

## MAJOR NEWS / NEWYDDION MAWR

<b>SPRING TERM / TYMOR Y GWANWYN</b>	
<b>Start / Dechrau:</b>	<b>Monday 8 January 2024 / Dydd Llun Ionawr 8 2024</b>
<b>Half Term / Hanner Tymor:</b>	<b>Monday 12 February 2024 – Friday 16 February 2024 / Dydd Llun Chwefror 12 – Dydd Llun Chwefror 16 2024</b>
<b>End / Diwedd:</b>	<b>Friday 22 March 2024 / Dydd Gwener Mawrth 22 2024</b>
<b>Week Beginning – Monday 15 January 2024 / Dydd Llun Ionawr 15 2024</b>	<b>Week 17 / Wythnos 17</b>

### **Message from the Headteacher**

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 edition of Major News.

This week saw the return of our breakfast provision for all pupils during morning break. I'm delighted to confirm that this has been a resounding success and uptake has been high. Consequently, lunchtime demand has reduced meaning extra time for pupils to get through the queues and eat their dinner. We will continue to review the breaktime provision making adjustments as required and will keep you updated. Please remind your child/children that if they are purchasing breakfast they need to ensure they have sufficient funds available to purchase lunch and top up their ParentPay account accordingly.

We are in the process of reviewing our whole school feedback policy and have been meeting with groups of pupils to look at their books and talk about the feedback they receive this week. We would also welcome the views of parents and carers and would therefore be very grateful if you could spare the time to complete this survey which will open for the next week. There are also questions on the survey about the feedback you receive from the school on your child's progress. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjBS5tLo4OFMMUNFA-Hptd9JEIOI\\_7i8ZVkiWTRuJhqqOH-w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjBS5tLo4OFMMUNFA-Hptd9JEIOI_7i8ZVkiWTRuJhqqOH-w/viewform)

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

**Mrs C L Robins**

### **Message from the Deputy Headteacher**

It is so important for our learners to be in school as often as they can be in order to continue to learn and grow. We are doing a lot of work on improving attendance to ensure that all our young people are developing the skills and knowledge they need for their chosen futures. If you are concerned about your child's attendance or struggling to get them into school, then please contact your child's progress leader to discuss.

I have really enjoyed participating in the year 7 review week this week. Discussing learning with year 7 students and looking at their books and work has been an absolute pleasure. It's great to see so many pupils working hard and making progress. Thank you to all the year 7 learners that have contributed.

**Mrs E Wilson**

School Calendar

Week Beginning – Monday 22 January 2024 / <i>Dydd Llun Ionawr 22 2024</i>	<b>Week 18/ Wythnos 18</b>
Monday 22 January / <i>Dydd Llun Ionawr 22</i>	
Tuesday 23 January / <i>Dydd Mawrth Ionawr 23</i>	
Wednesday 24 January / <i>Dydd Mercher Ionawr 24</i>	<b>Start of Year 11 – Science practical written paper B</b>
Thursday 25 January / <i>Dydd Iau Ionawr 25</i>	<b>Lost property drop-in @ 3:30pm Krakow trip info evening @ 5:30pm</b>
Friday 26 January / <i>Dydd Gwener Ionawr 26</i>	
	<b>Coming Up/ I ddod</b>
Monday 29 January / <i>Dydd Llun Ionawr 29</i>	
Tuesday 30 January / <i>Dydd Mawrth Ionawr 30</i>	
Wednesday 31 January / <i>Dydd Mercher Ionawr 31</i>	
Thursday 1 February / <i>Dydd Iau Chwefror 1</i>	<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening</b>
Friday 2 February / <i>Dydd Gwener Chwefror 2</i>	

## **Modern Foreign Language Department**

### ***French Reward Breakfast***

This week around 40 Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a continental breakfast during form-time as a reward for being last term's Stars of the Lessons. The students enjoyed croissants, pain au chocolat, crêpes, madeleines and jus d'orange, whilst listening to French music. The atmosphere and the food was formidable!

Bravo to everyone who earned their place through their positive engagement in lessons. Hopefully, we will see some different faces at the next breakfast. We start afresh this term, and everyone has a chance of being 'star of the lesson' if they are actively participating and showing off their French.



### **Drama Department**

As part of our drama course we are required to evaluate a live piece of theatre. On Saturday 11 January 2024, Years 12 and 13 went to see Frantic Assembly production of 'Metamorphosis' at the Bristol Old Vic, Bristol. We caught the train from Llantwit to Cardiff Central then to Bristol Temple Meads.

We had plenty of time to do our own thing which we liked as we were able to shop and have some food. It was nice to explore Bristol, which has nice landscapes and I took lots of photos to look back on.

We watched Metamorphosis which was about a man who struggles with capitalism and turns into a beetle. There were lots of elements we could explore and pull parts from. There were many good elements, such as the way they used lighting, the physicality etc. Although the plot seemed a bit confusing at first, once discussing our thoughts together it became clearer to the story. Overall, I really enjoyed this trip and getting out to watch a live theatre performance from Frantic Assembly.

Ffion Paskin, Year 12



### **Cardiff Aerospace Trip – Years 9 – 11**

A selection of Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils visited Cardiff Airport to explore their Aerospace engineering facilities. This was organised by ICAT in collaboration with Cardiff and Vale College. The pupils engaged in practical activities, including using hand skills to make their own dog tags as well as using the state of the art flight simulators to attempt to land a plane at Heathrow Airport.



### **Science Department**

An Evening with...A Rocket Scientist!

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 from 6-7pm we would like to invite you and your children to come and meet Miles Oglesby who has been at our school since 8<sup>th</sup> January teaching some of our pupils about rocket science and engineering.

Miles attends Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and is due to graduate from Aerospace Engineering in June this year.

We would love you to join us where you can hear Miles talk about how he got into MIT and he will open the floor up to answer any questions you might have. Hope to see you there!



### **Sixth Form**

We have had a busy couple of weeks in the sixth form with our university applicants. All UCAS applications have now been completed and sent. It has been brilliant to watch the offers flood in for students.

One in particular has been cause for celebration. Menna Wilson is our first student in many, many years to receive an offer from Oxford University. Menna has been awarded a place to study English Language and Literature at Magdalen College, Oxford. This, I am sure you will agree, is an amazing achievement for our school community.



We have now analysed our half term 2 data from staff and produced new mentor groups for students. This is a supportive measure for students, who are currently working below their minimum expected grade (MEG). The identified students will need to seek advice from teachers as to how to improve their grades and work with us to ensure overall excellent attainment.

I now actively encourage our Year 12 students to be looking at the courses they would like to study at university, or sourcing apprenticeships, so that active preparations can be made. There are many summer school and experience day applications now open, which year 12 students should be starting to engage with.

Mr R Jones  
Director of 6<sup>th</sup> Form

### **Lost Property Drop-in**

We have accumulated uniform and coats without name tags in our lost property store. We will be holding a lost property drop-in on Thursday 25 January 2024 @ 3:30pm in main reception. If your child has lost general uniform or a school coat, please pop in and have a browse.

### **Safeguarding/bullying concerns**

If you have safeguarding or bullying concerns about a child in our school, please report it via My Voice. The link and QR code below will take you to a form to complete:

<https://form.thesafeguardingcompany.com/5d3ec66a-3d3e-4e19-bbc8-325564c90cd8>



## **Key Academic Dates 2023/2024**

### **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](mailto: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.