

Dear Parents/Carers,

There has been so much to celebrate this week in Ysgol Afon Wen. The pupils have been out on a trip to the Hay Festival and pupils in Year 7 and 8 were able to enjoy the live Webinar from David Walliams in the theatre. Pupils in the nursery have been busy exploring and investigating the wonderful world of plants this week. They have learned about the different parts of a plant, shared non-fiction texts about the lifecycle of a sunflower and even planted our own sunflower seeds. We can't wait to watch them grow!



Pupils in Achieve have been involved in an athletics event in Aberdare on Wednesday. There were multiple performances and the pupils were a credit to themselves and the school. Year 5 have been studying "Disaster Detectives" and Year 7 have been practicing their Ukulele skills in Music.

We congratulate Year 11 on completing a very challenging few weeks with the bulk of GCSE examination completed and an opportunity for a weeks break, with a little revision in preparation for the remainder! We wish all of the pupils and their families a relaxing and restful half term break. We will see you on Monday 2nd June ready for the final half term.

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Friday 23rd May 2025	Last day of May half term.
Monday 2nd June 2025	Pupils return to school Testing window opens for the Welsh National Tests
Monday 9th June 2025	Year 9 reports published this week
Monday 16th June 2025	Year 10 reports published this week
Wednesday 18th June 2025	GCSE examinations end
Monday 23rd June 2025	Year 6 transition week Year 10 work experience week

## Advanced notice

Future days for your diary: GCSE results day Thursday 21st June, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 INSET day and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 INSET day.





## BROMCOM

The school Management Information System (MIS) is changing for all schools in RCT, moving from SIMS to Bromcom. This means that from September the school will use Bromcom to communicate with parents, report absence, show timetables and update contact details. The current Class Charts communication system will be replaced in the new academic year. The school will support all parents to move to the new system, which is very user friendly and easy to use and has a parent app called My Child at School. More information will follow in due course. In the short term, there is no action to be taken.

## Year 11

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the half-term break, I would like to take this opportunity to commend our Year 11 students for their remarkable efforts and exemplary behaviour during the recent examinations. Their commitment to their studies and ability to remain focused under pressure is commendable, and it is a testament to the hard work they have put in throughout the year.

Looking ahead, the last half of the exam period presents an excellent opportunity for our students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. I encourage you to continue supporting them during this time by fostering a conducive study environment at home and ensuring the pupils are attending revision sessions.

In addition to the examinations, there will be a series of **drop-down sessions** in specific subjects that students are expected to attend to adequately prepare for their exams. The dates and details for these sessions will be provided in the table below.

Remaining Year 11 Drop Down Sessions		
	Lesson 1,2 &3	Lesson 3,4 &5
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	French (Lesson 1&2 only)	Mathematics (Numeracy)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June		English (Unit 3)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June		Science (Biology)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Mathematics Unit 2	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Science (Chemistry)	Music (Lesson 4&5 only)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June		Science (Physics)

We would also like to inform you that the Year 11 Leavers Assembly will be held on the 11th June after the Mathematics exams. This assembly is exclusively for Year 11 students to celebrate their achievements and reflect on their time at the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Morgan (Year 11 Progress Lead)



# Newsletter 23.05.25

Right of the month: Article 27: I have a right to a good standard of living.

## Celebration of Success

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



<b>Nursery</b>	Lola-Daisy Jones	<b>Year 4</b>	Alys Deren-Richards	<b>Year 9</b>	Ffion Elliott
	Lenny-John Meech		Ellie-Jane Nuthall Jones		Shi Nicholas
<b>Reception</b>	Reina Twamley	<b>Year 5</b>	Mayzee-Leigh Rowley	<b>Year 10</b>	Amelia Wayman
	Albi Wiliams		Ivy Alger Isaac Bailey		Jacob Thompson
<b>Year 1</b>	Isla Noble	<b>Year 6</b>	Oliver Lamb	<b>Year 11</b>	Amelia Jones
	Evan Jones		Grace Blatchford		Daniel Gardner
	Jack O'Dwyer		Scarlett Webber		
<b>Year 2</b>	Leo Harris	<b>Year 7</b>	Catherine Abodunrin		
	Ashton Yim		Riley Francis		
<b>Year 3</b>	Ezra Mansfield	<b>Year 8</b>	Lily-Mae Mountjoy		
	Ruby Harrop		David Ogundare		

## Year 7 and 8 rewards assembly

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 were presented with awards this morning for positive behaviour and attitude to learning as well as improved attendance. Prizes included vouchers, breakfast bap tokens and certificates. Well done to all involved. Miss Burnett and Miss Phillips are very proud of the whole year group.





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## Maths Challenge Success



### UKMT Junior Maths Challenge



We are thrilled to announce that our Year 9 and 10 pupils recently showcased their mathematical progress at the Junior UK Maths Challenge! This prestigious competition encourages young mathematicians to engage with

challenging problems, and we are proud to report a fantastic turnout from our talented students.

Our pupils not only tackled these demanding challenges with enthusiasm but also



achieved remarkable success, securing multiple Bronze and Silver awards! This outstanding achievement reflects their hard work, dedication, and creativity in problem-solving.

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants for their

commendable efforts and resilience. Their achievements are a testament to the high standards we strive for within our mathematics department. We look forward to seeing even more success in future competitions and encourage all students to pursue their mathematical interests with passion and confidence. Keep up the fantastic work, everyone. Enjoy your Amazon Vouchers!!



## Attendance

Nursery	82%	Year 4	92%	Year 9	83%
Reception	85%	Year 5	93%	Year 10	83%
Year 1	88%	Year 6	90%	Year 11	82%
Year 2	93%	Year 7	89%		
Year 3	91%	Year 8	89%		

Congratulations to **Year 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.

## Activate Experience Day

Get ready for an unforgettable day of fun and excitement! We are thrilled to announce our upcoming Activate Experience Day, taking place on **Tuesday, 8th July 2025**, right here at Ysgol Afon Wen.

We are working hard to bring a whole host of amazing experiences to the children, without them even having to leave the school grounds! Prepare for a day packed with wonder and delight, featuring:

The Circus Comes to Ysgol Afon Wen: Prepare to be amazed by the spectacle and skills of a visiting circus perform! Expect dazzling performances, interactive workshops, and plenty of laughter.

- **Animal Encounters:** Get up close and personal with some fascinating creatures! We'll be welcoming a selection of animals for an exciting and educational encounter that your children will never forget.
- **Dino Mania:** Travel back in time to the age of dinosaurs! We'll have fun and engaging activities that will bring these prehistoric giants to life right before your eyes.
- **Year Group Disco:** Get ready to boogie! Each year group will have the chance to let loose and show off their best dance moves at a dedicated disco.
- **Activate Teddy Bears Picnic:** Don't forget to bring your favourite teddy! We'll be holding a special Teddy Bears picnic, complete with games, stories, and plenty of treats.





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## Community Event

<https://linktr.ee/TYMORYRHAF>

**Tymor Yr Haf**

**FREE!** **Youth Event**  
**Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Taff Meadow Community Centre**  
**Trefforest CF37 1DB**

**Parkour (Age 10+)**

Learn the basics of parkour in a fun and engaging way. Lead by qualified level two parkour instructors.

11AM - 12PM  
OR  
12.15 - 13.15

**Flips and Tricks (Age 10+)**

A new way to learn tricks with an engaging and exciting session with an inflatable air track to teach the basics of learning to flip.

2.00PM - 3.00PM  
OR  
3.15PM - 4.15PM

**YEPS Van open 11am - 2.30pm**

Call in and meet the Yeps team, play on the playstation or just chill in the van  
**NO NEED TO BOOK.**

Follow this link to book your **FREE** place  
<https://linktr.ee/TYMORYRHAF>

Places are limited, if you cannot attend please cancel your booking to allow others to attend.

**Parent/guardian must stay for the session.**  
**There is no parking onsite**

If you require more information contact  
Helen.Williams@pontypriddtowncouncil.gov.uk / 01443 490740

## Tour of the Activate/Advance building

Pupils in Year 7 to 10 are being offered the opportunity to tour the Activate and Advance section of the school building during registration, prior to the younger pupils coming into school. We realise that many of the pupils in the upper school have not had the opportunity to see the new facilities and understand the layout of the building. Whereas, Year 4, 5 and 6 are used to coming over to the Advance and Achieve facilities for their lessons in Art, Drama, Science, Technology and PE.

If you would be interested in this tour with a member of staff, please sign up using the Google form link below:

<https://forms.gle/zjBAynQWduWtPfNn9>



## Creativity Faculty News

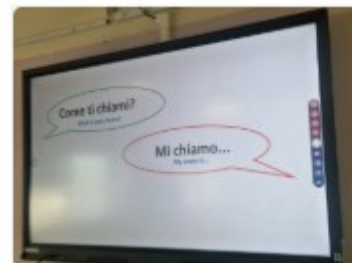
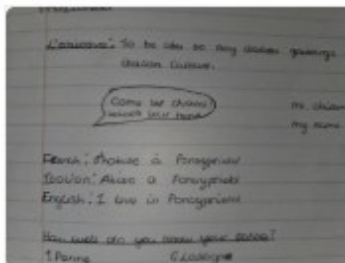
### David Walliams experience

Pupils in Years 4 to 8 had the exciting opportunity this week to take part in a live webinar with bestselling author and national treasure, David Walliams. In this special event, he introduced his latest book, *The World's Worst Superheroes* – a brilliantly funny collection featuring some of the bravest, strongest, and most outrageously unconventional superheroes ever imagined.

With his trademark humour, David brought his new characters to life, read hilarious extracts from fan letters, and shared what inspires his stories. Pupils enjoyed hearing directly from the author. It was a fantastic celebration of books, imagination and laughter. It left many pupils eager to pick up a pen and create some superheroes of their own!

### Modern Foreign Languages

Year 9 enjoyed their Italian taster lessons this term. They learned how to use Italian greetings, numbers, say their age and where they live. We also had a mini culture quiz on Italian cuisine, where the pupils put their pasta knowledge to the test. Buon appetito!



### Drop-downs for year 11 core subjects

The Year 11 learners have shown incredible dedication and hard work throughout their exam preparation, as well as during their core subject and option subject dropdowns. They have approached these challenges with focus and commitment, ensuring they make the most of every learning opportunity. Feedback on their behaviour has been overwhelmingly positive, with students maintaining a respectful and productive attitude throughout the process. Attendance has been excellent, and the support from both peers and staff has been invaluable. This dedication and collaborative spirit will undoubtedly contribute to their continued success.





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## Creativity Faculty News

### Performing Arts

We are delighted to announce that our school production of Annie will be the week of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

Pupils from Years 4-11 are invited to audition after half term.

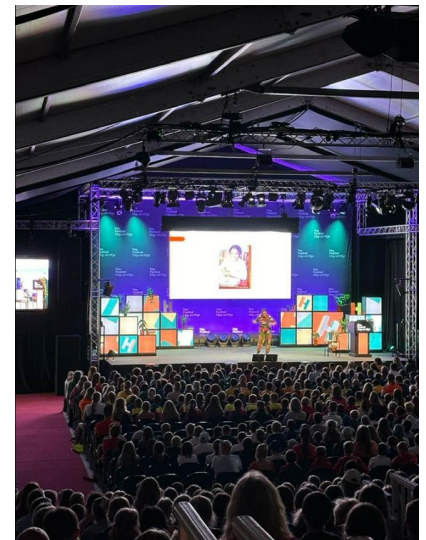
Further details will be published in a secure Google Classroom for pupils to log in with their Hwb user name and passwords to see the audition materials and upcoming rehearsals. Please note, parents will not have access to log into the Google Classroom as they do not have a hwb address bespoke to Ysgol Afon Wen.



<https://classroom.google.com/c/NzY2MDI1NTIwNTYz?cjc=5vzzi5to>

### Hay Festival

Some pupils in Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 had the amazing opportunity of going to the Hay Festival this week, meeting authors, listening to speakers and enjoying the rich Literacy environment.





## Creativity Faculty News

### Hay Festival

#### Hay Festival Visit – A Celebration of Stories and Sunshine

Pupils from Years 5 and 6, and Years 7 and 8, had the exciting opportunity to attend the Hay Festival as part of the Schools Programme – and what a wonderful couple of days it was!

Our pupils had a fantastic time listening to inspiring authors, engaging with new ideas, and enjoying the lively festival atmosphere. From thought-provoking talks to laugh-out-loud moments, there was something for everyone, and it was heartening to see so many of our young people completely captivated by books and storytelling.

There was also time to soak up the sunshine, explore the beautiful site, and, of course, enjoy a well-earned ice cream or two! The children were a credit to the school – curious, respectful, and enthusiastic throughout the day. One of our pupils even had the chance to go up on stage during a session, which was a real highlight!

