

### Headteacher update

What a lovely day to end the week on. It has been an incredibly productive week at Nantgwyn and pupils have been incredibly focused and productive. We have seen examination preparation in year 11, exploring, comparing and contrasting impressionist artists in year 3, first aid training in year 5, GCSE geography in the sunshine for upper school and a plethora of extracurricular activities for skiing to musical recital preparations. It has indeed been a busy week.

We are experiencing quite a high level of staff absence at the moment due to Covid and other staff illness and are working hard to maintain high levels of provision for all pupils and classes. We are currently prioritising year 10 and 11 examination classes ensuring that a Nantgwyn teacher delivers these as far as is practically possible and we are hopeful that we see an improvement next week. Please feel reassured that all our well qualified supply staff have been with us since the beginning of the academic year and know the school, pupils and procedures well. **All lessons and activities continue as normal.**

**Covid Update** As you will be aware the all Wales Covid procedure will change from next Tuesday. The First Minister has announced today however that the **procedures in school will remain UNCHANGED until at least until the end of term** due to the increased in Covid rates of infections. We await further guidance and will update you with any further changes as we receive them. So operations in school will continue as they have done in school to date please.

**Car Boot Sale** A huge thank you to the PTA for our very first Nantgwyn car boot sale last Sunday, it was definitely a hit. We had stall holders and customers from far and wide and will hold another one in the summer term. All volunteers, 'car booter' and customers are welcome.

**Uniform update** Many thanks for your support with our drive to improve key aspects of school uniform across the school, including PE kits. We have seen a great improvement with many pupils this week. We are actively listening to pupils, parents and staff voice in this process.

- For pupils in Gwyn, the time lost in changing (where younger pupils require support) has been too great and we will amend their requirement on wellbeing/PE days only please. Pupils should wear PE buttons (navy or plack, tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts) and trainers along with their normal school polo shirts and top.
- We will not be making any amendments to the Wellbeing/PE kit in Nant at this time, lessons are taught in double sessions and we need to positively support the transition back to pre March 2020 delivery and will continue to listen to pupils' views and support additional changing spaces where required.
- Families who require financial support please contact the school via [help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk)

**Additional Support** We have a range of counselling and support services on offer across the school, we have also launched a new additional service called 'Safe Haven'. This is available to all initially all Nant pupils. This is a place where pupils can feel talk, get help, be listened to, work things out and feel supported. Pupils can attend on their own or as part of a group. There are posters and links available across the school on how to book an appointment with Mrs Christine Jones. Pupils can also text to make an appointment on 07494552475 (including their name and form). Special group

counselling days are also available which focus on LGBTQ+, self harm, stress, bullying, loneliness and friendship.

**Easter Celebrations** We will be celebrating Easter across the school during the last week of term.

**Gwyn** All children are invited to bring an Easter bonnet, headband or hat into school by Tuesday 5th April. We will have resources available in school at the end of next week for families to use at home next week/weekend, please let us know if you would like a set of these via [help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk) and we will arrange to get these to you. We will have class based Easter celebrations on Friday 7th April where children will wear their bonnets and hats and have a small parade. Photos will be shared with you via ParentMail. All children will bring their hats home with them on the last day of term, with a few other surprises.

**Nant** Pupils in Nant are invited to design and wear Easter hats/badges on the last day of school too. It would be great if we could embrace a whole Nantgwyn approach with this too.

**Good news from a neighbour** -'I just wanted to drop you a quick email to thank you for implementing the traffic management system on the Gellifaelog estate. It has made a significant improvement, we can now use the pavements safely and with confidence. We are all guilty of complaining when things are not right, so I thought you may appreciate some positive feedback . I appreciate the traffic management system comes at a cost, hopefully the children's safety and well-being will outweigh this and the system will remain in place.'

We break up for spring term on Friday 8th April for the two week Easter break. We have a range of revision activities planned for examination groups over Easter and this information will be shared shortly.

Yours, as always

Kirsty Retallick

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### **Head of School update**

Over the last fortnight we have seen a huge improvement in the standards of punctuality and uniform in upper school. Thank you very much for your continued support. As we revert back to pre Covid procedures, it is now the expectation that pupils bring their PE kit to school and change in school for their PE lessons. Full uniform is therefore expected on PE days. There are no exceptions to this rule.

This fortnight in our Hot Chocolate with the Head we have enjoyed celebrating with pupils who have demonstrated the attributes of being responsible and team work.

It is a very busy few weeks for all our pupils - with years 10 and 11 so very close to examinations (only 5 more teaching weeks!!) and year 9 in the process of finalising their options, there is much to be excited about and to celebrate; however we need to ensure that all pupils are attending regularly and conforming to our school rules at all times. Your support as parents and families for the school and with the school is, as always, greatly appreciated!

Have a wonderful weekend in the sunshine!

Best wishes as always,

Mrs Williams.

### **Upper School Top 10:**

Well done to all pupils nominated this week by Upper School Staff. A big shout out to year 10 who seem to have been outstanding this week, so we've had to do an Upper Top 14 to fit all of them in!

Shakyla E Y9  
Lloyd D Y10  
Oliver R Y10  
Kean W Y11  
Kaci R Y10  
Benjamin D Y10  
Daisy J Y10  
Grace M Y10  
Katie Y Y10  
Alfie P Y9  
Tilly L Y10  
Grace E Y10  
Ellie H Y10  
Dylan D Y11

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### **Year 9 Options Update:**

As you will be aware, during registration time over the past two weeks, your child will have made 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 option 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 have been distributed this week during registration and accompanying letters have arrived in your inbox via parentmail.

### **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](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](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](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	Ffion	Cory	Teigan	Ieuan
Kaydee	Cayleb-Jay	Muhammed	Kayleigh	Alfie	Isabelle
Lexie	Cameron	Charlie	Stephannie	Aidan	Morgan
Kelsey	Connie	Annalee	Mackenzie	Kebba	Tiegan
Demi	Benjamin	Benjamin	Jazmine	Andrei	Chloe
Ethan	Logan	Lloyd	Zak	Paige	Crystal
Libby	Alfie	Rocco	Neve	Brandon	Sarran
Kurt	Kieron	Alisha	Ryan	Dylan	Mali
Robert	Tyler	Ellie	Oliver	Grace	Katie
Laila	Keira	Grace	Tyler	Nia	Millie
Rebecca	Cai	Deejay	Ellis	Riley	Tejay
Shakyla	Chelsea	Iestyn	Kaci	Skye	Macy
Aaron	Rihanna	Evan	Jared	Sydney	Zack
Morgan	Halle	Alfie	Harley	Tyler	Evan
Grace	Gethin	Emily	Kayla	Cori	Ffion
Blake	Leo	Ocean	Mason	Hayley	Kenzie
Layla	Lily	Aliyah	Bailey	Jac	Caitie
Macey	Josh	Ellie	Aniera	Jenson	Owen
Ryleigh	Laci	Daisy	Alfie	Rory	Megan
Kaleb	Mckenzie	Gabrielle	Laci	Ellis	Cai
Alex	Lily-Mae	Benjamin	Regan	James	Elliot
Casey	Matthew	Cole	Lewis	Daniel	Keira
Lilly	Luco	Cory	Katie	Harley	Yusuf
Maddison	Ella	Lewis		Tia	Brooke
Mollie	Logan	Morgan		Leroy	Caleb
Ryan	Jayden	Tayla		Jamie	Evelyn
Tamzin	Rhys	Ellie-May		Cameron	
Isabelle	Brogan	Kieran		Harvey	
Sydney	Ieuan	Dylan		Taya	
Ella	Scott	Courtney		Aimee	
Gethyn	Amy	Isabel		Josie	
Heidi	Cai	Keira		Cheyenne	
Carwyn	Jasmine	Grace		Dylan	
Lily-Grace	Miya	Grace		Demi	
Caleb	Rubie	Aysha		Dylan	

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