

Newsletter / Cylchlythyr

King Henry VIII 3-19 School
October 2025/Hydref 2025



Cressida Cowell's visit to our school



It was a great honour to welcome author Cressida Cowell to our school. Cressida spoke to pupils about her childhood adventures which inspired her to write the hugely popular "How to train your Dragon" books which have sold millions of copies worldwide. She also read from her latest book "Which way to the Future?" which is yet to be released. Our pupils were the first in the country to her parts of this story. The pupils loved it!

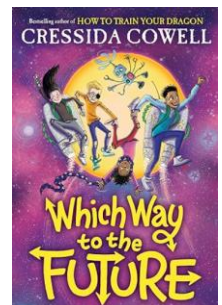


Cressida ended her day by reading in our library to a small group of younger pupils from her children's book "Emily Brown and the Not-Very-Spooky Ghost".

We are very grateful to local book shop Bookish for organising the event.

A fantastic day and wonderful experience!

{BOOK•ISH}
BOOKS, CONVERSATION & MORE



Value of the Month
Ambition / Uchelgais

Having a strong desire to achieve highly.

Merits awarded:

11295 merits

Sparx Maths:

100,055 questions answered correctly,
and
1,998 hours of personalised learning
completed.

Accelerated Reader:

Pupils have read a total of 1,671,147
words
For 39 minutes per day (pupil average) in
October

Key dates for November:

- 3rd - Training Day (school closed for pupils)
- 6th - Reception Open Morning 9am and Sixth Form Open Evening 6-8pm
- 10th -13th - Year 7 Check-in event
- 17th -20th - Scholastic Book Fair (Secondary Phase)
- 18th -19th - Years 7-13 Nasal Flu Vaccine

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Field trip to the Afon Caerfanell



Year 11 have recently embarked on their fieldtrip to the Afon Caerfanell. The focus of this trip was to determine 'How does the Afon Caerfanell change as it travels downstream?' We visited two different locations along the river, where pupils were able to measure the width, depth and the velocity of the channel. They also looked at the rocks in and around the river to determine whether they have undergone erosion. During the course of the trip the weather managed to stay mostly dry, unlike some of pupils! However, they all displayed resilience in dealing with the challenges presented in the outdoor environment. Back in the classroom, Year 11 will be using their data to assess how the characteristics of the river differ between the two locations.

Halloween Disco



Primary Phase pupils had a fantastic time at our annual spooky Halloween disco. Well done to all our pupils and staff who dressed up in fantastic (and scary) costumes.



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Book-ish visit



Year 3 ventured into town as they had been invited to share their writing with the wonderful staff at Book-ish, Abergavenny. We explored the beautiful books in stock, asked lots of questions about the journey to becoming an author, and shared our own next chapters of 'Seed' by Caryl Lewis. It was a fantastic afternoon!

Abergavenny Market



Year 1 came up with a fantastic idea to cook soup in school. First we planned what we would need by writing shopping lists, and then we walked to Abergavenny market to buy our vegetables. When we returned to school we enjoyed peeling, chopping, and most importantly eating our vegetable soup.

Harvest Festival



Year 3 gathered to celebrate Harvest and invited family members in to enjoy the festivities. We sang, danced, and read poetry to celebrate all the hard work farmers do to allow us to enjoy food in our homes. Thank you all for any donations you sent in with your children for the food bank.

Science Lab



Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their first science lesson in the lab with Mr Price testing to see if liquids were acids, neutral or alkalis.

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Pupil and team successes

- A number of primary phase pupils represented the school in the cluster cross-country event. They showed amazing resilience and determination. Year 7 and 8 sports leaders were excellent role models when acting as marshals.
- A very special guest [@walesnetball](#) & [@lexisnexis_dragons](#) [@phillipayarranton](#) came in to visit our Netball players. Philippa coached our players and gave them a taster of a session she would attend when playing for Dragons and Wales.
- A huge well done to all the Cross-country runners this year including Eloise, Edie, Jonah, Alicia and Joe who have qualified to represent South East Wales in the Wales National cross-country championships.
- Well done to Noah Y9 who has signed for Merthyr Town FC Academy U14
- Congratulations to Ella in Year 11 who won Champion Show Hunter Pony of the Year at 'Horse of the Year show' and Grace in Year 10 who won both her classes at the David Broome Event Centre.
- Well done to Liam in Year 11 on winning young volunteer of the year at Abergavenny Tennis club, volunteering many hours coaching youngsters at the club.

