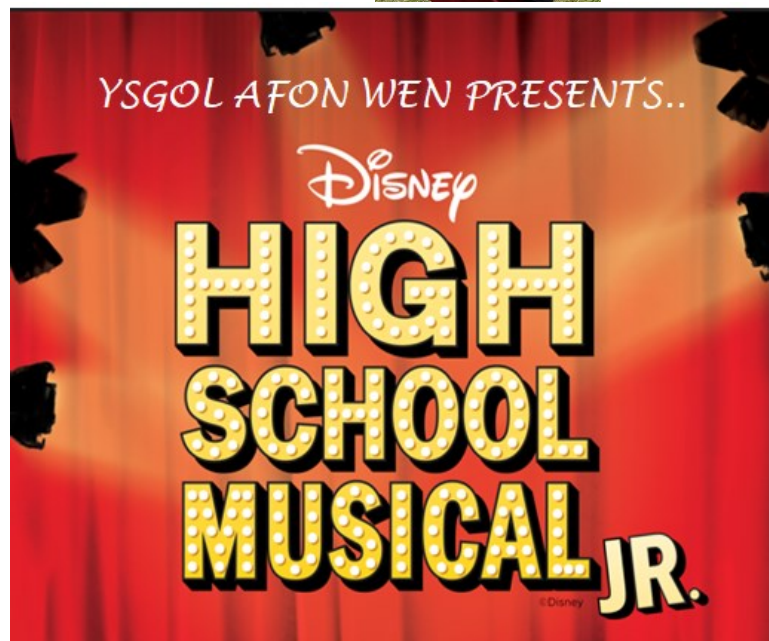
Congratulations to this Year 6 pupil who is currently representing Pontypridd Schools U11's rugby



School Production

High school Musical .

More information to follow in November.



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Senedd Meeting

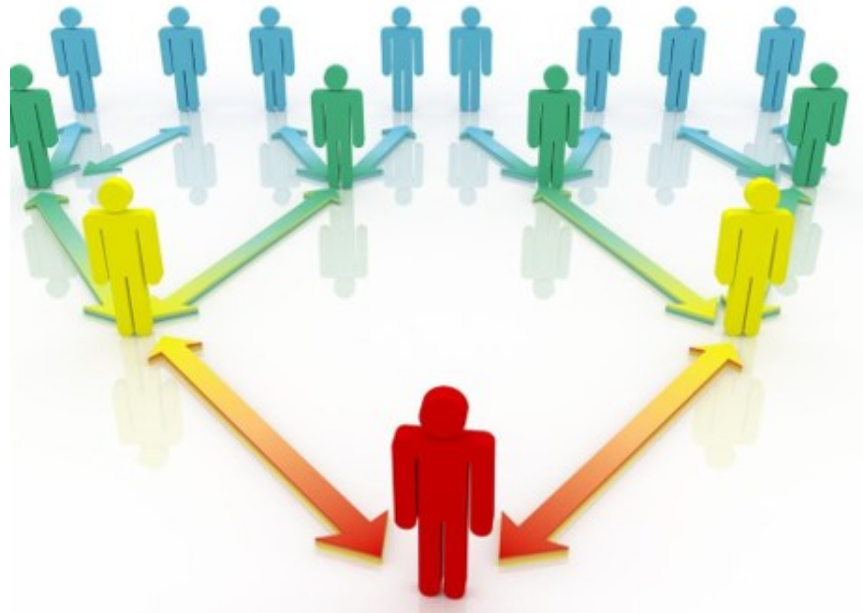
The school's first Senedd took place this week with all learners in Ysgol Afon Wen having the opportunity to express their opinion on school life via their Form Representatives.

Learners were articulate and spoke passionately about school life, with issues discussed ranging from school clubs to the canteen, and from toilets to transport! The School Council will use all of these helpful contributions to form an action plan that will be worked upon by our sub-committees.

Watch this space for exciting developments throughout the school year!



“A voice for all.”



Attendance

Nursery	80%	Year 4	93%	Year 9	82%
Reception	82%	Year 5	92%	Year 10	84%
Year 1	84%	Year 6	95%	Year 11	83%
Year 2	93%	Year 7	89%		
Year 3	89%	Year 8	89%		

Congratulations to **Year 6** who have the highest attendance this week. The school expects every pupil to have at least 95% attendance to school.

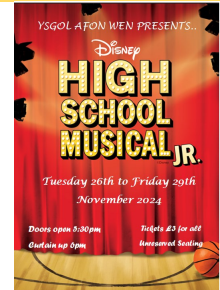




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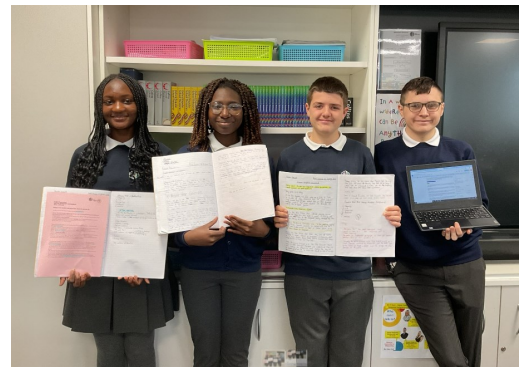
Faculty of Creativity—News

Rehearsals for our school production of 'High School Musical' are going well. Dates for the show will be released before half term and tickets available to buy after half term. Please keep an eye on Class Charts for information on rehearsal times and particular cast members that need to attend.' - Mrs K Jones



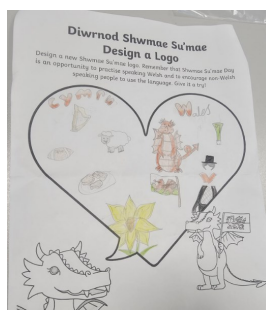
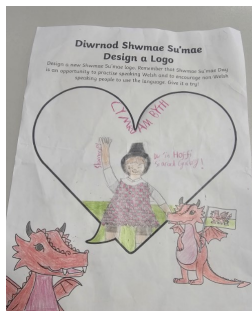
We recently celebrated National Poetry Day at Ysgol Afon Wen, and our students took part in a poetry competition by Young Writers on the theme of "The Beautiful Truth." Their creativity shone as they wrote about everything from a love of pickles to the symbolism of rainbows. We're proud of their imaginative work and enjoyed seeing their unique perspectives come to life in their poems!

Year 11 English learners are working exceptionally hard and getting high marks on their Snapshot Assessments. Da iawn chi!



Additionally, we've recently introduced the "Control the Game" strategy in our classrooms to enhance reading fluency and engagement. We're thrilled to see how positively our pupils have responded, with increased confidence in their reading and active participation in lessons in the Creativity Faculty and across the whole school! Da iawn i chi gyd. - Miss Frost - Literacy Lead

It has been working brilliantly in my Year 7 English and Drama lessons. Pupils who have previously been nervous to read aloud, have done so this week with an improve confidence. - Miss Burnett



Students in some KS3 classes have been extremely creative and took Shwmae Su'mae day in good spirits that we celebrated on 15th October. Ardderchog a da iawn i chi gyd! We have also been introducing the "Control the Game" strategy with reading from year 7-11 and has had a positive impact on students learning and comprehension, as well as their confidence. Mrs Holland





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Eye to Eye Counselling Service

"Sometimes we all need someone to talk to"



Relationships (GF/BF):

Being in a healthy relationship is great and can be a huge factor in feeling loved and supported. However, sometimes relationship issues can have a big effect on our wellbeing and mental health. Some common issues talked about in counselling are:

- Abuse- whether physical or emotional (see our Domestic Violence leaflet)
- Arguing a lot
- Feeling like you want to leave the relationship but are unable to
- Being controlled, or being the one to control someone
- Trust issues/cheating
- Being pressured to do something you don't want to do
- Deciding whether you want to be with somebody or not
- How a partner's mental health affects you
- How life events can affect your relationship
- Other people not approving of your relationship

These issues can leave you feeling:

- Anxious or on edge
- Depressed
- Isolated
- Scared
- Vulnerable
- Miserable

How do I know if my relationship is 'healthy or 'unhealthy'?

A healthy relationship means you both feel:

- Valued
- Supported by each other
- Trusted and able to trust
- Able to communicate openly and honestly
- Equal
- Able to be your true self

If you are ever **afraid** of your partner or **worried** for your safety, it is **vital that you seek help** and talk to an adult that you trust, or one of the organisations in the resources section.

Working with your counsellor can help you identify what is important to you in a relationship, including what you want and don't want.



www.eyetoeye.wales

Useful Contacts

Eye to Eye Counselling Service:

01443 202940

Email: info@eyetoeye.wales

NSPCC

0808 800 500

Email: help@NSPCC.org.uk

www.NSPCC.org.uk

Childline

0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk (online chat)

Helpful Resources

[The Mix: Is my relationship healthy?](#)

[YouTube: Healthy and Unhealthy](#)

[teenage relationships](#)

[Childline: Relationships](#)

[Young Minds: Tips for dating and](#)

[building healthy relationships](#)



Eye to Eye Counselling Service
Parish Hall, Main Road,
Llantwit Fardre
Pontypridd, CF38 1PY

Tel: 01443 202940

Email: info@eyetoeye.wales

Charity No. 1170631