



Croesyceiliog School

Easter 2025 Newsletter



Comic Relief - £1093.81 raised!

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our 80s themed day in aid of Comic Relief. Students and staff were invited to come to school dressed as an 80's film character, music icon or simply wearing 80's style clothing and accessories.

Additional fundraising activities included an 80s Guess Who quiz, Retro Sweet Sale and a "Croesy's Not Funny" competition where pupils could tell their funniest joke to members of our Senior Leadership Team to try and make them laugh. The 80s themed music playlist also helped create a nostalgic atmosphere on the day.



Our fundraising target was to raise £1000 and the final total was £1093.81. Great participation from staff and pupils and a great day was had by all!

Headteacher's Message

Ms Natalie Richards

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our spring newsletter. It is hard to believe how fast time has gone this term – it has definitely been jam-packed. I hope you are able to take time from your own busy schedules to read through our newsletter to share in the successes of our pupils this spring term. As part of our internal quality assurance processes, we have conducted reviews of our health and wellbeing and expressive arts AOLEs. We have seen pupils taking on tasks in lessons that are challenging and stimulating which are, in turn, building resilience and independence in learning. It has also been pleasing to see such high levels of engagement from our pupils across an array of subjects in these faculty areas.



Further to our focused reviews as a leadership team we know the importance of our visibility around the school and are always on the look out for excellence from pupils in lessons. On a daily basis we are seeing our values of learning, respect and ambition firmly embedded in routines and learning 'habits' of our pupils

We are ambitious for our school to offer the highest quality learning and wellbeing experiences and our self-evaluation is evidencing that we are well on track. With this in mind, I want to celebrate the impact we are seeing in relation to pupils being ready to learn. Not only does our attendance data continue to improve, our behaviour data also reflects a decline in unwanted behaviours in our school; a prime example being a reduction of almost 70% in fixed term exclusions in this academic year so far.

Further to this, our pupil voice surveys support the fact that our pupils are happy in school, they feel supported and they feel a sense of belonging to our community. We continue to drive our school values through all facets of school life and are looking forward to having a termly focus on Ambition when we return in the summer term.

Our work with our colleagues and pupils in our 'cluster' has also continued to thrive over the last term. Myself and Mr Davies have visited many of the primary schools this term and have dates in the diary to ensure we have been to all of them by the end of May half term. It is a real joy to meet pupils in the early stages of their education and seeing how, through Curriculum for Wales, they make the progress from 3-11 and then 11-14. As a cluster we have a clear vision on how our curriculums are working in sync to ensure the best transition of knowledge, skills and experiences for our young people.

I wish you all a very enjoyable Easter break

Ms Natalie Richards
Headteacher

CROESY CULTURE

Pupils of the Month

Congratulations to our winners of a Pupil of the Month Award this term. Some were nominated by their Heads of Year for being excellent ambassadors for our school and consistently demonstrating our Ready to Learn expectations. Others were nominated for personal achievement or reason that the Head of Year felt should be celebrated and shared with the school. All pupils met with the Headteacher who presented them with a certificate and Amazon voucher to spend as they wish.





Torfaen Takeover Day

Congratulations to two of our pupils who were selected to attend Torfaen Council's Young People Takeover Day and experience a day in the life of a senior manager. In order to be considered for this event pupils had to submit an application, stating which senior role they would like to experience and why they should be considered for the position.

Our successful pupils were chosen for the roles of Director of Resources and Head of Communications. Pupils spent the day at the Civic Centre in Pontypool where they attended a meeting in the Council Chambers in the morning and supported council officers and their teams in the afternoon, helping to make decisions that would develop community resources.

Pupils were asked to contribute their views on raising the profile of volunteer work for young people, improving outdoor spaces in the community and updating facilities in the local library.

Both pupils enjoyed the opportunity to gain first hand experience of working for the Council and understanding more about what the roles involved.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Around 150 girls got the chance to quiz a panel of female leaders in media, business, engineering and education this week. The event at Croesyceiliog School, in Cwmbran, on Tuesday was organised to mark International Women's Day on March 8.

The panel included Yeti Television creative director and former pupil Sian Price, Zoe Trigwell, CEO of Trigwell Cosmetics, and Naomi Jenkins, Design Manager at Morgan Sindall.

The panel discussed what inspired them to follow their career paths, how they've overcome self-doubt and what they were most proud of, before answering questions from the Year 7 to 11 pupils.

Among them was Head Girl Marcella Tomasulou, who said: "It was nice to see women from different backgrounds and hear who's inspired them. It's helped me with my career choices."

Year 8 pupil Poppy Takel added: "It was really nice to have women of all ages sitting together - I feel like the atmosphere was something only girls could understand."

Headteacher Natalie Richards, who was also a member of the panel, said: "One of our school values is ambition and we wanted to use International Women's Day to instil aspiration in our girls."

Cllr Joanne Gauden, Torfaen Council's Executive Member for Regeneration, Skills and Economy, who was part of the panel and is a school governor, said: "I was really happy to support this event and hopefully inspire the girls in the audience to use their voices to shout about the things and issues they feel passionately about."

The other members of the panel were Johanna Enzmann, Operations Learning and Development Lead at HWM Global, and Debbie Gliniary, a women's fitness specialist and owner of Mammau Ffit.

The girls in the audience were nominated to attend by teachers and heads of year.

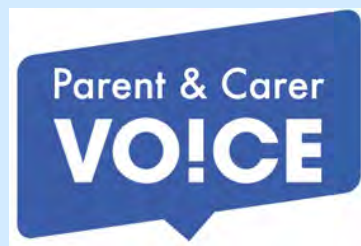
After the event, the school's Croesycast podcast team interviewed several of the panel members for an edition to be shared with the rest of the school.

The event was arranged by Careers Wales and a celebration is also being planned to mark International Men's Day in November.

PUPIL & PARENT VOICE



	You said	We did
Students	More fundraising days/events	Comic Relief 2025 - more events planned in partnership with Student Leadership; pupils feedback was overwhelmingly positive and real 'community feel'.
	Toilets - busy at breaks and lunches	Toilets have been designated to year groups - toilets by reception year 7, 8 & 9. Atrium toilets year 10 & 11.
	Year 11 pupils requested support around exam pressure and revision support	Whole week of year 11 assemblies - revision techniques and motivational assemblies, Easter revision
	Library – pupils wanted the library to be a quiet place to work	Improved coordination and supervision of the library to ensure that it's used as a place of learning and reading
	Mobile phone usage – mobile phones used during school hours and led to friendship arguments	Mobile phones - we made school safer with further restrictions of phones with 'gate to gate' policy
	More input from pupil voice	Student Voice box created by the Student Leadership Team and placed in library to gather pupils views and suggestions for school improvement
	Festive activities at the end of term	Christmas Accessory Day, Christmas Talent Show, Christmas film reward for chosen pupils



Parents	Mobile phone usage – concern over inappropriate mobile phone usage during the school day	Mobile phones - we made school safer with further restrictions of phones with 'gate to gate' policy
	Parents Evening feedback – parents preferred for the evening to be on site, feedback that appointments not running to time	All parents evenings are now on site and in person. Parents Evenings appointments - 5 minutes buffer for parents/teachers to address timing issues between appointments.
	A small number of parents raised that their child had been targeted by nasty comments by other pupils	Review of anti-bullying policy, discussed with pupils at the school Senedd, Anti-Bullying Parent Focus group created.
	Communication – confusion over many ways the school shares information.	School Gateway and Class Charts used as main point of information sharing. Social media used for celebration of achievements; not main vehicle for communication.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)



Year 9 Options Evening March 2025

Mrs Rawle-Jones (Assistant Head/ALNCo) and Mrs Powell (Assistant ALNCo) spoke to parents enquiring about Exam Access Arrangements for our pupils who will be starting their GCSE journey in September.

Year 6-7 Transition

Our Assistant ALNCo, Mrs Powell, has been meeting with local Primary Schools and their ALN students who will be transitioning to Croesyceiliog School in September. The year 6 students we have spoken to are very excited about the move up and have all enquired about the food and what they can do at break and lunch times! We look forward to welcoming the Year 6 ALN students to our ALN Enhanced Transition Evenings. These take place in the summer term, when our team will meet with parents and pupils for a casual tour of the school and our facilities. This is the ideal opportunity to chat with us about any concerns.



In January, we held a Coffee Evening for the parents of our Year 8 ALN students. The event was well attended and parents gave positive feedback on the provision and the opportunity to meet with our year 8 LSA team.

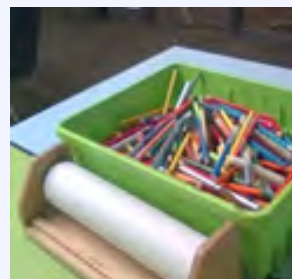
Year 9 ALN evening coming soon!!

Nice to meet staff outside of a meeting

Relaxed and friendly

Very informative, supportive and helpful

We have created a fantastic space for our ALN pupils to use during unstructured times. We recently did a student voice survey to ask what else they would like. Many of these wishes have already come true!



THE BRIDGE (ALTERNATIVE PROVISION)

Welcome back to The Bridge. It has been a busy Spring Term, with a number of pupils from The Bridge having their first experience of formal examinations and participating in a range of alternative activities. What we are really noticing this term are the pupils overcoming a number of barriers to learning. There are still challenging moments, however, learners are reflecting better and returning to the programme more often, which is fantastic for their learning. We are also beginning to see strong reciprocal and trusting relationships being formed between the pupils and the staff, allowing for meaning making, the draining off of emotions and intersubjectivity.

In the classroom, pupils from The Bridge have been working well in a number of areas, with a number of subjects gearing up for exams and coursework. Of Mice and Men is a Bridge favourite. In Science, pupils have safely demonstrated their ability to complete experiments in the Science Labs, which is a fantastic addition to their learning, especially being able to get hands on!



We have also continued getting out of The Bridge for Forest School sessions and all pupils have now participated in these activities. We have been focusing on building shelters, safely boiling a kelly kettle and using tools safely. It has been great to see pupils from The Bridge stepping out of their comfort zone and engaging so positively in Forest School. We have also been improving our community skills and have been walking to the Cwmbran Boating Lake fortnightly as part of our wellbeing and community activities.

We'd also like to give a special mention to Will who has returned to boxing with the Torfaen Warriors ABC. Will has been training regularly and training hard too. It's great to hear what Will has been doing after each training session. There are also a number of other Croesy students attending the same session, so it has been great to see these learners outside of the classroom too.

LANGUAGES, LITERACY & COMMUNICATION

Outstanding Reading Success in Year 7 & 8!

This term, our Year 7 and 8 pupils have achieved incredible reading success, more than doubling last year's totals already!

The competition is heating up to see which form in Year 7 and which English class in Year 8 will claim the top spot for reading.



As a reward for their dedication, the highest-achieving readers on Accelerated Reader have been selected for an exciting trip to the Secondary Schools Day at the Hay Festival. They'll have the chance to hear from authors Matt Goodfellow, Anthony McGowan, and Christopher Edge, who will be discussing their books, sharing creative writing tips, and hopefully signing some books too!

Well done to everyone involved—keep up the fantastic reading!



Scholastic Book Fair

From March 24th to 28th, our Scholastic Book Fair brought excitement to the school as pupils enjoyed browsing a fantastic selection of books and choosing their next great read. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm for reading!

A huge thank you to Mrs. Shone, our librarian, for organising the event and making it such a success. Happy reading, everyone!



World Book Day – 6th March 2025

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

6 MARCH 2025

We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day! Staff got into the spirit by dressing up as their favourite book characters, bringing stories to life across the school.

Pupils took part in a creative competition to design a new front cover for a book, with £5 book vouchers awarded to the winners.

A highlight of the day was “Guess the Book,” where Mrs. Mahoney read excerpts, challenging pupils to identify the stories.

Thank you to everyone who took part and made the day such a success!

An Inspector Calls Trip



In February this year we ran a trip for our Year 11 to the Wales Millennium Centre Cardiff to see Stephen Daldry's multi award-winning National Theatre production of JB Priestley's classic thriller, *An Inspector Calls*. The show returned to the WMC after a record-breaking, sell-out tour in 2022. Winner of 19 major awards and hailed as the theatrical event of its generation, *An Inspector Calls* has thrilled more than 5 million theatregoers worldwide. When Inspector Goole arrives unexpectedly at the prosperous Birling family home, their peaceful dinner party is shattered by his investigations into the death of a young woman. His startling revelations shake the very foundations of their lives and challenge us all to examine our consciences. More relevant now than ever, this was a must-see for a whole new generation. We hope that seeing the performance live will help our year 11 write about the production, structure and form of the play during their exams in May.



Rotary Debate Win

Mrs Sharp's debate club's success! On a rainy Saturday in February, three hardy souls from the debate team made the journey to Carmarthen to take part in the area finals of the Youth Speaks competition.

Croesy have never made it this far before so it was uncharted territory for all of us. The team of Hermione Lloyd-Tolman, Jessica Thompson and Renee Wang were brilliant and although they didn't get to the next stage, Jess did win the best opposer prize. Well done Jess!

We are really proud of the team and must say, it was a close-fought contest, bearing in mind Croesy were the youngest team. We are very proud of all of them.

Year 11 Mock Exams & NEA

Year 11 Mocks

Our year 11 have recently sat language exams in January and literature exams at the end of March. This was a perfect opportunity for our pupils to practise timed conditions of 2 hours for both Language exams, unit 2 and 3 and the literature prose and drama text. Pupils were given item level data feedback with specific skill areas for revision. All pupils are encouraged to use the feedback given on these mocks to inform how and what they revise.



NEA Submission

Year 11 non-examined assessments were submitted to the WJEC for moderation before the deadline of 24th March for both Language Unit 1, Individual Research Presentation and Group Discussion along with English Literature Unit 3 Shakespeare and Welsh Poetry.

KS4 Revision

There are numerous revision clubs this term that are running:

- Monday afterschool Literature 2b A Christmas Carol & Blood Brothers B4 Mrs Dickinson
- Thursday afterschool Language Skills Year 11- various teaching rooms: B4 Mrs Dickinson/ B6 Mrs Mahoney/B5 Mrs Sharp/B7 Mrs Robinson
- Thursday lunchtime Literature Year 11 2a Heroes & An Inspector Calls B3 Mrs Williams / B8 Miss Prendergast
- Friday afterschool Literature Year 10 Unit 1 B4 Mrs Dickinson

Teacher Talk Radio/ LitDrive Conference

Mrs Dickinson, Head of English and Leader of Faculty for Language, Literacy and Communication has been very fortunate this term to be able to speak at two education conferences in Manchester, for Teacher Talk Connect, part of Teacher Talk Radio, at the start of March and in Birmingham for LitDrive at the end of March. Mrs Dickinson spoke at both events, discussing our journey in Curriculum for Wales at Croesyceiliog English department and the concept led approach she's taken, following David Didau's 6 Concepts: metaphor, story, pattern, grammar, rhetoric and context. The talks were well received and ensured strong links between research led communities and continual professional development for staff.



Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) / International Languages (IL)



The Great Croesy French Menu was a real success at the very end of last term! What a treat!

Our French GCSE pupils competed in a French cooking competition in the last week of term. They received French recipes in French prior to the event and, on the day, they had 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. Tout était vraiment délicieux!



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, Ari, delivered exciting language workshops to these lovely linguists who engaged with curiosity and enthusiasm.

Diolch, Ari! Merci! ¡Gracias!

Year 9 Options

Another wonderful event at our annual options evening where it was lovely to be supported by former Spanish pupil, Fearn Spear, who is now thriving in her Spanish A-level studies in college!

We are ready for the new French and Spanish GCSE courses from September 2025!



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 face the challenge, striving to be top of the leader board and receive weekly prizes!

Full name	Language	Streak	Days ac	Total XP	Time Spen	Lessons
Aled	French	0	126	9153	9h 36m	129
Alex	French	422	385	15751	21h 4m	232
Daniel	French	126	149	6344	7h 42m	104
Dylan Currie		0	7	900	1h 24m	27
Erin Pewt	French	0	23	11670	8h 31m	149
Finley	French	0	291	35669	37h 32m	348
Maddie	French	0	85	7717	11h 56m	103
Miles	French	0	92	10550	10h 42m	136
Prasidda	French	0	24	1802	3h 4m	30
Shortman	French	0	3	867	2h 41m	20

The best outcome: their impressive knowledge of extra vocabulary!

Special mention to Alex on his 422-day streak, and Finley, piling up more than 37 hours of extra independent learning in a year! What a way to make a difference!

Bravo à tous!



As we have been exploring a new exciting and challenging language over the last year, by attending Mandarin Chinese lessons with Cardiff University, we have celebrated the Chinese New Year and the Spring festival during lessons at Croesyceiliog. The Chinese New Year event taking place in Cardiff Library on 1st February was spectacular! With the help and support of wonderful Chinese-speaking students, we are also looking forward to starting a Chinese club in September 2025.



Bilingualism

Siarter Iaith Award



We are also extremely pleased to have secured the Bronze Siarter Iaith Award. Earning this award is a testament to how hard, not only the Cymdeithas Gymraeg, but all the pupils and staff at Croesyceiliog have worked to promote the Welsh Language; we will continue working hard to earn the Silver Siarter Iaith Award soon.

Llangrannog Trip (Year 8 pupils)



In February, 97 year 8 pupils went on a residential trip to Llangrannog. Pupils were exposed to the Welsh language daily, were able to see Welsh as a living language and were able to take advantage of the activities on offer. These included skiing, tobogganing, high ropes, quad biking, go-carting, archery, an escape room and more. In the evening, students were treated to games of bingo, Just Dance, a disco and time in the shop to purchase treats. Students and staff returned to school exhausted from a very busy and cold few days on the Welsh coastline. Diolch to all students who behaved impeccably and to the staff who gave up their time to make sure that Year 8 had the best experience possible. We look forward to being able to offer this trip again next year.

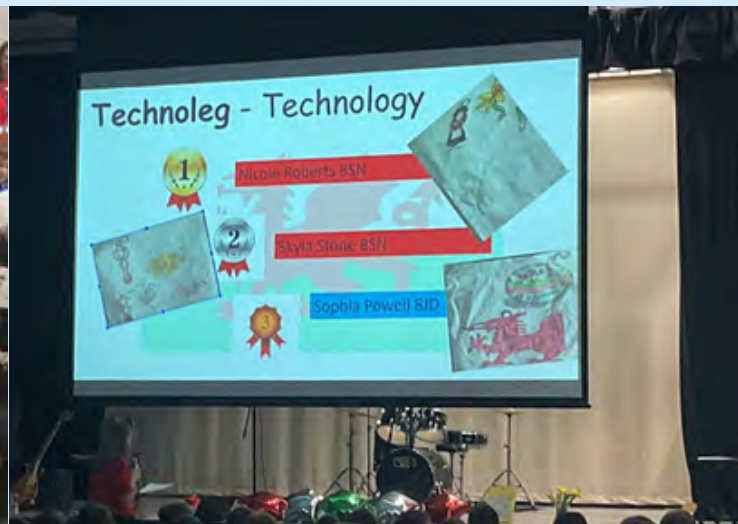
School of Welsh

In January, we were very fortunate to have the School of Welsh from Cardiff University deliver oracy workshops to some students in Year 9, 10 and 11.

Students participated in oracy tasks and enjoyed playing language jenga. Diolch to Cardiff University for the sessions.



Eisteddfod Croesyceiliog 2025



Key Stage 3 celebrated St David's Day with our annual Eisteddfod. Students were able to enter an array of off stage competitions, including: designing a new Welsh flag, creating a Welsh dragon, photos of dramatic landscapes, designing a coat of arms and many more. On the day, pupils performed onstage by reciting poetry, singing and playing musical instruments. Our Eisteddfod was a huge success with Tŷ Glyndŵr taking the trophy across all 3 year groups. Da iawn i bawb!

Clwster Eisteddfod / Croesyceiliog Cluster Eisteddfod



A few members of the Cymdeithas Gymraeg and some of our on stage winners attended the Cluster Eisteddfod event in Crownbridge School, where we were able to showcase the talents of our pupils. We had a great morning watching performances from each of the cluster schools. Da iawn i bawb a diolch i'r Cymdeithas Gymraeg am eu cefnogaeth. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to the Cymdeithas Gymraeg for their support.

Dydd Santes Dwynwen

In January, we celebrated Dydd Santes Dwynwen by creating comic strips after reading the story of Dwynwen in lessons and writing cards.



MATHEMATICS & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Eisteddfod

Students in Key Stage 3 put their memory skills to the test for the Eisteddfod by learning pi to as many decimal places as possible. Pupils competed to see who could recall the most digits of this famous irrational number, which begins with 3.14159 and goes on infinitely. Nearly all pupils in Key Stage 3 participated, earning house points for their house with two stand out efforts from Beau G and Ava H memorising a phenomenal amount of digits.



Number day

We celebrated number day this year with a whole week of numeracy and our focus of 'Numeracy in the workplace'. We welcomed five inspiring guest speakers into assemblies all week including Joe, Croesy alumni and government data Scientist, who demonstrated how he could use numeracy to map out old woodland. We also hosted the wonderful ladies from Solar Buddies that some of you may recognise from Dragon's Den. Each assembly left the pupils with some key messages on hard work and not taking what you learn in school for granted. We wrapped up the week with a day of puzzles, where the students were challenged to solve some puzzles. Here's a little taster for you to have a go at.



Using any letter only once, what is the largest number that you can write down in words?

Example: EIGHTY

But not NINETY as N is used twice

Year 9 Options Evening

Thank you to all the year 9 parents we spoke to during options evening this year. Although we are not an option, we are about to embark on the new GCSE qualification and it was a lovely opportunity to answer some questions about the new course. If you would like any more information please visit the link provided for options or alternatively [here](#).

AUKMT Maths Challenge

Recently, Year 9 and Year 10 pupils took part in the prestigious intermediate UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) competition, an event that challenges young minds to showcase their problem-solving skills and mathematical proficiency. The pupils achieved an impressive total of 11 bronze-level certificates, a testament to their strong capabilities in tackling complex mathematical problems.

Among these pupils, two individuals stood out for their exceptional performances: Jessica T from Year 9 and Harry A from Year 10. Both of them achieved the distinction of "Best in School" for their respective year groups, demonstrating remarkable dedication and talent in the subject. Congratulations to Jessica and Harry for their outstanding achievements – well done both!

Looking ahead, Year 7 and Year 8 students will also have the exciting opportunity to participate in the UKMT competition. It will be a fantastic chance for them to challenge themselves and demonstrate their mathematical abilities on a wider stage.

Below is a question from the intermediate maths challenge for you to have a little taster.



"I can swim faster than you," said the dolphin to the shark.

"That is not true," said the shark to the dolphin.

"You are both wrong," said the octopus to the dolphin and the shark.

"You are right," said the starfish to the octopus.

How many of the dolphin, shark, octopus and starfish were telling the truth?

A 0

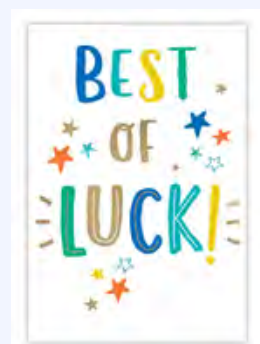
B 1

C 2

D 3

E 4

A huge GOOD LUCK to Year 10 and 11 pupils in their exams. Please remember to keep checking in with your teachers for revision sessions and any last minute hints and tips before the exams. Raise The Grade sessions will be taking place before each external exam.



Digital Technology

Phishing

Phishing Attacks: A report from the NCSC indicated that phishing attacks accounted for 83% of all reported cyber incidents in the UK in 2021.

01 **A example of phishing**
Phishing is the practice of sending fraudulent communications that appear to come from a legitimate and reputable source, usually through email and text messaging.

How does it effect the phisher
The attacker's goal is to steal money, gain access to sensitive data and login information, or to install malware on the victim's device.

02

How can it happen
An attacker gets ahold of a victim's email address or phone number. Then, the victim gets an email or text message from what appears to be their bank.

03

What can the attacker do
Reveal personal information -- such as credit card numbers, bank information, or passwords.

04

05 **How to stop a phishing attack**
The key is that you should be the one to initiate the contact, using contact information that you have verified yourself.

gadewch i ni ei atal = let stop it

Eisteddfod Competition

Year 7 were asked to create a bilingual video advert that could be used to promote an element of e-safety.

The standard of entries was very high and congratulations goes to the winner: Mabel Evens (7SMQ) who was chosen ahead of Cally Bouadana (7AS) and Riley Gullick (7SMQ) who were chosen in second and third places respectively.

Year 8 were challenged with creating an infographic which offered advice on an element of e-safety and, once again, the standard was exceptional.

The winner of the competition was Riley Gullick (8SN) whose infographic on phishing is shown on this page whilst in second place was Poppy Takel (8JD) and third place was Sebastian Pose (8BJ).

Year 9 were asked to produce a 30 second video created in Adobe Premiere Pro on an element of cyber security.

There were some excellent entries through the competition but the chosen winner was Jack Hughes (9NPE) followed by Emily Hoskins (9DW) and Ella Morse (9SR). There are clearly a number of potential YouTubers and content creators amongst year 9.

KS4 Digital Technology and ICT

Digital Technology pupils have made some excellent games in GameMaker, showing great understanding of the GML programming language. They continue to document the processes they have used to create their games, formally test and evaluate their finished games. The overall standard of the games created by the group this year has been exceptional.



The TLM ICT pupils have made great progress this term in completing two more units towards their qualification. They have further developed their ICT skills by concentrating on databases and email. The majority of pupils have already submitted some of their units for moderation with the exam board and have had very positive feedback. Well done to all!



Year 11 Digital Technology pupils have completed their NEAs (worth 60% of their GCSE) this term with the final deadline being the Friday before the Easter holidays. There has been excellent progress made with the NEAs this year and the marks gained will put the pupils on a solid footing for the upcoming exam.

There are a large number of resources on their Google Classroom for students to use to revise for their Unit 1 exam which is worth the remaining 40% of their GCSE. The examination will take place on the morning of Tuesday 3rd June.

Good luck to all involved!

Year 9 Options Evening

The options evening was a big success and there were a large number of pupils who were interested in the IT related options that were on offer.

In summary, if pupils are interested in coding or completing an IT course in college, it is suggested they choose the WJEC Digital Technology course. However, if pupils are interested in completing a practical IT course in which they develop their skills by using software, the TLM IT course is their best option. We look forward to seeing our new Year 10 cohort in IT in September.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science

Year 7 pupils had an engaging lesson on the digestive system this term! They learned about the key organs involved in digestion and then brought their knowledge to life by drawing the organs on plastic aprons. This creative activity helped them visualize where each organ is located and how they all work together in the digestive process. It was a fun, hands-on way to deepen their understanding of the human body!

Year 10 pupils putting theory into practice! Using cocktail sticks to label key structures in a real heart dissection—hands-on learning at its best.



Science Club in action! Our Year 7 & 8 students had a blast exploring chemical reactions and creating their own foamy explosion with the Elephant Toothpaste experiment and understanding flame tests.

Pupils also explored forces in action, using engineering and teamwork, trying to build the tallest tower with spaghetti sticks and marshmallows.



During March, we celebrated British Science Week and the theme this year was 'Change and Adapt'. Pupils took part in special assemblies, activities during lessons and a faculty competition across the school to design a new invention/animal (or re-imagine an existing one). We had a fantastic response as pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 demonstrated their scientific knowledge, creativity and imagination to propose some new technology-based inventions or adaptations. Some of our winners included: designer dogs and designer babies, new body parts, invisible phone cases, AI applications, wellbeing hoodies, grapple gloves, auto-correct pens and transparent toasters. Well done to all who took part, and no doubt we have a few future inventors among us!

Technology

Year 7 have continued to explore structures and frames by competing in class competitions to make the most secure bridges.

We had some fantastic results across year 7 with some wonderful design ideas to match.



Year 9 Food and nutrition pupils excelled in a recent baking lessons; here they demonstrated some wonderful bread baking skills. This continued into year 10 where they challenged themselves to create a more technical bake and included some end of term Easter bakes to showcase skills they have progressed in over the course of the term.





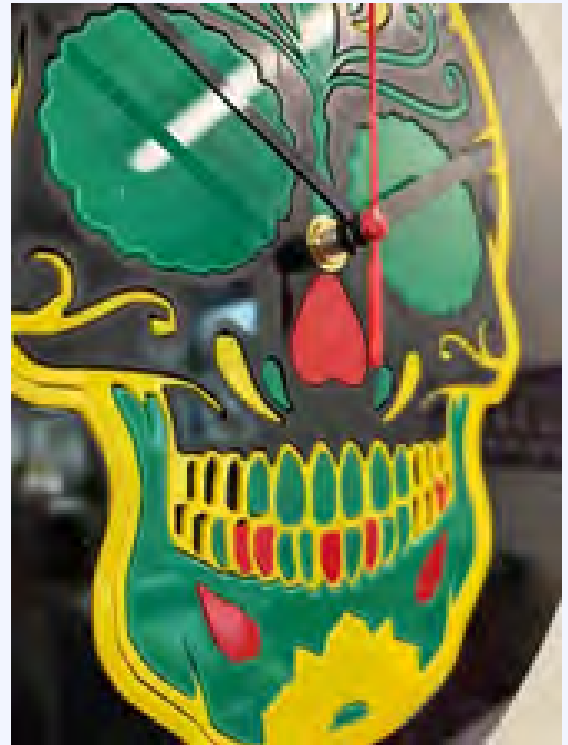
Year 10 food and nutrition pupils have continued to develop their knowledge and understanding of the science of food by exploring the best conditions for yeast to have a successful bake. They now understand more about food intolerance and the range of gluten free products available.

Pupils took part in a sensory testing lesson where they had to decide which products were gluten free!

GCSE Product Design

Year 11 have been working around the clock to meet their NEA deadline at the end of the Spring term. Pupils have been creating a variety of projects from their designs in a number of materials, including;

- Acrylic clocks
- Wooden cabinets
- 3D printing
- Electronic lighting systems



GCSE Health and Social care pupils have been busy finalising all NEA and completing both health promotion and service provision pieces of coursework. All year 10 pupils have finished the course content ready for the external examination in May.

We wish all the GCSE pupils all the best with upcoming examinations. Please refer to google classroom for a full list of revision material to support all Science and Technology subjects.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Drama

Eisteddfod

We were so impressed with the amount of pupils who took part in the Drama competition. The competition was to create a Welsh performance linked to the skills of split stage and flashbacks. All pupils took part in the lesson and then had the option to be recorded to officially enter. We were so proud of how many entered. Well done to all the pupils that took part!

The winning groups were:

Year 7

First place: Oscar C, Dylan P, William P, William H and Bailey H

Second place:

Group 1 Junior S, Archie E, Khush S, Coen M, Liam B and Ethan E

Group 2 Gwen M, Megan D, Imogen M, Mollie P, Phoebe G and Ruby L

Third place: Dylan R, Harry W, Oliver T, Jack M, Charlie M and Riley B

Year 8

First Place: Arabella W, Poppy T, Ollie A, Ariana B and Sofia P

Second Place: Skyla H, Darcey J, Claudia K, Alfie L and Peyton L

Third Place: Emily G, Cerys E, Sienna J, Alisha R and Felicia P

Year 9

First Place: Amelie H, Ayush K, Francesca M, Lucy M and Jay D

Second Place: Aiden L, Ethan S, Ellis T, Jamie P and Corbin B

Third Place: Megan J, Joella Z, Effie D, Lucy W and Millie S

Year 11

Our year 11 have now completed their practical units and are currently completing mock papers ready for their unit 3 exam in May. We have had a great two years with year 11 and we wish them all the best with their upcoming exams.



KS3

We have had another successful term with KS3. The progress pupils are making is excellent.

Year 7 this term have been making their performances longer and have been exploring the importance of using their voices when performing.

Year 8 have been discussing stereotypes, creating their own court rooms and are now moving on to Wales and the World where they will have the challenge of performing monologues.

Year 9 have been exploring scripts, have read a play about the dangers of drugs and have been looking at equality and diversity.





Music

Music has had a very productive and busy term, with lots of wonderful events and performances taking place both in and outside of the classroom. I also want to acknowledge all the pupils who performed on the last day of the winter term in the Christmas Performance. Pupils from year 7-11 were involved and performed in front of a live audience of 240 pupils and teachers. The pupils worked extremely hard putting together their performances and delivering an outstanding level of skill on an array of instruments and genres. It was a pleasure to watch you all, a very proud moment as your Head of Music.



Eisteddfod

Da iawn to all the pupils who took part in the music Eisteddfod competition; the performances were excellent and really displayed a beautiful array of instruments and genres. An extra da iawn to the year 10 pupils who performed on the day in front of the school year groups.

The Winners:

Year 7

1st Place - Emma H - Violin

2nd Place - Amelia C & Matilda M - Piano Duet

3rd Place Lachlan J - Voice

Year 8

Joint 1st - Seren D - Guitar and Kate SB - Voice

Year 9

1st Place - Finley I - Flute

Year 10

1st Place - George T - Piano

2nd Place - Austin B - Drums

3rd Place - Mollie C, Mollie W, Isabel W, Mia S, Ariana B - Rock/Pop Band



Rotary Club Young Musician

In February, the following pupils took part in the Croesyceiliog Rotary Young Musician competition, displaying excellent musical talent in a wonderful evening of entertainment. A huge congratulations to George T for winning the internal competition, and furthermore, joining the first round of area competitions, where he competed against other musicians from other schools and performed to an excellent standard. Da iawn to George and thank you for representing Croesyceiliog in the area competition. Also a big thank you to our Croesyceiliog pupils who attended the evening to support their fellow students in the competition.

Izzy J - Year 11 - Voice

Leon D - Year 11 - Piano

Liz P - Year 11 - Bass

Jessica T - Year 10 - Clarinet

Ariana B - Year 10 Drums

George T - Year 10 - Piano

Emma H - Year 7 - Violin

George T - Year 7 - Clarinet



KS4 - GCSE Music

Congratulations to all year 11 GCSE Music pupils, who successfully completed their ensemble recordings alongside other musicians. It was a challenging task and all pupils worked extremely well on the day, taking in all aspects of the experience. An additional thank you to two of our year 10 students who assisted in the performances, Ariana and Austin, both playing drums to accompany the ensemble performances. Well done to the year 11 pupils who chose to stay for the music coursework master classes provided after school; these have been very productive in the outcome of your compositions. This term will see the end to your coursework and 70% of your music GCSE. We will then have a key focus on the exam and set works. A revision session will run during the Easter Holidays, on Thursday 17th April 10am-1pm, this will be essential for your GCSE exam in June. Year 10 have had a productive term, they have started their unit 2 compositions, completed a performance mock, to which all pupils grades increased and delivered a lesson to the class on different types of ensembles across the music genres, from Welsh Folk, Cerdd Dant, Blues, Jazz, Musical Theatre and Rock.

Trips

The Dolman Theatre

KS4 Music GCSE students enjoyed an evening of orchestral entertainment at the Dolman Theatre Newport, watching the Welsh Musical Theatre and Film Orchestra perform an array of famous film pieces, from Jurassic Park, Lion King, Wallace and Gromit and Wicked. The evening was a great experience to watch over 70 performances and a full orchestra.



The Congress Theatre

The Croesy Choir, made up of over 40 of our pupils, took part in the production of 'This is Us' run by Coleg Gwent and alongside other Torfaen Schools. Croesy performed 3 choir numbers covering a range of genres, from Film to Pop, to a Musical Theatre medley. Our year 11 GCSE Music pupil, Isabelle J, performed a beautiful vocal solo of 'Maybe This Time' from Cabaret.



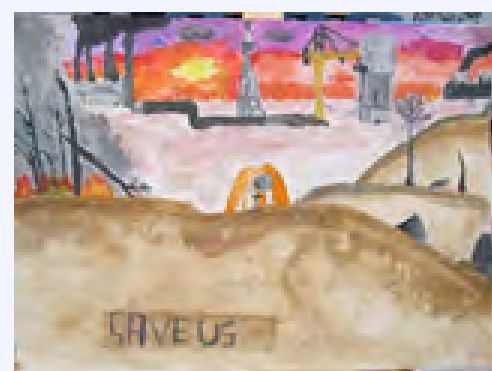
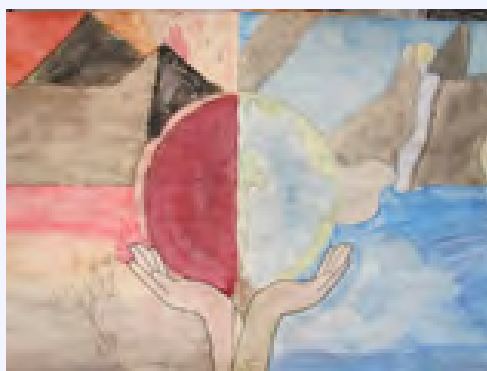
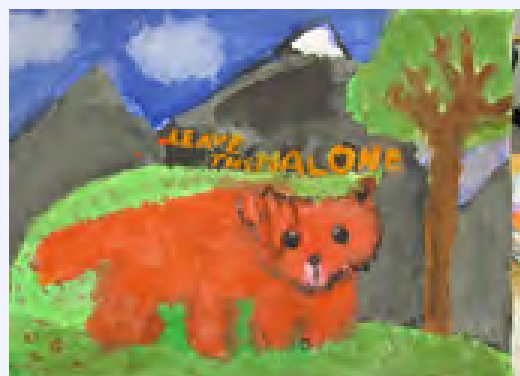
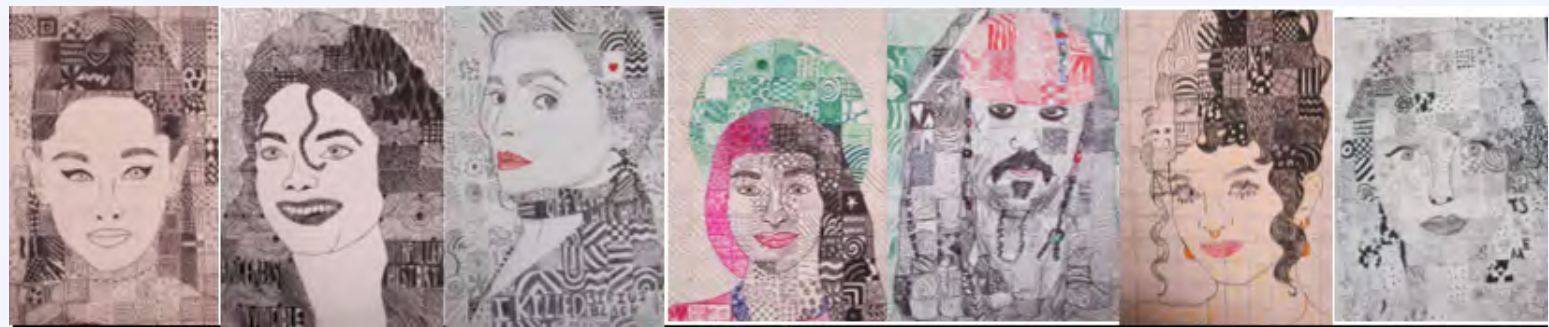
Art Department

Staff and pupils have enjoyed another busy Spring term whilst creating outstanding pieces of work; well done to everyone! Pupils have developed many new creative skills within textiles, printmaking, drawing, mixed media, photomontage techniques and we have seen an array of creative photography outcomes. We have been impressed with your enthusiasm and engagement! Art and Photography clubs have been, as popular as ever, at break and lunch times and GCSE pupils have made good use of Tuesday's Masterclasses to enhance their coursework and examination units.

We are looking forward to being involved in the prestigious Art exhibition at Cardiff Met in June later on this year and the Machen Show, where we will be selecting work from all year groups to represent our fantastic department.

KS3

Pupils have been working hard exploring numerous personal themes whilst investigating our current Curriculum for Wales projects. Many ideas have been very thought provoking, ambitious and pupils have been developing sophisticated drawing, painting and printmaking skills. Year 9 Options evening reflected the enthusiasm from all of our learners and parents/carers. We can't wait to deliver our new GCSE Art and Photography Courses to you in September.



Eisteddfod

Such high quality creative pieces were handed in for our Eisteddfod competitions this year - well done to everyone!

Winning places were:

ART

Year 7 Year 8 Year 9

1st Iwan H & Natalya C Lily K Georgia F

2nd Matilda M & Megan D Olivia K & Jessica H Finley I

3rd William W & Amelia T Rosa B & Poppy W Chloe H

PHOTOGRAPHY

Year 7

1st - Matilda M

2nd - William W & Mason A

3rd - William P

Year 8

1st - Kate S

2nd - Annaleigh G

3rd - Ruby W

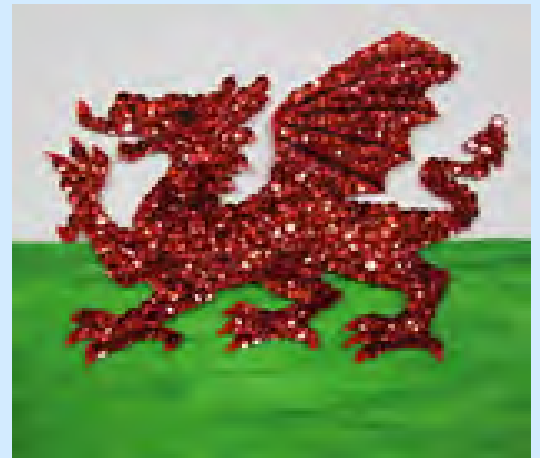
Year 9

1st - Ava D

2nd - Libby B

3rd - Bethan H

These were a selection of the wonderful Eisteddfod entries:



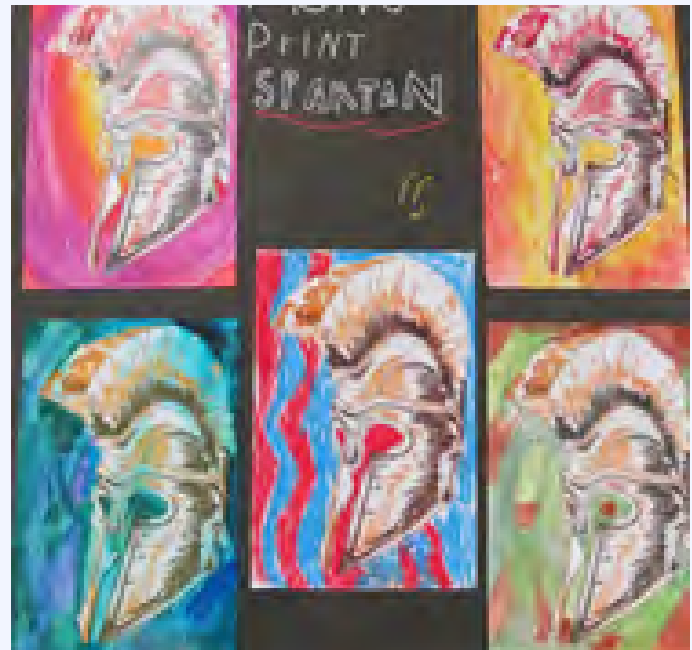
KS4

As this term comes to a close we want to say a big well done to all of our Year 11's for their hard work and determination.

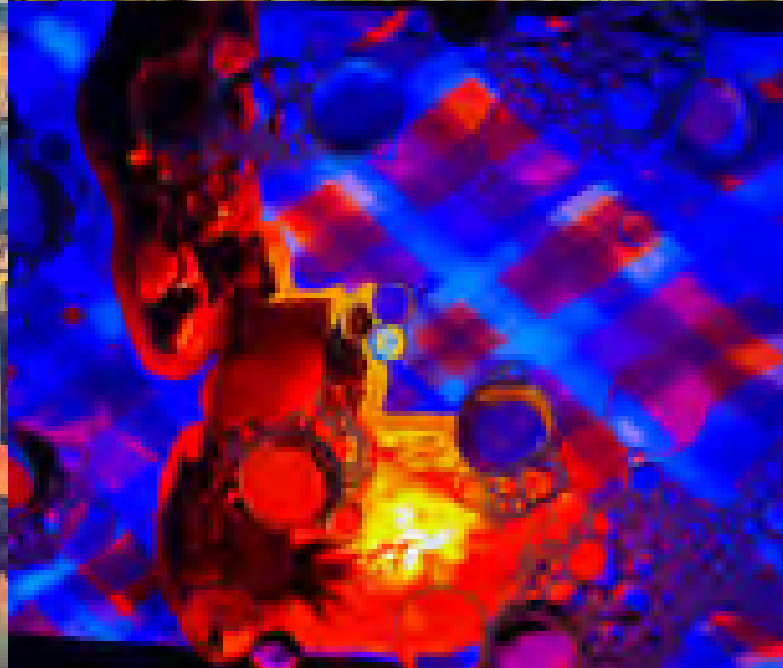
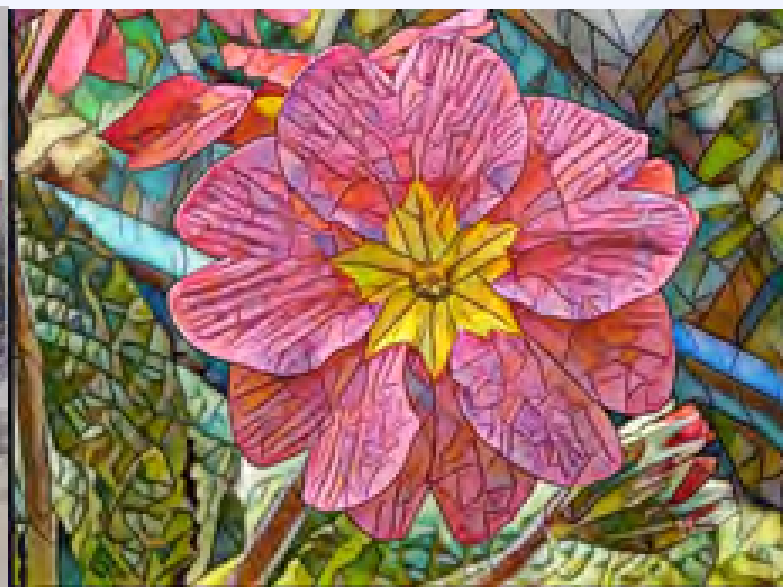
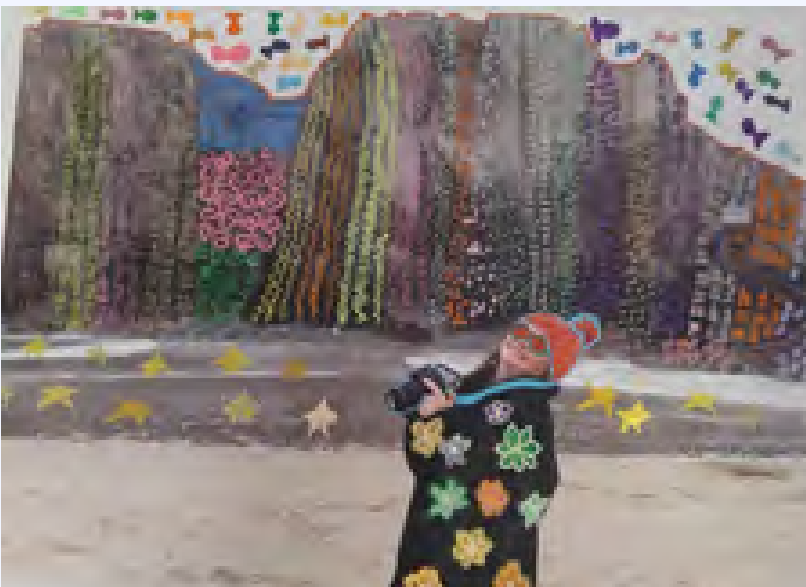
Our GCSE pupils have been industrious in producing their examination projects. They have investigated a range of ideas, skills and created interesting lines of enquiry whilst responding to their chosen examination question. Being amazing 'creatives' is well worth all the effort and it's time to shine using the skills you have gained over the 2 years of your GCSE course. Mrs Jones and I can't wait to see you reach your full potential next term when you create your final examination outcomes - Good luck to you all!

Year 10 pupils have equally been impressive! Their self portraits were innovative and completed to a high standard. They are now enjoying new printmaking skills with etching, poly and lino to build demonstrating expert skills for their coursework skills. Positive attitudes and willingness to learn new skills have been key with every pupil in year 10 - well done!

Examples of GCSE Art



Examples of GCSE Photography



HEALTH & WELLBEING

We have had an exceptionally busy term in the Health and Wellbeing faculty, we have enjoyed a huge number of both individual and team success.



The Year 10 Netball team are South East Wales Netball Champions beating Abertillery in the Final.

Congratulations to Grace Forrester who has been selected for the Welsh Netball squad - what an achievement.

The week of International Women's day, Croesyceiliog pupils were out in force showing their resilience, commitment and enthusiasm. We hosted the under 14 South East Wales Netball tournament, where over 20 comprehensive schools took part. The U14 girls rugby team won the Newbridge 7's and followed it up with a win against West Mon in football.

The U14 girls cricket team are also SEW Champions and progress to the Welsh Finals.

In gymnastics, we have several pupils who participated in the Welsh Schools Gymnastics Finals, where Year 10 pupil, Callie Williams, was awarded her Welsh Feathers.



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 Year 10 pupil, Ava Peploe, who has been selected for Welsh U17 hockey trials, we are incredibly proud of Ava - good luck! Year 7 pupils, Griff Robbins and Conor Urie were part of the U12 Plate winning team with Gwent Hockey club.

Huge congratulations to Year 11 pupil, Ashton Rooke, who is the British Schools' National Trampolining Silver Medallist and to Lily Walding, who travelled to Amsterdam to represent Great Britain in ice dance.

Our annual house matches were, as usual, highly anticipated and it was fantastic to see nearly every pupil participating throughout the week. Thanks to all our Sports Captains for their support throughout the week.

Finally we would like to say a big thank you to McDowells Chartered Surveyors who have very generously sponsored kit for our pupils - they look fantastic.



HUMANITIES

Religion, Values and Ethics

KS3 Religion, Values, and Ethics

This term, our KS3 students have been deeply engaged in thought-provoking topics within Religion, Values, and Ethics.

- Year 9 has been exploring the theme of crime and punishment, delving into ethical debates on capital punishment. Through engaging discussions and reasoned debates, students have examined the causes of criminal behaviour and the importance of reformation in the justice system.
- Year 8 has been working on the Inspirational People module, investigating what makes a person truly inspirational. Students have created inspiration boards, showcasing individuals who have influenced them, and have developed their oracy and presentation skills while sharing their insights with the class. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow!
- Year 7 has been introduced to Christianity, with a focus on the parables of Jesus and the moral lessons they teach. Particular attention has been given to the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, helping students develop key values such as compassion, respect, and empathy.



It has been an enriching and engaging term, and we look forward to continuing these meaningful discussions in the months ahead

It has also been fantastic to see the launch of several exciting educational visits that will enrich our students' learning beyond the classroom.



- Year 8 students have the opportunity to embark on an overnight trip to London, where they will visit a Buddhist Temple and St Paul's Cathedral, deepening their understanding of different religious traditions.
- Next year's Year 9 students can take part in a powerful and reflective trip to Poland, where they will visit Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Jewish Museum, enhancing their historical and ethical understanding.
- Our much-anticipated trip to Rome, departing next Easter, will provide current KS3 students with a chance to explore the city's rich religious and cultural heritage.
- Over the half-term break, we are also thrilled to see 40 Year 10 students set off for New York, where they will gain invaluable insights to support their GCSE studies across the humanities.

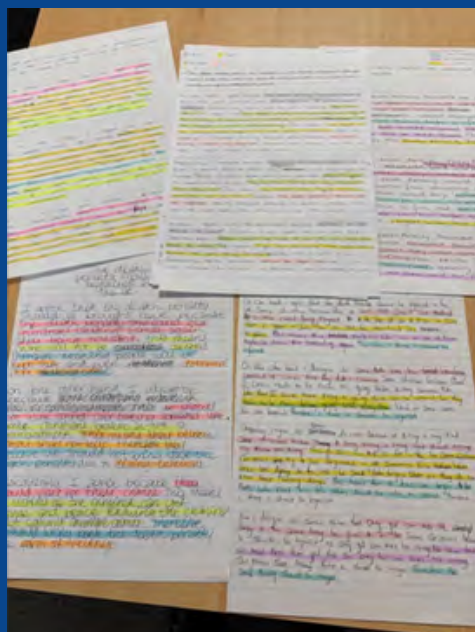
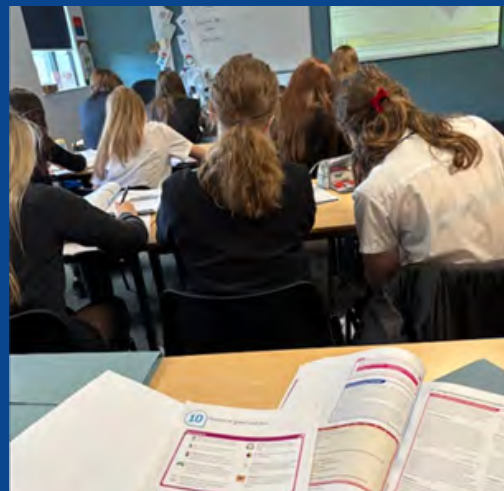
WJEC GCSE Religion, Values and Ethics

GCSE year 10 students have had an incredible year so far in Religion, Values and Ethics, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic progress our GCSE students have made. It has been a journey full of hard work, dedication, and growth, and we are thrilled with how far they've come. With some students making fantastic progress with their grades and, in particular, their evaluation skills with answer technique. This is demonstrated in the identification of evaluation skills that are highlighted in their responses to a fifteen-mark question.

From the very start of the academic year, we have seen each student show determination and commitment in their studies. Whether it was tackling challenging topics, honing their exam techniques, or working collaboratively in class, the improvement has been clear. Our students have embraced every opportunity to learn, and it's showing in their work.

One of the things that has stood out is the resilience they've demonstrated. Despite the challenges that come with preparing for exams and each assessment, they have continued to push forward with a positive attitude. Their willingness to ask questions, seek help, and put in the extra effort has really made a difference.

In terms of academic performance, we are seeing strong results across the board expectations in many areas. This speaks to their focus and determination. The assessment preparation sessions, revision workshops, and in-class assessments have really helped refine their skills and build their confidence.



But it's not just about grades; it is about personal growth, too. Our students have developed stronger study habits, greater self-confidence, and a deeper love of learning. The improvements in their problem-solving abilities and critical thinking have been impressive. It's these qualities that will serve them well not just for their GCSEs but beyond, in whatever they choose to pursue.

Of course, this journey is not over yet. There is still a lot of work to do before the exams, but we are confident that the progress we've seen so far will set them up for success. We are incredibly proud of everything they've achieved, and know they're going to continue to impress as they approach the final stretch.

To the students: Keep up the great work! You're doing wonderfully, and your dedication is truly inspiring.

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 the key traits of successful leadership through the ages. At present, they are assessing the reigns of Kings such as Henry II, Richard I and John and have identified their successes as well as their shortcomings as leaders.

Year 8 pupils have been assessing the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, which has helped further their understanding of morality and ethics. Not only have they considered the slave trade itself, but they have analysed the work of abolitionists such as William Wilberforce and Olau dah Equiano.

Our Year 9 pupils have been studying major events from the twentieth century. Earlier this term, they studied Adolf Hitler's rise to power as well as the inner workings of Nazi Germany. They considered internal opposition to Hitler and continued to develop their interpretation skills.

Although it is incredibly important for our students to understand these key topics and themes, the development of their historical skills are also at the core of what we teach. We believe that our current curriculum allows them to be informed individuals, who are able to scrutinise and question information effectively and reach a decision as to how and why interpretations are formed and presented in certain ways.

At Key Stage 4 we have been incredibly busy preparing for the summer examinations and completing NEA work. Our Year 10 pupils are currently undertaking their NEA now that they have completed studying the USA 1910-1929 course which will be examined this summer.

Our Year 11 pupils have completed their NEAs and are now preparing for their Depression, War & Recovery and USA 1910-1929 examination. We would like to remind these pupils that they still need to continue to work diligently at home revising for these examinations. We have provided revision sessions every Monday, Tuesday and Friday after school for 30 minutes and we will run a revision session during the Easter break.



Geography

Geography has been a busy department in the classroom this term. We have been completing a wide variety of topics and assessments since Christmas! Our Year 7 students have been investigating the world's energy resources, exploring different types of renewable energy and considering the environmental impact of energy use. They have also taken a journey into some of the planet's coldest environments, learning about the Arctic and Antarctic, the unique challenges faced by people and wildlife living there and the importance of these regions in global climate systems.

Year 8 pupils have been breaking misconceptions about Africa by studying its vast diversity. We've explored the continent's physical and human geography, including different biomes, climates and ecosystems. Pupils also completed an assessment on deforestation, examining its causes, impacts and possible solutions. This has been a great opportunity to challenge stereotypes and develop a deeper appreciation for the complexity of Africa's landscapes and cultures.

In Year 9, our pupils have been studying the diverse continent of Asia. We have explored its countries, climates and biomes with a particular focus on monsoons- looking at how seasonal weather patterns shape life in India. The term concluded with an assessment on the sustainability of the Three Gorges Dam, encouraging students to critically evaluate the benefits and challenges of large-scale infrastructure projects. These skills have been vital for growth in Year 9, as many begin to look for new pathways into Geography to study their GCSE's. This term we are studying tectonic hazards. We will start the term exploring key tectonic themes such as plate tectonic movement, and Wegener's theory of continental drift before starting our work on earthquakes.

As we move to the next term, KS3 students will continue developing their geographical skills, applying critical thinking to real-world issues and engaging in topics that connect them to global challenges.

The spring term is a busy time for Key Stage 4, especially Year 11. The pupils are now coming towards the end of their time at the school, and their GCSE Geography studies. We have been finalising their year 11 topics, including resources and environmental challenges and are now focusing on exam skills and practice for the pupils. They are starting to revise more in their own time and taking up the opportunity of additional school revision sessions. Students are working hard on developing their knowledge across the whole spectrum of topics and are preparing for the two summer examinations in May and June. Our Year 10 are continuing their journey through the content for the WJEC GCSE specification. Pupils are continuing to work through the 'Rural-urban links' topic from Unit 1, which covers a variety of concepts such as urbanisation, global cities and sustainable development. Within lessons, pupils have continued to develop their exam skills through a series of exam questions in addition to their end of topic assessments.

Overall, our Geography pupils have been working really hard to succeed and we are seeing a good level of progress from them. We hope to see this continue into the summer term and beyond!

Croesy Eco Club



The Eco Club has continued to grow in numbers and develop throughout the Spring term. We have placed the bird feeders, hedgehog house, and nesting boxes around the school grounds and have enjoyed monitoring them for their activity. The group has also worked with the school to have food waste bins placed in the food technology rooms to ensure waste food is recycled – which has proved to be a great success. Litterbugs – a litter picking group started by two year 7 students collects litter around the school on a weekly basis to help support the Eco Club's aim to improve the school's environment. In the summer term, we are hoping to start developing a garden area within the school grounds which can be used by small groups of pupils to encourage wildlife life and grow a small selection of vegetables.



Spreading Love & Making a Difference!

A HUGE congratulations to our amazing Interact Club for an incredible Valentine's Day fundraiser!

With 200 roses sold and delivered by our very own Cupids, love and happiness filled the halls for both staff and students!

But the best part? Every penny of the £200 raised goes to our Charity of the Year Hours of Human Happiness, 3H – to support the Jackie School in Uganda and their menstrual cup programme, helping to keep girls in school!



EGG-citing News!

The Interact Club of Croesyceiliog School has been on an EGG-traordinary mission to spread some Easter joy!

With the amazing support of students, staff, St Cadoc's Church, Ebenezer Evangelical Church and Henllys Rotary, we've managed to collect a whopping 307 Easter eggs — that's enough to make the Easter Bunny jealous! These chocolatey delights are now heading to the local food bank, bringing smiles to families in need because nothing says "community spirit" like sharing chocolate!

Huge thank you to everyone who donated—you're all a bunch of good eggs!



Celebrated World Book Day & Support Literacy in Uganda!

After months of hard work, we've crocheted some truly unique pieces—each stitch made with love and purpose. £37 was raised on World Book Day by selling crochet book marks. A further £315 has been raised selling crochet book and kindle covers. £352 is going directly to Jackie School in Uganda, where it will provide books, learning materials, and resources to help children build a brighter future. This is an ongoing project so watch this space! Please follow our page <https://www.facebook.com/snugreads/>



Literacy Project

We have trained 9 teachers at Jackie School, Kyemula to introduce a Ugandan phonics based reading scheme which will support the children's learning— it is unique in the country and will help overcome the barriers to gaining fluency in spoken and written English.

More teachers at Jackie School will need to be trained and we will also need to purchase additional elements of the reading scheme over time.

£75 trains a teacher
£25 buys a set of reading books

WELLBEING - LOWER PHASE

Year 7

What a term we have had! Firstly, pupils in Yr 7 have upheld outstanding attendance, behaviour and our culture at Croesyceiliog School. The year group is thriving in lessons, extra-curricular activities and their attitude to school life. It is hard to believe that the year group has only been with us since September as they have settled in so well. We still have 27 students with 100% attendance since September 2024!

The highs of this term have included: the Valentine's disco, House matches, Comic Relief and our very own rugby 7's tournament. Lots to celebrate, both in and out of school, with sporting achievements, academic excellence and the huge effort students went to in producing fantastic pieces of work for our Eisteddfod.

Year 7 transition ambassadors recruitment

We are currently recruiting a team of Year 7 students to become Year 6 ambassadors. This role offers successful applicants the opportunity to lead groups of Year 6 students and their parents during our on-site transition activities. We look forward to training the team up to take on this important role!

Sporting achievements



Lachlan and Grif took part in the Welsh Athletics Junior Indoor Open!

Emma H took part in one of many of her swimming competitions!

Serenna W ran a fun run, dressed as Pikachu!

Matilda M smashed her first Ballroom Dance Competition!

Rotary Youth Speaks competition

Well done to Mabel, George and Tirion who took part in the Rotary Youth Speaks competition earlier on in the term at Newport Civic Centre.



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

Gryf R	Matilda M
Ben B	Tyler H
Tirion V	Zac S
Ariana M	George T

Year 8

As the spring term draws to a close, we reflect on a fantastic few months filled with achievements, opportunities, and memorable experiences for our Year 8 pupils.

We began the term by reinforcing our commitment to high standards, and it has been wonderful to see significant improvements in pupils' appearance and punctuality. Well done to everyone for embracing this focus!

Spring has blessed us with great weather, allowing us to fully appreciate our beautiful school and its surroundings. It has been a pleasure to see pupils enjoying the outdoor spaces at their best.

Sporting Achievements

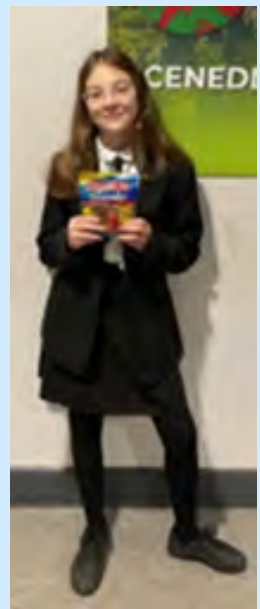
Year 8 has had an outstanding term in sports! Our boys' rugby team continues to go from strength to strength, while our girls' sports teams have also celebrated incredible successes. A special mention goes to the girls' football team, who secured a brilliant 1-0 victory—an exciting glimpse into future fixtures and more wins ahead!

Our Rugby 7's tournament, hosted here at Croesy, saw our students put in a phenomenal effort. We narrowly missed first place in the final match, but the teamwork and dedication displayed were commendable. Da iawn, pawb!

Academic & Cultural Highlights

One of the standout moments this term was Criw Cymraeg representative Holly's meeting with the school governors. She spoke eloquently about the impact of bilingualism within our school community, making both herself and the year group proud.

Holocaust Memorial Day was a poignant occasion, as we marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. This solemn event allowed students to reflect deeply on history and demonstrate our core value of respect. Following this, we launched our highly anticipated educational visit to Kraków in October, where 40 successful pupils secured a place to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau as part of their studies in Year 9. A parent information evening was held, with Travis, Rhys, Ethan, and Morgan volunteering to assist—true assets to our school community. Da iawn!



Celebrating Student Success

Our weekly Pupil of the Week awards have continued to recognise hard work and dedication, with winners celebrated during our "Good News Friday" form time segment. Thanks to pupil voice, this initiative has been a great success, with recipients enjoying a well-deserved breakfast reward each Friday morning. Congratulations to all awardees this term!



We also saw nearly 100 Year 8 pupils take part in the Llangrannog residential trip with the Welsh department. This immersive experience allowed them to strengthen their Welsh language skills while having fun and making lifelong memories. Bendigedig!



Reading achievements have soared, with our Accelerated Reader programme reaching new heights. We now have more 'Word Millionaires' than ever before—an incredible accomplishment that deserves huge praise!

School Spirit & Special Events

World Book Day was a fun-filled event, with teachers embracing the spirit of storytelling through creative costumes. Mr. McDermott transformed into Bert from Mary Poppins, while Miss Harvey made an impression as the bird woman, though she was missing her bird seed and the steps of St Paul's.

Comic Relief brought a wave of nostalgia as we celebrated 40 years of Red Nose Day by rewinding to 1985. Staff and pupils donned their best '80s-inspired outfits, raising an incredible £1,000 for charity. Some of the costumes had us wondering—was the '80s really this great? 8SN took home the gold as the best dressed form on the day. Amazing effort.

As the warmer weather arrived, students made the most of our outdoor facilities, particularly the top pitch, where football games and friendships have flourished during lunchtimes.

Ending the Term on a High

We wrapped up the term with our Rewards Assembly, celebrating over 40 pupils for excellence in various areas. The ultimate accolade — the Spirit of Croesyceiliog Award — was presented to Joseph, in recognition of his outstanding efforts both inside and outside the classroom. He embodies our school's core values of learning, respect, and ambition, serving as a true role model for his peers. Llongyfarchiadau, Jo!

As we head into the summer term, we look forward to even more success, opportunities, and achievements. Well done, Year 8—keep up the fantastic work!



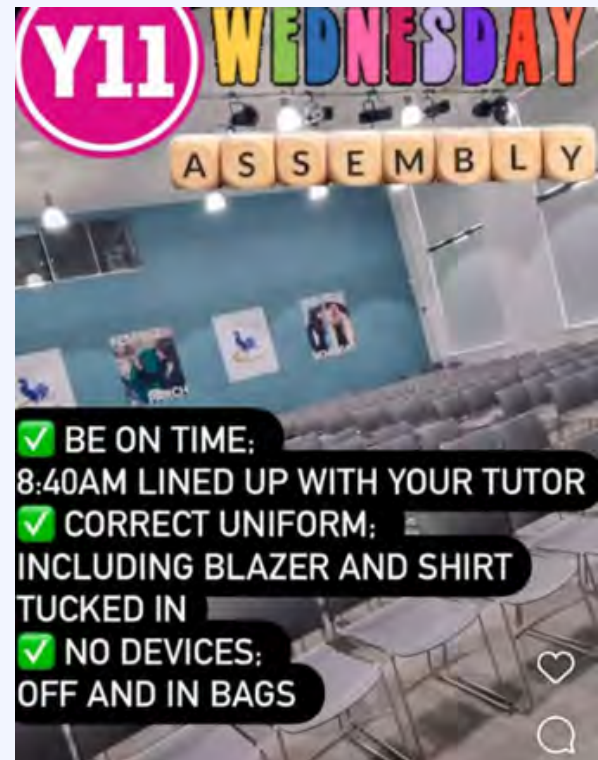
WELLBEING - UPPER PHASE

It has been a busy term for our Upper Phase pupils particularly Year 11, with lots of revision lessons and masterclasses as we get closer to the summer term and external examinations.

Year 11 Mock examinations

In January, Year 11 returned to school to complete a fortnight of mock examinations and received their results on February 10th.

Over 2000 exam papers were completed by our pupils then, pupils have completed reflection activities with their form tutors to identify their strengths and areas for development. This has been followed up with advice in revision specific assemblies and feedback from their class teachers to help them plan their revision timetables and go into the summer examinations feeling prepared.



Advice on exam preparation and revision techniques is also shared weekly via social media on Instagram and X (Twitter).

Post 16 options



For our Year 11 pupils there has been a lot of focus on “what comes next”, our careers advisor from Careers Wales continues to meet with all of our Year 11 pupils and provide them with advice and help as they apply for college courses, apprenticeships and work based training.

The admissions team from Coleg Gwent have recently been in school and held application surgeries to support pupils in completing their online application forms.

During the spring term we were delighted to welcome Coleg Gwent, Cardiff and Vale College and Hereford Sixth Form college to our Year 9 Options Evening. The evening provided an excellent opportunity for parents and pupils to explore the various pathways available, ask questions and gain valuable insights into both GCSE options and future study choices. The event was well attended by pupils and their families and we would like to thank all who attended, as well as our visiting providers for contributing to such an informative and engaging event. We hope that the evening has equipped our Year 9 pupils with the knowledge and confidence to make informed choices about their educational journey.

Year 11 Pupils and Prom Committee

This term, the Year 11 Prom Committee have completed more of the arrangements for the Year 11 Leavers' celebrations in June. After a run of successful Bake Sales, the year group raised over £800 to put towards some special added extras. A huge thank you to all of our families who contributed sweet treats to the bake sale, we couldn't have done it without you.

During February, the Year 11 Prom Committee, supported by the Year 11 pastoral team, set up and ran a Valentines Disco for Year 7 pupils where a further £100 was raised for prom celebrations. Year 7 pupils enjoyed their evening of celebrations which also included a game of “blind date” hosted by our very own Mr Sainsbury.

This term pupils who have met the school expectations of Learning, Respect and Ambition have been formally invited to attend the Leavers' Prom which will take place at the Parkway Hotel at the end of June.



Pupil achievement

During the penultimate week of term, we celebrated the achievements of our Upper Phase students during our termly awards assembly. Over 300 student awards were handed out across the three year groups to celebrate a mixture of excellence, progress, attitude to learning and special recognition. It was fantastic to see so many of our students being recognised for their hard work and commitment to their learning.



Many subject teachers had shared how impressed they had been with the Upper Phase students in their classes and the resilience and perseverance demonstrated in their lessons when tackling, sometimes, quite difficult and complex skills.

Outside of school celebrations

- Congratulations to Lily W who completed in WKC Unicorn Dance Trophy 2025 in Holland this term and came second overall!



- Good luck to Ali T in Year 10 who is going to Italy at the end of April to represent Wales U15s in football.



- Rhodri D, who is a member of the Sea Cadets, had a fantastic opportunity with HMS Raleigh to experience Naval activities and training. Rhodri was able to complete the Navy assault course, visit Naval ship HMS Portland, drive a boat around the harbour and participate in the Navy firefighter training course and damage control training.
- Congratulations to Grace A, and Jenissa R from Year 9 who are part of the Cwmbran & Pontypool Tae Kwon Do Club. Last month the team took part in the English Championships and came away with a large number of gold, silver and bronze medals. Well done all!



- This term, Emily H, Year 9, took part in AberWriting Fests.
- Here is a photo of her receiving her certificate at the awards ceremony for the speech competition.
- Part of the prize was an opportunity to work with the Abergavenny chronicle and writers at the Melville theatre.





From everyone at
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School.