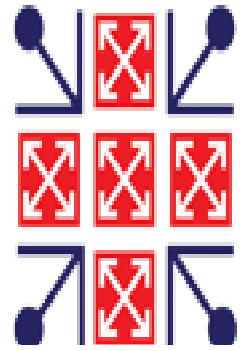


Llantwit Major School

Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr



School News

July 2022

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Greetings

Dear Reader,

We find ourselves in the extreme weather of July. It is not yet like 1976 but we have August ahead of us. The students of Llantwit Major School continue to contribute so much to our community and you will see a little of this in the pages of this newsletter.

During the recent weeks students have completed public examinations, visited universities, competed in an excellent day of sports and delivered a wonderful performance of 'The Little Shop of Horrors'.

We have begun our preparations for September with a great new award of Cymraeg Campus for our development of the Welsh language, Llongyfarchiadau I bawb.

Mr Burden.

Geography – KS3

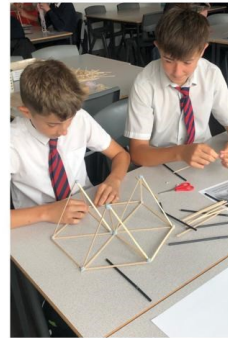
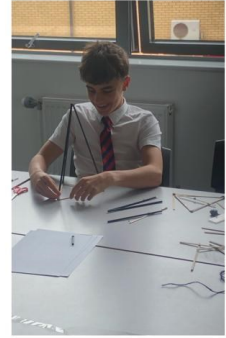
As part of a joint Geography, History and RS project, Year 7 had to navigate the Blue Plaque Trail around town identifying characteristics that give Llantwit its distinct sense of place. The project is a celebration of 'Cynefin' and will be used to promote our beautiful town and encourage people to 'Visit Llantwit!'



This term, Year 8 pupils have been investigating infiltration rates around the school as part of their work on rivers and flooding. With our new garden giving us a range of different surfaces it provided some fantastic outdoor learning experiences!

Geography – KS4

Year 9 have been getting creative and designing earthquake proof buildings with sticks and straws! Having assessed the vulnerability of Haiti and Japan, they wanted to see if they could withstand Mr Rees's shaker table! There was definitely some cheating going on.



Year 10 loved measuring pebbles along transects to identify changing profile trends in Tresilian Bay. The ice creams at the cafe were a bonus! They will use the collected data in their NEA examination in November. We look forward to another exciting outing to investigate inequality across Cardiff Bay in September!

Geography – KS5

Year 12 had a blast testing their fieldwork and sampling skills in preparation for their examination and individual investigation write up. With temporal change of coastlines, salt marsh succession, human impacts on sand dune systems and sense of place in Llantwit Major all on offer, we will have a plethora of exciting investigations this year!



After a rollercoaster ride throughout Sixth Form, our hard working Year 13 students made it past the final post! We are extremely proud of the effort and maturity they have shown throughout the two years and wish them all the success in the future.

Geography – Eco News

Eco Club have enjoyed helping Mr Jones harvest their crops!

We have tasted some delicious carrots, tomatoes and peas so far!

We have also been lucky enough to purchase some Fair-trade gardening gloves, bird houses and rugby balls this term. We are currently reapplying for our FairAchiever School status and are proud of the work we do as a school to raise awareness of Fair-trade issues around the world and encourage conscious and ethical consumerism.

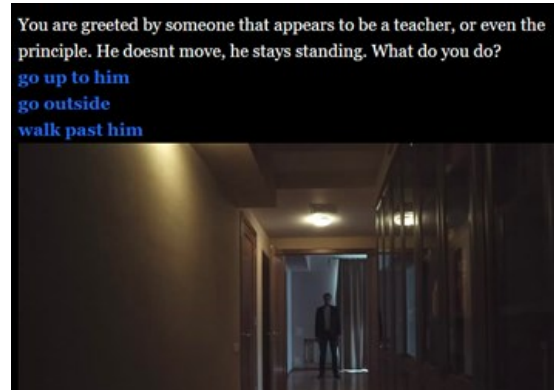
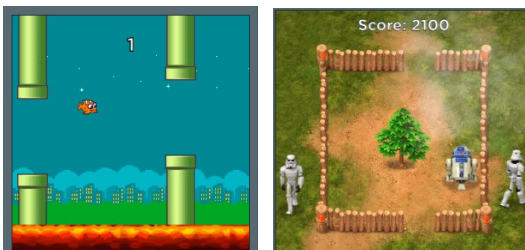


This year's Sunflower Growing Competition winner is Calum Wood. Calum nurtured his sunflower to a winning height of 102cm, an excellent effort! Well done to all who entered.

ICT

Key Stage 3 – Blwyddyn 7 a 8

Years 7 and 8 have been on the forefront of a developing curriculum. They have tackled ambitious challenges; creating animations, video editing, web design, and computer game development to name just a few. Year 7 have developed their team working skills when contributing to building smart farms in Minecraft. Both year groups have demonstrated their digital and creative skills when using Twine to write their own “choose your own adventure” stories. To complete Year 8 students have put all their skills to the test by developing a multimedia website incorporating all that they have learnt over the last 2 years.



Coding Club

As the curriculum changes so does our approach to extracurricular activities. We have had a dedicated group of coders in year 7 attending weekly lunch time clubs. Our year 7 hackers have been developing their skills in Java, Scratch, Python and Gaming concepts. They have even snuck a bit of programming in to Minecraft as well!

Year 7 Top Homework Scorers

- ★ Daniel WH
- ★ Dylan H
- ★ Finley C

Year 8 Top Homework Scorers

- ★ Dylan T
- ★ Tomos R
- ★ Sarah B

Llongyfarchiadau pawb on an excellent year of computing. We look forward to developing the ICT curriculum with you further next year!

Llantwit Major PE Department

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Summer Term Extracurricular Timetable

The extracurricular timetable for pupils in KS3 and KS4 is available below:

| PE EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <u>2021-2022</u> | | | | | |
| WEEK 1/WEEK 2 | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| WEEK 1 3-4PM | ATHLETICS (ALL YEARS) <i>JWC/RJN/MW/JK</i> | BADMINTON (ALL YEARS) <i>JWC</i> | RUN CLUB (ALL YEARS) <i>TH</i> BASKETBALL (ALL YEARS) <i>RJN</i> | TENNIS (ALL YEARS) <i>MW</i> CRICKET (ALL YEARS) <i>RJN</i> | LUNCHTIME – SIXTH FORM BASKETBALL <i>JWC</i> |
| WEEK 2 3-4PM | ATHLETICS (ALL YEARS) <i>JWC/RJN/MW/JK</i> | BADMINTON (ALL YEARS) <i>JWC</i> | RUN CLUB (ALL YEARS) <i>TH</i> BASKETBALL (ALL YEARS) <i>RJN</i> | TENNIS (ALL YEARS) <i>MW</i> CRICKET (ALL YEARS) <i>RJN</i> | LUNCHTIME – SIXTH FORM BASKETBALL <i>JWC</i> |

Athletics Competitions

Well done to our pupils across Year 7 to year 10 who have represented Llantwit Major School at Cardiff International Sports Campus over the last few weeks! As a department, we are all extremely proud of you all! Some excellent results from some individuals too. Da iawn!





RYAN FELLOWS



KATIE SIMS



ISABELLA WILKEY-SMITH



BEN GODFREY

HEALTH FITNESS AND WELL-BEING LEADERS

Our Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Leaders have been excellent since their appointment. They have been actively involved with the PE Department through helping with extracurricular activities, leading teams and providing informative PowerPoints to KS3 pupils. They truly have fulfilled their role this year beyond what we could have expected.

Also, based on the funding we raised, we have provided courses to improve their skills that will not only benefit the school but also benefit them in future life. Continue to be the role models you have demonstrated all year round!

New Unisex football Kit

At Christmas time we provided a raffle for a signed Welsh Rugby Union Jersey and raised a fantastic amount of money and stated we would be using the money towards a new unisex KS3 and KS4 football kit! Here's a preview as our year 11s football team model our new KS4 Unisex football kit



WELSH INTERNATIONALS - Our new Internationals Board

We are pleased to show you our new updated Welsh internationals board and present a range of internationals that have been and are part of Llantwit Major School. These internationals range from a variety of sports including Athletics, football, rugby, taekwondo, gymnastics, golf, water polo, ice hockey and boxing! Amazing to see that most of the pupils are still in school across KS3 / KS4 and KS5!



Honourable Mentions



We are unbelievably proud to announce that current year 10 GCSE PE pupil Mali Morgan who has been selected for this year's Commonwealth Games as part of Team Wales. What an achievement and a very well deserved selection. On behalf of the whole school, we wish you all the best in

Birmingham. Go Mali!

" I was shocked and excited to be selected to compete as part of Team Wales at the Commonwealth Games this summer .I am hoping the experience will help build upon my development as a gymnast. I want to continue with the sport to reach my potential and hopefully gain more international experience and travel along the way."



Congratulations to Year 9 pupil Joel Harris who was selected to represent Wales in the British tri- nation championships in Barnsley. He narrowly missed out on a win, losing on points to his English opponent. Well done from all at Llantwit Major School.



Congratulations to Year 11 GCSE pupil Daniel Bartlett on scoring his first international try and to the whole Wales U16 rugby league team who beat England 22-14. Well done Dan, we are all so proud of your continued success.

"It was an incredibly great feeling to put on the Welsh Rugby League Jersey in front of a packed stadium of 1018 people. It was even more overwhelming to score a try, put the team in the lead to eventually win the game and see teammates cheering and the crowd running onto the pitch. The next steps for me are that I am going to the City of Oxford College and join Wasps academy. Hopefully I can make it professionally and eventually come back and represent wales."

Congratulations to Year 10 GCSE PE pupil Zak Grinter who has returned from injury to not only compete but win the Welsh Closed Championship and become the Welsh heavyweight champion! We are all so proud of Zak and wish him the best of luck in his next competition in Kettering.

"I was nervous before the competition as my back injury had stopped me being able to train or do any sports for a few months so I wasn't feeling in top condition but was glad to be back competing. I was really pleased to win all 5 fights on the day and come home as Welsh champ!"



Congratulations to Year 7 pupil Archie Preece who boxed at the weekend and is now Welsh Champion at 46kg for 2022. Congratulations from all of us here at Llantwit Major.

"I have only been boxing since I was 7 years old and I am totally dedicated to being the best I can be. Training can be hard but I love it. When I am preparing for a competition I have to train up to 6 times a week. In the next few years I hope to get to the British and then the European Championships. My long term goal is to be an Olympic Gold Medallist and future World Champion"



Congratulations to Year 12 Pupil George Snaith who has been invited to compete for Cardiff and Vale Schools in the Welsh Schools competition on the 2nd of July.

Best of luck from all at Llantwit Major School!

“It’s an honour to represent my country of Wales in Athletics and Javelin. The competition took place in Derby and was a great experience. It’s very pleasing to join my brother Sam Snaith on the Llantwit Major Internationals Board and hope to represent my club and country again in the Commonwealth Games one day”



Special Mention – Daniel Qaimuri

Not long ago, Year 8 pupil Daniel Qaimuri mentioned to Mr Crocker that his dad was collecting any clothing, kit, shoes etc. to take to an orphanage in Nigeria. As a result, we tried to mirror the generosity of Daniel in his day to day school life and donated some shoes, clothing and our old football kit. We are so proud as a PE Department to play a tiny role in bringing joy to others but more proud of the young man Daniel is. He really deserves all the praise and positivity he gets as he is often the pupil sharing the positivity at school. Thank you for letting us be a part of your help and support for others Daniel.



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School - PE Dept**



= **@LlantwitPE**

SPORTS DAY



Sports day was a huge success this year! After a tough 2 and a half years of COVID, it was so pleasing to see all pupils outside in the sun together for sports day, whether that be participating in the events and tournaments taking place or cheering on their respective form colours. Special thank you to all staff and pupils who assisted in making the day run as smoothly as it did and made it an extremely enjoyable day for all! See below some quotes pupils who attended had to say on the sports day!



"I really enjoyed sports day. It was really fun to be able to be outside all day and not have to do any work. I hope we can do it every year."

FFION

Year 7

"I thought sports day was entertaining, and fun I loved working with my friends and competing against others"

LEXI Year 7

"It was very fun and there was a variety of things to participate in. I'm looking forward to next year and I think it would be fun if there was a badminton competition."

CAITLIN Year 8

"It was amazing and so much fun"

RUBY Year 7

"I thought it was very good and I enjoyed it all."

LILY Year 9

"It was fun and the ice cream van was cool."

AARON Year 8

"Very very fun I hope it is the same next year"

GABRIELLA Year 7

"It was very exciting. Especially for people like me who did multiple things which meant you spent most of the day doing stuff which overall improved my sports day experience."

DYLAN Year 8

"I thought it was very fun and I enjoyed it and I did everything that I wanted to do!"

DYLAN Year 7"

Art and Design - Key Stage 3



Year 7 Art and Design students spent last term developing their painting and colour mixing skills to create a colour wheel and landscape painting, of the local area.

The class showed great confidence when working with watercolour and acrylic paint to mix their own colours.



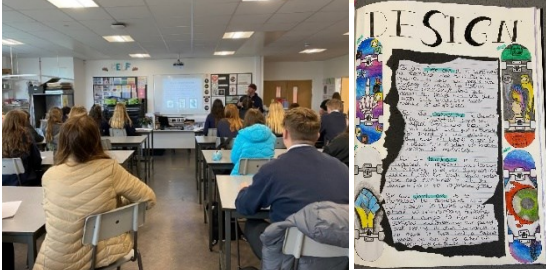
This term students are moving on to work with traditional printmaking techniques. They are focused on creating lino stamps which will be printed on to reusable shopping bags and used in the local area.

Year 8 Art and Design students worked with enthusiasm last term and experimented with different techniques to produce creative portraits of their favourite welsh celebrities.

This term we have moved on to work with clay. Students are currently designing and making their very own clay Worry Gonk. Once completed the Worry Gonks will then be donated to the school wellbeing department and used to help mindfulness for both students and teachers.



Art and Design - Key Stage 4



At the end of last term Year 9 GCSE Art, Craft and Design students completed their art work ready for it to be displayed in the local Awesome Wales shops.

This term students have moved on to work on a skateboard deck design project. The local skateboard shop Vale Skateboard Co are working with the students to run the competition. Students have the opportunity to see their winning art work on a real skateboard. The winning design will then be sold and profits will be donated to charity.

Good luck to those students taking part!

Don't forget that Year 9 Art Club is run every Wednesday in L4 and L5.

Year 10 GCSE Art, Craft and Design and Photography students continue to work on developing their Personal Projects.

Students have completed a series of photoshoots, drawings and paintings to support the development of their creative ideas.

Next they will be finding and researching an artist of their choice. This artist will have a direct influence on the style of their final outcomes, which they will start to design in September. We cannot wait to see what they go on to create in December!

Don't forget that Year 10 Art Club is run every Tuesday in L4 and L5. Year 10 Photography Club runs every Thursday lunchtime in L5.



Art and Design - Key Stage 5



Year 11, 12 and 13 GCSE/AS/A Level Art, Craft and Design and Year 11 GCSE Photography students have now completed their studies with us.

A big well done to those students that worked hard over the past few months to meet the deadline.

The end of year Art and Design exhibition took place at the end of June and the work looked fantastic.

Good luck to all those students finishing their studies with us!

Year 12 AS Level Art, Craft and Design students have already got a head start with their Year 13 A Level Art, Craft and Design studies – they are also taking part in the Vale Skateboard Co competition. Students have been focused on choosing a social issue to influence their skateboard design and will soon move on to creating their final design.

All work they create will form part of their A Level portfolio and we are excited to see what they go on to create.



Project Wellbeing



Project Wellbeing is a new and exciting mental health scheme conducted by a team of Year 12 students to support younger years with their concerns. As a team, we believe that it's vital for younger students to have an older peer mentor within school that will provide them with a safe and uplifting space to discuss their current situation and feelings. We began talking in assemblies to all students about how they can support their own mental health and seek support in school. I am really pleased with the team of Year 12s who have volunteered to become 'Wellbeing Ambassadors'. We had such a great day being trained in safeguarding, active listening and confidentiality by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. We also furthered our skills working with Cardiff and Vale Primary Mental Health Service. We cannot wait to initiate the project and provide pupils with the extra support and attention they deserve! It is so rewarding to have full support from the current school wellbeing system. Pupils are able to create a more positive and understanding environment regarding mental health within school.

Bethan Scholes

Wellbeing Prefect Sixth Form

Student Council

The Student Council of Llantwit Major School has completed many tasks over the academic school year. When a pupil raised an issue, the Student Council did not fail to try and come up with a solution. One of the projects the council focused on was charities. Each term, a sub-committee would organise an event to support those in need. The student council decided that the three causes they would choose to give to were The Vale Food Bank, Mind, and The Llantwit Major School Eco Committee and Nature Project. Another project the pupils decided to focus on was the Welsh language around the school. Videos on pronunciation and common words and phrases were sent out to parents to allow them to be able to speak Welsh at home.

The students joining the school in 2022/2023 will sit a different curriculum to the current pupils. So, the group chosen to focus on this project, spoke to certain pupils from local primary schools about how the school will change by the time they become students themselves. Project period was a proposal to offer free feminine hygiene products to students. An article was written on its success in The Glamorgan Star. Single use plastic was an issue raised, so a group of students decided to create a Llantwit Major School reusable bottle. It was launched on Sports Day, and is available to purchase via Parent Pay. Safeguarding, Bullying and Well-being was another Project the School Council worked on. The subcommittee created mental health support cards to go to the wellbeing centre, first aid, reception and the heads of years and created a video about how to support anti-bullying. It was played to all students in collaboration with the drama department. Overall, The student council have solved many problems raised, and found solutions and ways to deal with issues.

Fiona Bailey Year 7 (Student Council)



Garden Project

Our students have had an excellent term working on their garden project. They have been tending to the veg, nurturing their sunflowers in the competition as well as developing the outdoor space further for all students to use. All the while improving their own wellbeing and knowledge of where their food comes from and how to grow their own.

“The garden has really helped me this year to build relationships with other pupils in my year group and other year groups” (Year 9 student)

We are going to be harvesting the vast majority of our crops in the coming weeks for students to share and enjoy.



We have big plans for the garden next year and invite as many students as possible to be involved in the developments ahead.

Garden Project



Adran Gymraeg Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr

Llantwit Major School Welsh Department

Staff

Mae 3 aelod o staff yn rhan o'r Adran Gymraeg:

- Mr Harries (Pennaeth adran)
- Miss Smith (Ail yn yr adran/ Cydlynnydd dwyieithrwydd)
- Miss Stacey



Topigau

Ym mlwyddyn 7, bydd ein dysgwyr yn astudio 4 topig :

- Dyma Fi – *This is Me*
- Y Tŷ – *The House*
- Mynegi barn – *Expressing opinion*
- Teulu a Ffrindiau – *Family and Friends*



Cefndir

Mae'r Gymraeg yn bwnc craidd a bydd y disgyblion yn astudio'r pwnc tan ddiwedd blwyddyn 11 ar gyfer TGAU Cymraeg ail-iaith. Mae rhai o'r dysgwyr a rhieni yn poeni am y Gymraeg achos diffyg gwybodaeth neu profiad o'r iaith, ond **PEIDIWCH POENI!** Mae'r adran yn brofiadol gyda profiad o addysgu dysgwyr o fewn ystod eang o allu, boed hynny yn siaradwyr rhugl i ddysgwyr newydd i Gymru, felly bydd cyfle i bawb.

Gweithgareddau All-gyrsiol

Mae'r adran yn awyddus i roi cyfle i'n dysgwyr i barchu ac i ddeall yr iaith Gymraeg a'r diwylliant. Er mwyn hybu'r profiadau yma, mae'r cyfleoedd yma ar gael ym mlwyddyn 7:

- Clwb Cymraeg
- Eisteddfod
- Diwrnod Shwmae



Sut i helpu?

Yn gyntaf, peidiwch â phoeni os dydych chi ddim yn siarad Cymraeg! Mae mwyafrif o ddisgyblion Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr yn dod o deuluoedd di-Gymraeg, ond maen nhw'n llwyddo ac yn mwynhau eu gwersi. Rydyn ni'n gofyn am eich cefnogaeth ac annogaeth er mwyn helpu'ch plentyn ddysgu Cymraeg, gan roi cymorth iddynt pan fydd prawf geirfa neu asesiad siarad.

Os oes unrhyw gwestiynau gyda chi, cysylltwch â Mr Harries neu Miss Smith.

DIOLCH YN FAWR A PHOB LWC!



Adran Gymraeg Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr

Llantwit Major School Welsh Department

Staff

The Welsh department at Llantwit Major School consists of 3 teachers:

- Mr Harries (Leader of Learning)
- Miss Smith (Second in Department / Bilingualism Co-ordinator)
- Miss Stacey

Topics

In year 7, learners will study the following 4 topics:

- Dyma Fi – *This is Me*
- Y Tŷ – *The House*
- Mynegi barn – *Expressing opinion*
- Teulu a Ffrindiau – *Family and Friends*



Background

Welsh is a core subject which learners will study until the end of Year 11 and will obtain a Welsh Second Language GCSE. Some learners (and parents) worry that they will struggle with Welsh because they don't have much knowledge or experience of the language, but **DON'T PANIC!** The department has experience of teaching learners with a wide range of ability, from fluent speakers to learners who have only recently moved into Wales, so all needs and abilities will be catered for.

Extra Curricular activities

The department is keen to give learners the opportunity to embrace Welsh language and culture as much as possible. As such, the following opportunities will be available for year 7 learners:

- Clwb Cymraeg (Welsh Club)
- Eisteddfod
- Diwrnod Shwmae



How to help?

Firstly, don't worry if you are not a Welsh speaker! Most learners at Llantwit Major School don't have any family members who speak Welsh, but they still succeed and enjoy their lessons. All we ask of you is, like every subject, that you support and encourage your child in their learning of Welsh, for example testing them when they have a vocabulary test or a speaking assessment.

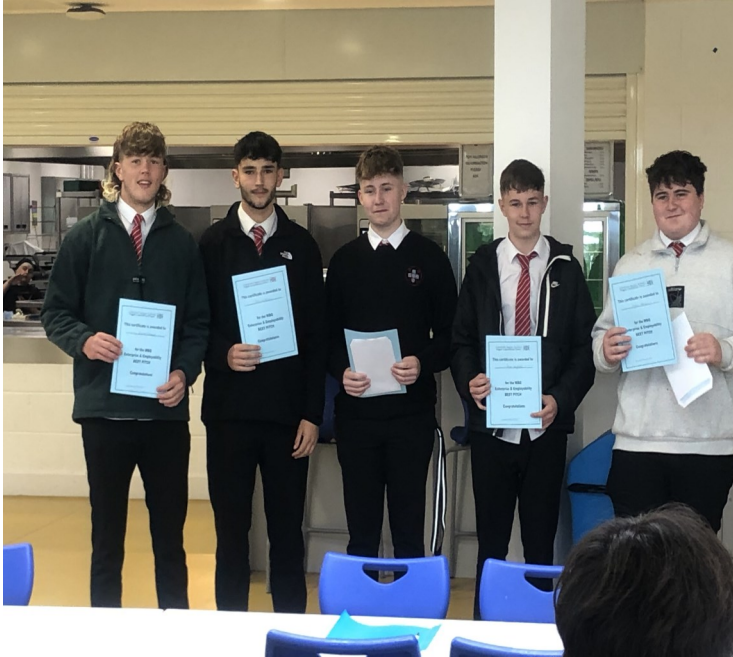
If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mr Harries or Miss Smith.



DIOLCH YN FAWR A PHOB LWC!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOOD LUC



Enterprise

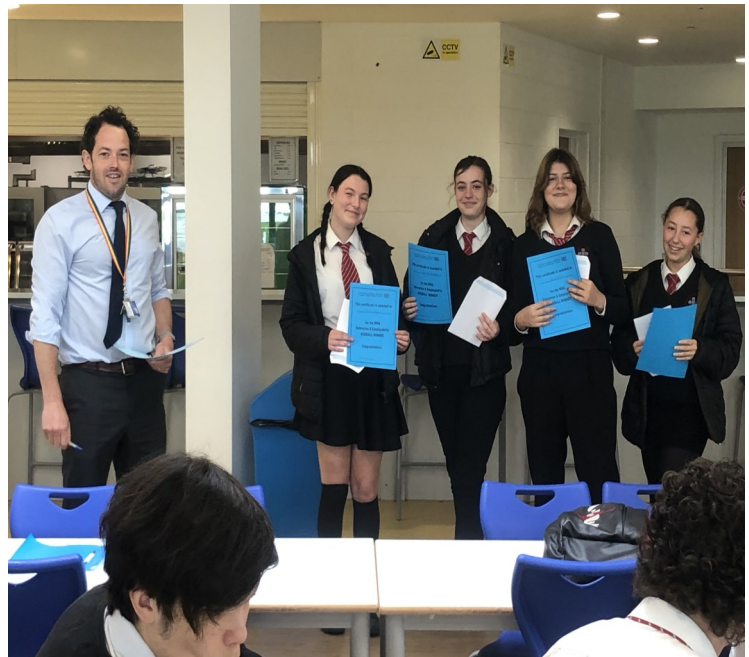


One of the challenges of the Welsh Baccaulaureate course is Enterprise & Employability which involves pupils working in teams to come up with an idea for an innovative product or service. The Year 12 pupils had some fantastic ideas which they 'sold' in a Dragon's Den event to members of Llantwit Major Rotary Club.

The awards were:

- ◆ Overall winner
- ◆ Most innovative product
- ◆ Most ethical product
- ◆ Best pitch.

The Rotary Club very kindly donated a cash prize for members of the winning teams and were very complimentary of the standard of the business proposals and pitches.



Next in Enterprise & Careers

All Year 8 pupils will have a presentation by Morgan Sindall Construction group on careers in the construction industry as well as an insight into how Maths and ICT are used in the industry.

Activities outside of school

On Sunday 12th June, Cadet Sergeant Isla Mawson (Year 12) and Cadet Sergeant Samantha Birns (Year 11) performed with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) National Arms Drill Display Team at the RAF Gosford Air Show.

They both attend St Athan's 2300 Cadet Squadron and were individually selected to join the team of 20 cadets from around the UK.



Science

Congratulations to our Physics Olympiads!

Our A level physicists continue to impress with their level of commitment to learning and pushing the boundaries of their perceived ability and potential. 7 of our Year 12 pupils took on the incredibly difficult challenge of sitting the British Physics Olympiad exam...and all 7 of them passed!

This is a huge achievement and we are extremely proud of their achievements.

Well done!



Congratulations to Molly, Rosie, Sajjan and Henry who have all been successful in securing Nuffield Research Placements over the summer months. These placements are very difficult to get on to and so it is testimony to our pupils that this year we have had a 100% success rate for the applications.

Molly will be undertaking research in the field of environmental science. Sajjan in Computational Chemistry Software measuring the energetics of adsorption. Rosie will be tracking cell orientation in 3D models of cancer spread and Henry will be gazing at the stars whilst undertaking his research in the field of Astrophysics.

Date for your diary : So, you want to be a Doctor? Saturday 10 September 2022

English Language 09:30-12:30 or Welsh language 13:30 - 16:30.

This is an interactive, online event led by GPs to help you get into Medical School and is aimed at pupils in Year 11 and 12.



Science

Former Llantwit Major School pupil Morgan Edwards shares some very exciting news about his new role as a Detector Development Physicist at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory working on neutron detectors for ESS.

I applied to STFC (the Scientific Technological Facilities Council) to work on particle detectors at their current neutron/muon spallation source in Oxfordshire . At ISIS they perform research using beams of neutrons or muons to look at the inner structure of matter in a non-destructive way. Using high energy neutrons is much better than x-rays when exploring lighter nuclei like hydrogen which is useful for exploring organic matter. Think massive microscope for looking at atomic spacing of materials (and a massive particle accelerator in the back to smash protons into tungsten to produce the neutrons).

They have a project working on a brand new neutron detector that will be shipped to ESS (the European Spallation Source), which is a brand new state of the art 600 metre particle accelerator powered spallation source doing what ISIS does but 100x better. It's kind of a big deal in material physics right now that will come online in the coming years. I will be part of the team in the cleanrooms actually assembling, calibrating and testing this detector at ISIS with the goal of shipping it to Sweden at the end of the year. Not only will I be making sure they work but my report at the end will become the user guide for this instrument for the lucky physicists at ESS. This is one of the biggest impacts I can have in my field as an undergraduate placement student and it's above and beyond anything I thought I would ever get.

I still can't quite believe how lucky I have been but I have the feeling that the opportunities afforded to me by SEREN and Mrs Denscombe's glowing references have got me here (along side my hard work and excellent grades of course!). This placement will set me up well for a career in physics and I'm excited to get started!

Morgan Edwards



ESS under construction



About STFC ISIS: <https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/What-does-ISIS-Neutron-Muon-Source-do.aspx/>

About ISIS Placements: <https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/Read-more-about-Placements-at-ISIS.aspx/>

Where I will be working: <https://stfc.ukri.org/about-us/where-we-work/rutherford-appleton-laboratory/>

ESS: <https://europeanspallationsource.se/>

Bath University Placements Page: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/improve-your-employability-with-a-bath-placement/>

Science



Read Isla's experience of the Sutton Trust US programme.

I first heard about the American Programme when I started my GCSEs in 2019 and I knew almost immediately that it was something that I wanted to apply for when the time came. I watched as older students in the sixth form took part in similar programmes going on to study at top US universities such as Yale and Princeton, envying their success and wishing I was in their shoes.

Coming back into the sixth form after the pandemic hit I chose to study chemistry, maths, further maths and sociology with ambitions to pursue a career in engineering. I keenly waited for the US programme to open up to my year group and in December 2021 I started my application process, competing with 2,000 other Year 12 students across the country for one of only 150 places.

The application process consisted of short essays and a video of myself explaining why I should be considered for the programme, as well as an extracurricular list and my academic achievements. I submitted my application in mid January and waited a long 2 months for my application outcome. Finally, on the 3rd March 2022 I received my acceptance email and couldn't have been happier!

Throughout the beginning of the programme I have had multiple different assignments and prep helping me begin to build a profile to put forward to US universities in the upcoming year. I attended a week-long residential at the University of Nottingham and along with the rest of the cohort I learnt about student life in America, the application process for American Universities, as well as prep for sitting my ACT exam. This took a huge leap of confidence as I travelled alone and surrounded myself with people I didn't know, although it was reassuring knowing we were all the same age and in the same boat. Since then I have juggled revision for the ACT with revision for my AS and A level exams, sitting the ACT in early June. I have just finished a second online residential with the programme over the last weekend where we explored what it takes to write an effective college essay, different types of American universities and spoke to students from previous cohorts. I am due to attend a third residential at the University of Roehampton in London next month. This is the replacement residential for the week in America with the programme exploring American Universities in person which was sadly cancelled due to COVID-19, but I am still extremely excited to be exploring my future prospects further and meeting with Admission Officers from America.

Although I still have a lot of work to do and essays to write, I can not emphasise enough the opportunities this programme has provided for me and I will continue to advise as many future Year 12 students, particularly those interested in a career in STEM to apply for this truly eye-opening opportunity.

Isla Mawson

Science

Once again this year the science department was extremely lucky to be chosen to work with the MIT Global Teaching Labs.

Unfortunately due to covid restrictions our instructor was unable to visit the school in person to deliver face-to-face lessons. None-the-less our Year 9 pupils were delighted to be given the chance to discuss questions such as: 'Is water wet?', 'What came first the chicken or the egg?' And; 'Are you the same person you were 10 years ago?'

Our Year 12 scientists were then treated to live steamed sessions focussing on the philosophy of physics and trying to work out if time travel really is possible.



Year 9 scientists continue to go from strength to strength exploring various aspects of STEM through enquiry based learning.

Some of their favourite lessons this year have included investigating whether the density of seawater affects the mass a cargo ship can carry, whether the shape and size of a wind turbine blades affects its power output and how do engineers and architects design buildings that are able to withstand earthquakes.

They have also worked incredibly hard utilising their numeracy skills to design and build scaled models of the National Grid.

Good luck to all of our Year 9 and Year 11 pupils who have worked hard on their applications for the STEMHaus summer school. Hopefully we will have some successful pupils who can share their experiences with you all in the next newsletter.

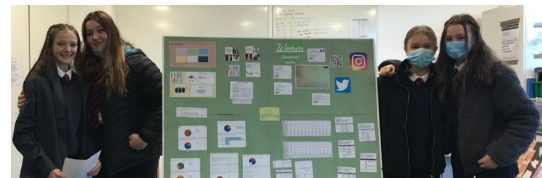
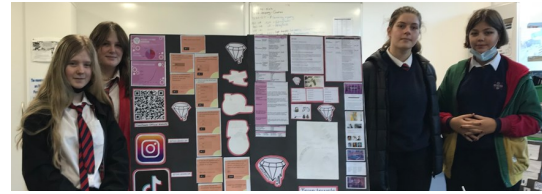
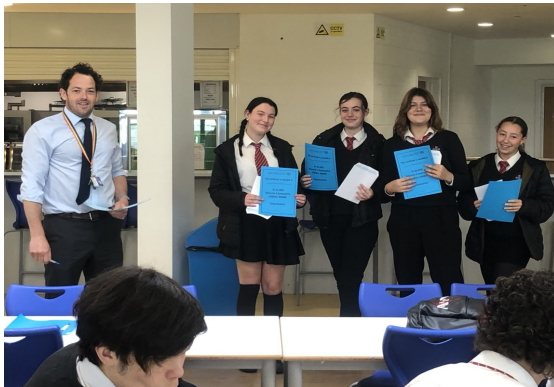
Welsh Baccaulaureate Department

Congratulations to Year 9&10 pupils who have spent 10 hours completing the participation element of their Welsh Baccaulaureate Community Challenge. The **Community Challenge activities** this year have revolved around the school garden project (with pupils participating in a variety of activities), transition activities for primary school pupils, developing and delivering lessons to Year 7 pupils based on feedback received on PSE topics and creating bunting for the Queen's Jubilee. Pupils have worked well together and produced some fantastic results. Well done Year 9 & 10 pupils!



Welsh Bacculaureate Department cont.

Year 10 pupils have had a busy year.
As well as completing their
Community Challenge.



Year 10 and Year 12 pupils have participated in our Dragon's Den style assessment for the Enterprise & Employability Challenge. They have pitched a wearable technology idea to Welsh Bacculaureate staff and Rotary Club members. Pupils showed their creative and innovative skills and delivered effective, knowledgeable and persuasive pitches. Clearly we have some budding entrepreneurs! Thank you to The Rotary Club for their time and input into the assessment of this challenge.

Next in Welsh Bacculaureate

Year 9 pupils will begin their Enterprise and Employability Challenge, developing an idea for a wearable technology item. We look forward to hearing their pitches at the end of the Autumn Term 2022

Year 10 pupils have started their Individual Project where they conduct research into an area of interest or a future career ambition. This will be completed in Year 11. We look forward to reading the projects.

Year 12 pupils will begin their Advanced Individual Research Project based on a future career ambition. It's a great talking point in university interviews, showing real interest in their chosen future career.

Healthy Schools

The school is extremely proud to have been re-accredited with the Healthy Schools Award. We are delighted to have achieved the highest standards of health and wellbeing in all seven Healthy Schools categories once again. Departments within the school continually assess and make provision for students' health and wellbeing. Thank you to the staff and students who have helped showcase the wonderful work they do.



Christine Farr (from Healthy Schools, Public Health Wales), presenting pupils with the Healthy Schools Award

SHRN (School Health Research Network)

Students in Years 7-11 were given the opportunity to participate in the schools healthy research work again this year. Surveys were completed anonymously and the results of this work will help drive forward the PSE & Health & Well-being curriculum over the coming year.

It is great to see so many pupils contributing to the focus of the curriculum and for the school to recognise where past curriculum focus has been beneficial. Thank you to all of the pupils who contributed their 'voice' showing the importance students place upon their involvement in determining their health and wellbeing provision within the school.

Christine Farr (from Healthy Schools, Public Health Wales), presented pupils at the school with our certificate confirming our successful re-accreditation of the Healthy Schools Award. Thank you for coming in to the school and well done to all the pupils and staff involved in making our school a healthy school!

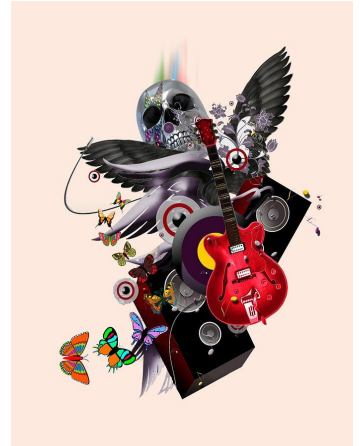
Next in Healthy Schools

Pupil involvement in the development of the curriculum for PSE and Health & Well-being. We can't wait to see what will be included in the curriculum next year.

Performing Arts & Media

Music

This half term Year 7 have been working on their independence skills, learning to perform pieces which they have chosen themselves. There have been a range of choices from rock bands and solo singers performing popular music, classical, music from musicals and films and even gaming music! The students have really enjoyed having the freedom to choose pieces from their favourite musical style and it has been very encouraging to see how well they have developed their performing techniques through a medium of their own choice. We have also provided the opportunity to perform these pieces back to the class as a mini concert which has been a new and exciting experience for many students.



Learn to play a Musical Instrument

Is your child interested in learning to play an instrument at school? Through a series of providers, we are very pleased that we can offer a range of instrumental tuition for students at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School. If you wish to register your interest for lessons, please contact Miss Toms at

llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Considering GCSE or A Level Theatre or Music? Check out our social media channels @llantwitperforms for the latest videos of student work. You will find us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter.



Last term students in drama enjoyed a range of topics. Year 7 students explored 'Our Day Out', a play by Willy Russel, Year 9 students explored the National Theatre's Production of 'Frankenstein' and Year 10 have started working on their devised examination preparation following an excellent performance of Alecky Blythes new play 'Generation'. Some of the students enjoyed some of her verbatim work with a performance at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama too.

Drama is all about teamwork. In all units students develop skills as performers and designers but also, just as importantly, their skills in leadership, collaboration, communication and respect for others.

A huge congratulations to Years 11,12 & 13 who all completed practical exam performances last term too!

Little Shop of Horrors

The performance was a success and everyone has worked exceptionally hard since October. In this image, Rees Harris is playing Seymour

Krelborn, and is surrounded by the Ronettes in Years 9, 11, and 13. These Ronettes went four for four nights in the show, and the effort they have put in to make this happen is very admirable. A beautiful selection of individuals indeed. They were all super excited to perform in the production this year

Todd and Regan worked really hard together with their first partner work in these shows. Bravo lads!



This is Rees' first major principle role in a Llantwit Preforming Arts production, and plays a great Seymour! This is just one of his many solo songs he performs, and is doing fab at it!



Bethan Scholes in Year 13 is singing 'Somewhere that's green' as one of the Audrey's this year, and is killing it. She is making this her very best, as this is her last production with Llantwit major Comprehensive. There is no doubt she will go on to do tremendous things in the future.



Daisy Williams: *"even though it's a lot of work, it's always great seeing it all pay off"*

Drama

“Thank you to local radio station Bro Radio for inviting some of the cast of Little Shop of Horrors to talk about the production. A fun time was had by all.”



Bar Mock Trial

On March 30th, students from Years 10, 11 and 12 all came together to compete in the annual Young Citizens – ‘Bar Mock Trial.’ Students took on the roles of barristers, witnesses, ushers and court clerks to form teams to argue their cases against other schools. Pupils put in a great deal of work in their own time, and after many lunchtime and after-school practice sessions students were ready to compete in the actual trial. Typically, the trial would be held in the Cardiff Crown Court, giving students an authentic judicial experience. However, due to Covid-19, the Trials were forced online.



Yet, students still had to argue their cases in front of law students, lawyers and real judges, so the pressure was still on! Fourteen other schools took part in the heat that Llantwit competed in; considerably more than the eight other schools in previous years. Competing in a round-robin style tournament the prosecution and defence teams competed in three trials coming out victorious in two of them and (unfairly) losing one. Unfortunately, Llantwit Students didn't win the tournament overall, but we know that it was definitely close! The event helped students to think critically, build arguments and boost their confidence, and, hopefully, we can compete again next year. Join us!

Students had a great day competing in the Young Citizens – ‘Bar Mock Trial.’

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Practise Expedition

Today was the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh practise expedition. Everyone did an amazing job. Here, Lyla, Jessica and Joe were really enjoying themselves whilst the on the flat ground.



I don't think anyone expected the wheat fields to be as rough as they were. Four fields and one hour later our ankles were pricked beyond belief. The views were really nice though!

It was such a relief when we were on the flat ground and not traversing through endless fields. We are definitely not taking paths for granted anymore!

Look at them all go! Possibly the biggest hill we had to climb, but they smashed it. Well done everyone!!

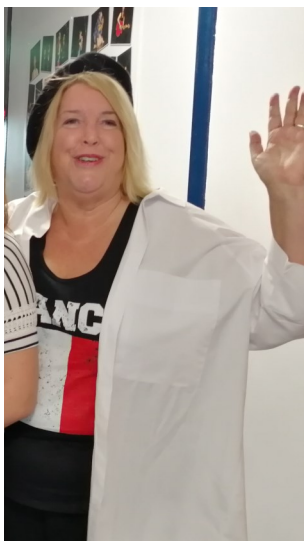
Da iawn pawb!!



Ellie: *"It's super tiring, but really rewarding"*

Joe: *"It was a really good experience"*

MFL News



**Merci et
au revoir,
Madame S**

We are so sad to be saying Au revoir to Madame Scantlebury

Madame Scantlebury has been teaching here for 20 years and had been Head of Languages for the past 10 years.

She has led the department brilliantly, as well as being an outstanding MFL teacher. As a school, we are going to miss her humour, her generosity and her exuberance, which has instilled a love of languages into many of our students. Bonne chance, Madame S.

À bientôt!

Here's what some of them will miss most about her:

*"I'll miss her sense of humour and the conversations we would have, in French and English.
Also how passionate she is about French"*

Gethin Year 12

"I'll miss how motivating and encouraging she is" **Josh Year 12**

MFL Mentoring with Cardiff University

We are excited that we have been accepted onto this scheme. Next year, our Year 8s will benefit from sessions with languages students from Cardiff University, over 2 cycles during the year. It will be fantastic for our Year 8s to learn from these young people, who are actively studying different languages and to hear from them the relevance of learning languages, as well as the benefits to their futures as global citizens.



"Thank you for getting me through the past 3 years of French GCSE. I'll miss how inclusive you are...and the food!"

Maya Year 11

"I'll miss how she makes lessons fun and the way in which she would help with any problems"

Ellie Year 10

"We will miss the jokes that you would make and how you would make lessons so lively"

Class Year 9B

"I'll miss your humour, your care & support, as well as your passion and enthusiasm for learning languages."

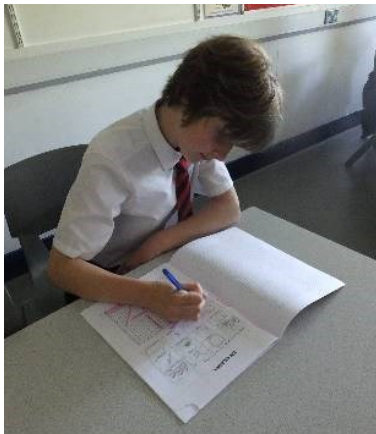
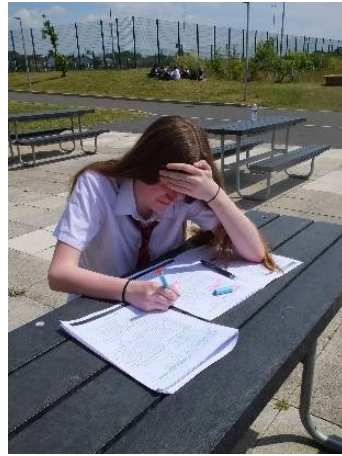
Mrs Marshallsay

Next in MFL News – Plans are underway for European Day of Languages, 23rd September. Mrs Marshallsay will be going all out with her outfit this year!

En Français

Ashleigh is assisting Madame Scantlebury mark the class' books, and making sure all their work is of a tip-top standard. Well done Ashleigh!

Cara Moulder is in Miss Scantlebury's form and 7A class, and is really enjoying her French lessons. She is looking forward to continuing her studies in Year 8



Ellie Pattinson and Evan Stewart are enjoying the sun down by the canteen. We have been copying and translating sentences into our booklets. Tres bien

The Llantwit school MFL department is very sad to announce that Miss Scantlebury is retiring after this term, and we will miss her tremendously. She has been a great asset to the school, and it won't be the same without her.



Lyla (Year 10): *"One of my favourite things about my French classes is Miss Scantlebury herself. She is super nice and funny, and we always end up having a laugh in our lessons. I'm really going to miss her next year; French class just won't be the same without you. I hope I'll be able to see her at some point in the near future. You will be missed Madame!"*

Cara (Year7): *"It's really fun and interesting in my French lessons"*

Religious Studies

Some Year 10 students visited Bethel Baptist Church in Llantwit as part of their learning about key Christian rites of passage. Rev Hibbert kindly talked to us about Holy Communion and its importance to believers. We learned that in Bethel Baptist, people are given individual cups of juice to represent Jesus' blood in comparison to sipping wine from a chalice as might happen in St Illtyd's Church. Believers will also share pieces of real bread at Bethel Baptist Church to represent Jesus' body being broken on the cross to atone the sins of humanity.



Bethel Baptist Church



Baptism

We also learned about the practice of believers' baptism that takes place at a Baptist Church. This was very interesting to learn about in comparison to the practice of infant baptism that we have also been learning about. It was interesting to note that at an infant baptism, the parents and God parents make commitments and promises upon behalf of the young person, whereas in a believer's baptism, the person makes a promise to follow Christ for themselves.

We are very grateful to Rev Hibbert for his wider contribution to school assemblies and RS lessons throughout the year.

Religious Studies

Year 7 pupils spent time at St Illtyd's church recently as part of their Humanities project on 'We love Llantwit'. The brief was to come up with a pitch to promote Llantwit from Historical, Religious and Geographical lenses. Students have enjoyed learning about Llantwit from these different perspectives. In our visit to St Illtyd's, Fr Edwin gave us a very warm welcome and had prepared for us to go around the church trying to identify 20 different key features.



One of the key features that we learned about was the font. Did you know that the font at St Illtyd's church is probably about 1,000 years old? I wonder how many babies have been baptised at this particular font? We learned that the font is placed at the entrance to the church as a symbol of welcome to the family of the church. The font contains water that has been blessed by Fr Edwin. Near the font is a tall candle called the paschal candle. It will be lit during Baptisms and the candle that will be given to the parents / god parents will be lit from this paschal candle as a symbol of the family receiving the light of Jesus into their lives.

We are very grateful to Fr Edwin for his time and patience. Our pupils had a lot of great questions for Fr Edwin. Again, we are very grateful to Fr Edwin and his team for their support during the academic year.

MOD News



Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru – Bronze Award

We are incredibly proud to be the first secondary school in South Wales to be awarded Armed Forces Friendly Schools Award.

This is testament to the hard work from all our staff supporting our MOD students, as well as our MOD Student Ambassadors, who are always happy to represent themselves as a key part of our school community and share their experiences with others. We have also collaborated with and continue to be supported by SSCE in ensuring the best provision for our MOD students and others.

“Congratulations on attaining Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. I am very proud of the support schools in Wales are giving to the children of our Armed Forces. I want all children and young people to be supported to achieve their best. It is right that we recognise and celebrate your achievements.”

Jeremy Miles MS, Welsh Education Minister



Never Such Innocence song-writing workshop

Singer-songwriter Bethzienna Williams (who has been on The Voice and Britain’s Got Talent!) visited school to lead a song writing workshop with some of our Year 7 and 8 MOD students.

After learning about genres of songs, the students chose to write a sad song to honour those in the military and their sacrifices. After learning how to structure a song and what makes songs catchy they wrote their thoughts and tried to make them rhyme. Bethzienna has put the students’ ideas together into a song, with accompanying music, called ‘**I need to hear your voice**’. All that’s left now is to record the song.

Year 7/8 MPCT Leadership Award

A group of Year 7s and 8s have spent most of the year enjoying leadership games and problem-solving activities led by Staff Morgan from MPCT.

They have socialised with others outside of their core friendship groups and further developed their communication skills, as well as enjoying the physical elements of the course.



Where in the world? – This map shows where our MOD students have lived and where their parents have been deployed. It’s fascinating to see all the stickers across the world.

Sixth Form



Nuffield Research Placements 2022

This year, four of our sixth form students have been chosen to participate in the highly competitive Nuffield Placements. Rosie King, Henry Morgan-Geddes, Sajan Sambhangphe and myself, Molly Kaye have all earned a place on this fantastic opportunity! The programme places students on a research course specially selected for their interests in STEM subjects where they participate in independent and collaborative research projects using high tech equipment and working in labs for the summer. For my placement, I am at Aberystwyth University to understand the impacts climate change has on the agriculture community in the UK. I will learn the basics in advance climate impact assessments, visit Geoinformatics Labs and use software and other tools to process spatial data of climate and land attributes. Nuffield is an amazing endeavour for students and great for university applications and I am so excited to be a part of it and gain knowledge and experience.

Molly Kaye - Year 12

University and Apprenticeship Fair 1st July.

Attending the Cardiff University fair was eye opening and an inspiring experience. I went to the event dead set on studying at one university and one course. However, talking to all the different universities was really helpful and made me think about a lot. It was like attending multiple different university open days and I gained so much information from it. It also made me understand my capabilities and inspired me to attend more university open days and gain more work experience. As I want to study Product Design, speaking to the universities I now understand the courses a lot more and the requirements needed for interviews and application processes. This university fair was really inspirational.

Dylan James – Year 12

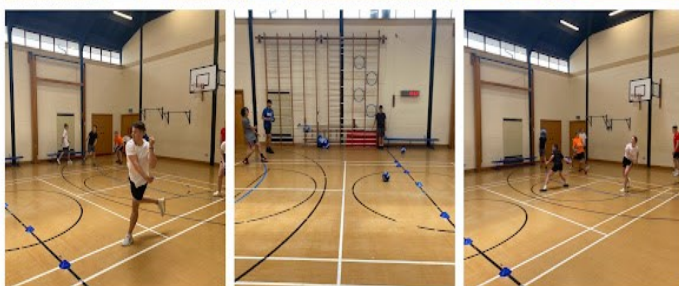


Sixth Form

In June we were delighted to welcome back Heather Francis from the USW to outline the UCAS application process to parents and Year 12 pupils. If pupils are applying to university or apprenticeships they will be supported with their application and personal statement by a school UCAS tutor. It's a hugely exciting time where pupils start to turn their future aspirations into reality.



The Sixth Form were excellent in supporting the lower school during sports day, ensuring the safe and smooth running of events. There was also some very competitive mixed dodgeball and football competitions!



This year we have launched a new Alumni Project to help inspire our current cohort and outline the skills and knowledge required in different industries. Anna Belchar gave the opening address. Her inspiring journey working for the British Antarctic Survey certainly got many of our students considering their future career options.



Sixth Form

I am hoping that Stressbusters will go from strength to strength from September. There is already a positive vibe amongst the students that will make it a great success. Once the day and time has been finalised we would welcome any staff that would like to join in with a cuppa and a biscuit. It is always the aim of the Sixth Form to support our students both academically and emotionally.

Mrs Griffiths



We have enjoyed a number of team building socials in the summer term including a pizza & games evening and a Fair Trade coffee morning. It's great to see the cob pizza oven that many of the Sixth Form helped build being put to good use. Pupils make their own pizza from scratch. They only take one or two minutes to cook inside the super hot oven!

Hope Shakespeare Year 12 - Senior Prefect

As new Senior Prefects, Connie Roots and I are excited to work alongside staff and the prefect team to further develop opportunities for pupils in Llantwit Major School. Working with us will be Gethin Punter and Rosie King as Deputy Senior Prefects. Through my years in this school I have always got involved in the school community from participating in the school production since Year 7 to being a Well-being mentor seeing three students a week to give them someone to talk to. One of my main aims is to work with staff to implement wellbeing and health projects for both the Sixth form and the wider school community. The whole prefect team are excited to be in a position where we can contribute to the future of our school.



Year 7 2021-2022 – What a great start to your comp journey!



Year 7 2021-22

Year 7 have made it through their first year at Llantwit Major School, and, the first year in 2 years with no interruption to school life! They are now more used to the routines and responsibilities of being in comp. They have made new friends, found new favourite subjects and teachers. They have joined in with days such as European Languages Day, Sports Day and even some trips. They have joined school clubs, many have represented the school in the school show, sporting events and they have won awards.

Year 7 Form Rep's Highlights from the year

"Sports Day was my highlight" Morgan, Dylan and Cian

"Competing in the athletics competition" Mia

"When we went up Llantwit to visit the church" Isabelle

"Working the re-usable bottle project with student council" Sam

"Getting onto the student council" Fiona

"Going on the school trip to town to learn about the History, RS and Geography of Llantwit" Joel



End of Year Celebrations

It's been wonderful to end the year celebrating the students' positive engagement and attendance in our End of Year Celebration Assembly. **28** students ended the year receiving **0 Behaviour points** and were rewarded with certificates and a chocolate bar. The Highest Achievement Point Scorer in each form received a certificate and chocolate bar.

This year's Top 3 Achievement Points Scorers are:

7RJN – Nathan Faire

7MS – Aiden Jenkins

7 Dysgu - Michael Stephenson

Da iawn pawb!

Year 7/8 Vale Youth Club

A growing group of Year 7s and 8s have enjoyed making new friends, playing games and various crafts such as tie-dyeing T-shirts, decorating gingerbread houses and making Bubble Tea with the Vale Youth Service After-School Club. We plan to offer this club to Year 7s and 8s next year – more details will follow in the Autumn Term.

Year 7 Moving On - Mrs Newton will be **Progress Leader for Year 8**. Mrs Newton and I are working together with the year group over these last few weeks, so she can start to get to know the students.

Badminton club/PE

The majority of the people who attend badminton regularly are in this shot.

There's always a great number of people who play every Tuesday. Everyone loves it on the courts!



Here, we have three Year 8 students; Phoebe, Caitlin and Arianwen. These girls are always at badminton having fun together. In this image they are warming up together, and enjoying themselves whilst doing so.



Two of the senior boys; Dylan Marsh and Luke Ingram, always end off each session with a one-on-one against each other. They end up doing massive rallies and never seem to stop! The energy they have is incredible.

Phoebe (Yr8) says: *"It's always loads of fun when completing a game, and having a really long rally with my friends"*

Llantwit Major School
Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr



WIN A YEAR OF FRUIT & VEG HOME DELIVERY

12 monthly fruit & veg boxes
delivered to your door

The
PEARfect
prize!

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YOUR PLANT BASED SHOP

- 🍏 Help boost our fundraising
- 🍏 Tickets cost just £1 per week each
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- 🍏 Win up to £25,000



Play Now! Go to:

YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/support

and search for: **Llantwit Major**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. See website for T&Cs. Closing date for entries: 27th August 2022

School Lockdown Procedures

It is vital that staff and pupils are aware of procedures that will keep them safe if they are faced with different situations.

School lockdown procedures

Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, but some of the more typical might be:

- A reported incident / civil disturbance in the local community (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils in the school).
- An intruder on the school site (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils).
- A warning being received regarding a risk locally, of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc.).
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school.
- The close proximity of a dangerous dog roaming loose.

Lockdown drill

Our school will undertake a lockdown drill at least annually. The first one took place on 7/7/22. Pupils were made aware of the drill and the purpose of the drill beforehand.

In the event of any emergency situation, the school will obviously liaise immediately with the emergency services who will provide advice on the best course of action.