

Headteacher update

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

A huge thank you for your support and positivity over the last seven weeks - what a seven weeks it has been. Our pupils and staff have been truly marvellous, despite many challenges including illness, absence, (pupils and staff), and our constant striving to want them to do their very best; they have risen to the challenge.

We have celebrated successes and supported many of the Ysgol Nantgwyn community who are having an incredibly sad and difficult time. Please remember we are always here if you need us, you are never alone.

Many thanks to the many parents and family members who completed our Nantgwyn questionnaire. I will share these positive results with you after half term, along with our action plans to address the areas in need of improvement. Please remember to get in touch with your child's teacher or lower, middle, upper school staff at any time if you are worried or concerned or alternatively pop us an email to help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk.

We have seen a slight improvement in school attendance over the last few weeks, but as a team together we now need to see a further positive improvement. Our target is for ALL pupils to be in school all of the time so that in a 4 week period a child could only be absent once as a maximum, and ideally no time at all. As Covid rates have dropped considerably and as finer weather is on the horizon, ensuring much better attendance and punctuality habits now needs to be our main priority to ensure excellent learning and progress can happen for the next half of this year. Please note the times of the school day below. It is expected that all pupils are in their classrooms, sat down and ready to learn by the school start time of either 08:40 (years 4 to 11) and 08:55 (nursery through to year 3). Any arrival after this point is classed as late.

Pupils return to school on **Tuesday 1st March** for St David's Day celebrations and we will also be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 5th, one day later the national day to support school operations. Information has been shared by Heads of School below.

Covid Update

In good news, after half term we will no longer be operating at the very highest state of Covid alert in school. However the current advice from the local authority is that we will remain within a high state of operations. This does bring a reduction in some of precautionary measures, namely:

1. No requirement for pupils and staff to wear masks inside classrooms, but masks will still be required in communal areas.
2. No masks required in outside areas.
3. Smaller assemblies in some circumstances
4. Return to normal parent drop off for gwyn pupils (in drop off time only). Please note that the gates on the Gwyn side will not open before 08:35 and we politely ask that you plan your journey to arrive on or after this time so that our neighbours in the Gellifaelog estate are not impacted by lines of queueing traffic.

All other current precautions will still apply at the high alert level.

Heads of School have set a number of half term challenges and especially important revision plans for year 11 pupils, but it is important to take down time too.

Yours, as always

Kirsty Retallick
Headteacher

Head of School update

Upper School pupils have had a fantastic half term. As always, pupils have worked incredibly hard and made us extremely proud with their contributions to school life. We have another busy half term ahead which starts with St David's Day and World Book Day Celebrations the week we return to school (details can be found in the school update section below.)

Upper School Top 10

We've been inundated with names for this last week of the half term, which is brilliant. So we've decided to add them all to highlight the numbers of pupils nominated by staff each week. Some pupils have also had photographs that have been shared on social media. It was a pleasure to see their smiling faces! Well done all.

Cerys J-T - yr 11
Aaron S - yr 11
Sarran M - yr 11
Mali M - yr 11
Jack G - yr 11
Lloyd D - yr 10
Ben J -yr 10
Regan W -yr 10
Daisy J -yr 10
Oliver R-yr 10
Elliot P -yr 10
Olivia T -yr 10
Kaci R-yr 10
Spencer B-yr 11
Matthew B-yr 11
Aidan B -yr 11
Kebba C-yr 11
Andrei C-yr 11
Emilia H-yr 11
Tiegan K -yr 11
Cathie R-M -yr 11
Caleb W-yr 11
Grace E -yr 10
Mackenzie P-yr 10
Ellie H -yr 10
Paige Cr-yr 11
Taya H-yr 11
Ellie-May K-yr 10
Katie Y-yr 10
Miya W - yr 9
Lily S - yr 9
Ffion R - yr11
Sophie O - yr 9

Year 11 - Post 16 Update

Many of our year 11 pupils have already been applying to 6th form or college for September. Many of these organisations have already spoken to our pupils and have hosted open days. This will continue next half term to help everyone get a place after leaving Ysgol Nantgwyn.

Tonyrefail and Treorchy 6th Form will hold Google Meet Q&A sessions after half term at 3:15pm, dates to be announced, anyone interested in applying to either or if you already have and may have questions, should attend.

For those applying to Coleg Y Cymoedd, either Llwynypia or Nantgarw, you need to visit their website on www.cymoedd.ac.uk as soon as possible to look at courses.

If you are still unsure about what you would like to do from September, you can also get advice from Mrs Mackintosh the careers adviser on 07717 78223 or via email lorna.mackintosh@careerswales.gov.wales.

Year 9 Pathways Update

As you will be aware, our options process is now in full swing and a whole host of information has been shared with pupils and families. Pupils have had virtual 'assembly style' presentations outlining the different subjects available across each faculty and following this, have completed their options straw poll this week during registration. This is where pupils have provided us with their 'top 5' options subjects. Any pupils who have not completed this, will have a telephone call with one of the Upper School team today in order to complete this. We will use the straw poll information to decide the final option blocks and the spread of the subjects within each block.

After half term on 8th and 9th of March we have the year 9 parents' evening which will be a final opportunity to discuss your child's progress and possible pathways. Pupils will start to make their option choices during registration times with their form tutor from this point and we will work to finalise these as quickly as possible over the course of the next half term.

St David's Day

We are delighted to be able to share our St David's day plans as follows:

There will be a St David's day assembly and quiz in form time led by Miss Morse and Mrs Thomas. Language lessons this week will include St David's day activities. Pupils are encouraged to enter our pupil competition (what Wales means to me project- details below.) Entries should be submitted by Feb 28th to stdavidsday@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk. Winners will be announced on social media on 1st March. We look forward to seeing all your entries.

What Wales means to me Competition:

For this competition we want you to create something that shows what Wales means to you. This could be in the form of a poem or a song, you could bake a cake or make a model! In the past, pupils have been very creative with this. If you have brothers or sisters that come to Ysgol Nantgwyn, you can work together and submit a joint entry! There will be one winner from each year group, winners will be announced on March 1st on our school facebook page, and prizes will be given out by your class teacher or your form teacher. You'll need to send a photo of your entry to stdavidsday@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk by 12pm on Monday February 28th. Pob lwc!

Year 9 Reading:

All pupils in Year 9 will be given log in details this week to the Accelerated Reader programme. Pupils should aim to complete 30 minutes of reading, 3 times a week.

Please support your child at home with this and if you have any queries please email Kirsty.lewis@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk or Kayleigh.stephens@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

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	
Levi	Cameron	Ffion	Charlotte	Teigan	Morgan
Tallia	Connie	William	Grace	Talia	Cerys
Morgan	Alex	Charlie	Grace	Mehmet	Chloe
Lexie	Jack	Lloyd	Aysha	Alfie	Connor
Kelsey	Benjamin	Rocco	Kayleigh	Mason	Tyra
Ethan	Sophie	Alisha	Cora	Andrei	Ioan
Libby	Logan	Deejay	Elliott	Paige	Crystal
Casey	Alfie	Iestyn	Mackenzie	Abby	Sarran
Darcey	Caden	Evan	Jazmine	Grace	Mali
Kurt	Kieron	Alfie	Neve	Mason	Katie
Rebecca	Tyler	Charlie	Zara	Nia	Tejay
Aaron	Keira	Emily	Ellis	Riley	Joe
Alicia	Chelsea	Ocean	Kaci	Tyler	Zack
Grace	Rihanna	William	Mason	Cori	Ffion
Zak	Gage	Ellie	Olivia	Jac	Kenzie
Layla	Gethin	Thomas	Harley	Ellis	Leah
Rubie	Wyatt	Lily	Mason	James	Caitie
Cooper	Annalise	Paige	Bailey	Harley	Owen
Kaleb	Lily	Daisy	Alfie	Jack	Megan
Kara	Josh	Jaydee	Regan	Leroy	Leo
Maddison	Laci	Emily	Lewis	Jamie	Yusuf
Mollie	Mckenzie	Gabrielle	Katie	Jamie	Caleb
Ryan	Ruby	Kai		Cameron	Kean
Tamzin	Luco	Benjamin		Emelia	Logan
Isabelle	Ella	Brandon		Taya	Evelyn
Sydney	Logan	Cole		Aimee	Shelby
Gethyn	Scott	Cory		Logan	
Heidi	Alexis	Lacey		Josie	
Carwyn	Cai	Morgan		Mia	
Eli	Kavel	Tayla		Darcy	
Lily-Grace	Miya	Ellie-May		Demi	
Jack		Kieran		Dylan	
Cayleb-Jay		Dylan		Ieuan	
Steffan		Courtney		Isabelle	
Ewan		Isabel		Kyron	

World Book Day 2022

On Friday 4th March we will be celebrating World Book Day. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 can dress up as a character from their favourite book. Throughout the day there will be exciting activities for pupils to complete, from designing their own bookmarks to a character hunt. There will also be a range of

activities taking place in the Nant library and the Gwyn library. As part of World Book Day, all pupils will receive a book voucher that can be used as full or part payment for a book in their local shop.

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!

Further Update - Nant only

Sadly, since the beginning of term we have had a very small number of pupils in Nant who have failed to use our new and refurbished toilets with the respect and maturity they deserve. This has resulted in us having to increase cleaning and expenditure as well as locking certain toilets at key points of the day when damage occurs to repair and /or clean (other facilities will always be available). We have on occasion found children eating and sitting on toilet floors, which is not hygienic; there is no need for this as there is ample seating available in various locations. The expenditure on additional repairs and cleaning is being redirected from other school resources that should be spent on pupil learning and resources. Pupils who are caught damaging property will have individual consequences which may include payment for damage. We are formally considering how to increase supervision in these areas, which may include extending CCTV in outer areas. I would be grateful if you could discuss this with your child at an appropriate time. I am sorry I have had to share this message but the decisions and actions of a small group are having a negative impact upon everyone.

Contact details:

Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Louise Williams
Deputy Head of School, Mr Adrian Evans
Raising Standards Leader, Mrs Allison Carter
Academic Learning Coach, Miss Claire Jacobs
Academic Learning Coach, Mrs Sarah Webber

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