

## Headteacher update

### **'At Nantgwyn, when you are ready, respectful and responsible everything is possible'**

We have had a wonderful few weeks at Nantgwyn celebrating St David's Day and World Book Day. Our children (and staff) have had a great time. We have shared these pictures on our school Facebook page, which I hope you have had a chance to follow. This site gives a real flavour of life here at Nantgwyn. [Ysgol Nantgwyn - Home | Facebook](#)

We have seen an improvement this week in punctuality to lessons this week in Nant and I thank pupils and parents for their support with the changes to toilet provision during the course of the course of the day. We have also seen an improvement here with a reduction in lost learning too.

We have so many children who look impeccable in their school uniform which is wonderful to see. This week we have supported a few children who had a tie missing. Over the next few weeks, we will be having a 'big push' on getting all uniforms right for all children, including PE kit. [Ysgol Nantgwyn uniform](#) If you need support with any items please get in touch with your relevant school team or via [help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk).

We are currently evaluating our stakeholder questionnaire and developing an action plan for development and will share this before the end of term for your information.

## **Oxford University Visits**

A group of year 11 pupils visited Oxford university this week. It was an incredible experience and we have many pupils who would very much like this to be their first university of choice now. We have a number of other similar visits planned over the next few terms for pupils in upper school and will share this information shortly. Photos of the visits can be found on our Facebook page [Ysgol Nantgwyn - Home | Facebook](#)

## **Covid Update**

As a reminder we are still operating at a high level of alert within the school environment and are awaiting further details. All schools continue to implement the advice on use of face coverings for the 'high' risk level for staff, visitors and pupils in Nant in communal areas (not classrooms). Face coverings must be worn on home to school transport. Staff and Nant pupils are still strongly advised to take the LFD test twice a week before attending school to report their result online and let us know. This needs to take place on a Monday and a Wednesday, please report a Covid absence on 436171 option 1. Tests are available from school - see Miss Hooper.

## **Ukraine**

Many thanks to all the families who have supported our collection for Ukraine this week so far. Due to demand/feedback we have extended this collection to next Wednesday. We are collecting nappies, wipes, toiletries, batteries, hats/gloves, torches, thermal clothing, thermos flasks, rain coats, new underwear, toothpaste/brushes, hairbrushes, medicine, first aid kits, energy bars, sanitary products, sleeping bags and emergency blankets. These items can be dropped in bags at the main reception. The Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) will be selling hand-made blue and yellow ribbons later next week, which pupils will be able to wear at all times if they wish. The ribbons will be 50p.

## **PTA**

A huge thank you to our PTA for their hard work and innovation behind the scenes. We are holding our first on site car boot sale on Sunday 20th March, you can find detail on our school Facebook page

Yours, as always

Kirsty Retallick, Headteacher

#teamnantgwyn

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## **Head of School update**

It has been an incredibly busy and productive week across upper school. This half term is crucial for all year groups - year 9 with their options process and years 10 and 11 with the summer examination series almost upon us. Attendance remains a priority for all of our pupils and we once again ask for your support in ensuring that all pupils attend every lesson, every day!

### **Rewards:**

Hot chocolate with the Head is now taking place every Thursday and we are carefully looking out for worthy winners each week!- A very tough decision when so many pupils are working incredibly hard!

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### **Rewards:**

Congratulations to this week's upper school top 10 winners:

Olivia T - yr 10

Elliot P - yr 10

Mckenzie G - yr 10

Lily-Grace L - yr 9

Rebecca D - yr 9

Ryan P - yr 10

Alicia F - yr 9

Riley D - yr 11

Talia B - yr 11

Hope H - yr 11

## **Oxford University Visit**

Pupils in year 10 had the opportunity to visit Jesus College in Oxford this week. They had a magnificent day with a guided tour of the colleges where they learned about previous Oxford students; from Prime Ministers to authors such as CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien. Dr Matt Williams then gave the students a lecture on a subject of their choice and our 10 students took part in a lively debate that deeply impressed Dr Williams.

A current PhD student shared her experiences of living and studying at Oxford, and many of the students expressed a wish to study there in the future. So impressed was Dr Williams that he commented that he could genuinely envisage many of our pupils fitting in at the University.

## **Year 9 Options Update:**

This week, you will have received your child's full report via parentmail. You will also have received the options booklet with all of the information for each subject/qualification; core subjects, complimentary curriculum and option choices. In the booklet, you will also have found the final

option blocks (blue, yellow and grey). Tuesday and Wednesday was the parents' evening, where you will have had the opportunity to discuss and ask questions of your child's teachers and to speak with Lorna Mackintosh, our designated Careers Wales advisor.

Over the next week, you should take time to consider all of the information available to you, to reflect, discuss and come to a conclusion. I hope that you have felt supported throughout the process and that your child is now confident in making this final decision.

During registration time, beginning next week, your child will make their final option choices in an individual interview with their form tutors. This information will then be shared with myself and Ms Morris (Deputy Headteacher), at which point we will allocate each pupil to three subjects. We will then write to you again, to confirm which subjects your child has been allocated. We are hopeful that almost all pupils will be able to be allocated their first choice subjects.

Should you have any question regarding the process, or need any further support in making this important decision, please do not hesitate to contact one of the team via the email addresses below. Alternatively, should you wish to discuss further with Lorna Mackintosh of Careers Wales, you are able to contact her via email; [lorna.mackintosh@careerswales.gov.wales](mailto:lorna.mackintosh@careerswales.gov.wales)

### **Examinations Update:**

Year 10 and 11 now have very little time left until their examinations begin. The series begins on 16th May and ends on 22nd June. Less than 9 teaching weeks remain, with Welsh language oracy NEA (Non-examination Assessments) taking place even sooner - at the end of the month on 30th, 31st March and 1st April. It is ESSENTIAL that all pupils are in school as much as possible - only 100% attendance can maximise your child's chances of success!

Examination timetables for pupils will be distributed next week during registration and accompanying letters will arrive via parentmail.

### **Post 16 Update:**

#### **Tonyrefail Community School**

Sixth form leaders Mrs Vicky Evans and Mr Huw Williams, will be coming to Nantgwyn to meet pupils who have already applied to TCS over the next few weeks. This is an opportunity to ensure that pupils are following the correct pathways, to get to know key staff and is an opportunity to ask questions about everything and anything! During the summer term - April/early May, pupils will have the opportunity to visit and to see the facilities on offer. More information on this to follow shortly.

Applications are still open for Tonyrefail and anyone interested, is welcome to apply. If you would like to contact the Head of Sixth form directly, the email address is; [Vicky.Morgan@tcs.cymru](mailto:Vicky.Morgan@tcs.cymru)

Applications:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdooz3dOrPpv-B7CXrSN-08ZouoBbjy9inucMSkwdRgXVsY1A/viewform>

#### **Coleg-y-Cymoedd**

The college is delighted to announce that pupils can visit themselves at their next college open day which is Tuesday 26th April 2022 4.30pm-7pm at their Aberdare, Nantgarw, Rhondda and Ystrad

Mynach campus. Pupils will be able to go to any of campuses, meet the staff of their chosen course and get to look around the campus as well. They will need to visit the website [www.cymoedd.ac.uk](http://www.cymoedd.ac.uk)



### Coleg y Cymoedd - Study local, go further

Coleg y Cymoedd (meaning college of the valleys) offers a wide range of Full and Part Time courses from Entry to Degree Level.

[www.cymoedd.ac.uk](http://www.cymoedd.ac.uk)

From the link above, you will need to click on the open event tab and sign up for a visiting slot.

### Attendance

Congratulations to each of the pupils in the table below that have achieved 100% attendance for this week. We have also launched one of our attendance initiatives where pupils receive a certificate via Parentmail for 100% attendance each week - try and collect them all!

	Year 9			Year 10		Year 11		
	Brooke	Jack	Logan	Zac	Courtney	Triston	Logan	Callum
	Levi	Sydney	Jayden	Ffion	Isabel	Teigan	Lucy	Leo
	Dylan	Gethyn	Rhys	Charlie	Darian	Spencer	Isobel	Caleb
	Tallia	Heidi	Scott	Annalee	Tilly	Thomas	Mia	Keean
	Kaydee	Eli	Courtney	Benjamin	Charlotte	Alfie	Ieuan	Logan
	Morgan	Caleb	Tiana	Lloyd	Grace	Matthew	Demi	Evelyn
	Lexie	Bryana	Alexis	Rocco	Grace	Aidan	Dylan	Shelby
	Kelsey	Jack	Amy	Grace	Aysha	Kebba	Ieuan	
0	Ethan	Cayleb-Jay	Cai	Deejay	Chloe	Andrei	Isabelle	
1	Libby	Ewan	Jasmine	Iestyn	Cory	Shaun	Kyron	
2	Casey	Connie	Miya	Darcy	Cora	Paige	Morgan	
3	Darcey	Alex	Rubie	Evan	Stephannie	Abby	Cerys	
4	Kurt	Jack	Jack	Alfie	Elliott	Brandon	Tiegan	
5	Robert	Benjamin		Charlie	Mackenzie	Carys	Chloe	
5	Jay	Sophie		Millie	Jazmine	Dylan	Connor	
7	Laila	Fraser		Honey	Zak	Nia	Lexie	
8	Rebecca	Logan		William	Ewan	Riley	Tyra	
9	Aaron	Alfie		Joseph	Neve	Sydney	Ioan	
0	Alicia	Caden		Ellie	Zara	Tyler	Crystal	
1	Morgan	Tyler		Thomas	Tyler	Cori	Sarran	
2	Grace	Keira		Paige	Ellis	Riley	Mali	
3	Zak	Chelsea		Daisy	Tomas	Jac	Thomas	
4	Rubie	Gage		Jaydee	Jared	Ellis	Tejay	
5	Macey	Leo		Emily	Mason	James	Macy	
5	Cooper	Wyatt		Gabrielle	Olivia	Daniel	Zack	
7	Ryleigh	Annalise		Kai	Harley	Harley	Evan	
8	Alex	Lily		Seren	Mason	Tia	Kenzie	
9	Casey	Josh		Cole	Bailey	Leroy	Leah	
0	Harley	Laci		Cory	Olivia	Jamie	Caitie	
1	Kara	Ben		Lacey	Sonny	Louise	Owen	
2	Maddison	Olivia		Seren	Aniera	Jamie	Megan	
3	Mollie	Mckenzie		Tayla	Alfie	Harvey	Aaron	
4	Ryan	Lily-Mae		Ellie-May	Regan	Taya	Cai	
5	Tamzin	Luco		Kieran	Skye	Aimee	Elliot	
5	Isabelle	Ella		Dylan	Lewis	Mia	Keira	

At the end of the half term, all pupils that have 100% attendance for the half term are invited to our attendance celebration! Please keep up the fantastic efforts and attendance.

Attendance at school is crucial for academic success!

#### Homework:

All Upper School pupils will be able to access their homework and lessons through the Google Classroom area. If pupils do not have their login details please email [help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)

#### Contact details:

Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Louise Williams

[louise.williams@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:louise.williams@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)

Deputy Head of School, Mr Adrian Evans

[adrian.evans@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:adrian.evans@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)

Raising Standards Leader, Mrs Allison Carter  
Academic Learning Coach, Miss Claire Jacobs  
Academic Learning Coach, Mrs Sarah Webber

[allison.carter@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:allison.carter@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)  
[claire.jacobs@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:claire.jacobs@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)  
[sarah.webber@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:sarah.webber@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)