

# Croesyceiliog School

# NEWSLETTER



## Easter 2024

### Headteacher's Message

It has been another incredibly busy term at Croesyceiliog and we have continued to see successes across the school. Our values of Learning, Respect and Ambition continue to underpin the experiences of our students and have been captured across a wide variety of activities and evaluations that have taken place this term. You will find these celebrated throughout this newsletter but in addition I am pleased to report the following progress in relation to teaching, learning and achievement;

- In partnership with Marc Belli, Headteacher at Bishop of Llandaff (our school improvement partner) we have conducted a whole school review of "effective feedback to enhance learning and progress". We have identified much good practice across lessons where the skilful questioning techniques of our teachers "cultivate purposeful environments where learners are motivated to achieve, regardless of their ability". The pride for learning and progress displayed by our students was evidenced in their books as well as in lessons observed. Some of our best practice was seen where student responses to teacher feedback was both independent and meaningful.
- Our Leadership team and ministries continue to play an instrumental role in shaping our vision for the future of Croesy. This term they have played an instrumental role in the purchase of recycling bins and promoting our plans to become a more sustainable school.
- Results of our communication survey conducted of our parents late last term have now been collected and scrutinised. Through this we have been able to identify that Class Charts is the preferred platform for communication and the access to 'live' behaviour dashboards and key messages are welcomed by our parents. Areas we have been able to identify for improvement are further access to parent support and a review of our website to make this more meaningful for our parents and students.

Our Ready to Learn approach has now been in place for two terms. Whilst we continue to review this as a behaviour system we are pleased to see the impact on increasing engagement and ensuring students have clear guidelines for making them successful learners at Croesyceiliog School. The data we now have at our fingertips due to a combination of ClassCharts and our graduated response (including Ready to Learn) means that we can address patterns in behaviours as we see fit. I continue to put the safety of students and staff as top priority at Croesy. We have a small group of students who continue to challenge our expectations and policies that are designed to keep our community safe and protected. Behaviours presented by this small group of students include:

- verbal abuse to our staff and other students;
- gatherings in our toilets leading to damage and intimidation of other students;
- abuse of our mobile phone policy.

These will be focus areas for us as a whole school next term with a review of policies across these areas with a view to eradicate these unwanted behaviours. Our staff have the highest expectations of our students and will continue to strive to be the highest performing school we can be for our community.

We start next term with the theme of belonging. This gives a great opportunity to remind students what a wonderful community they have the privilege to be part of. I would like to extend me thanks to our community for working with us to ensure we have this vibrant and successful school.

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much” – **Helen Keller**

Have a fantastic Easter everyone.

Ms N Richards

## Lower School Wellbeing News

It has been a short, but busy term filled with lots of activities that have been organised by school staff and our new Parent Teacher Association. Lower school students have enjoyed taking part in house matches, attending a Valentine’s disco and competing for points in the recent Eisteddfod. Year 7 students have settled well and we will soon be starting to welcome our new Year 6 students to Croesyceiliog School!



### Year 7 and Year 8 Reward trips

Hard working students were nominated by their form tutors for their daily demonstration of our school values of learning, respect and ambition. The students enjoyed a trip to the cinema in Cwmbran and some well-deserved treats!



### **Lower School awards assemblies**

126 lower school students were nominated by their subject teachers for their hard work and attitude to learning in their subjects. Their success was recognised and celebrated by their Progress Leaders in our end of term rewards assemblies. Year 8 also enjoyed a golden ticket surprise to celebrate their hard work this term!



### **Student Voice**

Lower School students have been taking part in 'Listening to Learners' activities with their progress leaders this term to help us to evaluate how they feel about their progress, our rewards systems and their wellbeing. Students have also enjoyed rewards breakfasts which have provided the Progress leaders with another opportunity to discuss school matters with the students



### **Year 9 Options**

Year 9 students have been supported by their form tutors and through our recent careers fair and options evening to complete their choices for Year 10. The choices are now being processed and all students will meet with a member of the extended senior leadership team to talk through their subject choices and their career aspirations. A big thank you to Mr Davies and Mr Sainsbury for arranging the events for the students!

### **Lower school student achievement**

Congratulations to the following students on your successes. Please keep telling us all about your achievements both in and out of school!

Finley J-C - Finley has been selected to compete in kata and knock down fighting in the Pilatus Cup, Switzerland.

Iestyn D - Iestyn has been given the fantastic opportunity to participate in external learn with the Sea Cadets. He will be able to spend 7 days on board a working boat, the Jack Petchy where he will learn skills such as navigation, map reading, meteorology, engineering and many more.



Oliver D - Oliver's all male dance team, the Phoenix Boys, has successfully made it to this year's televised semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent

Grace A – Congratulations to Grace on her recent Tae-Kwando blue belt!

Audie T – Congratulations on the recent victory at the Panside Amateur Boxing club show



## Upper School Wellbeing News

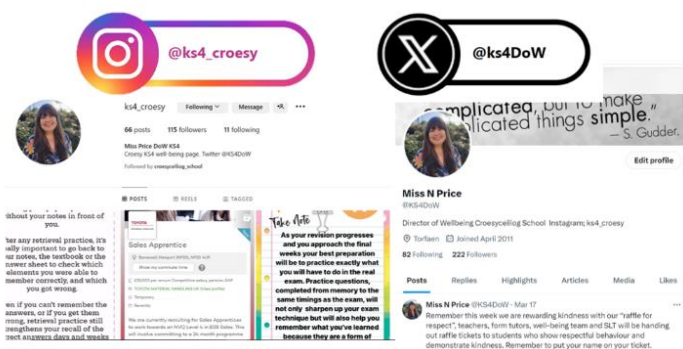
It has been a short, but busy term filled for our KS4 students with lots of revision lessons and masterclasses as we get closer to the summer term and external examinations.

### Year 11 Mock examinations

In January, Year 11 returned to school to complete a fortnight of mock examinations and received their results on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 2000 exam papers were completed by our students during that period, replicating the experience they will have in the 2024 summer examinations. Since then students have completed reflection activities with their form tutors to identify their strengths and areas for development and

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 students 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 students and provide them with advice and help as they apply for college courses, apprenticeships and work based training.

A number of staff from Coleg Gwent along with some of their current students visited the school in February and gave talks to Year 11 students on the different courses that they offer and shared information on college life and extra-curricular opportunities that are available.

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

Vicky Orsmond the MAT and Student Progression Coordinator from Hereford Sixth Form College ran a workshop for our MAT year 10 and 11 students in January on the importance of perseverance, why the hard work is worth it and how students train for jobs that do not yet exist. Our students found the session very helpful and for many increased their aspirations of what they believe they are capable of achieving.



### Year 11 Prom Committee

This term the Year 11 Prom Committee have completed more of the arrangements for the Year 11 Leavers' celebrations in July. After a run of successful Bake Sales the year group raised over £400 to put towards; a DJ and photo booth. The Year 11 Prom Committee also supported the new Friends of Croesy Parent Association to set up and run a Valentines Disco where a further £100 was raised for prom celebrations.

This term students have been formally invited to attend the Leavers' Prom and tickets have been given to all students who have met the school expectations of Learning, Respect and Ambition.

### Student achievement

During the last week of term we celebrated the achievements of our KS4 students during assembly. Over 340 student awards were handed out across the two 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 KS4 students in their classes and the resilience and perseverance demonstrated in their lessons when tackling sometimes quite difficult and complex skills.



Congratulations to the following students on your successes outside of school;

- ❖ Connor R and Jayden G for receiving their Pontypool District Schools rugby Caps 23/24
- ❖ Morgan M for becoming the British Vice Champion 2024 in the British Kyokushinkai Karate National Kata Championships
- ❖ Lexi B and Morgan T for their many awards and achievements in gymnastics
- ❖ Leon D for outstanding performances in community productions
- ❖ Lexi L for her involvement with Football Academy Wales
- ❖ Rhys B for his involvement in Newport County Football
- ❖ And good luck to Lucas M who is competing in the Welsh National Swimming Competition this weekend and Seren L who will be playing rugby for the Chargers at the Principality Stadium.

Please keep telling us all about your achievements both in and out of school.

A huge well done to all of our KS4 students for their achievements this term!

## Languages, Literacy and Communication Faculty

### Eisteddfod 2024



On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, we celebrated St David's Day by holding our school Eisteddfod. All students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have spent weeks designing and creating various entries for subject competitions. We were absolutely blown away by the quality and quantity of some of our student entries – it made the judges' jobs very difficult. During the day, we watched several on stage competitions including musical performances and poetry recitals in Welsh, English, French and Spanish. The results of the Eisteddfod were as follows:

Tŷ Russel	1332 points
Tŷ Campbell	1373 points
Tŷ Glyndŵr	1600 points
Tŷ Bevan	1674 points

Da iawn i bawb!





Ennillwyr Blwyddyn 7 (Year 7 winners)



Ennillwyr Blwyddyn 8 (Year 8 winners)



Ennillwyr Blwyddyn 9 (Year 9 winners)



## Croesyceiliog Cluster Eisteddfod Showcase 2024

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, members of the Criw Cymraeg joined the cluster primary schools at Croesyceiliog Primary School for our first Cluster Eisteddfod Showcase. We spoke in Welsh with the primary school children and shared our Eisteddfod experiences. As a cluster, we judged art and photography competitions. Da iawn i bawb a diolch i'r Criw Cymraeg am eu cefnogaeth! Well done to everyone involved and thank you to the Criw Cymraeg for their support!





## English

The English department have had a busy term! We celebrated success with our Debating Club as well as enjoying a range of activities and festivities surrounding the importance of World Book Day. We also observed National Careers Week where literacy was the focus and all pupils received assemblies on the importance of good literacy and communication skills. We have also continued our extra-curricular clubs such as: Debate Club, Writing Club and the Media Club. Whilst all this was going on our Year 11 students also sat mock exams in both English Language and Literature. Year 11 also received some re sit English Literature Unit 1 results which were really pleasing. Year 10 have completed their first NEA, non-examined assessment for English Literature in Welsh Poetry, which is 12.5% of their final literature grade. Similarly, Key Stage 3 have been working very hard on their topics such as: Year 7 Medieval literature covering Beowulf, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and Chaucer, Year 8 Structure and Form in Poetry and finally Year 9 have been working on Media Advertising and War Poetry.

We are very much looking forward to the summer term! This inevitably will also be a busy term however, we're particularly looking forward to inviting Cardiff University Creative Writing MA students in to work with our pupils, in all year groups who have ambitions to become writers. The bespoke workshops delivered by Cardiff University we hope will inspire our young writers!

Revision classes continue to run on a Monday and Tuesday afterschool on the following days:

- Monday Year 11 Literature Unit 2 Revision B4
- Tuesday Year 11 Language Revision B5
- Tuesday Year 10 Literature Unit 1 Revision B4

The English department would like to wish all our examination classes best of luck for their forthcoming exams in May and June. We're sure with continued hard work, concentration and sustained revision success will result!



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

This term, the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) celebrated the best of languages: cultures and traditions! What was a short term has proven to be a term full of exciting events!

Our students were privileged to be part of the MFL mentoring project with Cardiff University for another term and our favourite polyglot Zhen Ni delivered exciting sessions with some year 9 students. She also delivered 2 language workshops with 8SMY who engaged with curiosity and enthusiasm. Diolch, Zhen Ni!



jeudi 8 février 2024

DO NOW – find the words to reveal Saturday's event

1. O E V N L U

Clue: adjective, masculine, singular, unusual spelling, already learnt 39 days ago

2. N A

Clue: 12 or 365

3. N I C S I H O

Clue: Nationality, rimes with "gallois", masculine, singular



In February, we made the most of the **Chinese New Year festival** resources provided by the University of Cardiff to discuss customs and traditions in our French GCSE class. It was also a perfect opportunity to review the assumed knowledge of vocabulary from year 7!

Quels sont les animaux  
du Nouvel An chinois?



•Rat ou Souris  
•Bœuf, Vache, Buffle d'Asie  
•Tigre  
•Lapin ou Chat  
•Dragon  
•Serpent  
•Cheval  
•Chèvre ou Bélier  
•Singe  
•Coq ou Phoenix  
•Chien  
•Cochon ou Sanglier



Another fantastic **Eisteddfod** event organised by our Welsh department enabled our linguists to, not only show off their language skills but also demonstrate incredible artistic and creative skills. A big shout out to Sophie D. 9SM for her live performance of a song from Encanto in Spanish! ¡Fantástico! ¡Bravo!

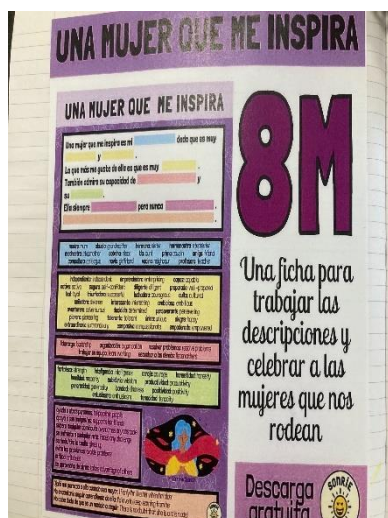


**World Book Day** on the 7<sup>th</sup> March was such a joyous occasion to enthuse our students to enjoy famous children's stories in the target language!

TROIS PETITS COCHONS



On the 8<sup>th</sup> March, we practised using writing frames in Spanish to celebrate inspirational women amongst us. #InternationalWomen'sDay



una mujer que me inspira es la madrastra de mi amiga mejor dado que es muy segura y decidida lo que más me gusta de ella es que es muy perseverante. También admiro su capacidad de organización y su generosidad i yo. Ella siempre se enfrenta a cualquier reto pero nunca tira la toalla. No cabe duda de que es un modelo a seguir.

Following Señor Smith's growing success in using Duolingo classroom to encourage students to practise International Languages last year, we launched more Duolingo Classrooms in all year groups this term. The dedication and enthusiasm of our GCSE classes has led to weekly leader boards being celebrated with prizes. And Special Easter prizes! Well done all!

Résultats de **L'ÉQUIPE**  
la semaine du 11 au 18 mars 2024

L'équipe

ÉLÈVE	XP	STREAK	STREAK
13 students	12 EXP	12 EXP	12 EXP
14	12 EXP	12 EXP	12 EXP
15	12 EXP	12 EXP	12 EXP
16	12 EXP	12 EXP	12 EXP
17	12 EXP	12 EXP	12 EXP



Madeleine

We now also have our own **POLYGLOTS@CROESY** lunchtime club every Wednesday in C2 where students chose any language they wish to learn!





## Maths and Numeracy Faculty

Throughout the term, all students engaged in themed numeracy puzzles during form times. Themes varied from the Eisteddfod to International Women's Day and British Science Week. This week, students have tackled the Easter-themed numeracy puzzle provided below.

Easter Egg Hunt (part one)	Easter Egg Hunt (part two)
<p>Three siblings Buck, Lance, and Jack woke up on Easter Sunday. Upon waking up one by one they realise the Easter Bunny had been. When Buck awoke and saw that a box of Easter eggs had been left in the living room. Buck ate one third of the Easter eggs and went back to sleep. Lance soon awoke and upon seeing the box of Easter eggs, ate one third of what was left and then fell asleep. Jack woke next and assumed that the other two hadn't eaten any Easter eggs, so he ate one third of what remained. When Jack finished, there were 8 Easter eggs left over. How many Easter eggs were in the box originally?</p>	<p>Sam has a bag of Easter eggs.</p> <p><math>\frac{1}{2}</math> of them are Cadbury Crème Eggs  <math>10\%</math> of Galaxy Caramel eggs.  <math>0.35</math> are Mini Eggs.  The remainder are Kinder eggs.</p> <p>If there are 3 Kinder eggs in the bag, how many eggs are there in total?</p>
<p>Jack : <math>8 \div \frac{2}{3} = 12</math>  Lance : <math>12 \div \frac{2}{3} = 18</math>  Buck : <math>18 \div \frac{2}{3} = 27</math></p> <p>There were 27 eggs originally.</p>	<p><math>\frac{1}{2} = 50\%</math>  <math>0.35 = 35\%</math>  <math>50\% + 35\% + 10\% = 95\%</math></p> <p>5% of the eggs were Kinder Eggs</p> <p>5% = 3 Eggs  <math>50\% = 30</math> Eggs  <math>100\% = 60</math> Eggs</p> <p>There were 60 Eggs in total.</p>



Another amazing term from year 7, they continue to amaze us with their enthusiasm and perseverance. We have investigated averages, taken on Algebra and mastered Percentages. We continue to explore maths in real life context as we move into the summer term.



Year 8 are flying through their second year of the new curriculum, we have completed assessments that has seen hard work rewarded for many of our students. Some highlights this term have been planning parties, budgeting and writing secret messages. Next term we will be completing the NNT's where I am sure we will have more success to celebrate.



A very productive term in Maths culminating with end of term assessments that students have been working hard towards. Topics studied this term include Fractions all the way up to algebraic fractions for higher classes, Probability, Area and Circumference of Circles (Do you remember Pi?), Pythagoras, Volume, Factorising, Ratio and even Trigonometry for some classes. All that in a 10 week term, amazing!



A very productive term culminating with end of term assessments that students have been working hard towards. The assessments have been designed to help students' master key exam topics that they have learned throughout this year including Pythagoras, Trigonometry, Simultaneous Equations, Trial and Improvement, Estimating the Mean, Cumulative Frequency, Factorising and Algebraic Fractions. At the end of the year, students will be sitting very important assessments that will go towards determining examination entry tiers for y11, look out for revision materials and ClassCharts notifications with key topics to revise.

A huge congratulations to our top ClassChart point scorers of the term;

Year 7 – Lily K (151)

Year 8 - Millie L (96)

Year 9 – Morgan P (94)

Year 10 – D Oaten (68)

Year 11 – Lewis L (88)



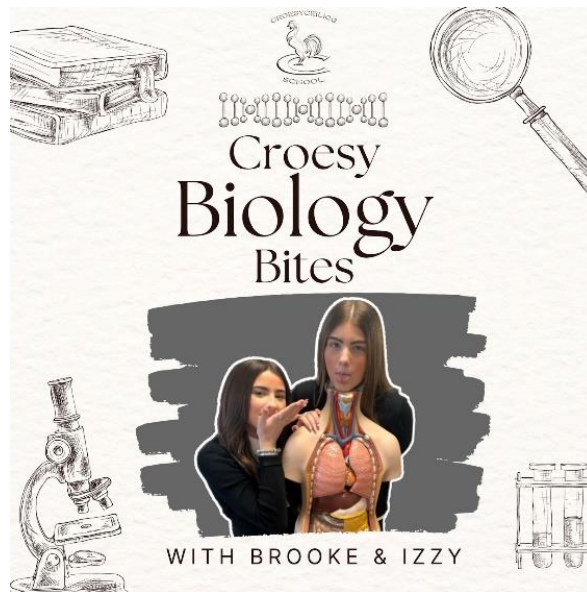
A huge good luck to our year 10 and 11 students sitting their GCSE exams after half term – your hard work will pay off so keep going and don't forget to attend revision sessions!

## Science and Technology Faculty

### Biology

Year 10 biology classes have been studying blood and circulation this half term. Pupils have had the opportunity to dissect lambs' hearts, investigate factors that affect pulse rate and listen to the valves closing in their own hearts using stethoscopes. After studying nutrition and transport in humans, we move onto photosynthesis and transport in plants. Pupils are making good progress towards their external examinations in June, which are worth 45% of their final GCSE grades.

Year 10 students have also started recording a revision podcast. Croesy Biology Bites is targeted towards the double science qualification and aims to add a revision resource that is easy to digest. The podcast will soon be available to all year 10 students via Google Classroom.



Year 11 biology class have almost all completed the topics needed for their final examinations. The most recent topic included microbes, disease and the immune system. In this last topic we studied the causes of some common diseases, the methods by which these diseases spread and how our immune systems defend our bodies. Before that, we looked at the nervous system, regulation of body temperature, control of blood glucose and diabetes. The final examinations for science begin on Friday 10th May with the biology unit examinations.



Year 7 have been creative this half term looking at some of the smallest and largest objects in the universe! Some classes have been creating clay models of plant and animal cells, as they embark on the topic of That's Life, where they have been learning about the structures and organisation of living organisms. Whereas other classes have been studying the Mission to Mars topic and have had fun making clay models to help visualise the planets in our solar system.



## Year 7 Clay models of our solar system



The science learner of the month award has acknowledged some outstanding student efforts and application by learners. This term's winners were:

January - Immi E (9TB)

February - Alex W (8DW)

March - Ella M (8SR)



## Physics

Year 11 are coming to the end of their GCSE course with examinations scheduled for the Double Award and Separate groups on the 24th May 2024.

The remaining time in school will be spent going through exam papers, as well as key concepts to help achieve a successful outcome in these examinations.

Year 10 are also coming towards the end of their course in Physics with examinations scheduled for the 17th June 2024. As with year 11, we are planning to go through exam questions and practise in the run up to their examinations. Please regularly check Google Classroom for revision materials, past paper questions and Educake for revision quizzes set by your teachers.

## Chemistry

Year 10 have been looking at Water this term. This has included learning about how our water supply is treated to make it safe, why adding fluoride to water is a controversial issue and we have carried out experiments to investigate some of the effects of hard water.

Year 11 have been studying how we obtain and refine crude oil to obtain a wealth of useful substances including fuels and plastics. We have carried out experiments in the lab to investigate the energy released in burning different fuels and have ended the term looking at why plastics are so widely used and why recycling them is so important. This has linked in well with the recent introduction of plastic recycling bins around the school.

Students have also been busy preparing for the examinations coming up this summer, including the completion of Educake quizzes and past paper questions. We look forward to continuing this with renewed focus after the Easter break!

All students have access to revision materials which can be accessed through Google classroom. ClassCharts announcements have been published with extra information from the science team to encourage all students.

## Technology

KS3 classes have been exploring materials and carrying out research on timber, woods and plastics. Some students have made some excellent final design clocks. Students have also been exploring the use of ingredients by designing and making their own healthy version of a 'fakeaway takeaway'. Some year 8 students have been learning about structures, forces and bridges. They have studied different types of constructions and now not only able to recognise suspension, cable or truss bridges, they also have knowledge of function and use. The ultimate goal was to construct and test a bridge, of which we had some amazing success.



Almost all year 11 students are either completing or finishing off NEA work, the workshops are very busy with students making their final design proposals. It has been excellent to see the students working tirelessly to complete practical work in product design.



In Food and Nutrition students have been exploring the commodity of cereals and have successfully made and shaped fresh pasta. The students used natural colouring of spinach, tomato and turmeric to analyse how different ingredients can alter the overall colour and flavour. Students then progressed to develop bread recipes with great success!



## ICT

Year 7 and 8 students began the term concentrating on a number of aspects of e-safety. The students concentrated their studies on digital footprints, password security, virus security and encryption of data. This body of work culminated in the students, including year 9 students, producing a multimedia presentation based on one of the topics studied for their Eisteddfod entry.

The standard of work produced throughout was excellent but special mention must be given to our winners from each year group.



Year Group	Winner	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
7	Tahlia T	Martha N	Rhys P
8	Phoebe G	Emily H	Harrison W
9	Ella A	Imogen E	Madeline B

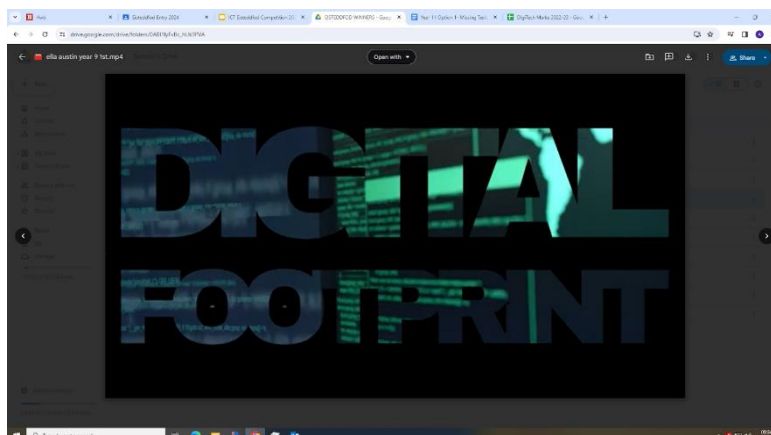
The winners produced some excellent videos using Adobe Creative Cloud Express incorporating a number of features thus producing high quality finishes. Congratulations to all those who entered.



Tahlia T



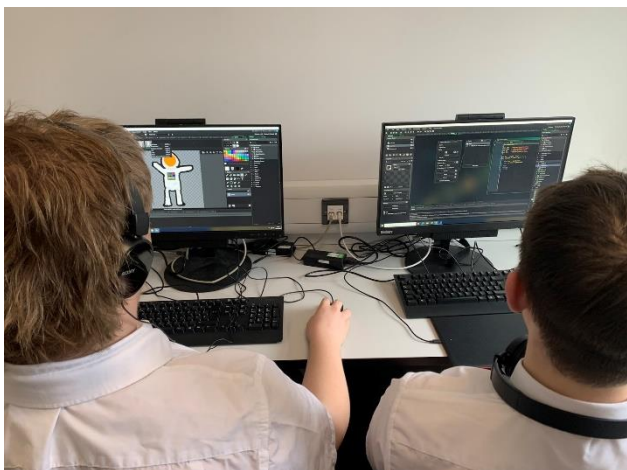
Phoebe G



Ella A

Year 9, as well as completing the Eisteddfod competition, have completed taster lessons in preparation for a couple of the GCSE option courses on offer. They have completed a business project in keeping with the Business Retail course and have completed some coding activities, producing a game, using the software that is used in the Digital Technology. Hopefully the work produced this term will give students an insight into the skills required for each course and hence help them to make an informed decision when it comes to their option choices.

### **KS4 Digital Technology**



Year 10 students have been designing, developing and documenting games that they have coded in Gamemaker. They have produced some outstanding work this term and are a real credit to themselves.

Year 11 is fast approaching the end of the course and the final deadline for their NEA work is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April. After school sessions will continue to run on Monday and Tuesday evenings until the deadline plus an Easter catch-up day is on offer for those students who require the extra time on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March starting at 9am.

The Digital Technology examination will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 9am. There is a set of course notes, knowledge organisers and interactive lessons on Google Classroom that the students should be using to revise over the Easter holidays.

## **Expressive Arts Faculty**

### **GCSE Drama**

The current year 11 pupils worked really hard for their unit 2 exam where they were examined by an external examiner. We were really pleased to see how many of them came in during half term, during their lunch breaks and after school to rehearse. Pupils are currently reading the set text of 'Face' ready for their exam in May. The faculty would like to wish year 11 all the best in their upcoming exams.

Year 10 pupils have now been given their stimulus for their unit 1 exam which will take place towards the end of May this year. This unit is worth 40% of their final grade so it will be great to have this completed before the end of this academic year. Pupils are welcome to come in to rehearse and just need to let either Mrs Jenkins or Mr Morgan know.



### Blood Brothers

The faculty are really excited to run their first trip since Covid. 36 pupils will be going to Bath to watch 'Blood Brothers' in April. This will help pupils with their unit 3 exam in the summer and we're already looking at other trips that we can offer in the future.



### Young Musician

Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 6 students took part in the Rotary Club's Young Musician competition held at Croesyceiliog Comprehensive School. All students taking part performed to a grade 3 and above musical standard on a variety of instruments and voice. The performances were of a high standard and to a live audience and judging panel. A huge congratulations to all who took part.





### **Congress Theatre – Coleg Gwent**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 20 pupils took part in a showcase with Coleg Gwent called 'This is Us'. Pupils attended a day rehearsal with Coleg Gwent at the Congress Theatre and later returned for an evening performance. Pupils performed two choir numbers, a solo performance and took part in the finale number of 'This is me', where they sang alongside BSL. The feedback we received from audience members and other schools was outstanding, da iawn to all who took part.



### **Ragsy – Song Writing Workshop**

In March, year 10 GCSE took part in a two-day song writing workshop with the South Wales, Singer-song writer Ragsy, who appeared on The Voice UK 2013. Pupils spent the day using a portable recording studio, completing all aspects of a pop song and recording clips. They then arranged their piece using music software and created a music video alongside the record. The result was a fantastic music video and song, consisting of original lyrics, voice, backing vocals, keyboard, bass guitar, riff, strings and drums.

### **GCSE Practical**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of March, the GCSE Music class took part in their GCSE practical recording day. Pupils performed to a grade 3 standard and above on a multitude of instruments as part of an ensemble. Songs from Pop, Rock and Musical Theatre genres were performed on a number of instruments. Each pupil performed alongside a number of other musicians. The day was a great success and all pupils, although nervous at first, had a great time performing together.



### **Congress Theatre**

On Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>, we have been invited to take part in a Senior Schools' Talent Showcase with Cwmbran Community Council. Cwmbran Community Council are inviting comprehensive schools in the area to take part in their evening of song and dance, at The Congress Theatre, Cwmbran. Each school will have an opportunity to showcase their students with approximately 10 minutes performance time. Croesyceiliog choir, consisting of 25+ members will be performing a medley from Hamilton the musical, consisting of song and dance, as well as a soloist performance. Rehearsals are underway and the talent on show is to a high standard, featuring soloist, song, rap, acting through song and dance.

### **Art Department**

Staff and students have enjoyed another productive and busy Spring Term in our department – well done to everyone! All students have developed many new creative skills from textiles, printmaking, mixed media, photomontage and an array of creative photography outcomes.

Once again, we have explored a variety of new project themes and skills in all year groups. Students have created a wide range of interesting and personal outcomes. Miss Gauci and I have been impressed with your enthusiasm and engagement all term.

Art and Photography clubs have been popular as ever at break and lunch time and GCSE students have made good use of Tuesday's Masterclasses to develop their coursework and examination units. We welcome you attend these again after our Easter break and we look forward to seeing year 11 in on 3<sup>rd</sup> April for our Easter break workshops for year 11 Artists and Photographers. Next term sees the hard work pay off when year 11 students complete their external practical examination outcomes. We can't wait to see you excel on these days! Miss Gauci and I are also organising some focussed art and photography clubs in the summer term for KS3 students and we look forward to seeing you involve yourselves in these

We have been joined by 4 Cardiff Metropolitan University BA (Hons) students who have delivered a variety of printmaking, textiles and sculpture workshops to years 7-10. Students have also been involved in a variety of national and local Art, Illustration and Photography competitions. These have included designing a helmet for Sir Lewis Hamilton and Pontypool's Community Council with the theme of 'Generations'.

Below are some wonderful samples of work that have been created this term.



Year 11 Artists

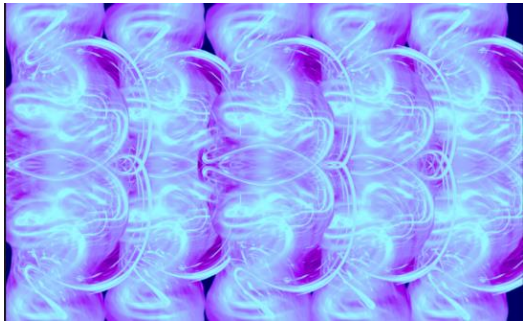




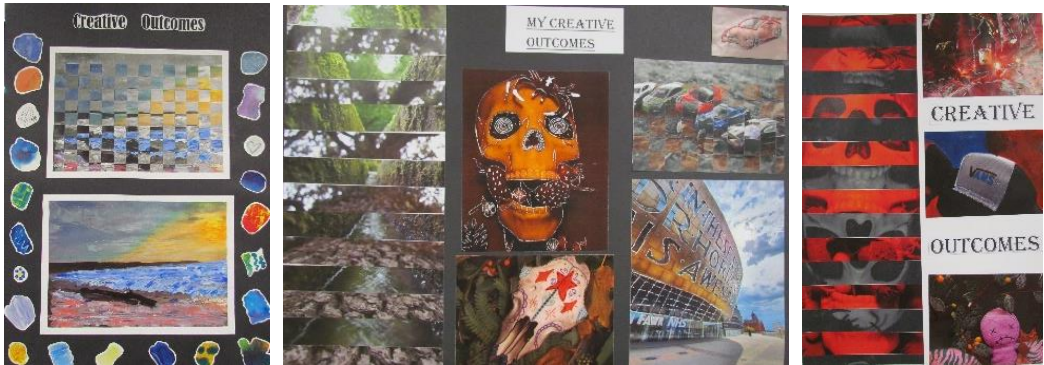
Year 10 Artists



Yr 11 Photographers



Year 10 Photographers

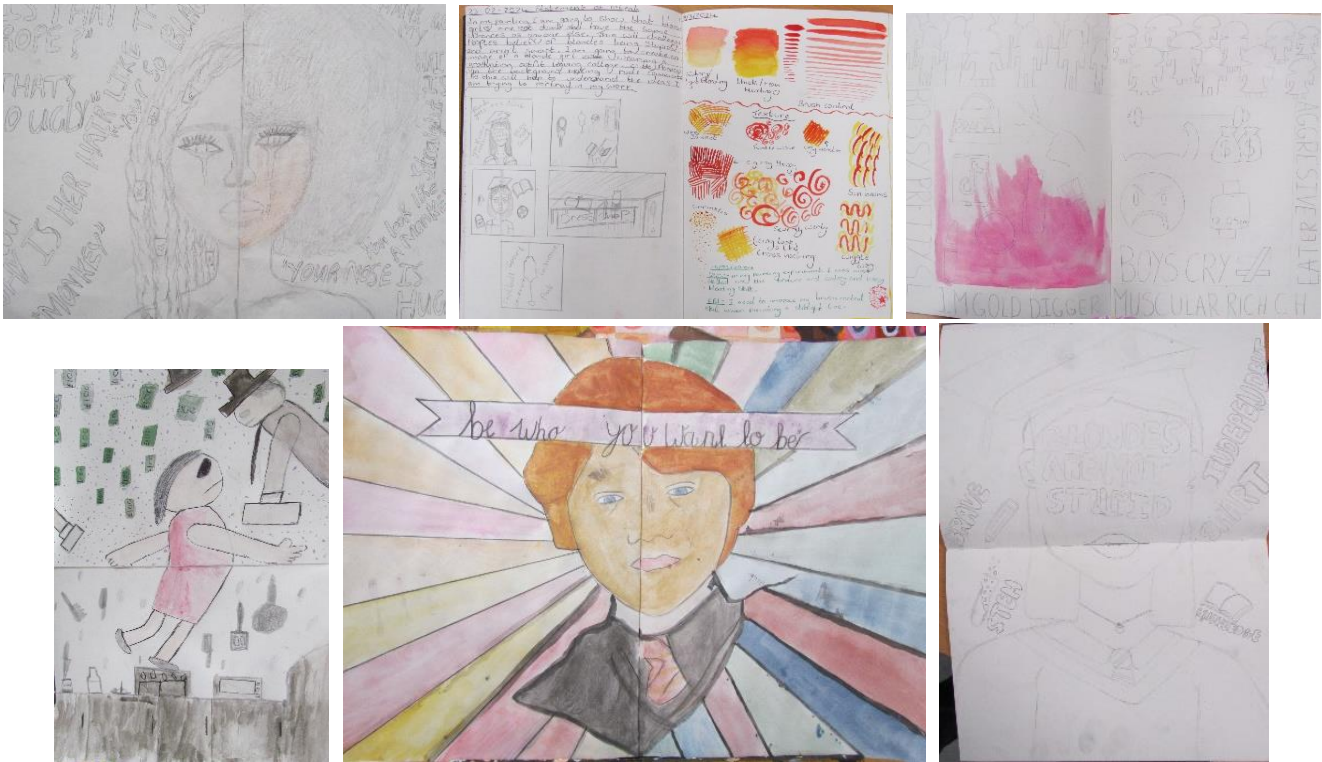




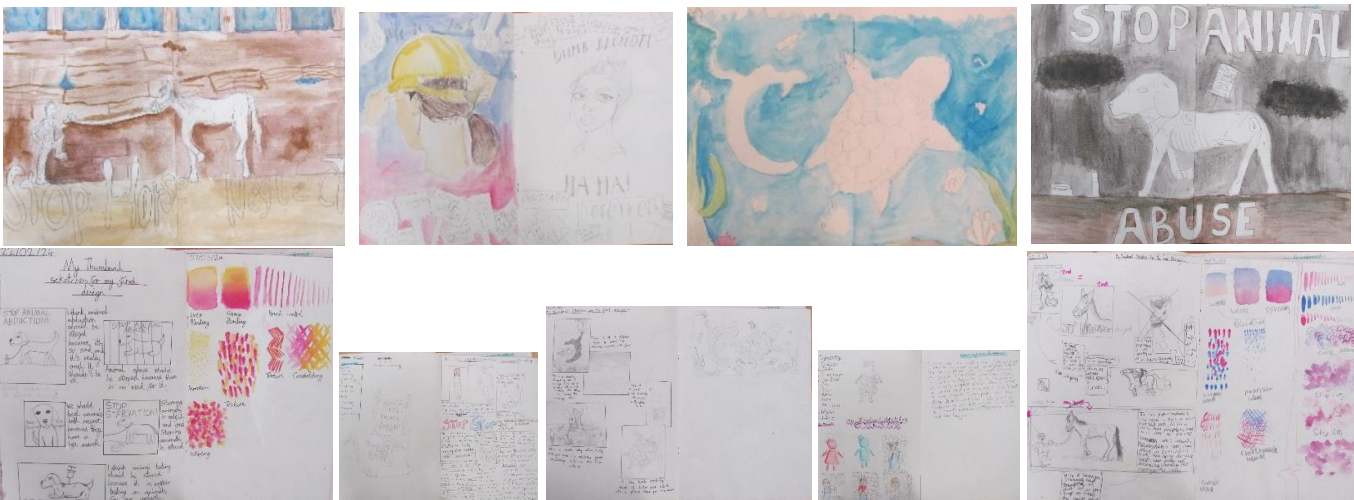




Year 8 – ‘Challenging Stereotypes’ - Work in progress



Year 7 – ‘Communication in Art’ – Work in progress





## A selection of Eisteddfod Entries



## Cardiff Metropolitan University Workshops - samples of work in progress

Textiles\_– Printing, painting and embellishment. Year 8, 9 and 10



## Health and Wellbeing Faculty

An incredibly busy term in the Health and Wellbeing faculty saw the return of house matches, the effort, behaviour and enthusiasm of the students was commendable. Many thanks to our Sports Captains for assisting in the smooth delivery of the event.

We have had lots of individual success this term, Ali T has been selected for the Welsh Schools FA and Callie M has represented Gloucester County Rugby U15. Morgan M continues her success in Karate with selection for Team GB. Tess M and Emily P have both been selected for the Hockey Wales Regional Academy. Grace A won gold and silver at the Welsh Closed Tae Kwan Do Championships.



In gymnastics our senior girls finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U19 team competition. Jack R, Morgan T and Callie W all qualified for the Welsh Tumble and Vault finals.



Our school U16 hockey team made a welcome return to Welsh Hockey Regional Finals, the team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in a very competitive tournament, following a very early start and some challenging weather conditions.

Y

ear 9 Netballers have reached the final of the South East Wales league and a huge well done to Jasmine G who has been selected for the Welsh U15 Netball team. Congratulations to Grace F, Imogen B, Ellie E, Jasmine G and Megan F who represented SEW at U14 and Ruby Bailey at U16 age group.





Lowri D and Tyler G were selected to represent South East Wales in Cross Country and James P will be representing Wales in golf in a quadrangular tournament in Scotland in May.

In Rugby we have seen the inaugural Croesyceiliog 7's tournament where we welcomed over 20 secondary schools to participate in a hugely competitive seven's tournament across KS3. Huge thanks to Mr. Paraskeva who has organised this fantastic event. Continuing with Rugby we now have several young female Rugby Leaders, well done to Callie M, Hope F, Seren L, Phoebe M, Mia S and Kiera M. They were straight into action at the primary Rookie Rugby event.



Our Sports Leaders have been heavily involved with our cluster primary schools, supporting them in several events so far. Year 9 pupils Grace T, Cristyn R and Ava P have been running a Netball club at Llanyrafon and coaching them at their recent tournament in Cwmbran Stadium. This tournament also benefitted from our Netball team showing off their impressive umpiring skills! Well done to Grace F Amelia R, Daisy T, Imogen B and Megan F. Our older pupils are now qualified and have completed their Sports Leaders course, congratulations to Evan H, Ava J, Ruby B and Macaulay P. Marcella T has been running a dance club at Llanyrafon and Morgan T has supported a gymnastics club at Pontnewydd. Year 10 students have been running Netball at Croesyceiliog and Nant Celyn, well done to Daisy T, Ruby F and Seren W. Our students have also attended Dementia awareness training well done to Ruby B, Amelia E and Marcella T. Ruby and Amelia also completed their First Aid qualification.

We still have a lot to look forward to as the term moves to an end, we have two dance teams competing at the National UDoit finals on Wednesday and the highly anticipated Ski Trip to Bormio on the weekend. Huge thanks to Mr Pryce for organising such an exciting trip and providing this opportunity for our students. We would like to thank all parents and guardians for their support this term.

## Humanities Faculty

The Humanities faculty have once again been providing students with challenging work which develops their understanding of key topics, themes and events whilst honing their cross-curricular skills. We are incredibly proud of how students have maturely applied themselves to the work and we are sure this will continue into our final term.

### Religion, Values and Ethics Department

During the spring term, Key Stage Three students have been studying a diverse range of topics from an Introduction to Christianity, Inspirational People and Relationships.

Year 7 students have had the opportunity to express their creative skills by completing a 'Picturing Jesus' activity. Here, students have reflected on their knowledge and understanding of the person of Jesus and represented this through a piece of art work. The quality of some of the finished pieces has been exceptional with some highly original products created.

Year 8 students have understood the relevance of religion in everyday life through an investigation into the lives of Inspirational People. Students have discussed the effect on society of inspirational people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through an investigation into the lives of Nicky Cruz and Carlo Acutis

Finally, Year 9 students have developed oracy skills by debating issues surrounding crime and punishment and the death penalty in particular. Year 9 students have had the opportunity to express their own ideas and scrutinise the opinions of peers through Classroom Debates. The quality of debate and the maturity with which students responded to ideas that are different to their own has been commendable.

Key Stage Four students in Year 10 have completed a study of a range of real-life issues including crime and punishment and war and peace before looking the philosophical problem of evil. Students have focussed on developing their skill of evaluation and classroom debates have been used to thrash out different ideas before developing these in their written work. Year 11 students have been busy preparing for their GCSE examinations and Master Classes are being offered on a Monday and Thursday after school.

### Croesy Chosen

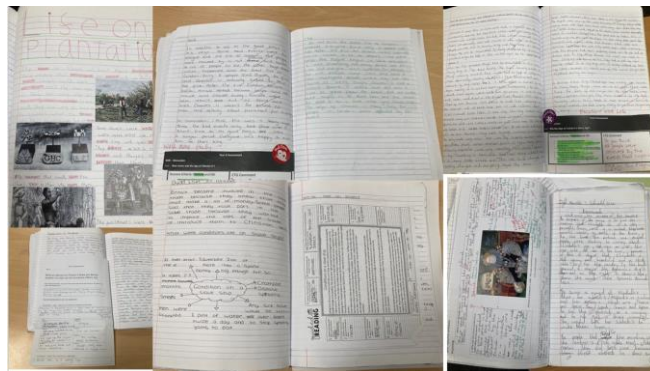
Croesy Chosen – Croesyceiliog School's Christian group – has seen huge growth since its inception in September and, during the Spring Term, has 80 members.

During the term, students made 'happiness bags' - to remind them of the good things in their lives when things are tough – and many have taken up the Lent Challenge where they worked on developing themselves by giving up something that holds them back, reflecting on how they can be more selfless, and putting aside time for prayer. Students also benefited from guest speakers such as the Operations Manager of the Christian homeless charity, Eden Gate, and the local Anglican priest, Rev'd Karin Pardoe. Finally, students have enjoyed their first 'Fellowship Day' which started with Holy Communion in St. Mary's Church, before moving to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm and shopping in the afternoon at Cabot Circus, Bristol. Students were a credit to the school on this trip and it was a pleasure to spend the day with them.



### History Department

The History department has had a productive time in what has been a fairly short term. We continue to implement the new Curriculum for Wales and have provided opportunities for our Year 7 students to develop their creative skills in writing books for Y5 students. They have also looked at comparing different Medieval kings to decide who is the most successful monarch. Year 8 students are currently working on the theme of 'Revolutions', developing an understanding of what a revolution is through studying the Merthyr Rising, Chartism and the Rebecca Riots to name a few.



Our Year 9 students have been studying major events from the twentieth century. Currently they are studying Nazi Germany and are honing their source evaluation skills by looking at the purpose of sources as well as how and why interpretations are formed.

We were delighted with the entries for the Eisteddfod competition and had a difficult job choosing the winners.





Our GCSE students are preparing for their external examinations in May and June and we have been delighted with a healthy turn out to revision which has seen nearly 50% of the cohort attend.

## Geography Department

Geography has been a busy department in the classroom this term. We have been completing a wide variety of topics and assessments since Christmas! In Year 7, we have been looking at cold environments, exploring the areas with a sense of awe and wonder. Students have evaluated the differences between the Arctic and Antarctic and have created the most perfectly adapted animals - the outcomes of these were both brilliant and strange in equal measure!

Year 8 have been hard at work too, looking firstly at ecosystems. This is a really important topic to cover at this stage and something that we revisit should the students go on to choose GCSE Geography. 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. Students have created 'biomes in a bottle' investigating tropical rainforests and savannah grasslands. We are now moving on to deforestation in the tropical rainforests with the threats savannah grasslands face to come.

Year 9 this term are studying tectonic hazards. We started the term exploring key tectonic themes such as plate tectonic movement, Wegener's theory of continental drift before starting our work on earthquakes. Students have worked hard examining earthquake activity around the world, focusing on the Haiti earthquake in 2010. Students used a chapter from Illan Kelman's book 'A disaster by choice' before concluding if the severity of the earthquake was a result of tectonic activity or human interactions. This worked extremely well with students producing some excellent work. More recently, students have studied tsunamis, with the focus on the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. Students are currently completing a newspaper report outlining the causes and impact of that event.



Key Stage 4 are extremely busy in this term, particularly Year 11. The students are now coming towards the end of their time at the school, and we are really pushing forward with exam skills and practice for the students. They are starting to revise more in their own time. Students are working hard on knowledge across the whole spectrum of topics and are preparing for the two summer examinations in May and June. Year 10 are continuing their journey through the content for the WJEC GCSE specification. Students 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, students have been introduced to more formalised exam practice in the lessons, in order to continue to build exam skills and improve their understanding of the command words they will face in the exam. Overall, our Geography students have worked really hard to succeed and we are seeing a good level of progress from our students. We hope to see this continue into the summer term and beyond!

## Additional Learning Needs Department

The ALN team work hard to provide targeted, timely support for students to overcome barriers to learning and help them to make the best possible progress. This can include one or more of the following: adult support in lessons, structured and bespoke interventions within and outside of the classroom, and access to a highly differentiated curriculum package. We are also supported by a number of external agencies that include the Educational Psychology Service, Local Authority Sensory and Communication Support Services (SenCom) specialists, Occupational Therapists and the Autism Outreach Team.

Hannah Rawle-Jones, Assistant Headteacher has taken over as ALNCo this term following Mrs Williams' move to a new role in Bristol.

### The Den

Our Den provision provides a safe space for students needing time-out. Members of our team support students with de-escalation and reflection. Staff work with students to learn self-regulation strategies re-integrate back into lessons.

Literacy Interventions are in place for students needing support with their reading and spelling with the aim of improving literacy skills in all subject areas.

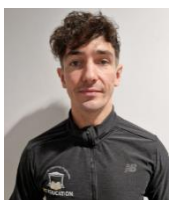
During registration time, Year 10 & 11 students volunteer for buddy reading with Year 7 & 8 students to improve their confidence in reading.



## Empire Boxing

As a school, we have been very lucky to be one of the five schools receiving support from Empire Fighting Chance's. They have delivered weekly non-contact boxing sessions in schools for some of our vulnerable students. Police and Crime Commissioner Jeff Cuthbert said: "Projects such as this are helping to keep children in school while also providing a huge range of benefits in terms of physical and mental wellbeing."

## HIT Education (Hitting Individual Targets)



We also work closely with our team from HIT. HIT offers a small group provision where they cover academic content such as PSE levels 1&2 and work-related education. They support wellbeing through sporting activities such as golf, boxing and general fitness activities. HIT prides itself on offering sessions which create an inclusive environment where students can share insights and personal struggles.



## Meet the ALN Team







From everyone at  
Team Croesy!