

Headteacher update

Welcome back to the third and final term of this academic year. We have a busy and exciting term ahead, including the Jubilee celebration. Our older pupils will shortly begin their external examinations and are working hard in readiness for them. We have added an extra layer of external counselling for pupils who wish to engage to work through the nerves, stress and anxieties of the examinations ahead. A huge thank you to our whole cluster of schools for bringing together over 200 pupils for two days of scientific exploitation here at Nantgwyn and Techniquet, the children (and staff) had a fabulous time, true scientists in the making.

On Monday we will take a further step to post Covid normality, with removal of the need for Nant pupils and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas. We will also move back to 'in person' assembly. We will still ensure good ventilation and encourage regular hand washing and where possible encourage as much outdoor learning where possible. Covid isolation processes currently remain unchanged and additional guidance for pupils who may contract Covid who will be undertaking exams will update shortly.

As you will have seen from the letter sent on Thursday, Fixed Penalty Notice (FPNs) will also be reintroduced from Monday. These notices and fines can be issued for a variety of reasons including unauthorised absence, lateness and failure to cooperate with school to improve attendance. The best place for pupils to be is in school ensuring that they develop into the brilliant young people they should. All day, everyday really does matter.

Just a quick reminder that our second PTA car boot sale is happening this Sunday from 9.00 to 11.00 am, further details can be found on our school facebook page. [Ysgol Nantgwyn - Home | Facebook](#)

A small reminder that pupils are not allowed to wear hoodies or coats while in lessons. While we wait for summer sunshine to appear they will still need to wear a base layer or bring an extra school jumper, cardigan or blazer on cooler days, as windows remain open for ventilation purposes at key points in lessons. Many thanks for your support with this.

Have a great weekend

Yours, as always

Kirsty Retallick

Head of School update

It has been a pleasure to welcome all of our pupils back after what was a wonderful, sunny Easter break. I hope you all managed to get some well earned rest and relaxation and that our young people are suitably refreshed and ready for what is going to be a very busy and productive half term.

During the holidays, we had an incredibly successful Easter revision week with year 11 between 19th and 21st of March. The classroom based sessions were extremely effective and the pupils responded positively to them. The on site activities were a roaring success and great fun was had by all, whilst the residential element down at Cardiff Bay was fantastic and many happy memories were made. This was the first real 'school trip' our young people have been able to attend and we were so pleased to have been able to do this for them. I would like to thank all of the staff involved for their time and support in making the event a success.

We have the examination series for years 10 and 11 beginning in less than two weeks on 16th May and ending on 22nd June. All pupils in year 10 have been entered for a small number of examinations (English Literature, mathematics-numeracy and science Unit 1 examinations) and for year 11, this marks the beginning of their full (and final!) examination period. All pupils have now had their

examination timetables. Any pupils who have not received their timetables should contact Carly Hooper, examinations officer directly.

Exam anxiety buster sessions were provided to a number of year 10 and 11 pupils last week which were very successful. If any pupils feel anxious about the upcoming examinations, please let us know. We want to work with all of our young people, to ensure that they feel confident and prepared for what lies ahead. No pupil needs to suffer in silence, there is a plethora of support in school for them. If you feel your child needs support, please contact a member of the upper school team on the email addresses below.

Please can I take this opportunity to politely 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 will be isolated for a full day, pending a parental meeting.

A reminder also that skirts should be of an acceptable length. If a pupil's skirt is not of an acceptable length, a female member of staff will have an initial conversation in order to rectify the situation. If the issue persists, we will request a parental meeting. It is not appropriate for short skirts to be worn in a school setting and we ask for your support in ensuring that all pupils adhere to the policy, maintaining high standards at all times.

Thank you as always, for your continued support.

Very best wishes,

Mrs. Louise Williams (Assistant Headteacher, Head of Upper School)

Upper School Top 10

Congratulations to the winners of our Upper School Top 10 this week. Lots of yr 11 and 10 pupils this week who have made a positive start to their revision sessions. Well done and good luck to all!

Josie H - yr 11
Chloe K - yr 11
Caleb W - yr 11
Nichole L - yr 11
Kenzie R - yr 11
Honey H - yr 10
Dylan LI - yr 10
Grace E - yr 10
Tilly L - yr 10
Crystal LL - yr 11
Charlie C - yr 10
Elliott P - yr 10
Chloe M - yr 10

Qualifications update from Qualifications Wales - FAQ

[Qualifications Wales / Qualifications 2022](#)

Post-16 Pathways Update:

Tonyrefail Community School

For those pupils that have applied to Tonyrefail School 6th form for September. Sixth form leaders Mrs Vicky Evans and Mr Huw Williams, will be visiting Ysgol Nantgwyn on Wednesday 11th May at 3:10pm, to meet with pupils to discuss their options. They will have one to one meetings and will be able to ask any questions and make the initial connection with a member of staff so that they have a 'familiar face' in readiness for next year.

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

For students applying to Coleg y Cymoedd, there is another open day planned at all campuses on Wednesday 15th June from 4:30pm until 6pm.

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

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.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Resource

Please see the link below to the 'Young person's mental health toolkit'. A wonderful resource where you will find resources that provide tips, advice and guidance on the coronavirus and how you can support your mental health. If you have questions about the virus or how you can stay healthy, this is the place to be.

<https://hwb.gov.wales/search?query=mental+health+and+well-being&strict=true&popupUri=%2FResource%2Fe53adf44-76cb-4635-b6c2-62116bb63a9a&fbclid=IwAR231szsEpTC2b8A7zVgVXtFNHBIAtUkoC8Hr-VtfVaQEJ9ck8ggF8HyXU>

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!

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!

Year 9			Year 10		Year 11	
Levi	James	Rubie	Ffion	Isabel	Teigan	Kyle
Dylan	Jack	Jack	Charlie	Darian	Talia	Cheyenne
Tallia	Cayleb-Jay		Benjamin	Tilly	Spencer	Darcy
Lexie	Cameron		Lloyd	Charlotte	Thomas	Demi
Demi	Connie		Alisha	Grace	Matthew	Isabelle
Ethan	Alex		Grace	Grace	Kebba	Kyron
Casey	Jack		Deejay	Aysha	Mason	Morgan
Darcey	Benjamin		Iestyn	Chloe	Andrei	Connor
Lacie	Sophie		Evan	Cora	Paige	Lexie
Kady	Fraser		Mckenzie	Elliott	Carys	Tyra
Aaron	Logan		Charlie	Mackenzie	Grace	Ioan
Alicia	Alfie		Emily	Jazmine	Mason	Crystal
Morgan	Phoebe		Ocean	Zak	Nia	Sarran
Grace	Tyler		Honey	Ewan	Riley	Mali
Zak	Keira		William	Neve	Skye	Katie
Blake	Chelsea		Joseph	Jayden	Sophie	Millie
Layla	Rihanna		Ellie	Zara	Tyler	Tejay
Rubie	Gage		Thomas	Oliver	Cori	Joe
Macey	Gethin		Paige	Ellis	Riley	Macy
Cooper	Wyatt		Daisy	Kaci	Jac	Zack
Ryleigh	Lily		Jaydee	Jared	Jenson	Jackson
Alex	Josh		Emily	Mason	Rory	Kenzie
Maddison	Laci		Gabrielle	Olivia	Ellis	Leah
Mollie	Mckenzie		Kai	Harley	James	Caitie
Ryan	Matthew		Seren	Mason	Harley	Owen
Tamzin	Luco		Benjamin	Olivia	Tia	Megan
Isabelle	Ella		Cole	Aniera	Leroy	Aaron
Jack	Rhys		Lacey	Alfie	Jamie	Logan
Sydney	Ieuan		Lewis	Regan	Jamie	Caleb
Ella	Scott		Morgan	Skye	Cameron	Logan
Heidi	Tiana		Tayla	Lewis	Harvey	Evelyn
Carwyn	Alexis		Ellie-May	Callum	Taya	Shelby
Eli	Cai		Tegan	Katie	Aimee	
Lily-Grace	Jasmine		Dylan		Logan	
Caleb	Miva		Courtnev		Isobel	

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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