PARENT NEWSLETTER



June 2026

Ysgol Nantgwyn

A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear parents,

As we move closer to the end of another busy and successful school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the journey we have shared as a school team and to thank you for your continued support.
Although the final weeks of term are now in sight, our focus remains firmly on learning, progress, and ensuring that every child continues to strive towards their very best. This is a particularly important time of year, where small steps can still make a big difference, and we encourage all pupils to stay motivated, engaged, and proud of their efforts right to the very end.

At the same time, it is equally important to recognise and celebrate everything that has been achieved across the year. From the earliest learning experiences in our youngest classes to the significant milestones reached by our older pupils, we have seen remarkable growth academically, socially, and emotionally. Our pupils have demonstrated resilience, curiosity, and creativity in abundance.

Beyond the classroom, the richness of experiences offered this year has been a real highlight. Educational visits, sporting events, performances, community projects, and enrichment opportunities have all played a vital role in developing confident and well-rounded individuals. These experiences help to bring learning to life and create lasting memories for our young people and your support and encouragement at home makes a significant difference to your child's success in school.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to a range of celebratory events, transition activities, and opportunities to reflect on achievements. These moments are important not only in marking the end of the year but also in preparing our learners for the next stage of their educational journey.

Please can I ask for your support in working together to ensure that these final weeks are productive, positive, and filled with a strong sense of pride in all that has been accomplished.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Laura Morris

Main focus item: Celebrations!

Nursery pupils have enjoyed learning about themselves and their different emotions. They have also enjoyed learning about 'people who help us' both in school and in the community. Nursery pupils really enjoyed seeing the fire engine and talking to the fire fighters when they came into school for a visit.





Well done to reception class for working so hard all year, being kind and helpful and making their teachers smile every day. They have shown us their talents in language, mathematics and expressive arts all year and have tried their best in their tasks. We're seen wonderful roleplay in our hospital, travel agents, bureau de change and vets. We've seen fantastic building creations and beautiful artwork. We've worked hard and played well! We have enjoyed our year with you so much and are very proud of all your hard work and achievements!

Year 1 have been working so hard this year. They are working with much more independence, and we are so proud of them! Pupils have enjoyed the theme 'Environment' especially learning about bees and what they do for our world. Pupils have made pledges to support the world in which we live.



Main focus item: Celebrations!



Mr Griffiths and Mrs Jones are incredibly proud of the year 2 class and all that they have achieved this year. It has been a wonderful year filled with learning, growth, and happy memories. Pupils have really enjoyed learning about about theme of 'Justice'. Pupils have enjoyed reading 'The Twits' and creating recipes as part of their writing. We wish every one of you the very best as you begin your exciting journey in year 3.



This term, year 3 and 4 have been focusing on the importance of teamwork. Through a range of activities, the children have explored how working together can lead to successful outcomes. They have learned to recognise and celebrate.

Main focus item: Celebrations!

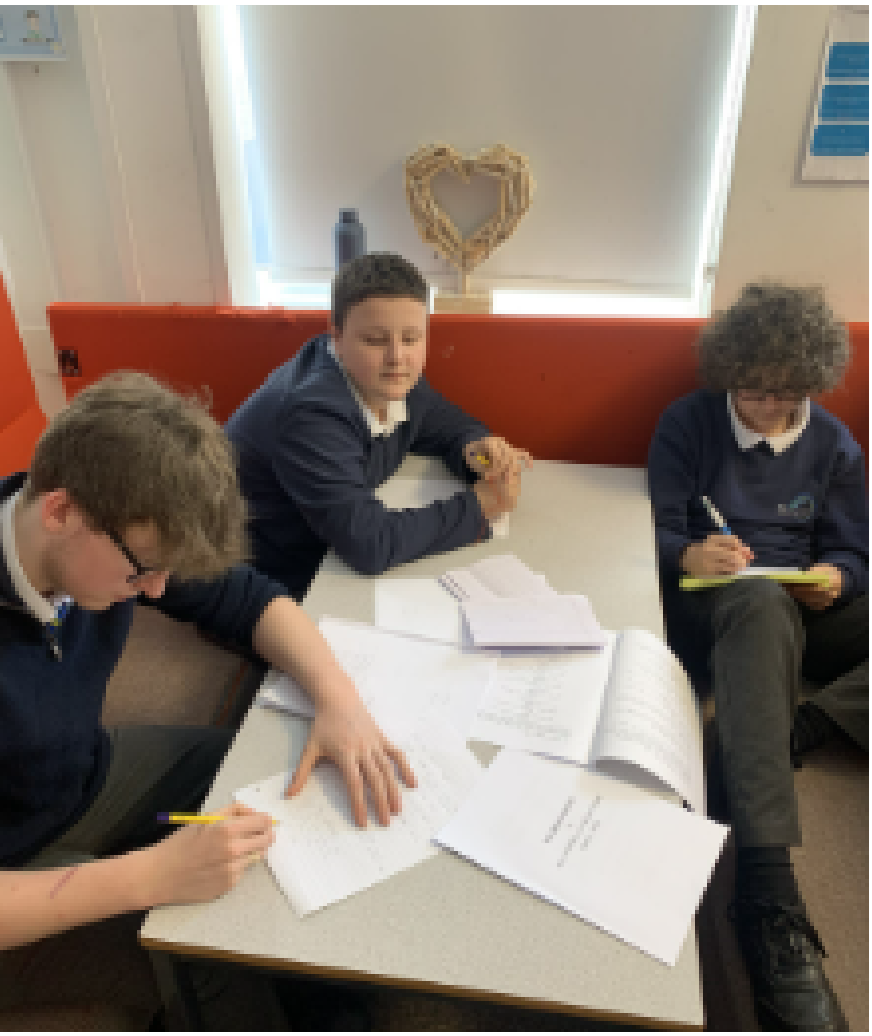


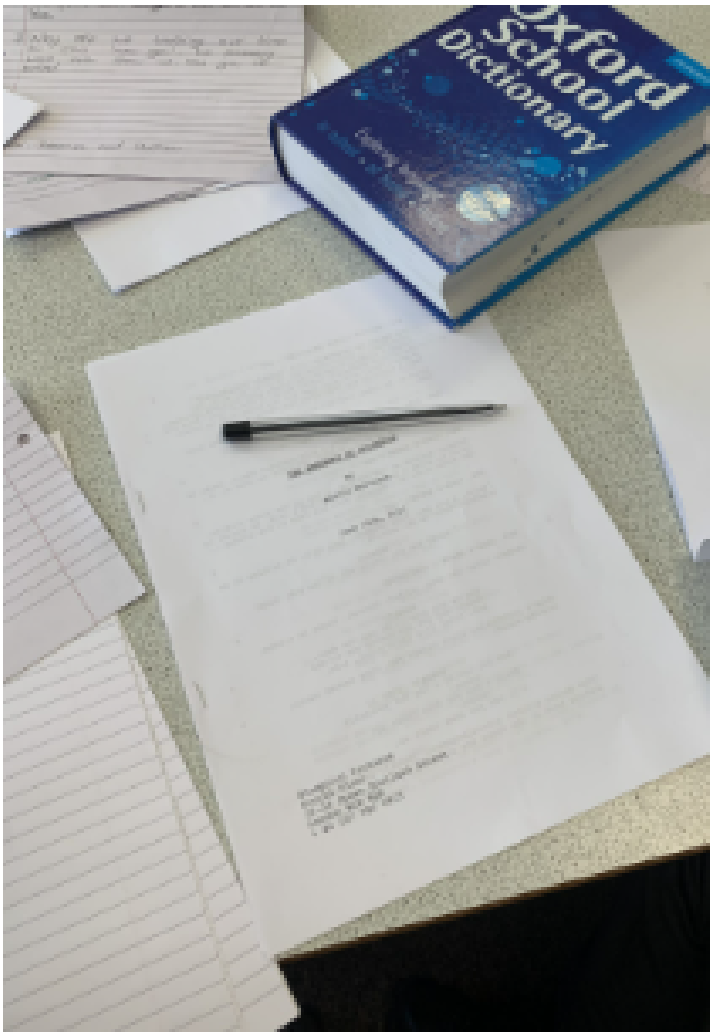
Year 5 have learned about communication through their theme ‘Conflict’ in caru dysgu. We have explored morse code and carrier pigeons. We designed a message and message capsule for our own carrier pigeons. We raced them to see if our message capsules were sturdy, light and discrete. We translated our messages into morse code. The winners won the Dickin medal, a medal for courageous animals at war.

As part of their ‘Enterprise’ theme, year 6 took part in a sponsored walk, collectively covering the equivalent distance to Glasgow, where this year’s Commonwealth Games are being held. The pupils demonstrated excellent determination and teamwork throughout the challenge, showing great enthusiasm and commitment. They have successfully raised a significant amount of money, which they will use towards their end of year celebrations, helping to make the final part of their time in Gwyn even more special and memorable.



Main focus item: Celebrations!





English, literacy and communication

Year 7 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed studying the theme of 'Theatre' and Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. They have explored Shakespeare's characters and themes through creative writing, producing their own monologues and bringing the play to life through confident and imaginative performances.

Year 8 pupils have been studying 'Different Worlds', exploring both dystopian and utopian settings. They have read and analysed a range of dystopian texts, considering how writers create imagined societies, before using their creativity to design and describe their own dystopian and utopian worlds.

Year 9 pupils have begun exploring the GCSE theme of 'Belonging'. They have researched, created and delivered presentations examining what belonging means for young people today, demonstrating maturity and insight. They have also thoroughly enjoyed reading Blood Brothers, exploring its themes, social context and enduring relevance.

Year 10 pupils have had a particularly busy term, sitting their first GCSE English examination in the hall. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, maturity and exemplary conduct they demonstrated throughout the process. They have since moved straight into preparing for their group discussion NEA, engaging in thoughtful and sensitive discussions on the theme of Diversity. Their willingness to discuss such important issues with maturity and respect has been commendable.

Main focus item: Celebrations!

Mathematics and numeracy

Year 7

Over the course of this term, year 7 pupils have been learning about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They have been exploring what the different articles and rights are, how these articles and rights link to them and children living in Wales, and have also been discussing and debating which articles and rights they feel are most important to them. It has been lovely to see our pupils forming and discussing their own opinions and views.

Year 8

Year 8 have spent time this term developing their confidence and skills at using suitable online sources for research when finding out new information. They have researched and explored different currencies, created presentations about these and have then presented these to their peers and teachers. It has been lovely to see them explore the benefits and challenges of AI use in their work and see their confidence in speaking and presenting grow.

Year 9

As part of their mathematics and numeracy lessons this term, year 9 pupils have been completing their final exams towards their level 2 certificate in financial foundations for life and career success. Covering a vast array of content from insurance, savings accounts and payslips, to fraud prevention, credit and debit cards, and foreign exchange, pupils have worked hard to develop and grow their understanding of these key topics which will help them in whatever they go onto after they finish at Ysgol Nantgwyn. They should be extremely proud of their work and efforts in these exams and in the results they have obtained.

Year 10

During this term, year 10 have been preparing and studying for their first live mathematics and numeracy GCSE exam. Covering a range of financial mathematics and other application of numeracy within real-life contexts, the exam forms the first 30% of their GCSE mathematics and numeracy qualification. We are proud of the hard work and commitment they have demonstrated to their learning and study in the lead up to this exam and as they prepare for their next exams after the summer break.



Main focus item: Celebrations!

Science and technology





Year 7
Our year 7 have been investigating a range of factors within sport science, they have planned health living diets for different groups of individuals. They have calculated how fast they can run using speed equations and their lung capacity for sports. Also, within the lessons they have researched the fastest animals on land and in air. Pupils have written newspaper articles about runners in Kenya using their own research.

Year 8
This term pupils have investigated light, reflection and refraction, undertaking a range of practical lessons to develop their understanding of each area. They have researched and produced bibliographies on Sir Isaac Newton.

Year 9
Year 9 further developed their knowledge of the core topics at GCSE level in science. They worked on their practical skills and sat a GCSE paper as part of their assessment. Pupils across year 9 worked successfully towards gaining their ITQ qualification in ICT completing units of work in lessons.

Year 10 and 11
During this term both year groups prepared for their GCSE examinations across faculty. Pupils attended the revision program after school and continued to prepare for exams in lessons. In engineering the pupils produced their final projects: WOW engineering and a range of products were produced such as spades, multi tools and axes. All in the faculty wish them the best in their next academic adventures.

Main focus item: Celebrations!

Languages and culture



Year 7

To celebrate the Welsh language and music we had a day of celebration across the faculty for dydd miwsig Cymru. Pupils engaged in cross curricular activities that took them all around the school on a guitar pick treasure hunt. It was a lovely chance to see how the Welsh music has evolved over time in music.



Year 8

Year 8 have been exploring the theme of equality and diversity; through this theme we have looked at the lives of others and how their experience shapes their world. In this piece of art, we read the stories of refugee children and used their words to inspire our use of lines, colour and shape.



Year 9

Year 9 pupils were invited to perform with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra following a workshop at the school. Pupils were selected due to their enthusiasm and commitment to music. This was a fantastic experience that will help prepare the pupils for the next steps into GCSE music.

Year 10

The year 10 drama group visited Wales Millenium Centre to watch Miss Saigon. For some pupils it was their first experience of live theatre and they were impressed! Opportunities like this are supported by the Arts Council and are a staple of our provision in expressive arts.



Main focus item: Celebrations!

Life

Year 7 and 8
The summer term has brought us mostly rain, although we have enjoyed some welcome sunshine and warmer temperatures of late. There's been lots of outdoor learning with pupils enjoying athletics, cricket, tennis, rounders, and some football to celebrate the World Cup. Beyond this it's been a busy few weeks with lots going on with extra-curricular activities.

The year 7 and 8 girls have been fine tuning their skills during a rugby development pathway session led by Cardiff Rugby and Rhondda Schools winger 'Aled Summerhill' to develop the next generation of Welsh rugby talent. The girls really enjoyed their day with Miss Edwards who was impressed by the skill on show. Staying on the topic of rugby, our year 7 to 10 teams all enjoyed RSR touch rugby competitions. Nantgwyn were able to field two teams in every age group due to the high interest with both teams. Big thanks to all the parents who have supported the rugby teams throughout the year, it is massively appreciated!

Last week Nantgwyn entered the Mid Glamorgan cup and plate athletics competitions at Aberdare. This was a chance for our pupils to compete against nine other schools across the district in a league format. All athletes conducted themselves impeccably on the day. A huge shout out to Oliver F who won the 800m and Saffron on winning the javelin competition. Nantgwyn finished a respectable 4th in the boys U14s league and 5th in the U14s girls league tables with their combined scores across multi disciplines. Mr Maharg was super impressed by the team effort on show!

Year 9F Takes Action Against Deforestation!
We are thrilled to announce that Year 9F is spearheading an inspiring initiative focused on combating deforestation! This project not only highlights the importance of environmental education but also empowers our pupils to take meaningful action on a global issue. By engaging in social action, our learners are developing a sense of agency and responsibility, aligning perfectly with our faculty's vision of nurturing responsible citizens who understand their role in the world.

The pupils have planned a series of exciting activities, including storytelling, cake sales and a football match, to raise funds for charities dedicated to environmental conservation. These events will not only support vital causes but also foster community spirit and collaboration. As our pupils work together, they are honing essential skills such as teamwork, leadership, and creativity, all of which are crucial for their personal development. We encourage our school community members to join us in this endeavour, whether by participating in the events or supporting the fundraising efforts.





Main focus item: Celebrations!

SACYR visit

This half term, three year 10 pupils —Theo, Mackinlie and Harvey were welcomed to the Sacyr site. Sacyr first met the pupils during the Careers Wales mock Interview programme. This initiative assessed pupils across key professional competencies, including communication, presentation, confidence, and their ability to articulate their skills, ambitions, and career aspirations.

All three pupils demonstrated an exceptionally high standard, showing strong self-awareness, professionalism, and a clear interest in pursuing careers within the construction industry. As a result, a unique, one-off opportunity was created for them to gain further industry exposure through a site visit, supporting their practical experience and ongoing development.

Throughout the tour, the pupils showed strong curiosity and engagement, asking insightful questions about the construction processes, site operations, and the day-to-day role of workers on site. Of particular interest were the specialist rooms being constructed for future MRI equipment, where brickwork combined with lead lining will provide protection from radiation—demonstrating the complexity of healthcare construction.



Attendance reminders:

Attendance to school is essential. School attendance is important because it directly affects a pupil's academic attainment, social and emotional well-being, and future opportunities, including employment.

Consistent attendance helps pupils learn effectively, access necessary support, build relationships, and develop good habits for life, with research showing a strong link between missing school and lower educational outcomes.

Every pupil should be aiming for an attendance target of atleast 95% to reach their fill potential

Pupil absences should be reported via the MCAS app.



Uniform:

As a reminder our school uniform expectations, based on parents and pupil consultation are as follows:

Bottoms:
Choose from grey tailored shorts, culottes, trousers, skirt, pinafore or Nantgwyn tartan skirt or pinafore.

Leggings, jeans, and sportswear are not permitted.

Tops:
Choose from a white or royal blue polo t-shirt or a white shirt or blouse. Where a white cotton shirt is worn, it must be accompanied by a Nantgwyn tie.

Choose from a plain and unbranded royal blue or navy sweatshirt, a royal blue or navy cardigan, or a navy v-neck knitted jumper.

A navy blazer may be worn if a pupil so wishes.

Hoodies are not permitted. Branded sweatshirts are not permitted.

Footwear
Any fully black sensible footwear including plain black trainers with black soles. No additional colours are permitted on footwear.

Crocs, high heels, flip flops are examples of footwear that is not sensible for the school environment.

Should a Nant pupil arrive at school wearing an item of clothing that is not school uniform, we will be in contact with parents to bring their uniform to school.



School and community support:

Preloved uniform
We have a large selection of preloved uniform for all ages groups available. Items have been checked, washed and ready to be rehomed so please pop into main reception if you would like to take a look or pop us an email and we can check sizes for you beforehand. We do have a rough pricelist for items however there is no obligation to donate. Any funds raised are put back into the hardship fund to support our families.

Foodbank partnership
If a situation arises and you find yourself in need of foodbank support, please reach out and we can issue an emergency voucher in partnership with the local foodbanks. Contact main reception or email AdminYN_5@hwbcymru.net.

Dinner account balances
There is a machine in the pupil entrance foyer for pupils to check their lunch balances as often as they need to or you are welcome to contact the catering to check your child's balance as and when required Nant.Kitchen@ysgolnantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru.

Schools essential grant
The purpose of the grant is to provide assistance to families on lower incomes for the purchase of various school items. For more information, https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ChildrensServices/HelpandSupportforFamilies/Informationforfamilies/Financialsupportforfamilies/SchoolEssentialsGrant2526ForSeptember2025yeargroups.aspx



Parent voice:
You said:
The homework set is not always clear or is set forgotten about when set in advance for the half term.

We did:
We are currently reviewing our homework policy and the homework that we set in response to ensuring that homework is more meaningful to pupils. Information about our new homework system will be sent home in September, including the introduction of a weekly homework book in Gwyn building and changes to format of homework in Nant building with more frequent reminders to parents and of course pupils!

Parent feedback:

Your feedback as parents is always important to us.

Please help us to continue to improve as a school, by completing our end of year questionnaire.

Ysgol Nantgwyn parent feedback end of year – Fill in form



Parent forum update:

Our parents forum are a group of parents that meet informally once per half term to learn a little bit more about the school and also give a parent view on items that we are developing. Your voice as parents is really important to us and it is the hope that this will strengthen the communication that we already have.

Aims:

- To become aware of the perspectives of pupils, parents, staff and governors
- To learn more about what happens when pupils are in school
- Meet some of our pupils and staff and learn about what they think
- Share the views of our parents
- Share information about the community
- Explore views on specific concerns or issues
- Consult on potential developments in school

Please complete the following form if you are interested in joining:

https://forms.office.com/e/dLercFLfQ8



Parent forum update: Summer term meeting

Agenda

Terms of reference.

Homework
Update on ideas for new homework propsal from September. Independent learning changed to the title of homework to give more meaning to the activities as suggested by parents.

Introduction of weekly homework book in Gwyn building and changes to format of homework in Nant building with more frequent reminders to parents.

MCAS app
Initial communication is positive , app is easy to use., and parents look forward to new elements being introduced and available to them such as behaviour and paremts evening bookings.

Parent forum evaluation
Feedback from parents that sessions have been useful and informative however more members needed for more detailed conversations. Actions in Spetmeber for recruitment drive to try recruit parents from all year groups.

Parents item - give us more information about something:
No nomination
The group will think about this agenda item and bring ideas to the school.

Contact details

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