

Newsletter 09.05.25

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very busy week here in Ysgol Afon Wen. Year 11 started to take their GCSE examinations and the younger pupils and parents in Activate have started to use the Numicon lending library.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Year 7 progress evening yesterday, it was a great opportunity to find out about how your child is progressing in each subject and what they need to do to continue to improve.



For more information about borrowing from the Numicon lending library, please speak to the Activate (Nursery—Year 3) class teacher or Mrs K Connor, Activate Phase Leader.

Year 11 pupils and parents are reminded that pupils are not allowed to go home after GCSE examinations as revision sessions are still being completed within school day to support the examination preparation. After the May half term break, pupils may opt to study at home with their parents permission. Please see information later in the newsletter. Thank you for the support.

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



Stakeholder Voice

A Voice for All: Ysgol Afon Wen's First Community Clinic

On Tuesday 7th May, Ysgol Afon Wen proudly launched our first ever **community outreach event**, hosted at Rhydyfelin Children's Centre. This new initiative aims to strengthen the vital partnership between school and home by offering families the opportunity to engage in open, face-to-face conversations with members of our Senior Leadership Team.

The clinic provided a warm, welcoming space where parents and carers could share ideas, raise concerns, and work collaboratively with staff to support the wellbeing and progress of their children. At the heart of this initiative is our belief that meaningful dialogue with families is key to helping every learner thrive – academically, socially, and emotionally.

We are extremely grateful to Angela and the team at Rhydyfelin Children's Centre for their support in facilitating this successful event.

The next community clinic is scheduled to take place in **Treforest this June** – further details will be shared shortly. We look forward to continuing these valuable conversations across our wider school community.

Year 11 revision sessions

Year 11 pupils are expected to attend school both before and after their scheduled examinations until further notice. This arrangement is designed to provide our students with the necessary support and resources during this critical period of their academic journey.



Highlighted in red are the revision sessions that are organised prior to the GCSE examinations this week coming.

Subject	Date	Lesson
Numeracy	Wednesday 7th May	1,2,3
	Tuesday 3rd June	3,4,5
Mathematics	Wednesday 14th May	3,4,5
	Tuesday 10th June	1,2,3
English Language	Thursday 22nd May	3,4,5
	Thursday 5th June	3,4,5
Science	Monday 12th May	3,4,5
	Friday 16th May	3,4,5
	Wednesday 21st May	1,2,3
	Friday 13th June (Double Award)	3,4,5
Science (Year 11 resits)	Friday 6th June	3,4,5
	Thursday 12th June	1,2,3
	Friday 13th June	3,4,5
Welsh	Tuesday 13th May	1&2
	Friday 23rd May	4&5

Hay Festival Trip

Hay Festival Trips – Year 6 & Year 7

The Creativity Faculty is delighted to announce that both Year 6 and Year 7 pupils have the opportunity to attend the renowned **Hay Festival** – a celebration of literature, creativity, and inspiring ideas.

- **Year 6** pupils will attend on **Thursday 22nd May**, where they will attend talks with **Patrice Lawrence** and **Frank Cottrell-Boyce**.

Year 7 pupils will attend on **Friday 23rd May**, where they will attend talks with **Alastair Campbell** and **Liz Hyder**. During the trip, pupils will attend author talks and have the chance to explore the festival site. They may bring money to purchase books or bring their own copies to be signed.

- **Year 6:** 45 places available | **£18 per pupil**

Year 7: 50 places available | **£16 per pupil**

Pupils must wear school uniform and bring a **packed lunch**. Those eligible for free school meals will be provided with one. As this is an outdoor event, please ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather (e.g. coat, sun cream).

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please return permission slips and make payment online by **Friday 16th May 2025** to secure your child's place.

If you require a copy of the letter, please ask your child to speak to their class teacher or Miss Frost.

We look forward to what promises to be an inspiring and memorable day for both year groups!



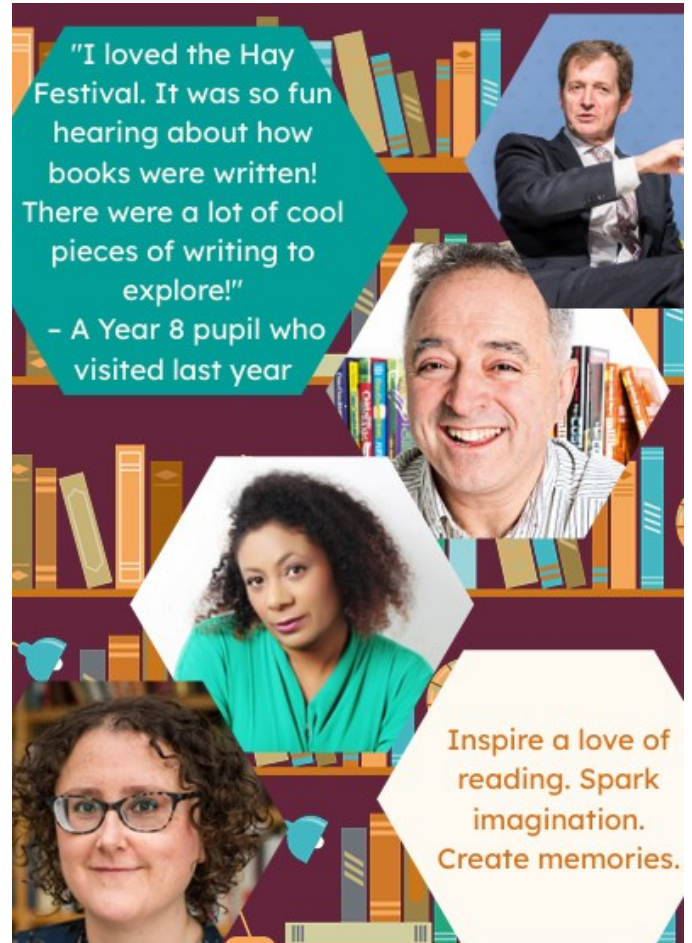
YSGOL AFON WEN'S TRIP TO...

**Hay Festival
Hay-on-Wye**

Year 6: 22nd May
Year 7: 23rd May

Hand in your consent form and make payment by 19th May.

Pupils will have the exciting chance to hear from some of today's most inspiring writers and storytellers—live and in person!



"I loved the Hay Festival. It was so fun hearing about how books were written! There were a lot of cool pieces of writing to explore!"
- A Year 8 pupil who visited last year

Inspire a love of reading. Spark imagination. Create memories.

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Celebration of Success

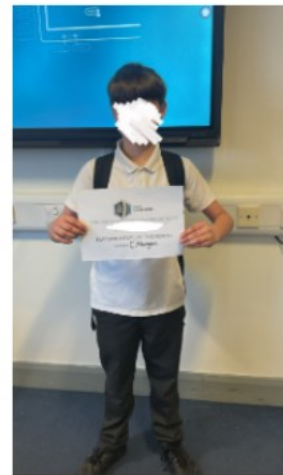


Congratulations to the following pupils who have been commended by their Progress leader or teachers.

Nursery	Omotolani Abiona	Year 4	Peyton Powderhill	Year 9	Alexis Welthagen
	Mia Lewis-Morgan		Bradley Davies		Jake Fisher
Reception	Ffion Jenkins	Year 5	Cody Pitman	Year 10	Salmah Alabi
	Lili-Wen		Brody Pascoe		Sean Long
Year 1	Lewis Ivin	Year 6	Isla Collins	Year 11	Lexie Walsh
	Hunter Oliver		Eryn Williams		Callum Marriot
Year 2	Elizabeth Bishop	Year 7	Calon Cousins		
	Kingsley Lacey		Elyne Johnson-Ibe		
Year 3	Sarsha Freeman	Year 8	Albie Hiil		
	Aroua-May Bailey		Amber Crockett		
			Izzy Mardon-Hughes		

Congratulations to Max Lucas in year 6 who is representing Ysgol Afon Wen as a player for Pontypridd schools in the DC Thomas cup final against Bridgend. The final is in Rodney Parade Newport on the 21st May at 14:30

Numeracy Pupil of the Month (April)



Attendance

Nursery	82%	Year 4	92%	Year 9	83%
Reception	86%	Year 5	93%	Year 10	83%
Year 1	93%	Year 6	90%	Year 11	83%
Year 2	93%	Year 7	89%		
Year 3	91%	Year 8	90%		

Congratulations to **Year 1, 3 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.

Attendance Challenge

10 days of Summer Attendance Challenge

On Monday 12th May, we will launch our 10 Days of Summer challenge for all pupils in Years 5-11. Excellent school attendance is a priority for everyone at Ysgol Afon Wen and we are keen to encourage all pupils to take advantage of every teaching and learning opportunity available to them at school.

The aim of the challenge is to encourage pupils to attend school every day in the lead up to half term. The challenge will begin on Monday 12th May and finish on Friday 23rd May. For every day that a pupil attends school, they will receive an entry to the prize draw. Form Tutors/Class Teachers and will keep track of their attendance and entries.

There will be a prize draw per year group on the Friday 23rd May. Pupils must be in on the last day (Friday 23rd May) to be in with a chance to win a prize. Watch this space for confirmation of prizes!

We hope that you will continue to support us as we approach half term by ensuring your child attends school every day.



Read Write Inc

We're delighted to share that this term we have introduced the **Read Write Inc.** programme across our school as part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring every child becomes a confident and enthusiastic reader.

What is Read Write Inc.?

Read Write Inc. (RWI) is a highly successful phonics-based programme that helps children learn to read and write from an early age. It's used in schools across the UK and has a strong track record of helping children make rapid progress in their reading.

The programme is designed to:

- Teach children to read accurately and fluently
 - Build their confidence with writing and spelling
- Develop their speaking and comprehension skills

We are incredibly excited to be embarking on our Read Write Inc. journey. We look forward to sharing more updates with you as the programme gets underway!



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Gwaith Cartref/Homework

The Creativity Faculty launched an exciting and brand new Homework Menu designed to inspire student engagement and independent learning across all of our subjects. This flexible approach allows learners to choose from a range of creative tasks tailored to different skill levels and interests, encouraging exploration beyond the classroom. The menu aims to nurture curiosity, develop practical skills, and foster a life-long love for the creative arts.

"I picked the homework on word classes in English. I could test my knowledge of what I covered in class and this has given me more confidence. I feel more independent now too." Mckenzie M Year 9


"It's the same menu for all Creativity so it makes it easier for me to know what I've got to do for my homework and remember when to hand it in." Alfie H Year 9

"I like that I get to pick which homework I want to do, it makes it easier for me." Harley G Year 8

"The tasks that we pick from are all fun, even though they are about the work we do in class they are creative ways of doing the work. I really liked the variety of tasks for us to pick from." Maia Amos Year 8

"The homework menu will make handing in work easier and having the choice to pick the tasks makes it much more fun." Amber C Year 8

Next week will be the turn of the Innovation Faculty to set gwaith cartref/homework. This will be subject such as Mathematics, Science and Technology. Ask your child to show you the homework set.



Year 7 Summer Term
Creativity Gwaith Cartref Menu

Subject	2 Classchart Points	5 Classchart Points	10 Classchart Points
English	Imagine you can interview an alien from another planet. Write five questions you could ask them.	Create a storyboard of one of the texts we have studied in class.	Create a leaflet advertising a theme park called 'Science Fiction Land.'
	Research five facts about the Science Fiction genre.	Write a fact file about a Sci Fi author.	Write a short story that fits into the Sci Fi genre.
	Write down five 'Science Fiction' key words and their definitions	Write a poem with a Sci Fi theme.	Write a speech encouraging young people to read the Sci Fi genre.
Cymraeg and MFL	Gwaith Cartref: Practice the greetings and introductions learned in class at home with family or friends. Write a short paragraph about yourself in Welsh, including your name, age, and where you live.	Gwaith Cartref: Write five sentences in Welsh using the subject pronouns and verbs/adjectives from the lesson. Each sentence should use "Dw i'n..." (I am...) and include different activities or feelings.	Gwaith Cartref: Write a paragraph about your family in Welsh, using the vocabulary learned. Include at least three family members and describe them using simple sentences.
	Practise the French greetings and introductions with someone at home and be ready to use them at the beginning of next lesson.	Write 3 sentences about yourself in French. This can include name, birthday and age.	Write a paragraph about things you can find in your classroom and your school bag.
Expressive Arts	Art: Imagine you can interview explorer and scientist Charles Darwin. Write five questions you could ask them.	Drama: Create a role on the wall of one characters from the Trolley Witch Scene in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child	Music: Create a fact file about a musician or band of your choice. Further instructions are on your google classroom: t7tomtw

Instructions
By 23rd June you must have completed at least one Gwaith Cartref task from each row and for each subject.





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Innovation Faculty News



This term, our Year 10 GCSE hospitality and catering students rolled up their sleeves and got hands-on with a truly satisfying challenge: making their own homemade bread and butter from scratch! It was a brilliant opportunity for students to build core practical skills while exploring the science and nutrition behind everyday foods.



UKMT Junior Math Challenge

Our KS3 learners have also been getting hands on in the kitchen by making macaroni cheese which taught them key skills and an understanding of how a commercial kitchen is run. Away from the kitchen the students have all been learning about the importance behind nutrition and how to maintain a balanced diet. The students have all shown a great amount of interest where they have given lots of amazing ideas on how we can all improve our lifestyles through diet and exercise.

Year 7 and 8 pupils recently took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Maths Challenge, a national competition that promotes mathematical thinking, problem-solving, and logical reasoning. The challenge consists of 25 multiple-choice questions that go beyond the standard curriculum, encouraging pupils to apply their knowledge in creative and unfamiliar ways.



Our students approached the challenge with enthusiasm and determination, tackling a range of tricky problems under timed conditions. For many, it was an exciting opportunity to stretch their mathematical skills and experience a different style of assessment. We are now eagerly awaiting the results, which will reveal how our pupils performed compared to others across the country. Certificates of Bronze, Silver, and Gold are awarded to top scorers nationally, and we hope to see many of our students recognised for their efforts.

Regardless of the outcome, we are proud of everyone who took part. Their willingness to engage with challenging material and step outside their comfort zones is commendable. The Junior Maths Challenge is a great way to build confidence, resilience, and a lifelong interest in mathematics.

This week year 5 pupils were learning about Tectonic Plates in science as part of their 'Ever Changing Earth' topic. Pupils were putting the 'Tectonic Theory' to the test by completing their own jigsaw puzzle using the continents.





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**PROSIECT CHWARAEON
NOS WENER
YEPS
FRIDAY NIGHT
SPORTS PROJECT 2025
HAWTHORN**

YMUNWCH Æ NI YN CAE
CHWARAEON YSGOL AFON WEN RHWNG
6PM AC 8PM.
CYFARFOD WRTH GATIAU'R YSGOL:
5:45PM AR GYFER COFRESTRU.



**9TH MAY
6TH JUNE
4TH JULY**



JOIN US AT YSGOL AFON WEN
SPORTS PITCH FROM 6PM TO 8PM
MEET AT SCHOOL GATES: 5.45PM
FOR REGISTRATION



AR AGOR I BAWB RHWNG 11 A 25 OED / OPEN TO ALL AGED 11 TO 25 YEARS OLD

