



PUPIL NEWSLETTER

July 2023



This newsletter is written by pupils for pupils!

So much has happened in our school this year and we've asked each year group to contribute to this end of year celebration newsletter.

Next year we will be sending these out to you once a term, if you'd be interested in writing a piece or helping with the editing and designing, let Miss Morse know and you can join the team!

A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I think when you read through this you will feel immensely proud to be part of #teamnantgwyn

These articles are written by pupils and the overwhelming feedback that we have had is that there is so much that pupils could have written about. Team Nantgwyn - you, your parents, your staff and your governors - work really hard every single day to make sure that the time you spend here really develops your learning and your well-being well and that you have a really nice day every single day.

I know that you will enjoy reading about what has been happening across Ysgol Nantgwyn as a celebration of this year...have a think about what articles you could contribute in the future too!

With warm wishes,

**Ms Laura Morris
Headteacher**



Nursery



Learning outside

I love learning outside because we find some creatures and then then go on our hands! We make sure they're safe. We findbugs like spiders and worms. The other day Anaria picked so many baby worms, it was so funny!

We also went to year one class and went in their farm, we drew ourselves and found a bunny. Sometimes we go exploring in the garden and draw with chalks on the ground. I love our school!

by Luna T

Reception



I love Spanish!

I love learning Spanish! My teachers help me. Spanish can be easy and it can be tricky. The little numbers numbers are easy but the big numbers like one million, one billion and one trillion are tricky. I can count to 69 in Spanish. I am proud of myself. Next year I want to learn how to say worms in Spanish and learn all about worms!

by Noah M

Year one



Learning about bees in the garden

We went to the garden with our class. We had some orange crisps we crushed them up, and put our fingers in the orange powder. We walked around the flowers and when we walked we saw if the powder fell off on the flowers, just like how the bees put the pollen on other flowers. We were learning about bees and pollen, the powder was like pollen. We learnt that the pollen goes onto the bees' bodies.

A cool fact about bees is that when honeybees sting the stinger comes off the body and goes onto the person.

by Evelyn, Indie, Kayla

Year two



We found a mysterious box!

This year I have liked learning about the great fire of London. In the yard we found a mysterious box when we were going for a walk. In the box there was a picture of a man called Samuel Peeps, a feather pen, three candles and some mouldy cheese. It was a time capsule from 1666. We didn't know how that got there. Samuel Peeps had buried it in his garden in London, but now it was in Ysgol Nantgwyn. We took the box back to our classroom and used all of the things to do some writing about the great fire of London. When I got home I asked my Alexa some more facts about the fire and I found out it started in a bakery in Pudding Lane!

by Alys G

Year three



A piece of work I'm proud of

I was really proud of my piece of work on the RMS Titanic. It took me two days to do all of the work! My favourite part was writing the facts and also doing the drawing. I liked learning about it because lots of people have heard about the event but not many people actually know facts about it.

I enjoyed telling Miss Morse and Aden in year nine all about the RMS Titanic by reading out some of the facts I have written. Miss Morse didn't know much about it, so she learnt something new! I also taught her about David Attenborough and how he has not got a driving licence but has travelled all over the world!

by Henry D

Year four



Our moral debate in year four

In our theme this year of systems we had a book called The Girl Who Stole The Elephant by Nizrana Farook. My favourite character is Chaya because she is the main character and she is a little bit selfish but she's a very interesting character. She is kind, because even though she steals things, she steals them for other people. She stole some jewels for Vjay. He had been bitten by a crocodile and his family could not afford the hospital bills, so the jewels will help him get better. We had a debate in class about whether stealing is okay if it is for a good cause. I think stealing for yourself is bad, but sometimes it might be okay if someone is desperate.

by Olivia F

Year five



Exploring exploration

In year five we have been looking at the theme of exploration. Our book for this theme is *The Explorers* by Katherine Rundell. The book is about four children who crash in the Amazon rainforest. They get lost but then find a den that was made by someone that was there before them. They also go on a raft down the river and one of them sees something shiny in the water they think it's a piranha but it was a tin of sardines!

We have learnt about the impact of exploration and the reasons for and against. We wrote a formal letter about the impact exploration has on the environment.

by Ben Z

Year six



Learning in and out of the classroom

This year we have had multiple cross-curricular experiences in year six, through our themes which were identity, change and enterprise. We have had lots of experiences inside and outside the classroom which have improved our understanding of our themes. Key aspects of these experiences are made up of education activities which are not just based in the school, but also based across Wales. Some of us had never left the Rhondda valley but the school has provided opportunities for us to experience the world outside of the classroom which has helped our learning. The most recent experience was Llangrannog, located in West Wales, which included activities such as swimming, horse riding, skiing, muddy adventure course, trampolining, rock climbing, go karts and many more activities. As part of our theme of enterprise we have also been to the Senedd and the Royal Mint, these experiences showed us how to communicate with our money.

by Lyle, Lloyd and Skyla

Year seven



Ski trip to Italy

In April we went to Pila, Italy for the ski trip. I liked that in the evenings we did different activities, bowling and ice skating were my favourites. At the start the skiing was hard so it was not really fun, but as I got better I loved it! One night we went to a disco- Mrs Holmes and Mrs Davies had the best dance moves and Ysgol Nantgwyn won the disco.

I would definitely recommend this trip to everyone, the next trip is going in 2025!

by Riley M

Year eight



Experiencing university with the Brilliant Club

This year a group of us in year seven and eight took part in activities organised by the brilliant club. We Worked with a PhD student to complete university style tasks. We did a biology project on malaria. We also had the opportunity to go to some different universities to experience higher education. It was an amazing experience!

by Daisy F

Year nine



Options process and work experience

Recently we went through the process of choosing our options for GCSE. The option process could be quite stressful at times when people couldn't decide what they wanted to choose, but the teachers really supported us in doing so. When we first heard of the option process, a lot of students were quite puzzled about what that actually meant, including me. People like Mrs. Williams, Miss Morse, and Miss Mein did a brilliant job of supporting and explaining to us what we were doing, and helped settle any nerves that were building.

All of the work in year nine is to prepare students for year ten and eleven. One way they did this was by sending us out on work experience for one week, to see how we would cope in the real world, with real work. The school provided everything and anything to students, enabling them to have the best chance at work experience. In the week leading up to it, lots of assemblies were held, and lots of questions were answered. Now that work experience has ended, I speak for all pupils when I say that we enjoyed working in the real world.

by Benjamin G

Year ten



Our trip to Disney

I went to Disneyland Paris in March this year. It was an amazing experience and I enjoyed every part of it. Some of the things we did was go on a bunch of different and thrilling rides. My personal favourite was tower of terror. There were loads of shops that you could go into and lots of restaurants to eat at. My favourite part about Disneyland was the firework show on the Saturday night. It was a spectacular experience and I really thoroughly enjoyed every second of it.

by Alexis W

Year eleven



by Kaci R

Reflecting on five years of Ysgol Nantgwyn

As the first year 7 group to join Ysgol Nantgwyn back in 2018, I can confidently and proudly discuss the incredible school that I have been a part of for the past 5 years. Throughout the past 2 years, I have done various examinations for my GCSE's, the staff have helped me significantly throughout my examination period and always offered me the opportunity to gain support. The staff here are all helpful and friendly individuals who are proud to work in such a great environment. The staff go above and beyond in my school to ensure that the kids are all safe, and that they have good relationships with each other, and the teachers. Over the past 5 years, I have created some incredible memories in Ysgol Nantgwyn, in year 10 I was lucky enough to visit Oxford University with a group of people in my year group. Another memory that I have is results day in year 10. On this day I was able to share my results with my teachers, family, and friends and receive advice from the people who have had lots of experience!



by Chloe M

Duke of Edinburgh

Going into DofE was one of the best choices I have made. When finding out about the award, at first it wasn't something I could see myself doing. I lacked confidence and ability to speak and work in teams which is what DofE is all about. I decided to partake in the award because at the end of the day, I needed these skills for the future. The Duke Of Edinburgh award has taught me far more than I could've imagined. During the award, I learnt first aid skills, I learnt map skills, team work skills, communication skills, I learnt how to cook on a Trangia. Most importantly, DofE taught me how to be more determined and to keep going despite what is thrown at you, and this will be a valuable skill that I will use all throughout life.

DofE taught me to keep going and I did. I was proud of myself for not giving up, I had people supporting me and that felt great. And on the way back down, I was wondering why I was even complaining in the first place. And that's what DofE taught me. Determination, ambition and communication.