

MAJOR NEWS / NEWYDDION MAWR

SPRING TERM / TYMOR Y GWANWYN	
Start / Dechrau:	Monday 8 January 2024 / Dydd Llun Ionawr 8 2024
Half Term / Hanner Tymor:	Monday 12 February 2024 – Friday 16 February 2024 / Dydd Llun Chwefror 12 – Dydd Llun Chwefror 16 2024
End / Diwedd:	Friday 22 March 2024 / Dydd Gwener Mawrth 22 2024
Week Beginning – Monday 5 February 2024 / Dydd Llun Chwefror 5 2024	Week 20/ Wythnos 20

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the final edition of this half term of Major News! A very busy five weeks have flown by here at Llantwit and I'm sure staff and students alike are very much looking forward to a good rest.

I met with staff this week regarding the feedback your children receive after gathering the views of parents/carers, staff and learners. We will be trialling a new approach to feedback after half term in order to ensure feedback is timely, clear and purposeful. I will explain this to students in assemblies when we return to school and will send out a separate communication to parent/carers with the details. Of course, we will gather your views again and those of your children as we approach the end of the academic year before finalising our approach.

In order to continue to raise standards, we will be having a real push on punctuality after half term. We have been in contact with the Local Authority regarding the times buses are arriving in the morning this week and made it clear they need to be here by 8.25am. No child will be sanctioned for being late in the morning if a school bus is late. However, there are far too many children arriving late every morning for a variety of other reasons. There are also too many children arriving late to lessons throughout the day. Detentions will be issued as a matter of course after half term for regular lateness and we will be in much more regular communication with you if your child is regularly late throughout the day. It would therefore be very much appreciated if you could discuss the importance of arriving to school/lessons on time with your child/children over the half term break.

As ever, many thanks for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming your child/children back to school after half term.

Mrs C L Robins

School Calendar

Week Beginning – Monday 12 February 2024 / <i>Dydd Llun Chwefror 12 2024</i>		Week 20/ <i>Wythnos 20</i>
Monday 12 February / <i>Dydd Llun Chwefror 12</i>	Half Term	
Tuesday 13 February / <i>Dydd Mawrth Chwefror 13</i>	Half Term	
Wednesday 14 February / <i>Dydd Mercher Chwefror 14</i>	Half Term	
Thursday 15 February / <i>Dydd Iau Chwefror 15</i>	Half Term	
Friday 16 February / <i>Dydd Gwener Chwefror 16</i>	Half Term	
	Coming Up/ <i>I ddod</i>	
Monday 19 February / <i>Dydd Llun Chwefror 19</i>	Inset Day	
Tuesday 20 February / <i>Dydd Mawrth Chwefror 20</i>	Year 11 Maths Mock Exam	
Wednesday 21 February / <i>Dydd Mercher Chwefror 21</i>	Year 11 Maths Mock Exam	
Thursday 22 February / <i>Dydd Iau Chwefror 22</i>	Year 7 Parents' Evening Year 11 English Language Mock Exam	
Friday 23 February / <i>Dydd Gwener Chwefror 23</i>		

ICT Department

Year 12 Mock Job Interviews

As part of their A Level course the Year 12 ICT students took part in a mock interview event. It was a nerve-racking experience for some, seeing as it was their first ever job interview, but all survived. Most learnt something about themselves and some even enjoyed the experience! The interviewers were very impressed with this year's applicants. Da iawn Year 12!

This is a yearly event and would not be as fruitful without the help of Geraldine from Careers Wales who always organises an excellent panel of guest interviewers. This year we had Eamonn from Viridor, Nicole from Wates Group, Curtis from VoG Council, Harriett from ISG and Dominic from Atkins Group. As an ex-pupil of Llantwit Major School, it is always great to see Dominic come back for this event.

Mr Craven and the students would like to thank everyone who helped make the event such a success for the pupils – Diolch pawb!



Welsh Department



Chwefror 9fed/9th February 2024 is Dydd Miwsig Cymru/Welsh Language Music Day

Welsh Language Music Day celebrates all forms of Welsh Language music. Whether you're into indie, rock, punk, funk, folk, electronica, hip hop or anything else, there's incredible music being made in the Welsh language for you to discover. It's a day to encourage everybody to listen to Welsh music, whether they speak the language or not. The DJ Huw Stephens created the event in 2013. This annual celebration is a part of the vision for growing the number of Welsh speakers to one million by 2050.

This week, pupils have enjoyed listening to Welsh music in class and have discovered new bands/singers which they like. Keep an eye out on X (formerly Twitter) for posts about what students got up to in class. Why not have a go of listening to some Welsh music at home today and this weekend. Below are some bands and singers which come highly recommended by our students. You might find your new favourite band!

Bands

Candelas

Sŵnami

Eden

Yws Gwynedd

Gwibdaith Hen Fran

Singers

Elin Fflur

Dafydd Iwan

Student Council

As a student council we have been working hard to make changes within our school over the half term. We have been able to open up the canteen at break times to allow students to access food at breaks and to also reduce the queue times for students at lunch times. The canteen now offers a range of breakfast items at break such as sausage baguettes, hash browns and bagels to name but a few. We have also found that this has reduced queue times for students which has improved wellbeing as students are able to enjoy their lunch without feeling rushed. We are continuing to work with Big Fresh to improve consistency of service and the look of our canteen.

Our student council held a surgery last term to gather pupil opinion and students raised the school buses and water fountains as point of concern. As both of these areas are funded and monitored by the Vale of Glamorgan we will be discussing our concerns with them directly at the next youth council meeting in March. We have also made a connection with Pencoedtre Student Council and we are going to review teaching and learning and share our ideas regarding Anti-Bullying and Youth Mentoring.

Finally, our school managed to raise £398 for charity from our Christmas Jumper Day! Thank you to all who donated and whilst it is less than half of what we expected we are grateful for all of your support. We are now working on our next charity endeavour an Eisteddfod Bake Sale and we hope that students will get involved raising the community spirit of our school while raising money for MIND mental Health and Breakfast Club.

The Student Council



LLantwit Major Student Council

EISTEDDFOD BAKING COMPETITION

Friday 1st March

Bake a Batch of Cakes
Cakes will be judge on taste and
presentation.
£25 Amazon Voucher for 1st Prize

Important: All cakes entries will be sold in a
bake sale to raise money for MIND &
Breakfast Club. All cakes must be delivered
to the head teachers office by 08:30am on
Friday 1st March!

Friendly Reminder: We are a cashless
School. Card payments only.

1st of March 1/3/24



Canteen Refresh

As part of our continuing drive to improve the canteen provision for pupils we have worked with our service provider 'Big Fresh' to spruce up the canteen, providing a bold new design which in addition tells pupils about some of the new menu items we are introducing.

When pupils return from the ½ term they will see the refresh for the first time, but here is a sneak peak of what the area will look like.

Big Fresh are also introducing new menu items, some of these include: cheesy mashed potato, macaroni cheese, Bombay potatoes and traditional fish and chips.

All of the 'old favourites' will still be offered including the grab and go items our pupils love and, of course, the cooked dinner on a Thursday will continue.

Hopefully the increase in options will go down well but, as always, we will continue to monitor and tweak the menu to ensure a wide range of delicious food is always available.



ParentPay

Please ensure that you load sufficient funds to your child's account so that they can take advantage of 'brunch' service and / or the main dinner menu. Due to the success of the new brunch serving, we are finding that pupils are buying food at break and then don't have sufficient funds to buy what they want for dinner. Canteen staff will always assist with balances and help pupils purchase food within their balance limit, and of course no pupil will be refused 1 main meal item at dinnertime if they are over their limit. We will update you via email about any balance issues.

Classroom Expectations



The poster features a blue background with a dark blue header. In the top left, there are two yellow hexagons and a white square with a red and blue geometric pattern. The title 'CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS' is written in white on a dark blue arrow-shaped background. Below this, four horizontal bars of varying shades of blue contain the words 'Be Ready', 'Engaged', 'Safe', and 'Take Responsibility', each with a large yellow letter at the start. At the bottom, the phrase 'BEING THE BEST WE CAN BE' is written in white and yellow, flanked by yellow hexagons. A decorative bar with four colored segments is at the very bottom.

**CLASSROOM
EXPECTATIONS**

Be Ready

Engaged

Safe

Take Responsibility

BEING THE **BEST** WE CAN BE

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. **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.