

MAJOR NEWS / NEWYDDION MAWR

AUTUMN TERM / TYMOR YR HYDREF	
Start / Dechrau:	Monday 4 September 2023 / Dydd Llun Medi 4 2023
Half Term / Hanner Tymor:	Monday 30 October 2023 – Friday 3 November 2023 / Dydd Llun Hydref 30 – Dydd Gwener Tachwedd 3 2023
End / Diwedd:	Friday 22 December 2023 / Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 22 2023
Week Beginning – Monday 11 December 2023 / Dydd Llyn Rhagfyr 11 2023	Week 14/ Wythnos 14

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the penultimate Major News of 2023.

It has been a busy week here at Llantwit Major. Our exam year groups have been busy preparing for and sitting their mock examinations. Year 10 have all completed their WBQ challenge this week and we have been most impressed with their maturity and dedication. 40 upper school and sixth form students are also heading to Geneva today on the CERN trip and we are sure they will have a fantastic weekend.

You may remember that we asked all parents/carers to complete a survey last term with a focus on home/school communication. We have made a number of changes since then, including the introduction of Class Charts and we are keen to gather your views and see if there has been an improvement. Therefore, could I please ask you to complete the following which will close on Wednesday 20th December at 3pm:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDo1NLIokm-XagHaKRYFADPRfzqkCw5-cKga98yXah-D5uog/viewform>

Finally, may I remind you that school will end at 1.40pm next Friday 22nd December, with buses departing at 1.45pm. If you would like your child to remain in school until 3pm please contact the school. To mark the festive holidays we will hold our Christmas jumper day on Friday 22nd December and parents/carers are invited to make a donation which will fund our chosen charity MIND and our school breakfast club. The letter from Miss Toms provides further information. This will be a non-school uniform day, but pupils are expected to dress appropriately. We will not permit ripped jeans and/or midriiffs on display and if pupils arrive to school inappropriately dressed we will call parents/carers and ask them to bring appropriate clothing to school or provide children with items from our uniform store. Please discuss this with your child and ensure they leave for school in appropriate attire so that we may all enjoy a peaceful day.

As ever, many thanks for your continued support and I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mrs C L Robins

Welsh Baccaulaureate Department

Year 10 Welsh Baccaulaureate pupils have had an extremely busy term. The Enterprise and Employability Challenge required students to develop an idea for a new creative and innovative wearable technology product. Pupils worked in groups completing a variety of tasks in order to pitch the idea to assessors. In doing so, they demonstrated a number of skills when completing tasks including teamwork, communication, organisation, timing and independence to name just a few. They also created informative, eye-catching visual displays to support their pitch. Many pupils excelled in this task and staff (not only within the department) have been really impressed with the effort, commitment, quality of work and enthusiasm shown by our pupils.

On the day of the pitch, pupils arrived well prepared and delivered their pitches with confidence. We are really proud of them and are extremely pleased to include so many photos of some of the fabulous groups and the work presented to us this week.

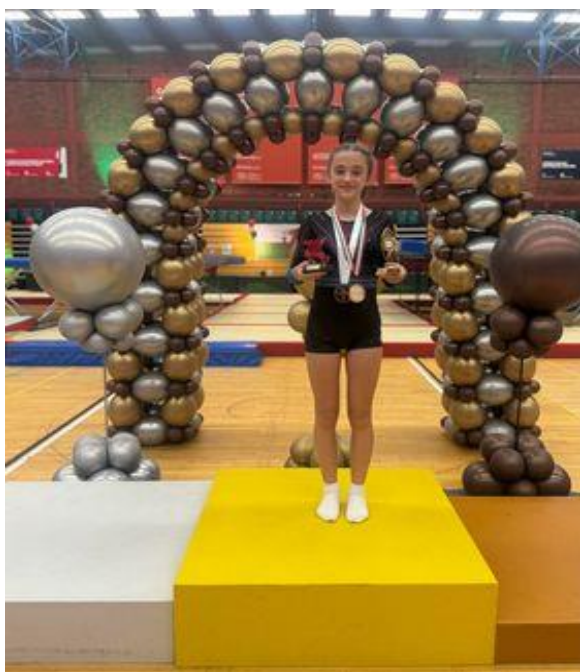


This work will be worth up to 25% of their final GCSE grade. Well done to all Year 10 pupils!

A week in sport

🏈 YEAR 10 RUGBY WELSH CUP DRAW 🏈

The year 10 rugby team have made it in to the last 32 of the Welsh Cup after beating Cantonian 42-12 in the knockout stages. Llantwit Major have drawn Gwyndy away 🏆 [#teamlantwit](#)



Play By	Blwyddyn Deg		Year 10
Jan 12th			
Game 1	Brynrefail/Friars	v	Penweddig
Game 2	Eirias /Ardudwy	v	Calon Cymru
Game 3	Rhydywaun	v	Morgan Llwyd/ Caereinion
Game 4	Cyfarthfa	v	Castell Alun/Dinas Bran
Game 5	Preseli/Bro Pedr	v	Gowerton
Game 6	Stanwell/Glantaf	v	Gwyr
Game 7	Newbridge	v	Cwmtawe
Game 8	West Mon	v	Maesteg
Game9	Dyffryn Amman	v	Caerleon
Game10	Strade	v	Whitchurch HS
Game11	Corpus/Cowbridge	v	Ystylafera
Game12	Gwyndy		Llantwit
Game13	Bro Myrddin		Bro Morgannwg
Game14	Brynawr		Tonyrefail
Game15	Haverfordwest		Porthcawl
Game16	Bassaleg		Y Pant

Congratulations to Nancy Thomas who competed in the Welsh Open Trampoline and DMT Championships 2023. Nancy competed in the synchronised trampoline in the Cardiff open and, with her partner, secured a gold medal for the second year running in their category Level 1 9-12Y 🏆. Nancy then succeeded in maintaining her Welsh champion place for the second year in the individual Elite Cat 2 in the Welsh Championship. Well done Nancy from all of us at [#teamlantwit](#)

A valiant effort from our year 7 team against a strongly organised Cowbridge team. In glimpses, the team held their ground and put some excellent tackles in throughout the match! On multiple occasions, we came within inches of the try line! However the last pass and a dogged defence from Cowbridge held us out.

[#teamlantwit](#)

Players of the match:

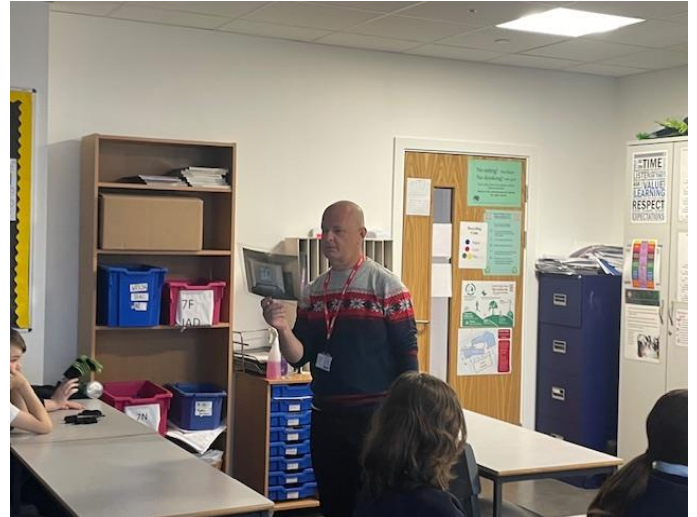
🌟 Steff Davies 🌟 Harry Brown-Pilcher 🌟 🌟 Louis Morris 🌟



Business Studies and Careers Department

Big Ideas Wales aims to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs in Wales and encourage young people of the age of 25 and under to develop enterprise skills, whatever their career choice.

All year 8 and 9 pupils will have a visit prior to Christmas from an entrepreneur representing Big Ideas Wales to talk to them about their journey in setting up business. Below are some of photos of the entrepreneurs working with pupils.



Pupil Xmas Lunch

This week pupils were able to enjoy Christmas lunch in the canteen. Our canteen team did an excellent job in ensuring everyone got through in time and pupils were treated to lunch with all the trimmings and a festive pudding. Participation was higher than normal and the staff really threw themselves into Christmas by dressing up and playing festive music at the serving hatch. Next year we are going to need more turkey...



Year 7 progress and wellbeing updates

Year 7 will be receiving their first wellbeing and progress update via classcharts in the next couple of days. Please can all year 7 parents/carers make sure they sign in and study these updates in order to gain an understanding of how their child is settling in to school and the progress they are making. If you have any questions or queries, you can make contact with your child's progress team via the high school inbox.

Class Charts

We still have a number of parents/carers not signed up to classcharts. We will be using this more and more moving forward so it is essential that everyone has access. If you are experiencing any technical problems please contact us via the high school inbox.

Mock examinations

A huge well done to those learners engaging with their mock exams this week and next. Their attitude and approach has been fantastic demonstrating how determined and resilient our learners are. We are really proud of their efforts. Well done and good luck for the upcoming examinations next week.

ParentPay

We continue to move towards being a 'cashless' school. All trips and items for purchase will now be set up via ParentPay, allowing you to pay online without the need to send cash or cheques into us.

Please use the ParentPay system to make any required payments, and avoid sending in cash/cheque payments into the school. If you have not already set up a ParentPay account, please contact us and we will be happy to send you the relevant link and details to put this in place.

Using ParentPay not only allows you to make payments, it provides a list of all the payments you have made and provides details of any balances due and when they are required.

As you know ParentPay is also used by our pupils to pay for their school meal. Please remember to check your child's balance regularly to ensure they have sufficient funds available to purchase their meal. For those pupils who do go 'overdrawn' letters will now be sent to parents/careers to advise them of any negative balances. Further details to follow.

New Break Menu

The Student Council, in conjunction with the Senior Management Team, have been working with Big Fresh to improve our canteen provision.

Subsequently we are delighted to announce that from the 15th January 2024, food will be available for all pupils to purchase at break time.

The following menu options will be provided:

Mondays and Wednesdays:

Sausage wrap or baguette, hashbrown and omelette wrap or baguette, single large hashbrown, yoghurt, mixed fruit pots, bagels and tea-cakes.

Tuesdays and Thursdays:

Bacon wrap or baguette, hashbrown and omelette wrap or baguette, single large hashbrown, yoghurt, mixed fruit pots, bagels and tea-cakes.

Fridays:

Continental breakfast, pancake with honey, granola fruit and yoghurt pot, bagels and tea-cakes.

This is a new service, therefore we may need to tweak the menu or the provision over time as we see how things work in practice. We will keep you updated with any changes.

If you have elected to set a daily 'food' budget on your child's ParentPay account, please remind them that purchases at break will affect what they can purchase later at lunchtime. Please remember to check your child's/children's balance to ensure they have sufficient funds.

ParentPay - School Meal Account Limit

In order to help parents/careers manage their ParentPay account we have introduced an 'overdraft' limit threshold on your child's lunchtime meal account.

This means that as soon as they are overdrawn by £5 they will only be allowed to purchase a main meal option (no cookies, cakes, multiple pizza slices or flavoured water) until payment is made and their account is in credit.

No child will ever be denied a main meal, this cost will continue to be added to your ParentPay account, but we would remind you that you are responsible for any monies due on this account.

Once an account reaches the £5 overdraft we will send you a statement so that you can see the due balance and make a payment to bring it into credit.

If you would like to set a maximum daily limit your child can spend on meals we are able to facilitate this. Please email the school inbox with your child's name and the daily limit you wish to introduce. This will allow your child to purchase any combination of food they choose, but only up to the limit you set.

Please note that we can only change this once each term and it has to be entered manually, so please bear with us whilst we make the change and ensure that you have advised your child that you are doing this to avoid any embarrassment at the till.

We continue to review the canteen and the food options available to our pupils and hope to update you again on this shortly.

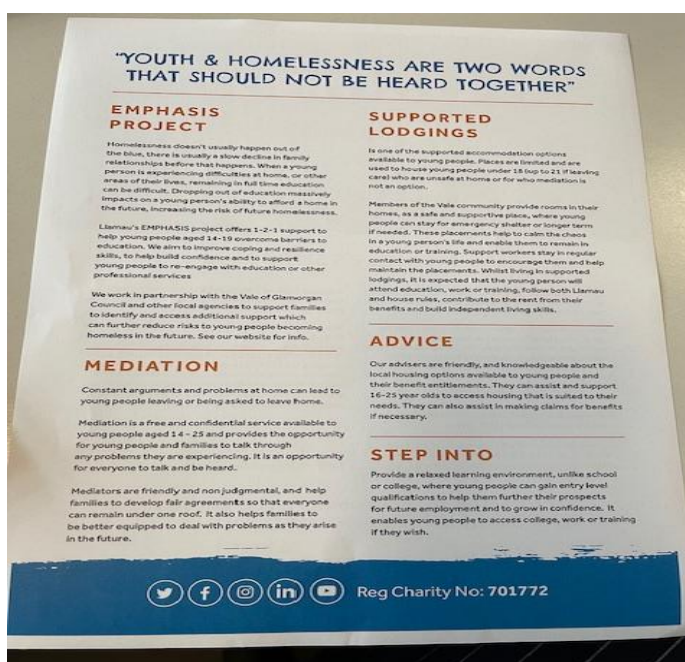
Llamau

This week Lisa Desmond came to speak to year 10. She works for an organisation called Llamau. 35 years ago, a group of people supported young people who could not live at home and have continued to do so. Now they have 4 houses in Barry and a range of kind people with a spare bedroom that are willing to take in young people into their homes. They also branched out and offer help and support in South Wales.

Lisa was here to carry out intervention work by highlighting issues that can cause young people to become homeless. Lisa led the students in a number of activities, beginning with identifying famous people who were once homeless. She then talked about reasons for people becoming homeless.

She explained that when young people come to Llamau, they aim to understand the issues and then put support in place to help.

For further information, Llamau can be contacted by emailing downstairs236@llamau.org.uk



Help and support information

As we approach the Christmas holiday period some families may be facing financial hardship. If you feel you may need help and support with the cost of living crisis the links below may be of use.

Is my child eligible to receive free school meals?

<https://www.gov.wales/free-school-meals-information-parents-and-carers>

Services and support that help with food costs. Information on food vouchers and food banks.

Penarth food pod:

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/March/New-Food-Pod-opens-in-Penarth.aspx

Vale Food Bank: <https://vale.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/foodbank-vouchers/#Vale%20foodbank>

Food Vale: <https://foodvale.org/where-can-i-get-support/>

How to get free or cheap food: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/how-to-get-free-or-cheap-food/>

Find information on grants and benefits available to you such as Council Tax Reduction.

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/Cost-of-Living/Grants-and-benefits.aspx>

Get help with household and energy bills.

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/Cost-of-Living/Household-and-energy-bills.aspx>

If your child is in receipt of free schools meals and you would like to discuss any aspect of their school life please contact Mrs E Denscombe at denscombe@llantwitschool.org.uk

School Calendar

Week Beginning – Monday 18 December 2023 / <i>Dydd Llyn Rhagfyr 18 2023</i>	Week 15/ <i>Wythnos 15</i>
Monday 18 December / <i>Dydd Llun Rhagfyr 18</i>	
Tuesday 19 December / <i>Dydd Mawrth Rhagfyr 19</i>	
Wednesday 20 December / <i>Dydd Mercher Rhagfyr 20</i>	
Thursday 21 December / <i>Dydd Iau Rhagfyr 21</i>	Years 12 and 13 Cheltenham Christmas Market Trip
Friday 22 December / <i>Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 22</i>	Last day of Term – 1:40pm finish
	Coming Up/ <i>I ddod</i>
Monday 8 January / <i>Dydd Llun Ionawr 8</i>	First day of Term - 8:30am start
Tuesday 9 January / <i>Dydd Mawrth Ionawr 9</i>	
Wednesday 10 January / <i>Dydd Mercher Ionawr 10</i>	
Thursday 11 January / <i>Dydd Iau Ionawr 11</i>	
Friday 12 December / <i>Dydd Gwener Ionawr 12</i>	

Key Academic Dates 2023/2024

Autumn 2023:

- **Term End:** Friday 22 December 2023 – **1:40pm finish**

Spring 2024:

- **Start:** Monday 8 January 2024
- **Half term:** Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024
- **End:** Friday 22 March 2024

Summer 2024:

- **Start:** Monday 8 April 2024
- **May Day BH:** Monday 6 May 2024
- **Half term:** Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
- **End:** Monday 22 July 2024 (**INSET**) (Students finish on Friday 19 July 2024)

INSET Days:

- **INSET Day 4:** Monday 19 February 2024
- **INSET Day 5:** Monday 8 July 2024
- **INSET Day 6:** Monday 22 July 2024

General Information

Contacting School

Please refrain from telephoning the school, other than for urgent purposes. For all general enquiries please email llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. **Please be reminded that we operate an appointments only system for meeting with parents and if you present at school requesting an immediate appointment we will not be able to accommodate you.**

Forgotten Items

We can no longer accept the delivery of forgotten items such as PE kit, books, lunch boxes etc. during the school day. Please ensure your child arrives at school with the equipment needed for the day. In the exceptional case that you do need to bring an item into school for your child, you will be asked to leave it on the desk in the main entrance. This is to reduce traffic on to the school site and ensure student safety during lesson transitions.

Medication

Please note we **do not** stock medication of any kind in school, including paracetamol, and we are not allowed to dispense medication without parental consent. If your child receives prescribed medication a medical form, available from main Reception to be collected by your son/daughter, will be required to be completed and returned to Reception. Should your child need medication throughout the school day please ensure they bring just what is needed for the day to school with them.