

# Newsletter / Cylchlythyr



King Henry VIII 3-19 School  
February 2024 / Chwefror 2024

## Anti-bullying training for PALs



Mr Parkinson led Anti-Bullying training for our Year 12 and 13 PALs this month. These pupils work with Year 7 and 8 pupils in registration sessions each week. The training of these post-16 pupils will enable them to give peer support to younger pupils in line with our strengthened anti-bullying practices and policies. The pupils were superb; so insightful and mature and they will provide fantastic support to their peers.

## Safer Internet Day



The school celebrated Safer Internet Day on 6<sup>th</sup> February. The theme was: **'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'**. The school worked with the staff and pupils to create articles for our whole school Safer Internet Charter and shared support and advice for parents and carers in keeping their children safe online. [This information can be found here.](#)

## Merits awarded in February:-

9,002

## Value of the month:- Participation / Cyfranogiad



Taking part. Listening to the views of Others. Having an opinion and helping make decisions.

## Key Dates for March:-

- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup>: Whole School Eisteddfod Activities/Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant – wear a red accessory day
- ✓ 7<sup>th</sup>: World Book Day
- ✓ 14<sup>th</sup>: Year 7 Parents' Evening
- ✓ 15<sup>th</sup>: Comic Relief – non uniform day
- ✓ 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: Primary Parents' Evenings
- ✓ 21<sup>st</sup>: Examination timetables issued to Y11-13
- ✓ 22<sup>nd</sup>: Last day of Spring Term

## Monmouthshire Budget Engagement session



Great discussion and participation took place with pupils, focusing on the issues around the recent budget proposals for 2024.

## Accelerated Readers:

Pupils have read a total of  
144 books / 5,706,059 words  
For 26 minutes per day (pupil average)

## Sparx Maths:

Pupils have answered  
551,839 questions correctly and  
completed 9,041 hours of personalised  
learning.

# Newsletter / Cylchlythyr



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## Dementia Friends Awareness Course

Am brofiad! What an experience! Years 10, 11 and 12 Health and Social Care pupils were lucky to have a visit from a trained Dementia Friends representative. They took part in activities where they learnt to understand how Dementia can be a condition that individuals live with rather than suffer with. As trained Dementia Friends, pupils can wear their blue flower badges to show that they are going to spread the word and raise awareness of how people with Dementia can be supported to live their everyday lives.



## Participation - MonLife Connect



MonLife Connect delivered an assembly on "Make Your Mark Ballot" showing pupils the importance of using their vote and talking about the democratic process.

## Languages Careers Talk

Mr David Binns, UK Director of Operations for Sanako Connect talked to Year 9 pupils about his language learning journey and the opportunities that learning a language can offer. Pupils heard about how as an employer, he values candidates with a language skill, and this ability will get you through to the interview stage with his company. It was wonderful to see pupils take on board the message and ask some thoughtful questions.



## Burning questions



Lots of questions have appeared all around the school. These have been designed to promote curiosity and to foster a love of thinking. It has been fantastic to hear pupil responses and to see their love of learning.

## Seren Learner STEM event



Mrs James took Year 9 pupils to a Seren Learner STEM event at Llanwern High School. They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to take part in four fascinating and informative STEM workshops and to engage in challenging team work and problem-solving tasks.

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## Rotary Young Chef



Daniel represented our school in the District Final of the Rotary Young Chef competition. Daniel cooked an Italian themed menu. He made his own handmade pasta carbonara followed by a dessert of brandy snap cannoli filled with a mascarpone cream, served with a raspberry coulis.

The cooking was of a very high standard and the competition was fierce. While Daniel did not win, he found it an exciting experience. Daniel was coached by local Michelin star chef Franco Taruschio who ran the Walnut Tree for 35 years. Daniel who himself wants to become a chef, found working with Franco 'inspirational'. We wish Daniel all the best for his future career.

## Dydd Miwsig Cymru

This February we celebrated Welsh music day and staff participated in the game "The Masked Singer". They sang a song either in Welsh or by a Welsh artist and were covered by a mask from the TV show. Pupils had to work out which staff members were behind the mask and received participation merit points for this.



Winners who had all members of staff correct also received a certificate and small prize. If you would like to hear some Welsh music please scan this QR code.



## Curiosity Box challenge

Pupils were tasked a challenge to try and work out what the mystery item was in the curiosity box in Reception. Pupils placed their answers in the box and each attempt resulted in one House Point for their respective Houses. Pupils posed some excellent questions and eventually, Ben Alford of Aragon House correctly identified that a model version of the Eiffel Tower was the mystery item in the box. Well done Ben and everyone else that participated in the Curiosity box Challenge.



## Rugby Leaders Course

Congratulations to Upper Phase pupils who recently completed their Rugby Leaders course. This will contribute to their CV, UCAS Applications, Welsh Bac and DofE qualifications.



## School Production Announcement



It is with great pleasure that we announce **West Side Story** as our 2024 school production. Rehearsals are well under way ready for the performances which will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

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## Careers Fair

We held our annual Careers Fair which was open to pupils in Years 9 – 13, giving them an opportunity to speak to individuals from a variety of careers such as Politics, Medicine, Leisure, Catering and Construction. For the first time, a 'quiet' half hour was added at the beginning of the evening to support pupils who are anxious or uncomfortable in loud and crowded spaces, which we found to be very successful. A large number of individuals across the year groups attended, and all were treated to drinks and treats, thanks to the wonderful donation from our local ALDI store.



## Careers Trip to Coleg Gwent



On 9<sup>th</sup> February, over fifty pupils from Year 11 went on a day trip to Coleg Gwent to see what was on offer at the College. We arrived to a talk from Head of College Laura Aylett, followed by a Treasure Hunt around the college.

Pupils were given vouchers to get food from the canteen or coffee shop and were treated to a concert in the afternoon by some of our ex-pupils. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and left knowing what courses they wanted to take.

## Crucial Crew

Another successful visit to Year 7 from the Crucial Crew this year! Sessions included visits from Network Rail, South Wales Fire and Rescue, Barod, Cats Protection, ResolveIT, National Grid and RNLI. Pupils had lots of fun whilst learning how to stay safe, stay out of trouble and to look after those around them. A big thanks to Year 7 for their full engagement and respect to the visitors. We hope they gained a lot from these sessions.



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## Digital Drawing Club



Stephanie Morgan, a 6<sup>th</sup> Form Art pupil, delivered a super tutorial in our popular Digital Drawing club. Every Friday lunchtime, Year 7 & 8 pupils have been creating exciting work exploring and mastering the app Procreate.

## Maths Intermediate UKMT

Seventy pupils from across Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the United Kingdom Maths Trust Intermediate Challenge. Well done to Cadan in Year 9 who has been invited to the next stage the Kangaroo challenge. All entrants performed creditably, with the highest awards going to:

### Gold

Cadan (Yr 9) (Best in School)

Isaac (Yr 11) (Best in Year)

Ioan (Yr 11)

### Silver

Year 11: Elsie, Archie, Peter, Spike, Nate

Year 10: Madeleine (Best in Year), Seb, Sam, Jack, Ella,

In addition to these, there were twenty two Bronze awards. Congratulations to the above, and to all who took part.



United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust

## National Reading Champions Quiz Competition

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February two teams of Year 9 pupils entered the National Reading Champions Quiz which was held online in our school library. Both teams did extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed the morning. Team B-Holly, Marina, Chloe and Elizabeth were the overall winners with an outstanding 59 points and will go on to compete in the Grand Final in London in June!



National  
Literacy  
Trust

# Newsletter / Cylchlythyr



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February 2024 / Chwefror 2024

## Educational visits to London



**Art** - Years 10, 11 and 12 pupils visited the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery. Pupils enjoyed seeing famous artworks that they have been learning about.



**Humanities** - Pupils from our Upper phase visited London, touring different locations linked to the great religions of the world. Firstly, they visited a Sikh Gurdwara where pupils were offered food from the Langar – a community kitchen which serves meals free of charge to all local communities – in line with Sikh traditions. Pupils then visited one of the most famous buildings in the UK – St. Paul's Cathedral. On their second day, they visited the hugely impressive Hindu Mandir in Neasden and then spent the afternoon in the British Museum.

In the evening, pupils visited the theatre to watch the worldwide musical hit, Wicked. On the last day, pupils visited a Jewish Synagogue for a fascinating insight into the history of Jewish people in the UK. They finished the trip with a wonderful cruise on the Thames where they took in the major tourist attractions of London.

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## Shine Awards



During the week teachers identify a pupil from their class who has 'gone over and above'. On a Friday these pupils are given a SHINE CARD by either Mrs Mayo, Mrs Davies or Mr Allen. The pupils who receive a Shine card are then invited to have hot chocolate and a biscuit on a Friday.

## Forest School

Dosbarth Teigr (Year 3) pupils achieved great things this term. After gathering willow, the pupils made charcoal to take back to class to create their charcoal pictures.



## Pori Drwy Stori "Rhyme Time"



Dosbarth Panda (Nursery) have been taking part in the Pori Drwy Stori 'Rhyme Time'. They have been learning new rhymes in school and completing activities in school and home to develop their skills.

## Dosbarth Arth Wen (Year 3/4) Projects

Pupils were provided with a curiosity box containing lots of resources about planets. Pupils had to use the resources to work out what the question could be.



Pupils ended their Forces project by making paper aeroplanes to see how long they took to drop to the floor.



## Year 5/6 Work War II topic

Dosbarth Rhino and Dosbarth Jagwar pupils have been working with synonyms to prepare for writing about World War II in Humanities. Some excellent work - da iawn!



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## Sporting News

- ✓ Year 10 Pupils Oliver, Zach (Captain), Zach and Cain represented Blaenau Gwent Schools in a Dragons EPP game against Pontypool Schools.
- ✓ Year 10 travelled to Ebbw Fawr in the Blaenau Gwent Cup.
- ✓ The Year 10 Netball team are undefeated in their league this year, and the Years 8 and 9 teams have only lost one match: what a fantastic achievement.
- ✓ Ayla and Seren have been selected to represent the Netball Regional Academy, Da lawn Merched.
- ✓ Rowan, Alicia and Nel have been selected to represent South East Wales in the Welsh inter schools cross-country championships in Brecon. They are in the top 12 fastest in all of the South East Wales Schools.
- ✓ This half term Key stage 3 pupils have been involved in the inter-house Volleyball Tournament, and engaging in participation opportunities at break time.
- ✓ The Table Tennis Cup was launched on return after half term: look out for information in form time and in PE.
- ✓ Well done to Oli, challenging himself to run 58 miles in February for Mental Health Awareness – Well done Oli.
- ✓ Well done to Harry and Joseph who represented Cheltenham Academy and played against Chelsea.
- ✓ Joseph has been selected to race in Manchester for the National Sprint Cycling events. Goodluck Joe!



We believe in the limitless capacity for everyone to achieve great things