

Headteacher update

Welcome back to the last half term of this academic year and we have a busy six weeks ahead. Year 11 left formally today after a lovely farewell gathering and receiving their leaving gift hoodie. Their hard work and determination will no doubt pay off in the summer and we are looking forward to seeing them at their lovely prom in a few weeks time. We wish them every success for the fabulous futures that lie ahead, they have a credit to themselves, their families and Nantgwyn.



We had a marvellous Jubilee celebration on the last day of the last half term and hope you enjoyed seeing the pictures on our school Facebook page. I hope you enjoyed the Jubilee memento that arrived home with each pupil too (see left). It was only a small token, but hopefully something that can be kept and reflected upon in years to come. If one did not quite make it home, get in touch and we will pop it in the post for you. The competition winners

all did an excellent job and our upper school winner Tegan also won the overall RCT prize; this was announced in the Aberdare festival over the bank holiday weekend. We are all incredibly proud, her portrait is outstanding!

Attendance and engagement

I must first congratulate children who have 95%+ attendance and who have only been absent due to genuine absence/infectious illness.

Each and every day for the next six weeks is incredibly important and your child's attendance at school is ESSENTIAL. Unless your child has an infectious illness or is so ill they are unable to get out of bed they MUST be in school. Your child will fail to reach their potential and NOT ACHIEVE good qualification results if they are not in school AT LEAST 95% of the time, this matters NOW however old they are.

Attendance has been very disappointing in some years groups this term (since Easter) and this is made up of erratic attendance for many children for reasons that are not acceptable and are unauthorised. All parents/families are reminded that we can now issue Fixed Penalty Notices and ultimately the LA may take you to court if you do not send your child to school **regularly and on time**. Children should be in school nearly all the time i.e. 95%+ of the time. Realistically if your child has any time off to date, that means they cannot miss any time for the rest of this term. Being in school is vital for all aspects of their personal development and together we will ensure they thrive and flourish into the young people they deserve to be. WE MUST NOT LET THEM DOWN, it starts with them being here every day, on time being ready to learn.

As you know we have undertaken a range of surveys across the school with pupils, parents and staff and will shortly begin to share these. We will also provide information to all stakeholders on how we will make key improvements in specific areas and where appropriate how we can work together to improve and provide advice and guidance in areas around health and wellbeing for example. We

want to ensure we have the happiest children we can and working together to make key improvements is vital to this goal.

Yours, as always
Kirsty Retallick

Head of School update

It has been a very busy first week back of what is, unbelievably, the final half term! Today, we said a fond farewell to our lovely year 11 pupils. It was emotional, but a lovely and fitting tribute to the hard work, determination and resilience they have demonstrated. We wish them all the very best as they complete the final stages of their examinations and look forward to a fantastic time all together at the prom!

Please can I take this opportunity to politely remind everyone of our uniform policy. **Hoodies are not permitted as part of the uniform, neither are facial piercings nor unnatural hair colours.** A school skirt / trousers should be worn at all times in addition to a white shirt and school tie. This is the minimum expectation and there are no exceptions to this rule. If a pupil attends in the incorrect uniform, they will be isolated for a period (lessons 1, 2 and break), whilst we make calls for parents to bring the correct uniform to school. If the pupil arrives a second time with the incorrect uniform, they will be isolated for a full day, pending a parental meeting.

A reminder also that skirts should be of an acceptable length. If a pupil's skirt is not of an acceptable length, a female member of staff will have an initial conversation in order to rectify the situation. If the issue persists, we will request a parental meeting. It is not appropriate for short skirts to be worn in a school setting and we ask for your support in ensuring that all pupils adhere to the policy, maintaining high standards at all times.

Thank you as always, for your continued support.
Very best wishes,
Mrs. Louise Williams (Assistant Headteacher, Head of Upper School)

Celebration: Upper Top 10

Congratulations to those pupils nominated by staff this week. Not only for hard work, but also for some very kind and considerate actions by some. Well done.

Ellie H - yr 10
Lacey J - yr 10
Lewis W - yr 10
Joseph H - yr 10
Ben J - yr 10
Oliver R - yr 10
Ben O - yr 9
Shakyla E - yr 9
Demi J - yr 11
Leroy G - yr 11

Year 9 Options:

We have now finalised the options group and letters will be sent to parents and pupils late next week, confirming their final subjects. If you have any concerns or questions between now and then, please do not hesitate to contact any of the upper school team via the email addresses below.

Coleg-y-Cymoedd

For students applying to Coleg y Cymoedd, there is another open day planned at all campuses on Wednesday 15th June from 4:30pm until 6pm.

Pupils will be able to go to any of the campuses, meet the staff of their chosen course and get to look around as well. They will need to visit the website www.cymoedd.ac.uk



Coleg y Cymoedd - Study local, go further

Coleg y Cymoedd (meaning college of the valleys) offers a wide range of Full and Part Time courses from Entry to Degree Level.

www.cymoedd.ac.uk

From the link above, you will need to click on the open event tab and sign up for a visiting slot.

Mental health and well-being resource

Please see the link below to the 'Young person's mental health toolkit'. A wonderful resource where you will find resources that provide tips, advice and guidance on the coronavirus and how you can support your mental health. If you have questions about the virus or how you can stay healthy, this is the place to be.

<https://hwb.gov.wales/search?query=mental+health+and+well-being&strict=true&popupUri=%2FResource%2F53adf44-76cb-4635-b6c2-62116bb63a9a&fbclid=IwAR231szsEpTC2b8A7zVgVXtFNHBIAtUkoC8Hr-VtfVaQEJ9ck8ggF8HyXU>

Traffic Management:

Start and end of the day: REVERSING INTO SPACES

Polite reminder and as per our traffic management policy (TMP), which can be found on the schools website, we insist on all vehicles reversing into all car parking bays. This is a health and safety point and a non-negotiable for us as a school so to ensure the safety of all pupils and adults that use the site. If you do not park as required, please do not take offence if a member of staff addresses you with the hope that next time you are able to follow the policy. If you regularly are unable to follow the TMP, this may result in you not being allowed to bring your vehicle onto site. Please can I also take this opportunity to remind all site users that the disabled bays are for the use of blue badge holders only. If using a disabled bay, you must display your blue badge, they are not to be used for park convenience. If you have any questions, please read the TMP, if still unsure, please contact a member of staff either at drop-off or collection.

Attendance

Congratulations to each of the pupils in the table below that have achieved 100% attendance for this week. We have also launched one of our attendance initiatives where pupils receive a certificate via Parentmail for 100% attendance each week - try and collect them all!

Year 9			Year 10		Year 11			
Brooke	Heidi	Ieuan	Ffion	Grace	Courtney	Harley	Lexie	Abigail
Levi	Carwyn	Tiana	William	Grace	Triston	Ashleigh	Tyra	Brooke
Dylan	Eli	Alexis	Benjamin	Aysha	Teigan	Yasmin	Ioan	Caleb
Tallia	Lily-Grace	Jasmine	Benjamin	Chloe	Talia	Jack	Crystal	Evelyn
Kaydee	Bryana	Miya	Imogen	Kayleigh	Spencer	Tia	Kerrigan	Shelby
Kelsey	Jack	Rubie	Lloyd	Cora	Thomas	Leroy	Madison	
Demi	Grace		Rocco	Elliott	Rhiannon	Jamie	Mali	
Ethan	Cayleb-Jay		Alisha	Mackenzie	Alfie	Louise	Katie	
Libby	Ewan		Grace	Jazmine	Matthew	Jamie	Callie	
Darcey	Connie		Deejay	Zak	Aidan	Scarlett	Thomas	
Kurt	Alex		Iestyn	Ewan	Kebba	Sean	Megan	
Robert	Jack		Eve	Neve	Mason	Harvey	Millie	
Laila	Benjamin		Evan	Oliver	Andrei	Emelia	Tejay	
Rebecca	Sophie		Alfie	Tyler	Shaun	Taya	Joe	
Lacie	Fraser		Emily	Ellis	Paige	Aimee	Macy	
Kady	Logan		Honey	Tomas	Abby	Mia	Zack	
Shakyla	Alfie		Aliyah	Kaci	Brandon	Logan	Evan	
Alicia	Caden		Joseph	Jared	Dylan	Lucy	Ffion	
Morgan	Tyla		Ellie	Evan	Grace	Isobel	Jackson	
Lucas	Tyler		Paige	Olivia	Mason	Josie	Katieleigh	
Darcy	Keira		Daisy	Harley	Nia	Kyle	Kenzie	
Grace	Chelsea		Jaydee	Bailey	Riley	Cheyenne	Leah	
Zak	Gage		Gabrielle	Olivia	Skye	Mia	Caitie	
Layla	Gethin		Benjamin	Aniera	Sophie	Ieuan	Logan	
Miles	Leo		Lacey	Alfie	Sydney	Dylan	Owen	
Cooper	Wyatt		Lewis	Jessica	Tyler	Darcy	Megan	
Ryleigh	Annalise		Tayla	Regan	Cori	Demi	Aaron	
Kaleb	Lily		Ellie-May	Katie	Riley	Dylan	Cai	
Alex	Josh		Kieran		Sienna	Harvey	Elliot	
Mollie	Ben		Tegan		Jac	Ieuan	Kaci	
Tamzin	Mckenzie		Dylan		Jenson	Kyron	Courtney	
Isabelle	Matthew		Courtney		Rory	Morgan	Callum	
Jack	Ruby		Isabel		Ellis	Cerys	Leo	
Sydney	Luco		Darian		James	Chloe	Yusuf	
Gethyn	Jayden		Keira		Daniel	Connor	Logan	

At the end of the half term, all pupils that have 100% attendance for the half term are invited to our attendance celebration! Please keep up the fantastic efforts and attendance.

Attendance at school is crucial for academic success!

Further Update - Nant only

Sadly, since the beginning of term we have had a very small number of pupils in Nant who have failed to use our new and refurbished toilets with the respect and maturity they deserve. This has resulted in us having to increase cleaning and expenditure as well as locking certain toilets at key points of the day when damage occurs to repair and /or clean (other facilities will always be available). We have on occasion found children eating and sitting on toilet floors, which is not hygienic; there is no need for this as there is ample seating available in various locations. The expenditure on additional repairs and cleaning is being redirected from other school resources that should be spent on pupil learning and resources. Pupils who are caught damaging property will have individual consequences which may include payment for damage. We are formally considering how to increase supervision in these areas, which may include extending CCTV in outer areas. I would be

grateful if you could discuss this with your child at an appropriate time. I am sorry I have had to share this message but the decisions and actions of a small group are having a negative impact upon everyone.

Contact details:

Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Louise Williams
Deputy Head of School, Mr Adrian Evans
Raising Standards Leader, Mrs Allison Carter
Academic Learning Coach, Miss Claire Jacobs
Academic Learning Coach, Mrs Sarah Webber

louise.williams@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
adrian.evans@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
allison.carter@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
claire.jacobs@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
sarah.webber@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk