

Croesyceiliog School

NEWSLETTER



December 2023



Message from Mrs Richards, Headteacher

As we come to the end of a busy term I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support. I would also like to congratulate our many students who have worked so hard this term to make the most of the opportunities we have here at Croesyceiliog for them to be successful.

I am incredibly proud of the achievements in the school this autumn. Some real highlights included:

- The election of our student leadership team, our head and deputy head students. They have met regularly and work with staff, students and our governors to make a difference in our school. From delivering assemblies to seeking out venues for Prom they have been superb. I look forward to continuing our work together next term.
- The initiation of our student ministries made of our student leaders from all year groups. The ministries include Teaching and Learning, Environment, Equity and Wellbeing.
- The various accomplishments of our plethora of sports clubs and teams. We also saw the Manchester football and rugby tour in October.
- The hiring of our school site to the wider community. Seeing our site being used by local clubs in the evenings has been a great sight to see.
- Parents evening returning to face to face arrangements and very well attended by
- A fantastic performance from the cast of Cinderella, our Pantomime. This was a real Christmas Cracker and a great way to showcase our talented students. I must credit our staff performers too – an extra treat!

As one term draws to a close we are well into planning for the spring term which already looks jam packed. Our year 11 will be starting a period of Mock examinations in January and our year 9s will be beginning the process of making option choices for subjects they wish to take in Year 10. We have our annual careers fayre on site and will be seeing over 70 students going on the ski trip in March. So much to look forward to.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to welcoming students back on 8th January.

Our Voice Matters - Student Leadership and Student Voice

This term saw the appointment of the Student Leadership Team, and the first meetings of our Ministries and School Senedd.

Following an application and interview process, Elizabeth J and Junior M were chosen as our Head Students. These are supported by Morgan M (Deputy Head Student and Minister for Wellbeing), Fearne S (Deputy Head Student and Minister for Community), Savannah D (Minister for Equality), Jack B (Minister for Learning) and Rowanne M (Minister for Environment).

All forms voted nominated and voted for their form representatives who attended one of the five ministry meetings to share the ideas from their peers. We then held a Senedd meeting, chaired by our Head Students where key ideas were discussed and actions were decided upon. Some of the topics for discussion included ways to make the school more environmentally friendly, increasing information to students about career opportunities for their futures, and holding a business enterprise fete. Our Head Students fed back the views of the Senedd to our Extended Leadership Team and our Governing Body.



Wellbeing Team

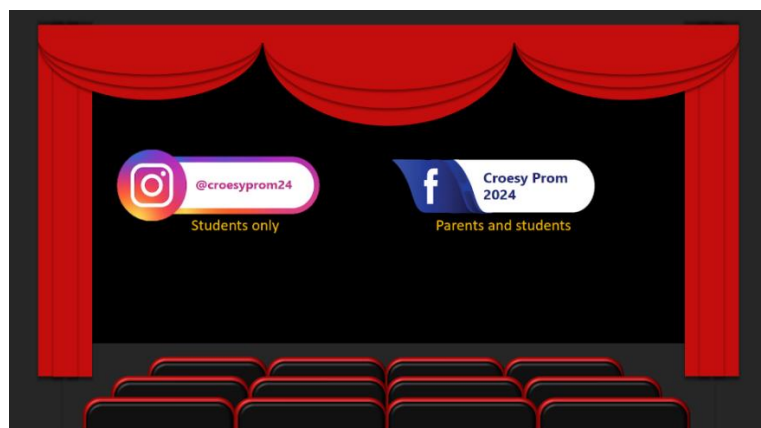
Year 11

Year 11 have had a busy start to the year! Mr Morgan has focused on engaging with post 16 Colleges and we have been lucky enough to have presentations from Cardiff and the Vale, Hereford and Coleg Gwent colleges. Students have received vital information relating to post 16 avenues.



(Cardiff and the Vale assembly)

Prom
2024



Our student leadership team has been very busy meeting with their year group, gathering important feedback from the year group. Further to this, the leadership team has made huge progress with planning the end of school Prom, visiting multiple venues and making decisions on entertainment and financing the event. To help reduce the cost of the Prom, the

leadership are running a rolling cake sale every Monday in school, raising money to pay for a DJ and dressing the tables. This has already generated close to £140.



We would also like to take this opportunity to give huge congratulations for Morgan M achievements in Kata, martial arts. Achieved no doubt through being **disciplined, focused and prepared**.

[@croesyschool](#) [@Croesype](#)
[@croesyheadteach](#) Morgan is now the U16 European vice champion in kata. This year she has achieved this title in two European tournaments, one for knockdown fighting and now for kata. 🏆 🇬🇧



Yr 11 Student of the Term



Yr 10 Student of the Term

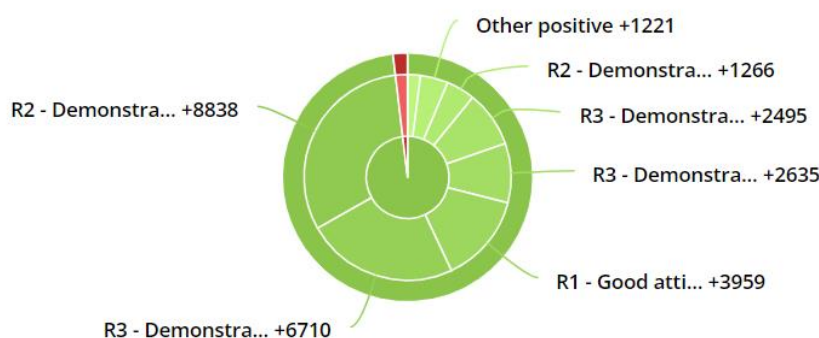


Lower School Wellbeing

Our lower school students have been working hard this term and standards of uniform, equipment and behaviour for learning have noticeably improved in all year groups. We would like to thank our parents and carers for their ongoing support of our school standards

Year 7 transition

Following a smooth transition assisted by our Year 6 colleagues, our new Year 7 is shaping up to be an outstanding year group with a record breaking 100,000 positive class charts achieved in their first term! Staff found it very difficult to award our end of term achievement certificates due to the high standards across the year group. Our Tea with Tutors event was very well attended and the feedback from staff and parents was very positive about the pastoral care that the students have received from the Year 7 Wellbeing team and form tutors



Year 9 Youth Service course

Congratulations to the students in year 9 who have successfully completed their wellbeing workshop course this term. Feedback from the Youth service was extremely positive about the maturity and empathy of the students who attended



Year 9 Options update

School staff are preparing to support Year 9 students through the options process after the Christmas break. From the middle of January until March and in partnership with parents and carers, students will choose their Upper school courses. All students will receive advice from their teachers, form tutors, Careers Wales and senior staff. The Year 9 Options evening will take place on Wednesday 7th February from 4pm.



Lower School rewards

The Lower School Progress Leaders have enjoyed celebrating the success of students in their year groups in their end of term rewards assemblies and weekly through their Good News Friday presentations. Form tutors have been nominating a student to receive the weekly form tutor award and staff have been sharing 'shout outs' to pass on via the Good News Friday presentations



Staff Shout Outs!!

Mrs Richards (Headteacher) – “Thank you to all year 7s who are consistently displaying the qualities of a Croesy student. I am blown away by how many positive points you have earned.”



Mrs McDermott (Year 7 Leader of Progress and Standards) – “Arabella gave me a lovely Pom Pom ball she had made as a thank you on World Teacher’s Day. Such a thoughtful gesture which I will treasure. Thanks again Arabella.”



Mrs Harvey (Wellbeing and Achievement Officer) – “Shout out to 7SN, they have been behaving really well for their Form Tutors this week and were exceptional when I was with them for Mr McDermott’s assembly.”

Lower School end of term rewards

This year a new 'Spirit of Croesyceiliog' reward has been created to recognise the student in each year group who represents our values of Learning, Respect and Ambition and embraces all aspects of Croesyceiliog School life. Congratulations to all award winners this term!



YEAR 9



The following have received the most Classchart points

Kennedie F	9ES
Yasmin T	9ES
Charlie M	9ES
Imogen B	9ES
Iestyn D	9ES
Lexi H	9ES
Jasmin G	9ES
Leyla C	9ES
Ava P	9ES
Jess P	9TB



Form of the term

9 ES

Elliott B	9SM
Evie B	9LM
Ellis C	9SC
Seren C	9SC
Logan D	9SC
Evan E	9TB
Daisy F	9TB
Megan F	9LM
Oliver G	9SC
Ben H	9ES
Charlie H	9CP
Rileigh J	9TB
Oscar J	9TB
Laila J	9TB
Thai P	9TB
Libby R	9SM
Amelia R	9SM
Carys S	9TB
Joseph S	9CP

Luca T	9TB
Jessica T	9EG
Grace T	9LM
Yasmin T	9ES
Caitlin W	9SE
Renee W	9SM
Lewys W	9LM
Bobby-Jo W	9CP
Callie W	9EG
Ffion W	9LM
Rhyddian W	9EG
Bailey W	9CP
Mia W	9SM



YEAR 8



The following have received the most Classchart points

Harley A	8DW	Blake M	8NPE
Llewli B	8AB	Cian P	8AB
Imogen B	8SR	Chloe P	8SMU
Jesse B	8AB	Charlie P	8NPE
Fatima B	8AS	Isla P	8NPE
Lily C	8SMY	Jenissa R	8IH
Ava D	8AS	Finley R	8SR
Lowri D	8IH	Cadi S	8NPE
Riley D	8SMY	Holly S	8NPE
Daniel D	8SMU	Ethan S	8IH
Aidan E-B	8SR	Ellis O T	8SMU
Ava E-B	8SR	Samuel T	8AS
Alice G	8NPE	Leonardo T	8NPE
Kaiden H	8AS	Isabella T	8DW
Antony J	8SMU	Lily W	8SMY
Leila L	8IH	Jasmine W	8IH
Declan M	8DW	Joella Z	8AB
Francesca M	8DW		
Tess M	8DW		
Kgetho M	8SMU		

Miya H (8SMY)	646
Phoebe G (8SR)	632
Daniel D (8SMU)	606
Hannah S (8SMY)	584
Ava E-B (8SR)	581
Emily Y (8SMY)	557
Ella M (8SR)	556
Emily D (8SMY)	550
Jack P-S (8SMY)	533
Evie C (8SMY)	528



Form of the term

8SMY



YEAR 7



The following have received the most Classchart points

Name	Reg		
Kai A	7AS	Jessica H	7IT
Emily A	7AS	Gracie J	7JS
Aaron B	7SN	Elijah K	7AS
James B	7JS	Jayden K	7JS
Ariana B	7JD	Hollie-Elise M	7AS
Sophie C	7JW	Evie O	7JD
Elijah C	7BJ	Jake R	7BJ
Seren D	7BJ	Sophie S	7JD
Corey D	7BJ	Sophie S	7SN
Grace D	7JS	Skyla S	7SN
Eva-Jean E	7JW	Poppy V	7TJ
Alex E	7AS	Sofia V	7TJ
Liam E	7JS	Tilly V	7TJ
Addiana G	7JS	Ethan W	7JD
Annaleigh G	7SN	Poppy W	7BJ
Leon G	7JS	Amy W	7JW
Evan H	7TJ	Harry W	7JD
Brooke H	7TJ		

Nicole R	7SN
Gracie J	7JS
Lola C	7JW
Poppy V	7TJ
Ruby P	7BJ
Tahlia T	7IT
Harry C	7AS
Arabella W	7JD



Form of the term

7AS

Languages, Literacy and Communication Faculty

English

Rotary Youth Speaks 2023-24

Autumn term saw the return of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition. This year, thanks to some super subs and Mrs Wilkie's powers of persuasion, we managed to field two junior teams and one senior team to take to the first round at the Croesy Cricket Club.

Sadly, the senior team were pipped to the post by Cwmbran High, but the junior team of Renee, Jessica T and Mollie C triumphed and will go on to the next round in Newport in January. There they will be up against a team from St Joseph's High School and we will be working towards a win this time.

Thanks again to all the team members in addition to the students mentioned above: Junior M, Alice M, Jess H, George T, Evan E and Hermione L. You were all a credit to Croesy and it's been a privilege to coach you through the competition.



Accelerated Reader

During the course of this term, Year 7 and 8 have been busy reading at home and during English lessons. So far this year we have read over 1,334 books! Special mention to our two word millionaires Florrie C and Seren D. Keep up the good work and keep reading!

Cymraeg

Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae Day 2023 - 13th October

We celebrated Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae in school on Friday 13th October. The Welsh department and the Criw Cymraeg welcomed members of Criw Cymraeg from our cluster primary schools in the morning for an hour of language games and conversation. Members of Criw Cymraeg then spent some time in the kitchen baking Welsh cakes which we sold at break time to staff. Classes designed a Shwmae poster as part of a competition. All staff and students enjoyed using the Welsh language.



Celebration of International Languages

We have enjoyed participating in Mentoring workshops and a linking languages project with Cardiff University. Zhen Ni is our Language mentor from Cardiff University this year; she has already delivered six exciting mentoring sessions to a group of Year 9 students, as well as two language workshops to another year 9 class. Who knew languages could be so much fun?! Useful, even life-changing! More mentoring sessions to come in the spring term!



Maths Faculty



Year 7

We would like to offer a massive congratulations to year 7 on a fantastic first full term at Croesy. They have shown enthusiasm and maturity completing their National Tests at the beginning of the year. We have spent the term planning parties and 'visiting' restaurants applying our skills to real life situations.

Year 8

Year 8 MAT students have started to engage with club Parallel. Club parallel offers a fantastic opportunity to try mind bending problems and give your brain muscles a good flex every Thursday. As we go forward we will start an in person

club. If you haven't signed up yet don't worry, invites will be sent out in January so keep an eye out on your ClassCharts. In the meantime see if you can solve this **Maths Christmas Cracker Joke**



Can you match the mathematical joke to the correct punchline?

- **Punchline A:** Henry the 18
- **Punchline B:** Remove the S.
- **Punchline C:** Because it gives them square roots.

Joke 1: Which King loved fractions?

Joke 2: Why do planets hate maths?

Joke 3: How do you make 7 an even number?

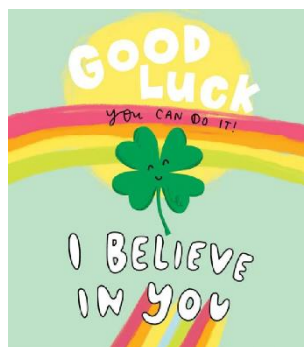
Year 9

Year 9 have been completing fantastic work throughout this term and we have been introducing many GCSE topics including Simultaneous Equations, Algebraic Fractions, Angle problems and Area Problem Solving. They have finished this term by completing an assessment that many of the students have been working very hard towards. Please look out for results and QLAs in the backs of books in January.

Year 10

Year 10 have been pushing on this term with the GCSE theory in their lessons. They have been working hard on Trigonometry, Simultaneous Equations, Volume of 3D shapes and Estimating the Mean. They have finished this term by completing an assessment that many of the students have been working very hard towards. Please look out for results and QLAs in the backs of books in January.

Year 11

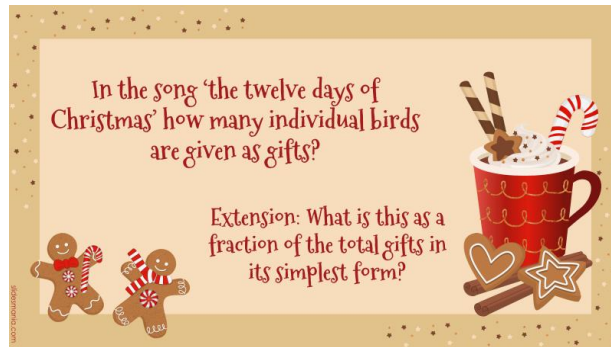


At the beginning of the academic year, Year 11 focussed their efforts on the GCSE Numeracy qualification with approximately 150 of our students sitting their qualification in November. A huge GOOD LUCK to those Year 11 students involved and fingers crossed for some extremely happy faces when receiving their GCSE Numeracy results on the 11th January 2024.

A polite reminder that there are GCSE Maths mock on the 17th and 22nd of January for all of year 11.

Form time

During form time this year students have been completing procedural questions based on weaknesses found in their National Numeracy Tests. Students have engaged really well with these starters and much prefer it to the old form time activities. In the run up to Christmas there was a Christmas numeracy activity that you can also have a go at.



The answers are below.

Answer:

First lets look at the lyrics
On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my true love gave to me

- Twelve drummers drumming,
- Eleven pipers piping,
- Ten lords a-leaping,
- Nine ladies dancing,
- Eight maids a-milking,
- Seven swans a-swimming,
- Six geese a-laying,
- Five golden rings,
- Four calling birds,
- Three French hens,
- Two turtle doves,
- And a partridge in a pear tree!

- We receive the partridge 12 times, the doves 11 times, the hens 10 times, the calling birds 9 times, the geese 7 times and finally the swans 6 times.
- To calculate the total number of birds given we need to multiply these numbers by the number of birds given in each gift.

Partridge: $12 \times 1 = 12$
Dove: $11 \times 2 = 22$
Hens: $10 \times 3 = 30$
Calling Birds: $9 \times 4 = 36$
Geese: $7 \times 6 = 42$
Swans: $6 \times 7 = 42$

Total = 184 birds.

Science and Technology Faculty

Science

Year 8 pupils have studied a variety of biology, chemistry and physics topics this term including; energy, elements and compounds, chemical reactions and photosynthesis.

Amongst the practicals that pupils have enjoyed is burning different types of crisps to investigate which contains the most energy.



Year 9 have learned about domestic electricity and the circulatory system, which included dissection of hearts. The chemistry topics covered this term included rates of reaction and the periodic table. Pupils have observed the explosive reactions of lithium, sodium and potassium with water and have completed flame tests to identify metal ions by the coloured flames they produce.

At GCSE, the year 10 biology groups have studied the fundamental topics of cells, enzymes and transport (diffusion, osmosis and active transport), respiration and the respiratory system and the digestive system. This has included practical work, extended writing practice examination questions and an assessment test.

Year 11 biology groups continued their unit 2 work which began after the external examination in June, studying topics on classification and biodiversity, cell division, DNA and genetics, variation and evolution. Pupils have completed an assessment test on these topics in preparation for the January mock exam.

Year 10 have begun their exploration of GCSE Double Award Physics by learning about Electric Circuits and Generating Electricity. In these topics they learned about the basics of electric circuits, making measurements using ammeters and voltmeters, how electricity is generated and transmitted around the country and the environmental impacts. These topics have included extended writing questions (QER), past examination questions, practical work and an assessment test.

In GCSE Physics, year 10 groups have been learning about Electric Circuits and Generating as described above. They have also been learning about Electromagnetism. In this topic they have been introduced to electromagnetic induction, the

motor effect and the use of transformers. They have also had opportunities to attempt extended writing questions (QER), past examination questions, practical work and an assessment test.

Year 11 GCSE Double Award Physics have almost completed half the content of their course. They have developed a knowledge of Distance, Speed and Acceleration, Newton's Laws, Work and Energy and Stars and Planets. They have also had opportunities to attempt extended writing questions (QER), past examination questions, practical work and an assessment test. They will shortly have a mock examination with questions about Distance, Speed and Acceleration, Newton's Laws and Stars and Planets. I would encourage them to refer to their Google classroom to access revision material.

In GCSE Physics, year 11 as well as studying the topics above have also studied a topic about the Universe. In this topic they learnt about how the Universe was created and the evidence to support it. They have also had opportunities to attempt extended writing questions (QER), past examination questions, practical work and an assessment test. They will shortly have a mock examination with questions about Distance, Speed and Acceleration, Newton's Laws, Stars and Planets and the Universe. I would encourage them to refer to their Google classroom to access revision material

In January, all year 11 pupils will be completing external practical exams that will make up 10% of their final grades in the sciences. The separate biology, chemistry and physics classes will be completing three practical exams, each will be followed by an analysis paper. The double science class will be completing two practical exams followed by two analysis papers. These external examinations are an essential part of the course and good marks in these papers could potentially boost the final grades.

Technology

Food and Nutrition

We have had a whirlwind of a term cooking a variety of dishes in Key stage 3. Year 7 have been busy looking into food hygiene and cooking quick grill pizza, pasta salad and a breakfast cereal bar. Year 8 have managed to investigate sugar content in cereal, look at key cooking temperatures and made a Bolognese, rock cakes and even dips and dippers! Our Year 9 students have had a taste of what we offer at GCSE level, investigating the effects of Yeast in baking and have had the opportunity to cook a curry, bread and a pizza.

Our year 10 food and nutrition students have made some excellent progress understanding the properties of ingredients and have developed excellent presentation skills during a recent Christmas themed practical!



Product Design coursework began in September and already the Y11s have shown great interest and progression in completing their desired projects which equates to 50% of their final GCSE. They have produced a range of sketch ideas, Computer aided designs and now modelling and manufacturing.

KS3 pupils have enjoyed a plethora of design and make tasks that have completed since September; sweet dispensers and LED lights galore have been made with the seasonal project of Halloween keyrings and Xmas decorations thrown in to add to the already amazing outcomes seen in DT. Well done!

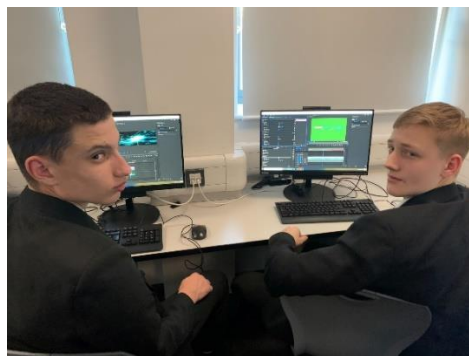
ICT

Year 7 and 8 students started the term by developing their spreadsheet skills. They use the new 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 vector and bitmap graphics whilst gaining some experience of using Adobe Photoshop.

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. This culminated in the students completing an assignment in which they were required to create a social media campaign for a chosen topic. 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 Unit2 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 developed HTML and CSS coding skills.



Year 11 Digital Technology students have been completing the Unit 3 NEA of their GCSE worth 20% of their final mark. The students were given the context of creating a social media video for the Cyber Security Industry in Wales. Students researched demographics of a range of social media platforms in order to create a bespoke video. The

students used Adobe Premiere Pro to create the videos and there were some excellent videos created. Students will continue to make improvements to their NEA work next term whilst largely concentrating on the theory element of the course. There are a range of notes already posted on Google Classroom and the students will be completing a mock paper on Tuesday 16th January.

Expressive Arts Faculty

Since returning in September students have now been having drama lessons every week rather than once a fortnight and this has had a massive impact on their confidence. Students across all year groups have been busy exploring a range of topics and themes while developing their creative thinking, approach to group working and practical performance skills.

GCSE students in Year 11 have completed their Unit 1 practical examinations, where they performed their own devised work in the style of a theatre practitioner of their choosing. They have now started rehearsing for Unit 2 where they'll be performing a range of extracts from different plays in front of an external examiner.

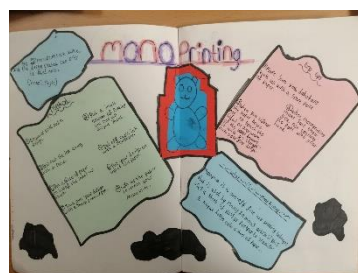
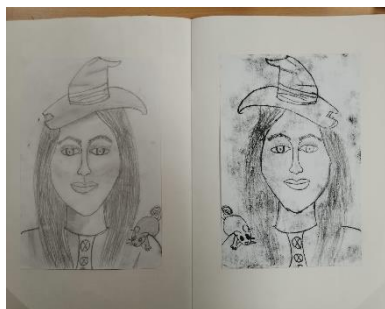
In Year 10, students have begun to explore a range of styles and approaches to creating theatre, including the techniques of Bertolt Brecht and Steven Berkoff. Year 10 have made an excellent start this term and have already completed a mock question.

In years 7-9 we have created some new lessons to link with the new curriculum. Year 7 have been looking at the dangers of cyberbullying and the importance of acceptance. Year 8 started exploring the topic of emotion which focussed on evacuees and they have been experimenting focussing on explorative strategies, for example, still images, thought tracking etc. Year 9 have been really mature this term looking at the consequences of their actions and the dangers of getting involved in County Lines. Work has been met with enthusiasm, maturity and a growing confidence.

The Art Department has had a very busy and successful term. Year 11 Artists and Photographers are completing wonderful GCSE Coursework Portfolios at the end of this term and will be looking forward to beginning their WJEC External Exam Unit on return in January. Year 10 have spent time exploring mixed media techniques gaining confidence to move forward with sketchbook studies and outcomes. In years 7-9 students have continued to explore a wide range of ideas and techniques whilst investigating the new Curriculum for Wales projects. The Art rooms have been very busy every day with Year 6 Open Evening, Art Club, Chess Club, as well as making props and costumes for our school Panto and Christmas cards and bags. It's been a very productive term indeed!

Year 7



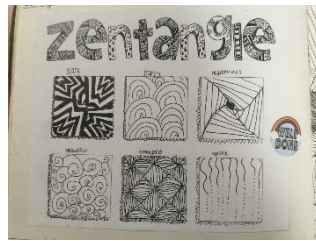


Year 8

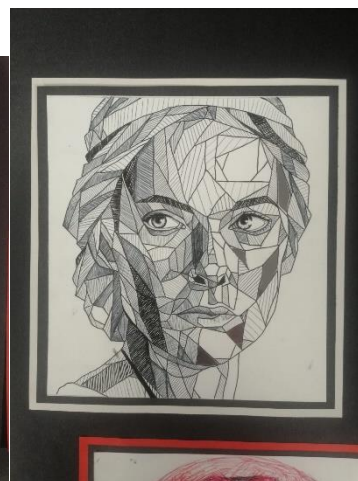


Year 9



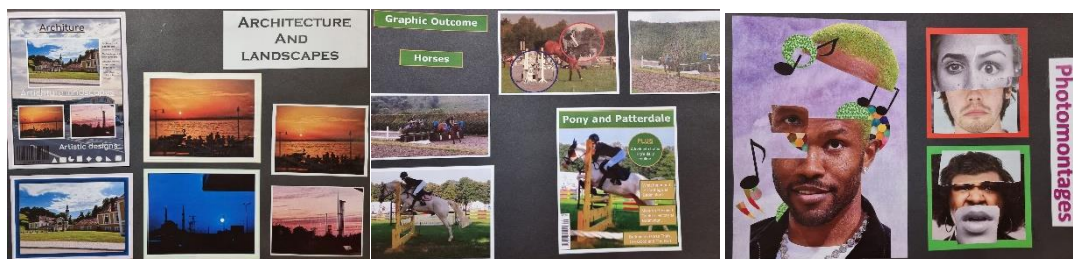


KS4 GCSE Art





KS4 GCSE Photography





Year 7 Physical Theatre in Drama





Music

In years 7-9 we have created some new lessons to link with the new curriculum. Year 7 have been exploring music of Wales and The Big Gigs, which both look at performance skills on keyboard and as ensemble groups. Year 8 have explored the history of The Blues and created a backing track using music software and digital keyboards, as well as looking at Hip-hop, by performing famous raps and writing their own raps to perform live, alongside backing tracks. Year 9 have looked at iconic welsh bands, while also used music software to create a full backing track, which has continued into the second half-term with iconic welsh performances and the advantages of technology in live performances. This has resulted in a live ensemble performance, consisting of 5 different parts on both keyboard and guitar, to perform a live layered loop performance of an Ed Sheeran song. Students have taken the opportunity to book practice rooms for breaks and lunches and regularly use the classroom equipment to develop their skills further and put in additional time. Their dedication is wonderful to see.

GCSE students in Year 11 have started their WJEC set brief composition, performed their solo instrumental/vocal performance to the class, recorded their solo performances, started rehearsing for their ensemble performances, where they will be performing to a grade 3 standard as part of a group, completed the analysis of one of the two pieces of set work, explored a number of unit questions for the exam, including film music and musical forms and devices and focused on the terminology for GCSE music appraisal. It has been a busy term, but very productive and it has been lovely to see students performing live.

In year 10, students began one of their compositions, using the computer software Sibelius. Explored music notation and music theory, started the analysis of one of the two pieces of set works, started to explore the different units for the appraising exam, including film music, instruments and musical forms and devices and worked as a class to match keywords with their descriptions in a timed activity. Year 10 has made an excellent start to this term.

Extra-Curricular Music

We started off with a bang and had Gwent Music come in to play for our year 7 pupils to show them the opportunities open to them. The standard was excellent and we even had the drummer from ACDC. Pupils and staff were dancing and had a great morning. If anyone would like music lessons it's not too late. Please pop and see Mrs Vella in A12. We have a whole school choir, currently consisting of 30 pupils, who rehearse every Thursday lunchtime and look forward to attending live performances in the New Year.



Cinderella Production

The faculty really came together to put on our pantomime of Cinderella. With over 50 pupils taking part on stage and behind the scenes. The show was a sell out and a massive success. Pupils performed to over 500 people in the evening and our feeder primary school children also came up to watch the tech runs during the day. To quote one primary school pupil 'It was 10/10 and was like being at a real theatre'.

Pupils also attended Crownbridge School to sing some of the songs to pupils and staff there.

The faculty would like to thank pupils, parents, staff, governors and all our sponsors for all their hard work and support as it was a real whole-school event. We're already looking forward to the next one!







Health and Wellbeing Faculty

It has been an extremely busy term in the Health and Wellbeing faculty. The students have enjoyed a very successful term.

There has been individual successes for the following students:

- Jasmine G Year 9 Welsh U15 Netball
- Morgan M Year 11 European Vice Champion in Kyokushinkai Karate
- Kelyn Jude H U14 Rugby League
- Lexi L U14 Welsh Football
- Connor R and Jayden G Dragons U16 Rugby and Pontypool Schools
- Ruby By U16 SEW Netball
- Grace F, Jasmine G, Ellie E, Imogen B and Megan F SEW U14 Netball
- Macaulay P U16 Newport District Football
- Lucas M - Welsh Swimming Performance Squad - Welsh Summer Nationals 200 free: gold, 50 free: silver, 4x 100 free relay: gold, 100 free: silver.
- Niall M Welsh Youth Rugby League performance squad from Sept 2023-2024.
- Ali T U14 Welsh Football
- Carys C Welsh Swimming Performance Squad - Summer Nationals 100 Backstroke 1st, 50 Butterfly 1st, 50m Backstroke 1st and 4X100m freestyle 1st
- Sian F, Ava J, Tess M, Grace S, Grace A Welsh Hockey pathway
- Tess M U14 Welsh Hockey
- James P - Golf

Sports Council

As a school we recognise the importance of Pupil Voice and have established a Sports Council. We asked students to apply for the position of Sports Captain for their respective year groups. The standard of applications was extremely high and the faculty had a very difficult time in selecting students for the roles. We were thrilled to receive over 50 applications for the positions and are pleased to announce that the following students have been selected:

Year 11:

Neveah C and Maia B

Year 10:

Will B, Callie M and Hope F

Year 9:

Billy J, Iwan W and Morgan P

Madison F, Megan F and Ariana B

Year 8:

Lowri D, Tess M, Jess T and Phoebe G

Finley C, Griff E and Declan M

Year 7:

Darcey J and Archie E

The Sports Council will work alongside our Young Sports Leaders who have received their training and are now going into our local primary schools. Congratulations to:

Megan B, Daisy T, Marcella T, Ava P, Grace T, Cristyn R, Tyler G, Rhyddian W and Kelyn Jude H

Public Services



All students in KS4 have been given the opportunity to take part in a range of different activities this half term. Year 10 have been off site completing their adventurous activities at Llandegfedd. These team building activities help to evidence the working skills and leadership skills needed for Unit 2.



Year 11 Students have completed part of their assignment at Cwmbran Fire Station, working on their Working skills through different scenarios. This visit was in collaboration with Coleg Gwent and Cwmbran Fire and Rescue Services. Students had to take on one of the emergency services roles linked to an RTC.



Year 11 students engaged with Welsh Ambulance Service in readiness for the RTC scenario. Students were able to talk through scenarios and opportunities for a career path in the Ambulance Service.

Sports Tour to Manchester



Forty-six Year 8/9 boys and five staff set off to Manchester on a rugby and football tour.

The boys took part in several fixtures with both Year 8 and Year 9 enjoying success in both Rugby and football.

The players enjoyed many new experiences including Ice hockey to watch Manchester Storm take on Fife Flyers. The boys had a fantastic time, and were mentioned on the Storm's X account. It was also lovely to hear from members of the public about the behaviour and kindness of the students.

Stockport Rugby Club were the next opposition where the Year 8 Boys were successful in their match followed by a draw with Sale Sharks. Taking to the field were a number of boys who don't often play Rugby but who showed fantastic team spirit and a "can do" attitude to support their teammates. The Year 9 boys travelled to Manchester Rugby Club to take on Wigan RFC. After a close first half, we pulled away in the second half to win 38-17.

The boys were fortunate enough to tour the Etihad Stadium before heading home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the boys for a great tour. Their behaviour and respect were commented on throughout the weekend by members of the public and the hotel staff. They maintained the high standards we expected and did their parents and the school proud. Many thanks to Mr Pryce for organising the tour and Mr Beckett, Mr Boardman, Mr Jones and Mr Rogers for their support over the weekend.

Finally thank you to all our sponsors who helped fund the students touring kit and finally to all the parents for making this tour happen. We look forward to organising the next one!

Girls Football

The BE. Football Programme is delivered by the Youth Sport Trust and is being implemented in our school. As part of this, six girls who play for the school football team have been appointed as ambassadors. Congratulations to the girls who have been selected are Maggie C, Soraya L, Imogen B, Phoebe G, Madison F, and Lily W. Our ambassadors will attend a training day in January where they will learn more about their role to promote girls football, as well as the development of life skills through football. In the long-term, our Ambassadors will be delivering extra-curricular football sessions for girls in an attempt to raise the profile of girls' football and increase participation, so keep an eye out for some exciting opportunities to get involved.

Rugby

The faculty is delighted to welcome Mr. Paraskeva to the faculty as our WRU officer. Mr. Paraskeva has already had a huge impact on students in the short time he has been with us.

We have some rugby leaders from year 11 trained in school that have been working well, integrating with the younger pupils helping during training sessions games. These pupils are Danny H, Nathan P, Connor R and Vaughan H

We also attended a Women's Rugby event and the girls interacted brilliantly and came away from their understanding that rugby is not just a sport but could also be a career path. The students that attended were Lexi U, Hope F, Molly M, Phoebe M, Mia S, Callie M, Keira M and Nevaeh P. All students represented the school in a good respectful manner and it was a pleasure to take them.

Also at the end of November we had the great opportunity to train 5 students to be level 1 WRU referees, the students who are now trained and qualified are Iwan W, Mia S, Phoebe M, Rhyddian W and Max A. Again the interaction was outstanding, working hard in the theory and practical element of the course, they were always very respectful and represented the school brilliantly. Rhyddian and Mia have already been putting their work into action in school and outside in the community game.

We have a number of year 10 students that have put themselves forward for Dragon EPP (Educational players' pathway) and have been working hard after hours to give themselves the opportunities for District Dewar Shield next year. The students that have put themselves forward are; Max A, Oliver H, Ollie E, Logan K and Will B.

In the New Year, 5 female rugby leaders will attend a course designed for them to get more involvement in girls' rugby.

Hockey

The school will have 4 Welsh Hockey ambassadors this year, congratulations to Tess M and Lola J who are Bronze Ambassadors and Ava J and Sian Fr who are silver ambassadors.



Skills Challenge

In October we were lucky enough to have Solar Buddies visit the school to talk to us about their Dragons' Den experience and the skills needed to run a business. The students were exemplary and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to question Kelli and Laura and learn and apply this knowledge to their Enterprise Challenge.

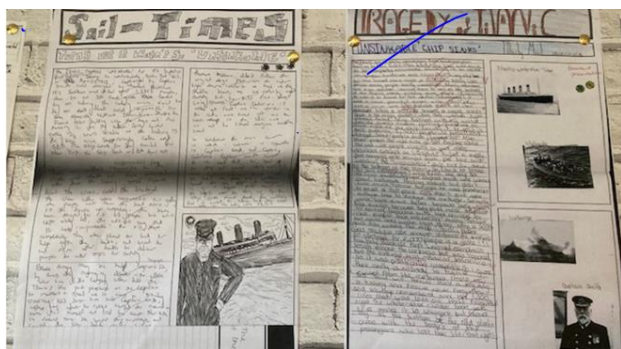


Humanities Faculty

We have been incredibly proud of our Humanities students. Indeed, at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 most students have applied themselves incredibly well to the challenging lessons delivered. In order to address the new curriculum we have ensured that key concepts are covered as well as providing a range of 'lenses' which develops an understanding of Humanities at a local, national and international level

History

The new Curriculum for Wales is being delivered to our Year 7 and Year 8 students who are studying local, national and international events. All of our KS3 students plan assessments and are able to improve their performance with Close the Gap tasks. Students in Year 7 have had the opportunity to develop their communication skills by delivering presentations on how to attack Chepstow Castle. Year 8 have worked to a tight deadline in groups to produce newspapers on The Great Fire of London. In Year 9 students have begun to focus on events during the twentieth century and have embraced the challenge of assessments focused on source analysis.

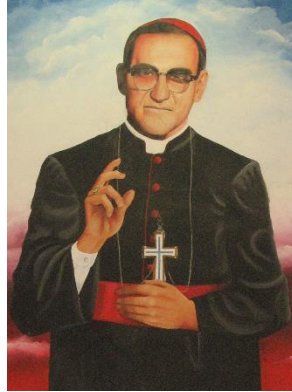


At KS4 our Year 10 students have begun their studies by looking at Crime and Punishment from the sixteenth century to the present day. They have made an excellent start to the course. Year 11 students have been completing their NEA (coursework) and some have attended the Masterclasses that started in December and will continue up until the WJEC examinations in the summer term.

The department also organised the commemoration of Armistice Day which marked 105 years since the ending of the First World War. The school held a short ceremony with a reflection and the reading of the Exhortation. A two minute silence was held and the Last Post was sensitively played by Aled D, a student in Year 10.

RVE

In the RVE Department, the Autumn Term began in earnest with masterclasses being held for Year 11 Religious Studies. 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 abortion, euthanasia and the environment. 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.

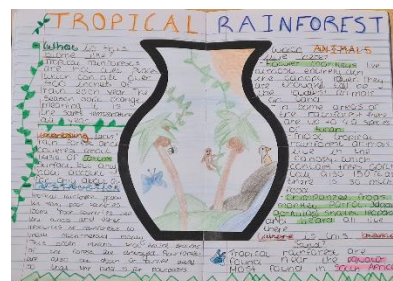
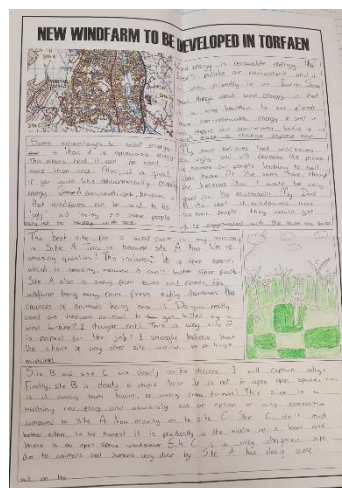
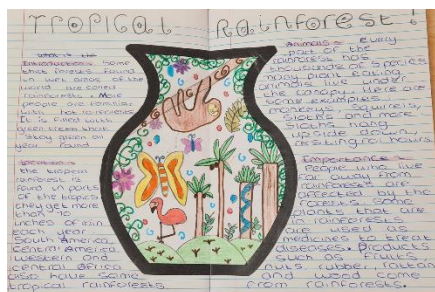
Year 8 students have been exploring Christianity today. Here, they learnt about the features of a traditional church, the purpose of marriage in the Christian faith and even acted out a baptism!

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. Students are now looking afresh at the Christmas story and will be completing newspaper articles based on this.

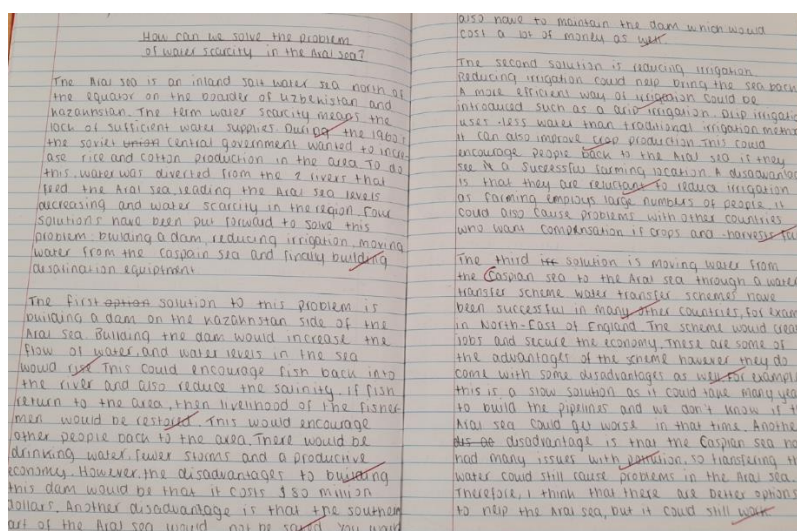
Geography

Students have been making excellent progress in Geography this year, with a wide range of topics being delivered and students working extremely hard to improve their geographical knowledge and skills. Year 7 have continued working on developing a strong sense of 'Cynfin', evaluating their place in the local community as well as the wider world. After Christmas, students will start learning about energy and will be completing an assessment regarding building a new wind farm in Cwmbran. Students will use their map skills as well as decision making, in order to decide which part of the town is the most suitable location for a new wind farm to be built.

Year 8 have been hard at work too, looking firstly at climate change and more recently ecosystems. In the climate change topic students looked at the causes and impacts of climate change, investigating climate change impacts in Wales as well as what can be done both nationally and internationally to try to mitigate the ongoing risks. More recently, students have started to study ecosystems around the world. Students have created 'biomes in a bottle' when investigating tropical rainforests. Learning about the different ecosystems and adaptations of plants and humans links the learning from Year 7 really well, building on the key terms and knowledge we have learnt in the previous year. Climate change and ecosystems are really important topics to cover at this stage and something that we revisit should the students go on to choose GCSE Geography.



Year 9 started the academic year looking at conflict around the world, specifically the blood diamond conflict, South China Sea conflict and finishing with a decision-making exercise on the best strategy to reduce water scarcity in the Aral Sea region. More recently, students have been studying tectonics, learning how the world has been formed from past plate tectonic movement, and more recently investigating the causes and consequences of earthquake activity. In the final few weeks of this term, Year 9 will become film critics for the film 'San Andreas' where students will evaluate the factual information put forward against the incorrect information.



Year 10 have begun their GCSE journey with learning about the distinctive landscapes of the UK and the world. While learning about key processes along the way, they have also started to utilise key skills within their lessons to ensure that when it comes to the examinations they will be ready and prepared. Recently, Year 10 students have studied river landscapes within the UK. All Year 10 students have made a fantastic start to the GCSE course and we hope this continues.

Finally, our Year 11 students have been completing their coursework, utilising the fieldwork elements covered in our lessons this year. Students have been looking at flows and cycles (specifically longshore drift) along Newton Beach and the sustainability of Porthcawl town centre for visitors and locals. Students have now completed the NEA which is worth 20% of the final grade. This was done under exam conditions and students behaved impeccably. Well done all. In recent lessons, students have started the content for the Unit 2 examination next summer, starting with weather and climate.

Extra- Curricular Activities

INTERACT CLUB

Almost 600 advent calendars and selection boxes were collected in November ready to share with community

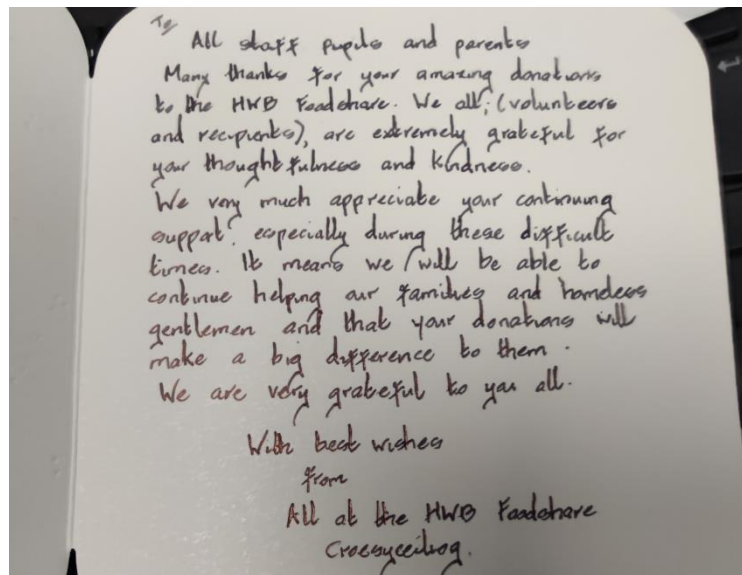


The Interact Club joined forces with Henllys Rotary Club and other organisations. A total of 597 advent calendars and selection boxes have been donated. Around 500 were given to the Eastern Valley Foodbank and the rest to Croesy Food Share Hwb.

A Facebook post by the Eastern Valley Foodbank said: “Thank you so much for this amazing donation, we are so very grateful for this, now every child we support will get an advent calendar.”

The Interact Club would like to thank all the community groups, workplaces and individuals who made this incredible collection possible.





Croesyceiliog School pupils 'walk a mile' to support World Polio Day



In October the Interact Club met at Cwmbran Boating Lake with Henllys Rotary Club and walked a mile around the boating lake to raise money and awareness for World Polio Day.

The club then arranged for 240 pupils in year seven to walk a mile around the school's site.

In total they raised £256 for the campaign.

End Polio Now is the Interactors' international project for this year. Earlier this year they planted purple flowers in Oakfield Gardens to highlight a worldwide campaign to eradicate the world of polio. The volunteers regularly visit the gardens to maintain it.



Year Six Cluster Visits

On Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th of December, we were delighted to welcome over 250 Year 6 students from our cluster primaries to watch our pantomime 'Cinderella'. The students were excellent and thoroughly enjoyed the performances. Many commented it was a '10/10' on their way out, 'the best pantomime' they'd ever seen, and 'even better than one in a real theatre'. We hope it has inspired our students of the future to take part in performances when they join us at Croesyceiliog. On Thursday 21st, we will take our pantomime 'on the road' to visit students at Crownbridge school and perform some of our songs for them.

Croesy Eco Club

A passion for the environment has led to several Year 10 students re-establishing the Croesy Eco Club. The club meets weekly and since October has carried out an environmental review of the school and created an action plan on how to make the school cleaner and greener. In the New Year the club aims to develop a new eco motto, improve school recycling and develop wildlife areas around the site.

The club's Chair, Seren L has also been published in a local wildlife magazine. Seren has written about her passion for nature and wildlife, and how she is trying to protect the natural world.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Start of New Term

Monday 8th January 8.40am for all students