



# Croesyceiliog School

*Autumn 2024 Newsletter*



## **Snow White and the Seven Elves Pantomime**

The Snow White and the Seven Elves Pantomime was a roaring success! The Expressive Arts faculty would like to thank all our students, staff and parents for supporting and helping with the school pantomime.

Mrs R Jenkins (Leader of Expressive Arts): Thanks to the faculty staff for all their work over the last 9 weeks towards a great pantomime, a cast of 151 is a massive challenge but it was a great success. Thanks to everyone who helped and supported, there are too many to mention individually, which shows how much your support was needed and how grateful we are.

Phil Davies (Chair of Governors): As I said to the cast ....WOW! Terrific energy and movement throughout. And what a huge cast who really enjoyed themselves. Thanks also to the backstage students. Once again the Team Spirit of Croesy shines through.

A lovely message from a cluster primary school headteacher: Our children absolutely loved the experience and it was lovely to be able to join the cluster to share this. We were all amazed by the talent of your students. They remained so professional throughout and performed with confidence and passion. Every section was outstanding. The staff and I thoroughly enjoyed watching a large number of our students perform, we felt like very proud parents sat in the audience. I am sure other colleagues felt the same. Please thank each and every cast member, backstage support and teaching staff for their efforts in putting on such a wonderful show. We can't wait for next year!

# Headteacher's Message

*Ms Natalie Richards*

Dear Parents/Carers

Looking back over the last term has been a most humbling experience. With ample examples of amazing experiences and opportunities in and out of lessons, I am reminded of what a superb community we have here at Croesyceiliog School. It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of a busy school term and forget just how much we have achieved since September. The overall ethos and culture of our school is summarised through the generosity and kindness of students and staff; the acceptance, inclusion and diversity; the talent and the general willingness by staff and learners to go that extra mile. Together with our academic achievements, the overall progress of our learners across all year groups continues to improve. I speak on behalf of all staff when I say how proud we are of them.



Perhaps not as obvious to you as parents is the continued developments we are making to the quality of teaching and learning which in turn translates to progress and outcomes for our learners. This term we have been working closely with Andrew Williams, Headteacher of Radyr Comprehensive School in Cardiff to undertake reviews of learner books and support our evaluations of lessons and learning across the school. Mr Williams was impressed by the measures we have put in place to ensure that learners are having the best quality learning we can offer and commented on the positive and aspirational environment we have built here for our students.

Our core values of Learning, Respect and Ambition were evident across the many aspects of school life seen. In addition to this we continue to grow our partnership with our cluster primary schools through our development of a continuum of learning from 3-16 and ensuring that transition enables young people to feel that they belong in our community as soon as they step foot in our building.

Every time I speak to learners about a range of topics that may be specific to them or about school life, and in these conversations they are: polite, funny, kind, respectful and engaging. It really is a pleasure and a privilege to be their headteacher. I wish all staff, learners and families a most enjoyable Christmas break. We will see them all on Monday 6th January 2025.

Please also see our Autumn Term newsletter which will be sent out before Christmas. The annual Governors' Annual Report for Parents 2023-24 can be found [here](#).

Nadolig Llawen  
Ms Natalie Richards  
Headteacher

# ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

It has been a busy term for our ALN Department, settling in to our new area. We are loving that we have more space for our students requiring support during break and lunchtime.



*The ALN department held its first coffee evening alongside year 7 parents evening. It was great to meet so many parents of our ALN students who were given the opportunity to speak to staff as well as other parents, we were delighted with the feedback and look forward to the next one.*

*“The ALN staff are so supportive and I know my child is in safe hands”.*  
*“It was really helpful to find out how my child is settling in”.*  
*“It was great to meet other parents of children with ALN and to see the ALN rooms and what they provide”.*

## Farewell to Mrs Tomanic

The school is sad to say goodbye to Leanne Tomanic who has worked with the ALN department for the past 12 years. She will be greatly missed but we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.



## Garden project

After Christmas, Inspire will be leading an allotment and sensory garden project based in the ALN garden. A group of 5 students will be taking part. We will keep you updated on how it's going.



# THE BRIDGE (ALTERNATIVE PROVISION)

Welcome to The Bridge! Croesyceiliog School's new Alternative Provision.

We have had a busy first term settling into our new environment and overcoming the inevitable teething problems that come with new provisions. However, we have made some wonderful strides forward and the learners are engaging more positively day by day. Learners are accessing the same curriculum as their mainstream peers, but in The Bridge, they are working in a small group with specialist teachers and a fantastic team of support staff for their core subjects, like: English, Maths, Science and Cymraeg. Learners are then supported within their option subjects in the main school building in more vocational subjects like: Product Design, BTEC Sport and Public Services, where our learners have the opportunity to engage with their peers in the classroom and on a number of exciting activities like a morning of water sports at Llandegfedd Reservoir, which was great fun!



The therapeutic nature of The Bridge and the team are making a concerted effort to foster and deepen meaningful relationships this has meant that we are able to really embed person centred practices and support our learners to recognise and overcome their barriers to learning. Of course, this work is ongoing and takes time, but it has been very rewarding for us as a team to see the improvements through our day-to-day interactions and through our Class Charts data.

What makes the provision alternative is being able to successfully engage learners in a number of other educational experiences that take them out of their comfort zones and often the classroom to hone their skills in a new and exciting setting. By engaging in these activities, we are able to support the development of relationships, social and emotional skills and communication skills, which are important transferable skills for our learners in the wider school community. We have successfully engaged a number of learners in several activities, including: Forest School, Bike Maintenance, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, REFLECT Project at Cwmbrian Fire Station, Roman History Enrichment, and Traveller Education Service.

We continually reflect and plan to make this provision as successful as it can be for our learners and we are excited about what The Bridge can offer students at Croesyceiliog School in the future.

# LANGUAGES, LITERACY & COMMUNICATION

## Accelerated Reader Year 7 and 8

Accelerated Reader has started really competitively this year with some pupils already achieving millionaire word status.

Every month, the best/most improved reader in every form is chosen to celebrate their achievements in assembly.

This picture shows our November winners in year 8.

Well done all!



### Croesyceiliog School Reads!

In this school year, students have read...

**1,275** Books

**26,168,552** Words

for **9** minutes/day!  
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE  
Accelerated Reader™



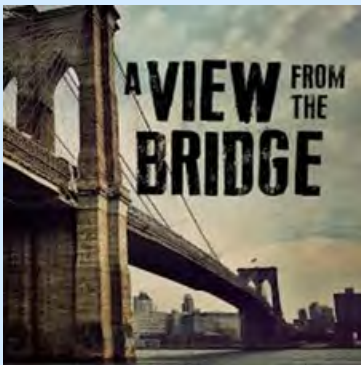
*In September, year 7 enjoyed a visit from author and story teller, Daniel Moredon. He launched our Curriculum for Wales topic of Ancient Origins by retelling traditional stories from various cultures, in particular the Celtic and ancient Greek. We hope to have another visit soon.*

# Key Stage 3 Autumn Term Scheme of Learning

Year 7 discover the origins of communication during English lessons and began the autumn term by travelling back to Ancient Greek literature. During the lessons we visited Homer's Iliad, Troy, along with other famous myths and legends including Beowulf. Year 7 had a lot of fun creating their own mythical masks!



Year 8 have continued their journey of how language came in to being. After looking at the origins of communication in year 7 we moved on to look at how communication is structured, specifically in the autumn term through the form of play writing. Plays pupils have covered include a range of Shakespeare's from Macbeth to Hamlet as well as Arthur Miller's A View from a Bridge and Willy Russel's Blood Brothers.



Year 9 are studying the world at large and have this term been looking at how culture and representation of identity is presented in texts from the UK as well as USA. Authors such as: Charles Dickens, Toni Morrison and Robert Swindells have been read.



# Year 11 Unit 1 Oracy exams

Year 11 have had a successful term completing their English Literature Unit 3 Drama Macbeth NEA as well as preparing for and delivering Group Discussions for their English Language Unit 1 Oracy exam from a choice of topics such as: Climate Change, PE in schools and Gaming. This year our pupils were given an assembly to introduce the Oracy exam topics and given access to a holding venue prior to their Oracy exam.

As a department we are always looking to improve our processes to ensure the best possible outcomes.

Therefore, pupils have been sent a questionnaire via class charts which asks them for their feedback on this process and how it benefitted them.



## National Poetry Day

In September all pupils took part in National Poetry day and this year's theme was counting.

KS4 pupils used their poetry analysis techniques that they have been perfecting for their NEA and in preparation for section B of their Unit 1 unseen poetry essay to analyse a poem called Total.

KS3 pupils wrote their own poems.

<b>*//Total//*</b>			
.....			
All the slow summer long	£9.99	God, these	£1.65
I have been living	£6.90	endless days of waiting	£8.76
in a glass jar of anxiety	£16.90	and balancing on these tenterhook	£17.76
and dreading	£7.68	cobweb tightropes just won't do,	£4.50
a day in August	£6.57	they just won't do.	£14.90
when a devious envelope	£12.90	.....	
with a barbed paper tongue	£3.76	I don't want to be calculated	£8.76
will slither through the door	£2.46	counted	£6.84
to determine my fate	£6.83	or summed up	£7.36
with only a few	£5.80	in cold numbers and letters	£3.56
letters: grades that might	£5.45	that are typed by robotic fingers	£4.90
be as sharp as blades	£9.90	that have no grace nor growth	£23.90
or as soft as rising dough.	£5.67	because I am breathtakingly	£16.00
At the end of the day, is this	£3.54	three dimensional, and	£5.35
all that I amount to?	£12.80	to total me	£2.95
Five letters on a flimsy	£6.53	would be like	£0.90
ghost of paper?	£6.45	trying to add up the breeze	£??.?????
The narrowest indication	£3.87	.....	
of my past	£7.90	*//Please retain receipt for your records//*	
and my future.	£14.90		

# UK Parliament Week

## Local MP, Nick Thomas-Symonds visited the school

We were thrilled to welcome MP Nick Thomas-Symonds into our English department, lessons and school on Friday 15th of November. He visited Mr Jones, Mrs Mahoney and Mrs Dickinson's year 9 classes and observed a range of UKPW activities from virtual tours to quizzes on Parliament. He then met with our Senedd, Leadership Team, Criw Cymraeg and our Debate Team for a Q&A session, with questions they had prepared.



Questions from our pupils ranged from topics such as: mental health, pay, living cost crisis, relations with USA and Europe, quantitative easing, education investment, local area, void votes, inspiration and role models to fuel prices and advice for those hoping to go into a career in politics. The MP also offered advice to our two year 11 students who are running for the Youth Parliament elections! We look forward to celebrating UKPW next year and hope to work further with our local MPs.

# International Languages Week

The Autumn term always starts with the exciting language week at Croesyceiliog: We delivered inspirational assemblies on the value of speaking multiple languages; we celebrated 5 foreign languages: Italian, French, Spanish, German and Ukrainian; we offered exciting continental menus in the canteen!

A warm thank you to Linda and her team in the canteen who always go above and beyond! That Croque-Monsieur was exquisite!

And of course, a huge thank you to our gorgeous Gaynor and Julia for welcoming all visitors in the target language every day! Their support and enthusiasm are second to none!





**Another round of year 8 students were privileged to be part of the MFL mentoring project with Cardiff University for another term, and our new mentor Alex, who delivered exciting language workshops. She also delivered 2 language workshops with year 9 classes who engaged with curiosity and enthusiasm. Diolch, Alex! Merci! ¡Gracias!**

A huge shout out to the French GCSE Class, who are still religiously completing independent lessons on our Duolingo class L'Équipe.

Their enthusiasm and competitiveness allows them all to challenge themselves and to be top of the leader board, receiving weekly prizes!

The best outcome, their impressive knowledge of extra vocabulary!

Special mention to Finley for his 377-day streak and Alex on his 305 day streak!  
Bravo à tous!

Our French GCSE students will compete in a French cooking competition on the last week of term.

They will receive French recipes in French prior to the event and on the day, they will have to pick from a range of ingredients to impress our Judges – Mrs Davies, Director of Faculty and food tech teacher, as well as Mr Morgan, Food Tech specialist.

**The Great Croesy French Menu**

A3  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - Lesson 4  
Year 11 French Class – Madame Voisin – French Cooking Room  
**Aux Fourneaux!** Let's get cooking! ♥

As Mrs Voisin has been exploring a new, more challenging, language over the last year by attending Mandarin Chinese lessons with Cardiff University, we are hoping to celebrate Chinese New Year and the Spring festival in style at Croesyceiliog. With the help and support of our wonderful Chinese-speaking students, we are also looking forward to starting a Chinese club in September 2025.



# Bilingualism

## Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog

The Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog has been busy promoting the Welsh Language across the school this term. At the beginning of the Autumn Term, the Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog held their initial meeting, where the pupils met and discussed their goals for the Autumn term—and what a successful term it's been! The Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog were joined by two new year 7 members who submitted excellent applications. Well done, Ameilia and Matilda!



## Promoting 'Yr Iaith Gymraeg' - The Welsh Language

The Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog set out to encourage teachers to use more Welsh in their lessons. To do this, the Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog created a 'Cymraeg Cheat Sheet' for teachers to put on their desks. The Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog also created a 'Brawddeg y Bythefnos' (Phrase of the Fortnight) for staff and pupils to use. One staff member is rewarded each half term for using the most Welsh and pupils are rewarded with a 'Siarad Cymraeg' Class Charts point. Our Autumn term winners were Madame Voisin and Mr McDermott.



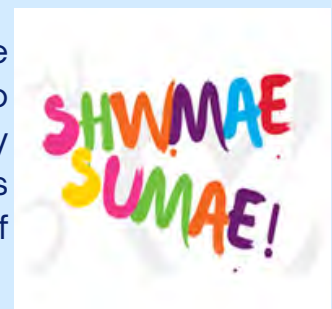
## Siarter Iaith

This term, the Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog has been working towards the bronze 'Siarter Iaith' Award, we would like to get this award for the school to show that Croesyceiliog School is beginning to develop as a bilingual school. To achieve this award, the Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog set up a 'Clwb Cymraeg,' which takes place every Monday at lunchtime and is the perfect opportunity for pupils to come along and practice their Welsh through conversation and games. The Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog also completed a learning walk and will present their findings to staff and governors in the New Year.



## Diwrnod Shwmae

We also celebrated Diwrnod Shwmae this half-term. To celebrate, the Cymdeithas Cymraeg Croesyceiliog sold Welsh cakes in the library to staff and pupils to raise money to buy badges. This was a very successful day; and it was wonderful to hear so many staff and pupils using their Welsh by starting conversations with 'Shwmae,' the word of the day.



Overall, this term has been very successful and we cannot wait to continue promoting Cymraeg throughout this academic year. We have much to look forward to in the Spring Term, including our year 8 trip to Llangrannog!

# MATHEMATICS & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

## ‘Raise the Grade’ Days

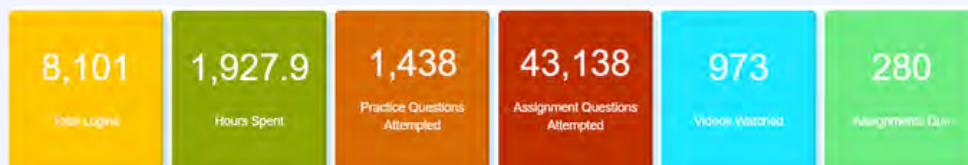
It has been an incredibly busy term for the Maths and Digital Technology Faculty, featuring a range of events and activities, including welcoming Year 6 students for Open Evening, hosting Parent’s Evening for Years 10 and 11, conducting Year 11 GCSE Numeracy exams and culminating in Rewards Week for all year groups.

The ‘Raise the Grade’ initiative for GCSE Numeracy and NEA (Non-exam assessment) was a great success for Y11 - significantly boosting the confidence of students striving to improve their grades.

Students reported a marked improvement in their understanding of key mathematical principles, which will hopefully translate into well-deserved outcomes when results are issued on Thursday 16th January. Additionally, the program’s emphasis on building resilience and fostering a growth mindset has equipped students with the tools to tackle academic challenges more effectively, leading to broader success in their educational journeys.



## Maths Watch Homework



MathsWatch VLE has become an invaluable resource for maths homework, offering students an interactive and comprehensive platform to enhance their learning. The tool provides a wealth of instructional videos, practice questions, and immediate feedback, allowing students to work independently while identifying areas for improvement. Teachers benefit from its detailed analytics, which help track progress and tailor support to individual needs. MathsWatch VLE encourages consistent practice, boosts confidence, and strengthens problem-solving skills, ultimately contributing to improved outcomes in mathematics. Please remember this tool is available not only for homework but also self-study.



*We are excited to offer our students the opportunity to participate in the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Challenges this year. The Junior UKMT Challenge, for Year 7 and 8 students, will take place on Thursday 1st May 2025. This competition is an excellent way for students to challenge their mathematical problem-solving skills in a fun and engaging environment. For our Year 9 to 11 students, the competition will be held on Wednesday 29th January 2025. We encourage all interested students to take part, as these challenges offer a great chance to showcase their abilities and develop their mathematical thinking. Further details and who will be taking part will come out after the holidays. Please see Mr Selim in B32 for details.*



# Rewards Week

After an outstanding term of awarding positive points across the Maths and Digital Technology AoLE, the following students have earned top spots on the Class Charts leader board. A huge congratulations to them for their exceptional hard work and dedication!

## LEADERBOARD

NO	Student	Year group	Points
1	Lily C	9	203
2	Valerie L	7	194
3	Aidan D	7	189
4	George T	7	187
5	Ava R	7	186
6	Ben B	7	184
7	Oliver P	10	183



Year 7 and 8 students started the term by developing their spreadsheet skills. They use Hodder Boost eLearning system to aid them as they learn how to use formulas, functions, replicate formulas and create graphs.

The students developed their skills quickly and showed progression. The second half of the term students developed their creative and producing skills in creating animated posters in Adobe Creative Cloud Express. Furthermore, students investigated graphics and the difference between vectors and bitmap or raster.

Year 9 students have been developing their producing skills this term by creating a number of online publications using the Adobe Creative Cloud Express app from the HWB website. They learned about logo design, creating animated social media posts, videos and masking. There was some excellent work produced and the skills gained will be invaluable in many GCSE subjects next year.



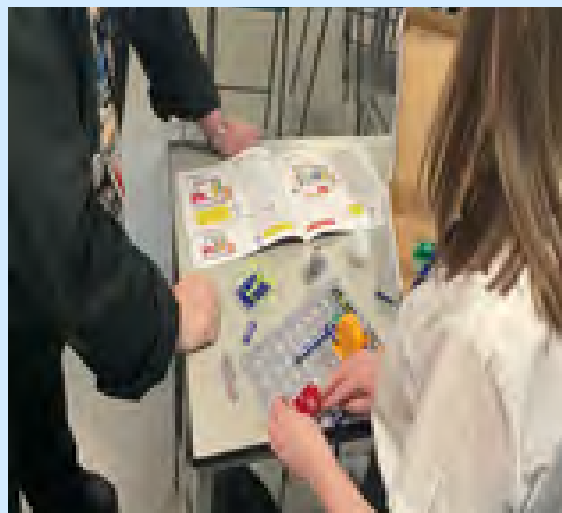
Year 10 Digital Technology students have made an excellent start to the Unit 2 NEA which is worth 40% of their final mark. Students have completed a data analysis exercise in which they used Microsoft Excel to analyse a data set. They used a range of formulas and functions to interrogate the data and produced a range of graphs and pivot tables to present their findings. The students used the findings from data analysis to drive the design and creation of a 3-page website in which they develop HTML and CSS coding skills.

The students have developed their coding skills and have planned the first level of their computer game and are well in to the process of creating a fully functional level for their game. I have been hugely impressed by their dedication and the standard of their game thus far is exceptional.

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Science

Year 10 students have been taking part in the Physics Mentoring Programme in collaboration with Cardiff University. The project aims to promote uptake of physics post-16 especially among girls. Students from Cardiff University have been running in-person and virtual sessions on the skills physics can provide students, and how they can be applied to careers in different sectors, e.g. research, film making, engineering, catering.



### Year 11 Science Practical Exams

All year 11 groups will be completing practical exams immediately after the Christmas break. Double Award and Applied Science groups will have four papers to complete, two practical exams and two written analysis papers. These exams will be completed in the first two weeks of January (Monday 6th January to Friday 17th January).

Pupils studying three separate sciences will have a practical paper and a written analysis paper for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These exams will take place in the first two weeks of January and will be completed after the mock examinations, in the first two weeks of February.

The practical examinations are examined externally and will make up 10% of the final grades for GCSE Double Award Science and the separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

# Technology

Students have been engaged in learning about structures and have been working in teams to design and build bridges.

Students have also been learning about the importance of healthy eating in food and nutrition and have been busy analysing diets and learning key nutrients. The year 9 students have been investigating their favourite takeaway and have made some excellent 'fakeaway takeaway' dishes.



The year 7 students have explored the project of 'time' and have made some excellent clocks along with some door signs which have allowed them to explore the materials of wood and plastic.

They have also been busy analysing existing products and have completed some lovely extensive writing pieces in Technology lessons.



## KS4- Product Design

Year 10 Students have had an action packed few weeks, including some very hands on/ practical projects. Students have been studying timbers and creating a small jewellery box with a variety of 'wood joints'.

Some classes have also had the opportunity to create a small metal keyring, casting Pewter and finishing it as if it was a precious metal. Theory work surrounding these materials has continued with use of GCSE Pod and Google Classroom tasks/ homework.



Year 11 Students have been making great progress with their NEA portfolio, covering market research, design briefs and specifications for their chosen design. Students are about to embark on creating some prototypes for their designs before making their final product. Students have impressed teachers with their designs and creativity within their portfolios.



#### KS4- Food and Nutrition

Year 10 Food and Nutrition students have been investigating the dairy commodity, exploring how science affects the gelatinisation of making a sauce and having lots of culinary fun developing some tasty Christmas themed treats.

During these lessons students have been demonstrating the whisking method to make Swiss rolls and rubbing in method to make pastry.

We have been very impressed by the development in skills by the food and nutrition learners and we look forward to exploring further commodities of cereals and meat in the next term.



Year 11 food and nutrition students have had a very successful few weeks finalising the recipes for the NEA food practical examination. The students demonstrated some excellent skills and presented some wonderful final dishes. Mrs Davies is incredibly proud of all of those students who took part, well done! We will continue to work on the written part of the NEA in the next term with a view to returning to classwork in readiness for the summer examination series.



# EXPRESSIVE ARTS

## Snow White and the Seven Elves Pantomime

The whole faculty along with other departments came together to produce another excellent show. There were 150 pupils involved in 'Snow White and the Seven Elves' from being on stage to helping backstage. The show sold out quickly so an additional show was put on at 4pm so the students performed in front of over 1,000 people. We were also visited by our cluster schools and they were a fantastic audience interacting with the cast. We are extremely proud of the students and their resilience and would like to thank them and their parents/carers for all of their support.





Year 7 have settled in really well this term and we're pleased to see the progress they have already made. They have explored physical theatre and used other techniques such as still images in Drama in order to develop their acting skills. Years 8 continue to explore topics with some cross curricular links e.g. World War 2 and understanding the impact of the war on evacuee children. Year 9 have been exploring consequences and have been creating police interrogations and understanding the impact of their actions.

KS4 have had a great term too. Year 11 are currently working on their unit 2 performances ready for our visiting examiner next term. Year 10 have experimented with some practitioners and have been learning different styles of theatre.

## Art & Photography

The Art department has been very busy this term. All students have taken advantage of the daily Art and Photography clubs at break and lunch times. We have recently spent many lunch sessions creating Christmas cards to sell at the Panto to raise much needed funds for our Christmas Panto.

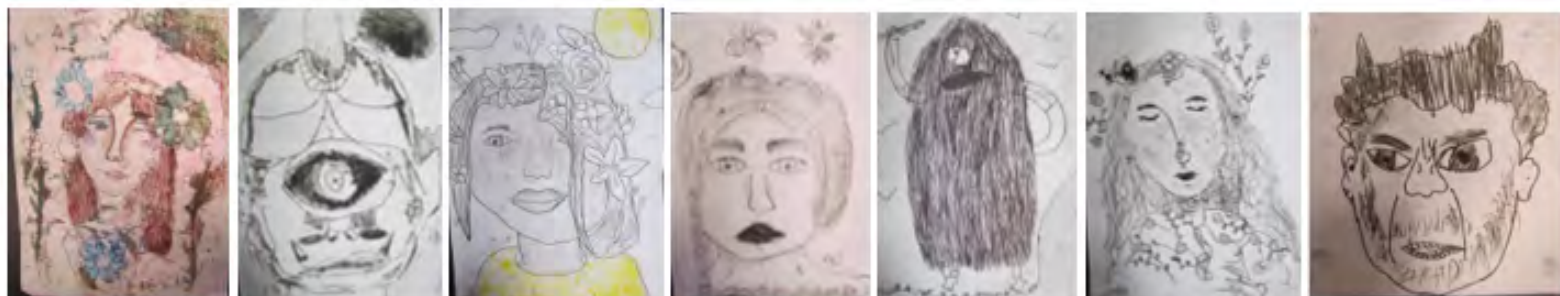
Year 10 and 11 have also benefited by attending after school Coursework Sessions on Tuesdays with Mrs Broughton.

Year 11 have been extremely busy completing their Coursework Portfolios and looking forward to starting their WJEC Examination Project in January. We are wishing them all a well-deserved rest over the Christmas break!

This photo depicts the fantastic Panto sign designed and created by Year 8 students.



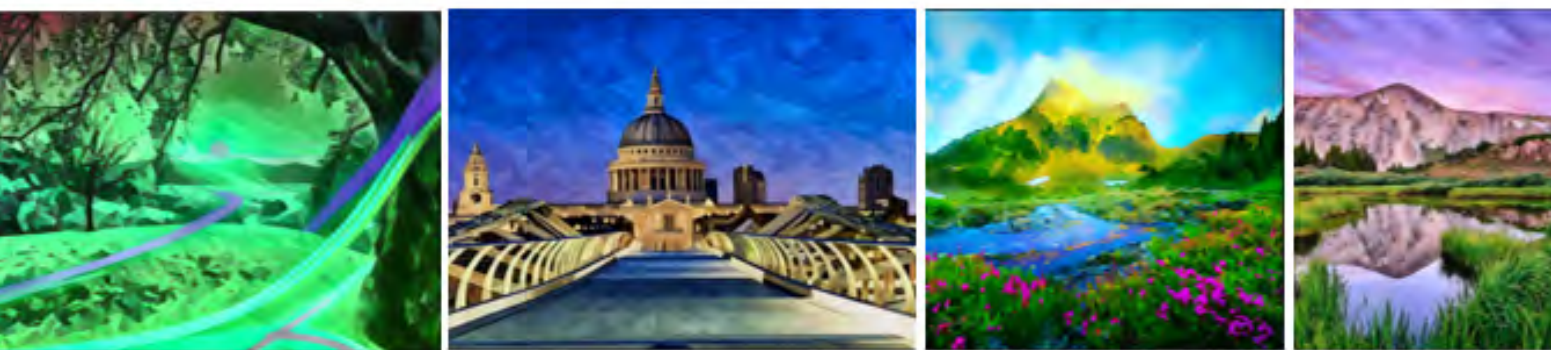
Year 7 - Have recently completed superb designs for the annual Christmas Bauble Competition and we are eagerly awaiting the results - fingers crossed for you all. They have also enjoyed working on their Mabinogion character designs which they developed successfully into Mono Printing outcomes. We then had some fun turning some famous works of Art into Christmas designs. Can you guess the artist?



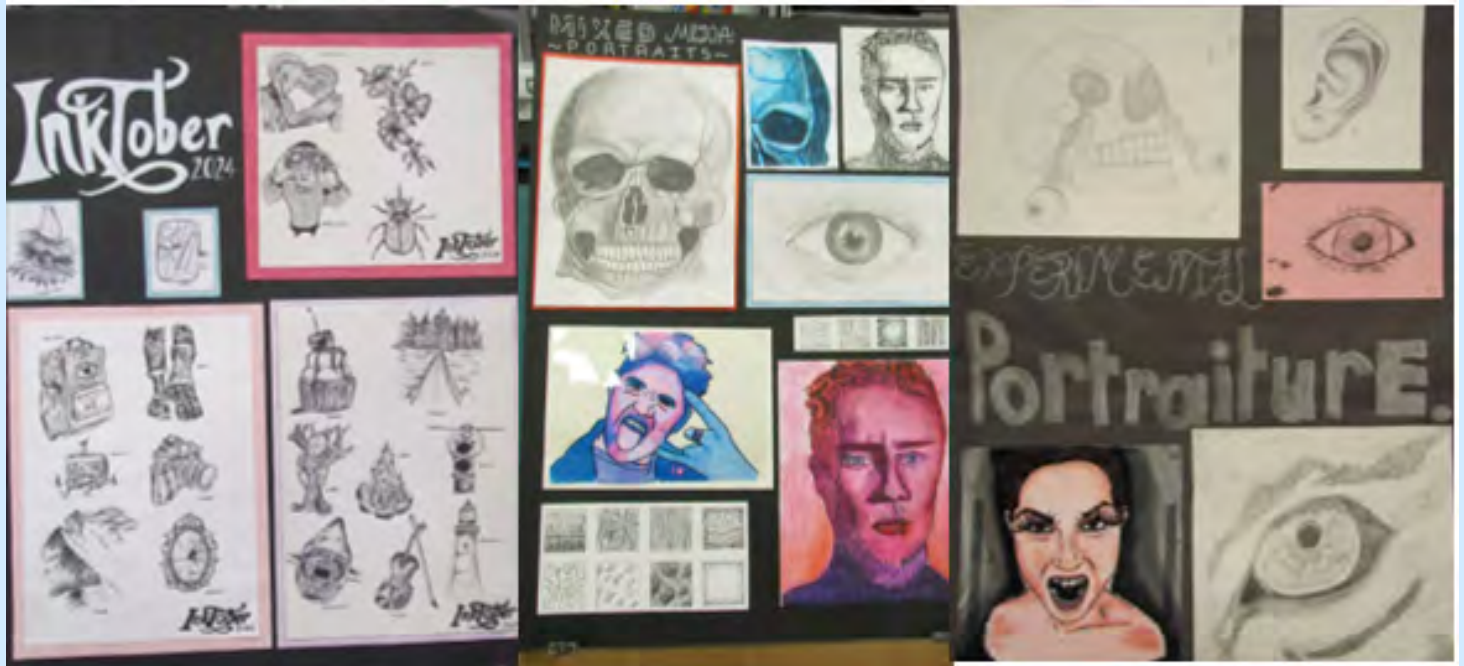
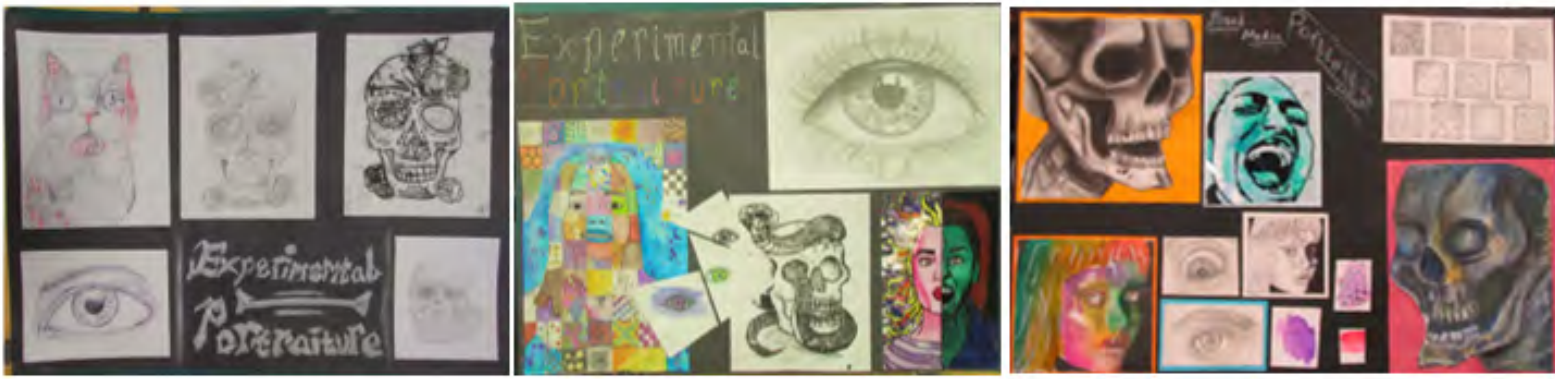
Year 8 - Have been working through a series of outcomes and experiments exploring the theme of Portraits. Some excellent samples are below:



Year 9 - Exploring GCSE skills in the Welsh landscape project, painting, drawing and photography editing skills:



Year 10 - Exploring new skills and mixed media:



Year 11 Art - All students have been working exceptionally hard this term attempting to complete and enhance their GCSE Coursework Portfolio which equates to 60% of their final GCSE Qualification. The most recent focus has been exploring the skills of Lino Printing.





Year 11 Photography - Have been working on their personal projects this term with many interesting themes such as 'Distortion', 'Architecture', 'Tiny Little World', 'Automotive'. This investigative work was developed into a final Graphic Outcome. Some wonderful examples are here below:



321094

£24.99

LEMSON TAYLOR

**DREAMING**

What adventure next? LEGO

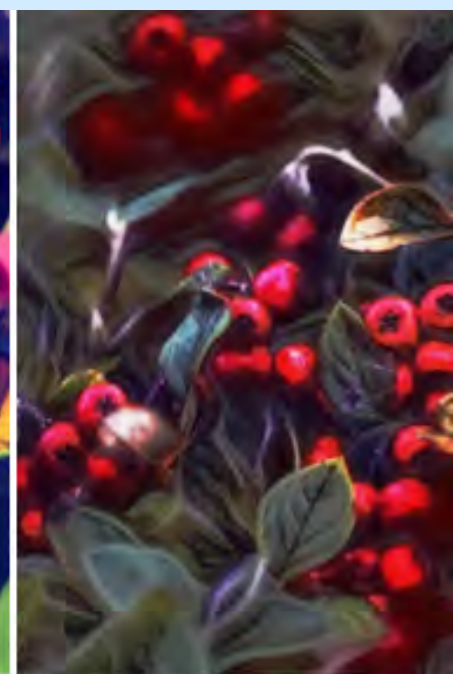
**LEGO adventure**

£1.99

WWII's life time supply of peanut butter! How your always thinking of food!

WWII the train from here is amazing

10374530



**Lovely Lobelia**

RHS

Beautiful flowers for a beautiful garden

Gardening made easy

**Nature**

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE STRESS

Have a look at this week's best nature shots

02/12/24

Beautiful Weather

Keep up with current climate changes going on

**SCREAM**

bug/watch now

Directed by Kevin Williamson, Wes Craven, Tyler Gillett, Matt Bettinelli-Olpin

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE

Haunted happenings

**The skirrid mountain inn**

Water added with a spine-chilling history.

Horrible smells - which are said to still raise the hair on the back of your neck.

**Nature**

Have a look at this week's best nature shots

02/12/24

**Beautiful Weather**

Keep up with current climate changes going on

# Music

Music has had a very busy term with fully booked practice rooms, during break and lunch, a large uptake of pupils for Gwent Music instrumental and vocal lessons. Pupils have successfully set up a number of bands and woodwind/brass ensembles in preparation for upcoming performances. Every Thursday our Croesy Choir of 40+ pupils have been rehearsing for the Christmas Concert and Coleg Gwent Collaboration concert in The Congress Theatre shortly after Christmas. Pupils from all year groups have been selected to take part in The Rotary Club's Croesyceiliog Young Musician Competition, which will take place on Thursday 16th January.

Year 7 - Ensemble and loop skills within the topic of 'Ein Gwlad'.

Year 8 - Blues and Hip-hop, looking at many different musical skills under the theme of 'emotions'.

Year 9 - Exploring digital competency, mixing and live ensemble loops across a number of different instruments.

Year 10 - Explored film music and music theory and has worked extremely well as a class developing their knowledge and literacy skills with key terminology. Taken part in their first performance mock exam and gained excellent results for their first live performances in front of others.

Year 11 - Working towards meeting GCSE Coursework deadlines, revisiting set works and preparing for their GCSE practical exam in March.



# HEALTH & WELLBEING

## Football



Our year 7 and 8 female footballers have shown outstanding ambition and teamwork over the past few months whilst taking part in matches and tournaments. The girls reached the semi-final of the Utilita Girls Cup and have quickly formed strong friendships. Since then, they have played many matches and taken part in the Cardiff City FC Football Tournament, coming 6th. The resilience and camaraderie of the girls has been commendable.

Year 9 and 10 made a strong start to the season by defeating Gwynllyw, since then, they have played in a range of matches and shown excellent teamwork and ambition. They are regularly showing strong numbers for training and continue to express their passion for football.

Our girls football ambassadors team now has 4 new recruits: Caitlin Wall; Darcey Jenkinson; Sofia Vincent; and Sophie Clark. The girls are currently working on creating and promoting a lunchtime club for girls of all abilities to play football, so stay tuned for the new year!





Our Year 7 male football squad has made a fantastic start to the season, competing in fixtures against local schools. Participation has been excellent, with impressive numbers at both training sessions and matches. The players are showing great enthusiasm and teamwork, demonstrating real potential for the future.

Meanwhile, our Year 11 football team continues to shine, reaching the last 16 of the Welsh Schools' Cup! Their journey so far includes hard-fought victories against: Islwyn, Gwernyfed and St. Joseph's. Next, they'll take on Whitchurch High School in what promises to be an exciting match.



Congratulations to Rhys Barrett (pictured right) on representing Newport Academy and on being selected for the squad next season.

Congratulations to Ali Tucker (pictured left) on representing Wales U15s in Bulgaria.



## Hockey



Our U14 hockey teams participated in the South East Wales Hockey Tournament, playing against schools from the local area. The players demonstrated excellent determination and attitude throughout, growing in confidence as the tournament progressed.

Congratulations to Tess Miller, Ava Peplow, Emily Priddle, Lowri Davies, Jess Trollope, Layla McCarthy, Leyla Cagirgan who have all been selected for the County Teams at U15 level and will travel to Nottingham to represent South East Wales in the Mercia Cup.



Year 7 Hockey players participated in the South East Wales Hockey Cup and performed brilliantly against very strong opposition. As a brand new team it was incredible to see them performing with such confidence against well-established teams.

## Gymnastics and Trampolining

Congratulations to year 7 student Rosa Perry and Year 11 student Ashton Rooke who both won the Welsh Regional Schools Trampolining Qualifier.

Year 10 student Callie Williams participated in the Gold Classic Challenge in Surrey where she came first in the Team Competition, 3rd in the overall all around and 1st on Beam. A fantastic achievement - well done Callie.

## Dance



Year 10 student Gracie Fisher will be competing in the World Cup of Dance in Burgos Spain - best of luck to Gracie - what an incredible achievement.

# Rugby



Callie Moore and Kiera Meachem have been selected to play rugby for the Wales' Boys and Girls Club.

This is the highest level they can achieve at their age, with the next step being Wales' Women U18s.

This is a remarkable accomplishment for the girls, and we are immensely proud of them.



Mia Shottle has been instrumental in delivering the rugby programme this year.

Mia consistently supports younger age groups, guiding their training and development with exceptional skill and understanding of the game. Alongside Mia, Kiera Meachem and Phoebe Morris-Sims have been invaluable in assisting with refereeing games both in school and at the club level.



We would also like to recognise Rhyddian Williams for his exemplary conduct while refereeing for younger age groups. Rhyddian demonstrates exceptional game knowledge, empathy, and skill, making a significant positive impact on our learning students.



We are thrilled to report that we now have a thriving Girls' U14s team and a strong U16s team.

Prior to Mr Paraskeva's appointment only a handful of girls were playing rugby.

Now, as we approach the end of 2024, over 35 girls are actively involved in the sport— a major milestone.

On the boys' side: Oliver Evans, Oliver Hurley, Logan Kinnear, William Butcher and Luke Powell successfully completed the Pontypool Schools District programme, representing the school with distinction. We will be recommending players for the Dragons U16s programme in the coming weeks and will keep you updated on the outcomes.



The Year 10 boys have shown tremendous progress in the EPP and Pontypool Schools programme. After playing their second fixture yesterday at Pontypool Park and some away at Senghenydd RFC, they have displayed excellent attitude and work ethic, making the school proud.

## Netball



A great start to the netball season with over 50 students at netball training and competing against other schools. Year 10 have had an excellent start to their season winning all of their league fixtures against Risca, St Albans and John Frost!

Year 7, 8, 9 have had a strong start to their season with a mixture of results! All girls have shown outstanding ambition and perseverance until the final whistle against some tough teams! Well done!

Huge well done: Imogen Beynon, Grace Forrester, Megan Fowler and Jasmine Gibbins who have been selected to train with and represent the South East Wales Netball team. A fantastic achievement and an excellent display of determination and resilience!

# Visit from Paralympian James Ball



©Cwmbran Life

The faculty was lucky enough to have Paralympic Gold Medallist James Ball visit the school to talk about his Olympic experience, students were able to take part in a question and answer session with James about his journey and have a photo taken with the Olympic Gold Medal. You can read more about the visit [here](#)



# HUMANITIES

## Religion, Values and Ethics

In the RVE Department, the Autumn Term began in earnest with masterclasses being held for Year 11 Religious Studies from the start of November. Year 11 students have been completing their in-depth study of the Christian faith and recently investigated prominent religious figures, such as Oscar Romero, who fought for Human Rights.

Year 10 students have explored the issues of the environment, abortion and euthanasia. More recently, they have begun their Unit 1 in-depth study of Christianity.

At the end of Key Stage Three, Year 9 students have investigated issues surrounding prejudice and discrimination with a particular focus on the horrors of the Holocaust. Here, they looked at who the Jews are, the history of Anti-Semitism, and the treatment of Jews and other minorities at the hands of the Nazis. Part of this course has involved examining the role of St. Maximilian Kolbe in the Holocaust and creating a script for an interview with this towering figure from the Holocaust.

Year 8 students have been exploring Christianity today. Here, they learnt about the features of a traditional church, the purpose of marriage in the Christian faith and even acted out a baptism!

In Year 7, students began exploring the 'Who I am' module where they learnt of the importance of religion in forming personal identity. Here, students had the opportunity to craft sermons where they explored the meaning of life for Christians. More recently, pupils have been looking at the symbolism of light in different cultures and how this has fed into the various festivals of light. More recently, students have been creating Advent wreaths to help them explore: what they hope for, what they love, what brings them peace and what makes them happy.





## Croesy Chosen:

Croesy Chosen – Croesyceiliog School's Christian group – has had an action-packed Autumn term with activities as varied as: origami to demonstrate design in the universe, 'finding Jesus' using miniature plastic Jesus', planting seeds to mirror how faith grows and prayer tables. A selection of members attended a service of thanksgiving at the Christ Church Centre, Newport, for Eden Gate – a Christian charity we have supported that helps the local homeless.

A number of outside speakers have also spoken to members ranging from: officers of the local Salvation Army, the chaplain at St. David's Hospice and the husband of Wales' First Minister, Fr. Rhys Jenkins. Finally, Croesy Chosen has now started to promote a trip to Rome and Assisi for Easter 2026.



## History

The History department has had a productive time this term. We continue to reevaluate and implement the new Curriculum for Wales. Year 7 have been busy focusing on Cynefin and exploring how the events in the past and present have influenced their lives. They have moved onto study Medieval History and the Battle of Hastings, 1066. Year 8 students have been exploring the reign of Queen Elizabeth I to find out why she was such a powerful woman in History. They have had chance to learn about her suitors, the Spanish Armada and Elizabeth I's influence compared to other powerful women throughout History.

Our Year 9 students have been studying major events from the twentieth century. Currently they are studying the Titanic disaster, from developing skills in forming opinions on who was to blame for the disaster to honing their source evaluation skills by looking at the validity of the film Titanic compared to the facts they have discovered in class.

Our GCSE students have been doing a great job of preparing for their external examinations for 2025. Year 10 have been studying the USA: A Nation of Contrasts 1910-1929 course and Year 11 have been preparing for and completing their NEAs. We are really proud of the efforts seen by all of our Key Stage 4 classes.

# Geography

In Year 7 students have been studying the local community with a focus on Cynefin and have produced some excellent examples of extended writing on Cwmbran. In Year 8 we have recently moved onto our study of Africa, where we are learning about stereotypes and what Africa is really like. In Year 9, students have moved onto studying Asia- exploring different countries and biomes.

Our Geography GCSE classes have been working hard on preparing for their examination. Year 10 have been working hard on learning about distinctive landscapes, rivers and coasts and Year 11 have completed the NEA. A big thank you to Mrs Lyons- Rogers and Mrs Holland for organising.



It has been a busy term for the Croesy Eco Club. We started September with the great news we have been awarded the Eco Schools Silver Award after we created a school eco code and action plan the previous school year.

The club has also been involved in planting a new school orchard of apple trees which we look forward to watching grow. In recent weeks the club has enjoyed putting together bird feeders, hedge houses and nesting boxes which were awarded to the school following an application for a wildlife grant. These will be placed around the school grounds to encourage wildlife.



# Interact Croesyceiliog School



We signed up to do the Diabetes UK One Million Step Challenge over the summer. Together with fellow Rotarians, friends and family we pledged to walk 1 million steps, we in fact totalled nearly 7.5 million and raised over £550!

This year we have marked World Polio Day by creating this post box topper. Huge thank you to everyone involved! Your time and effort in creating this masterpiece is very much appreciated! It depicts a doctor, nurse, patient in bed, crutches, wheel chair and syringe as well the purple flowers that are associated with End Polio Now.

To mark International Day of the Girl (11th October) we joined 1st Fairwater Rainbows & 5th Cwmbrian Brownies in their Smarties Challenge doing good turns to raise money for Hours of Human Happiness. 100% of the £220 raised will directly benefit the girls at Jackie School in Kyemula, Uganda. They have specifically asked for balls and other toys.

We ended the term with our annual collection of Advent Calendars & Selection boxes for local foodbanks. A total of 462 were donated! We also met DG Malcolm at the Rotary Christmas Market.



# WELLBEING - LOWER PHASE

It has been a very busy and productive term for our Year 7 and 8 students and also for our Year 6 students across our cluster. The recent end of term rewards assemblies celebrated the pastoral, academic and sporting achievements of many of our lower phase students with 80 certificates being awarded to the deserving winners.



## Year 7

Year 7 started the term with 100% attendance on the first day. All students settled well with new timetables, routines and teachers. New friendships have formed, partly due to extra-curricular opportunities that are on offer at Croesyceiliog School.



## Student of the Week

Every week, form tutors nominate a 'student of the week'. The nomination can be based on any element of the student's life both in and out of school. 128 students have been nominated since starting in September for reasons such as: sporting achievements, Class Chart points, uniform presentation, kindness and more!



## Halloween Disco

The Yr 11 student leadership team planned and delivered a superb 'Spooky Disco', with almost 100 Yr 7 students in attendance!



## ClassCharts points

The following students have achieved the 'Top ClassCharts points' from each form:

Gryf R	Carys L
Ben B	Jones F C
Valerie L	Lachlan J
Amelia P B	Ava R
Logan M	George T
Ariana M	Emily P
Emma H	Gracie B
Matilda M	Autumn B N
Alicia D	Gwen M
Alessandra T	Max M

*Weekly photos taken by Mr Morgan are shared in our 'Good News Friday' presentation with all form groups.*



# Year 8

Year 8 have made a very positive start to this academic year with excellent outcomes in class and our school standards being upheld. Our students enjoy sharing good news on a weekly basis through our Good News Friday presentation!

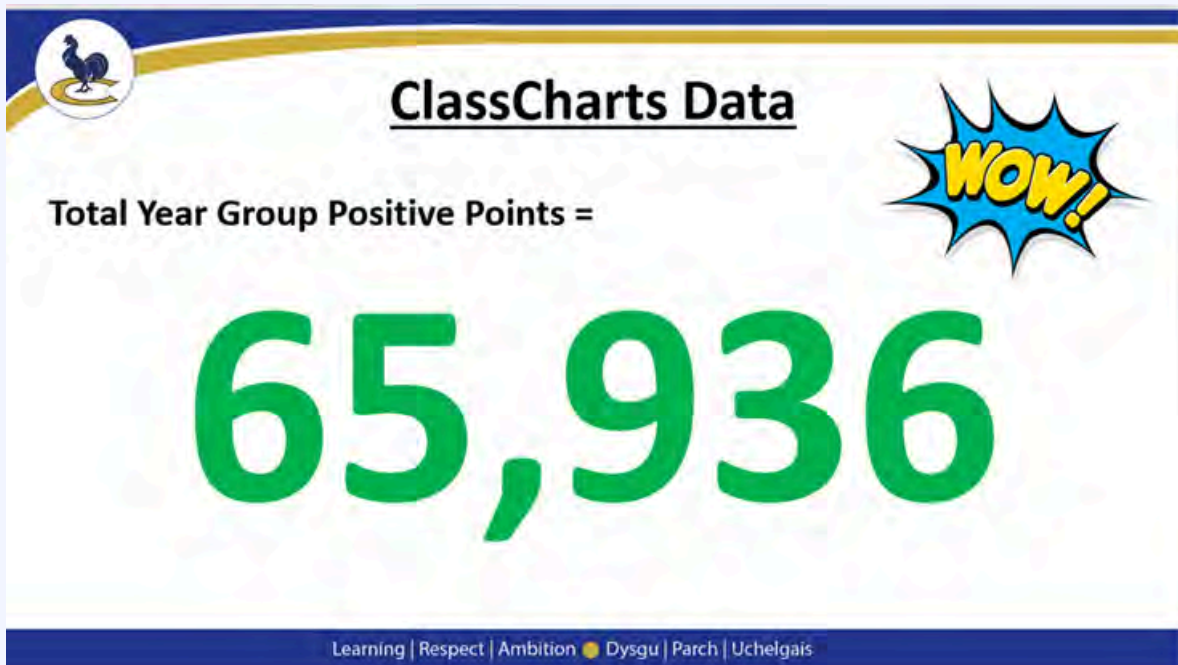


## Odd Socks Day

Year 8 students participated well in our odd socks day and discussed the theme of anti-bullying in form time and assemblies:



Year 8 students have engaged well with the sports clubs on offer this term and weekly successes are celebrated in form time and through assemblies!



# Cluster Schools

Croesyceiliog school staff are meeting regularly with our cluster Head teachers to ensure that our new students have a smooth transition both pastorally and academically.

This term, students from our cluster primary schools have enjoyed a festive trip to visit Santa in his grotto in Bedwellty House.



Also, Year 6 students attended our school performance of 'Snow White and the Seven Elves!' Croesyceiliog staff have also had the pleasure of attending a range of Christmas concerts in our cluster primary schools to enjoy the performances of our stars of the future!

We are all looking forward to more teaching and learning projects and student enrichment activities in the new term.



# WELLBEING - UPPER PHASE

## Celebration Assemblies

As we approached the end of another successful term in Upper Phase, we took a moment during our penultimate assembly to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students. This occasion was a reflection of their dedication, hard work and positive attitudes towards learning.

Students in Upper Phase were recognised for their outstanding efforts across all areas of school life: academic excellence, perseverance, improvement and punctuality. Certificates were awarded to those who not only demonstrated impressive outcomes but also embodied a mindset of resilience, curiosity and enthusiasm for their learning.

We are incredible proud of every student's accomplishments and the progress they have made this term. Their commitment to learning and their determination to succeed set a shining example for the entire school community. These achievements remind us all that hard work, combined with the right attitude leads to great success.

Congratulations to all of our students for their well-deserved recognition – you continue to inspire us and we look forward to celebrating another successful term in the New Year.



## Years 9 & 11 Careers Fair



In November the school hosted a Careers Fairs along-side Careers Wales which brought together 27 companies and further education providers to inspire and inform our students about their future opportunities.

Nearly 500 students from upper phase attended the event, gaining valuable insight into a wide range of industries, training opportunities and career pathways.

In addition to our students, we were thrilled to welcome pupils from our cluster primary schools and Crownbridge School, providing them with the chance to engage with employers and try some of the tasks and challenges from different industries.

The Careers Fair proved to be a fantastic opportunity for students to ask questions, develop their understanding of the world of work and make meaningful connections with professionals and educational institutions. A huge thank you to the companies, providers and staff who made the event such a success.



**Star of the Week**

During the Autumn term the Y9, 10 and 11 Heads of Year have recognised and celebrated over 20 students each week accumulating to nearly 300 students in total with celebration breakfasts of croissants and hot chocolate. Students are nominated by their Form Tutor for demonstrating positive values, being a role model to peers and overcoming challenges.





*Merry Christmas*  
AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!