

Headteacher update

Well, that term went by in a flash, who could imagine we would have been living and working with Covid for over two years now. Our children have once again been incredible and have often shown resilience and dedication well beyond their years. They have nearly always remained steadfast in their focus and maturity to do their very best for themselves and those around them. This term has not been without its challenges and I thank pupils, staff and families for everyone's support this term. It has not always been easy, but the reward will be long lasting and definitely worth it.

We have many things to **celebrate** this term and you will see a flavour of this or very first school newspaper - written and designed by our budding team of journalists and also a continuing flavour on our school facebook page, we are also going to give the website a revamp over the coming weeks too. We had a lovely day today exploring the importance of Easter and Ramadan in our whole school virtual assembly as well as celebrating its pagan origins too, the bonnets and hats were just incredible! We are very proud of our whole school efforts for Ukraine appeal, many thanks for your support.

Important dates next term

Term begin	Monday 25th April**
INSET Day (5)	Friday 27th May
INSET Day (6)	Monday 27th June*
Half term	W/B Monday 30th May
Summer Term Ends	Friday 22nd July

*now confirmed

**Summer term uniform can we worn [Uniform - Ysgol Nantgwyn](#)

We are all looking forward to the summer term when all pupils will return refreshed and renewed for the term that lies ahead.

We have said **farewell** to three staff today, who are leaving us to pasture new. Miss Felicity Gardner (Performing Arts), Mr Tom Howells (Science) and Miss Jodie Atkinson (Progress Coach). We wish them all the best with their exciting new posts and will miss them, they will always be a part of #teamnantgwyn

Our Special wishes and heartfelt thoughts go to pupils, staff and families who are experiencing a range of personal difficulties at this time, we are always here if you need us. Our help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk, will be monitored at key points over the holidays.

Year 11 will be undertaking a range of revision events both in school and at the Urdd centre in Cardiff Bay in the second week of the Easter holiday, many thanks to staff who are supporting this three day event to support pupils in readiness for their forthcoming coming exam series, this should be a great three days. Any pupils or families who may have a last minute change of heart and would like to sign up to the school based programme next week should get in touch with myself or Mrs Williams.

As a reminder, **free school meal** payments will be paid via BACS payments over the Easter holidays. Also if you have not yet accessed your PDG access grant (uniform and resources), please check your eligibility here [PDG access grant](#)

Very best wishes for the Easter holidays, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone at the start of term on **Monday 25th April**, especially our new starters in nursery.

Yours, as always
Kirsty Retallick
Headteacher



Covid restrictions

Until informed otherwise schools will continue to operate under their specific Covid risk assessments, as the legislation continues to require that businesses, organisations and workplaces put in place reasonable measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Our schools continue to monitor and review these on a regular basis, and are taking proportionate responses based on local circumstances, to balance the need for face-to-face learning, and keeping our schools safe.

You can help us to continue to disrupt the transmission of the virus by:

- self-isolating when you feel unwell
- wearing masks in crowded places
- keeping up to date with your vaccinations.

Continuing with protective behaviours is important and will help to minimise exposure to and spread of Covid-19, as well as other respiratory infections and other diseases.

If you have any of the main symptoms of Covid-19, you should self-isolate and take a lateral flow test (LFT). You can order LFTs online at www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests or call 119 between 7am and 11pm (calls are free).

The main symptoms of Covid-19 continue to be:

- a high temperature
- a continuous cough
- loss or change of taste or smell.

The next few months will see further work in transitioning to Welsh Government's Living with Covid strategy, and we will continue to do everything we can to keep learners in the classroom, and to keep our schools safe. We are grateful for your ongoing support and will continue to provide updates as they become available. Encouraging good school attendance remains a key priority during the summer term.

Head of School update

Our school Easter celebrations mark a lovely end to a busy half term. Over this half term pupils have taken part in Eisteddfod competitions, World Book Day and made ribbons or contributed to collections for Ukraine.

Years 9, 10 and 11 have had an incredibly busy time; year 9 making choices about their qualifications for next academic year, years 10 and 11 working hard and preparing for their external examinations, whilst staff work hard to organise the Easter Revision Bonanza at the Urdd Centre Cardiff (more information below). We have also had the Welsh and Spanish speaking assessments and we would like to thank pupils for their efforts and conduct during this process. It really has been a jam packed half term!

When we return after Easter, we have only three weeks before the examination series begins for years 10 and 11. The series begins on 16th May and ends on 22nd June. All pupils have now had their examination timetables. If you have not received this information, please email our examinations office; carly.hooper@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk and she will be able to provide you with this.

Please can I just take this opportunity to remind everyone of our uniform policy. **Hoodies are not permitted as part of the uniform, neither are facial piercings nor unnatural hair colours.** A school skirt / trousers should be worn at all times in addition to a white shirt and school tie. This is the minimum expectation and there are no exceptions to this rule. If a pupil attends in the incorrect uniform, they will be isolated for a period (Lessons 1, 2 and break), whilst we make calls for parents to bring the correct uniform to school. If the pupil turns up a second time with the incorrect uniform, they are isolated for a full day, pending a parental meeting. We ask for your support in ensuring that all pupils adhere to the policy and we maintain high standards at all times.

Thank you for your continued support. Have an enjoyable and restful Easter break!

Very best wishes as always,

Mrs Louise Williams (Head of Upper School)

Upper School Top 10:

Well done to all pupils nominated this week by Upper School Staff.

A Bumper end of term special Upper Top 20

Brooke W – yr 11

Daisy J - yr 10

Amelia H – yr 11

Abby D – yr 11

Darcy D – yr 9

Kara J – yr 9

Lily H – yr 10

James M – yr 9

Demi C – yr 9

Crystal L – yr 11

Carys D – yr 11

Taya H – yr 11

Katie M – yr 11

Cameron H – yr 11

Ryan P – yr 10

Tallia B – yr 9

Maddison J – yr 9

Ellie May K – yr 10

Chloe Morgan – yr 10

Shakyla E – yr 9

Easter Revision - Year 11

As you will be aware, we have organised a full timetable of Easter revision for year 11 pupils over the Easter break. The revision sessions will be taking place at Ysgol Nantgwyn and The Urdd buildings in Cardiff and will be delivered by teaching staff.

The pupils will have a split provision with time spent in residence at the Urdd base in the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay. In addition to this they will have provision onsite at Ysgol Nantgwyn.

Further to study sessions with teachers, the pupils will also have various team building and recreational activities. Details of these exciting activities will be kept secret until the day... watch this space!

This event is entirely free including transport to and from the Urdd in addition to all food and accommodation.

If any pupils would still like to attend/take part, we aren't able to offer any further places on the residential course, but can accommodate pupils on site. Please could you email Mrs Williams if you would like to explore this option.

Qualifications update from Qualifications Wales - FAQ

[Qualifications Wales / Qualifications 2022](#)

Post-16 Pathways 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

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



[Coleg y Cymoedd - Study local, go further](http://www.cymoedd.ac.uk)

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

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

Pre-16 Pathways - Year 9

All pupils should now have finalised their options with their form tutor during registration. Ms Morris (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Williams (Assistant Headteacher) are now working on allocating pupils to their chosen subjects and you will receive written confirmation of this shortly. More information to follow.

If for any reason, your child has not had their option interview with their form tutor to finalise these choices, please could you email the relevant member of staff:

9A - Mrs Daley: abby.daley@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

9B - Mrs Richings: nicola.richings@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

9C - Mr Howells: tom.howells@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

9D - Miss McCormick: laura.mccormick@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	
Dylan	Grace	Ffion	Darian	Alfie	Crystal
Kaydee	Cameron	Muhammed	Tilly	Matthew	Mali
Lexie	Connie	Charlie	Grace	Kebba	Katie
Kelsey	Alex	Benjamin	Aysha	Mason	Thomas
Demi	Jack	Lloyd	Chloe	Andrei	Megan
Ethan	Benjamin	Rocco	Kayleigh	Paige	Millie
Casey	Sophie	Ellie	Cora	Brandon	Joe
Kurt	Fraser	Grace	Stephannie	Carys	Macy
Jay	Alfie	Iestyn	Elliott	Dylan	Kenzie
Lacie	Kieron	Darcy	Mackenzie	Mason	Leah
Kady	Tyla	Evan	Jazmine	Nia	Caitie
Shakyla	Keira	Gethin	Zak	Sophie	Megan
Aaron	Cai	Alfie	Neve	Sydney	Ben
Alicia	Chelsea	Charlie	Oliver	Riley	Aaron
Morgan	Rihanna	Ocean	Tyler	Rory	Cai
Grace	Gage	Honey	Ellis	Harley	Keira
Zak	Gethin	Aliyah	Tomas	Leroy	Callum
Blake	Leo	Joseph	Kaci	Louise	Caleb
Layla	Laci	Ellie	Mason	Jamie	Logan
Miles	Ben	Thomas	Olivia	Harvey	Evelyn
Rubie	Mckenzie	Daisy	Harley	Emelia	Shelby
Macey	Lily-Mae	Jaydee	Mason	Taya	
Cooper	Ella	Gabrielle	Bailey	Aimee	
Alex	Jaydon	Benjamin	Olivia	Mia	
Kara	Ieuan	Brandon	Alfie	Lucy	
Maddison	Tiana	Cole	Laci	Isobel	
Mollie	Alexis	Lacey	Regan	Josie	
Ryan	Amy	Lewis	Skye	Mia	
Tamzin	Cai	Morgan	Lewis	Demi	
Isabelle	Jasmine	Tayla		Dylan	
Jack	Miya	Ellie-May		Harvey	
Gethyn	Rubie	Kieran		Isabelle	
Heidi		Dylan		Cerys	
Eli		Courtney		Connor	
Bryana		Isabel		Ioan	

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	louise.williams@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
Deputy Head of School, Mr Adrian Evans	adrian.evans@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
Raising Standards Leader, Mrs Allison Carter	allison.carter@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
Academic Learning Coach, Miss Claire Jacobs	claire.jacobs@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk
Academic Learning Coach, Mrs Sarah Webber	sarah.webber@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk