



IN THE LEAD

CYFARTHFA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

No. 1



FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Cyfarthfa High School is proud of the way it has faced the many challenges imposed by Covid-19 and we continue to adapt and change in line with new regulations and requirements. We will also keep you notified of any changes through our website and social media.

Despite the current circumstances, we are determined in our belief to enhance our school's reputation as one of the best learning facilities in Wales. This can – and will – be achieved with the commitment to learn and succeed by every student who walks through our doors.

Our wide and fascinating curriculum allows students the opportunity to enjoy a variety of subjects and experiences and it is our aim to ensure that every student at Cyfarthfa High becomes the very best of themselves within a challenging and supportive environment.

We will ensure that every child becomes successful, curious, happy and ambitious.

Merthyr Tydfil was a powerhouse of industry built on the shoulders of hard work, determination and ambition - qualities we encourage in every one of our students at Cyfarthfa High School.

Rod Francis
Headteacher

STUDENTS' WELLBEING IS A SCHOOL PRIORITY

At Cyfarthfa High School, we always place the wellbeing of students at the heart of our core business.

In the pursuit of happiness and to allow students to be the best they can be, we want to ensure we get the right wellbeing support for every single student.

We are now a wellbeing hub which will adopt the PERMA approach to supporting the wellbeing needs of all our students. By implementing the PERMA approach to support and enable our students to flourish, make more informed choices to live a fulfilling life which is aligned with their values and interests we are implementing a whole school approach to positive psychology. As a school we will be focusing on the explicit teaching of skills that assist students to build mutually respectful relationships, promote positive emotions and mindfulness and enhance personal resilience and grit.

We also aim to foster engagement, achievement and be grateful for the good things in life to equip students with the qualities and strengths to enable them to reach their full potential.

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Cyfarthfa Connect

Student Reception: We have a new student reception at the rear of the school. Students can visit the area to:

1. Sign in if late to school
2. Sign out of school if needed
3. Ordering lunch
4. Need a timetable printed
5. General queries.

Hot Choc: Well done to our fabulous “hot choc Friday” winners which celebrates



those pupils who go above and beyond for the wellbeing of others.

Digital Enterprise: Mr McCarthy is so proud of the hard work his students have put in on their "Citizen - Teamwork" iDEA badge. They are aiming to achieve the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award bronze certificate. Well done!

Battle of the Houses!: As well as belonging to a form class and year group, each student is assigned one of the four houses and earns points for their house through positive referrals on class charts, excellent attendance, competitions, participation in extra-curricular activities and charitable or community work. The houses are Owain Glyndwr (green), Prince Llewelyn (yellow) Caradog (red) and Hywel Dda (blue) Pupils are encouraged to strive to represent their house in the best possible way and gain points to see their house victorious. Let the games begin....

RED CARD FOR RACISM



Students at Cyfarthfa High School showed racism the red card recently.

As part of the national campaign, they learned about the causes and consequences of racism and explored the various forms it takes. The campaign empowered them to challenge racism in their own communities while helping them to prepare to play an active role as citizens in an increasingly multi-cultural society.

The lessons – which saw them design slogans for t-shirts, trainers and design posters as well as write a 500 story - helped them understand the importance of developing good relationships and respect the differences between people, regardless of ethnicity, faith, culture and nationality.

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PERMA APPROACH FOR CYFARTHFA STUDENTS

The PERMA approach represents five core elements which underpin our values:

Positive Emotion: is one of the cornerstones to well-being. Kindness, gratitude, hope, contentment are all positive emotions that contribute to the “pleasant life.”

Engagement: much like positive emotion, is a subjective element to well-being. Engagement is about being totally absorbed (in the flow) by a present task where time and self-consciousness seem to cease.

Relationships: Relationships are fundamental to wellbeing. Create and maintain harmonious, fulfilling relationships.

Meaning: in life comes from serving something that is bigger than self. To have a sense of well-being, finding a purpose in life is essential. Altruism and philanthropy are good methods to establishing a meaningful life.

Achievement: is a sense of accomplishment. Having goals and meeting those goals, improves your well-being and allows you to flourish.

Going Yellow For Mental Health



The school went a bright shade of #HelloYellow to support young people's mental health on World Mental Health Day. A huge thanks to our awesome staff who helped raise an incredible £110 that will go to Young Minds charity. A terrific achievement!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM LAUNCHED

Cyfarthfa High School is launching a new Student Leadership Team. It will consist of a Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. There will be 6 subcommittees containing students from all form groups for each subcommittee. Students will need to express an interest and receive nominations. There will also be a senior prefect team from Year 11 which will be given a unique prefect role description.

Student Leadership Team Subcommittees

Strategic Lead: Danielle Lewis

1. Wellbeing: Vicky Clements

2. Prefects: Nicola Morgan

3. Teaching and Learning: Claire Fry

4. Standards and Skills: Tracey Griffiths

5. Eco Group: Kerry Richards

6. Student Community Council (This will form the main body and lead of the whole Student Leadership Team, led by Jemma Richards)

Each subcommittee will be led by a teacher interested in an opportunity to be involved with the Student Leadership Team and the Deputy Head Boy and Girl who will then meet with the Head Boy and Girl to feedback to the Student Leadership Team.

Cyfarthfa Connect

Halloween Stories: This term pupils have been able to enter a House Competition for Years 7 and 8.

The "Write a Postcard Fiction" story of no more than 500 words beginning with "I remember it well, the Hallowe'en party in Cyfarthfa Castle..." is proving a success. The entries gain 10 points for their House with a 100 points for first prize winners which will be announced shortly!

Spooky Stories: Mrs Maggs was so excited to have Year 8s back in her English class. This term



they've worked really hard doing research on the supernatural.

Francophonie: The International Languages Department would like to say a big "Well Done" to all the Year 7 pupils who have been isolating and submitted their "Francophonie" homework early! An excellent standard is already being shown in our half term project researching French speaking countries!

In Print: There are authors in our midst! Mrs Thomas and our entire English Department are so proud of the fantastic stories produced and now published in the Hunted magazine. Congratulations!

Cyfarthfa Connect

Tough Mix: Well done to the students in Mr Davies' technology group who have



spent time understanding concrete mixing ratios,

GP Ambitions: Do you want to become a doctor? Pupils are invited to take part in an interactive online event led by GPs to help them get into Medical School. The event takes place online on November 18. Contact nicola.edmunds@rcgp.org.uk before November 2.

Sw Mae: Da iawn pawb!



Well done to all those who celebrated the ShwmaeSumae day in the school to promote the Welsh language. We had a great time of events, awards and competitions.

Parent Pay: Parents need to sign up to Parent Pay as a matter of urgency so the school can become a cashless environment. Please contact the school for further details.

Contact Us:

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FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER

Cyfarthfa High School is delighted to introduce their own Family Liaison officer who is a listening ear and point of information for any of our families who find their children have barriers that restrict their learning.

Samantha Edwards said:

“I know we are going through unpredictable times at the minute with Covid-19 so I just wanted to let you all know that we are here at the end of the phone to provide you and your child with the best possible support and guidance.

“I work within the Student Support Centre and I am always here for you and your child throughout their time with us.”

For further details contact 01685 725222 for a chat or to discuss your child's needs.

I REMEMBER THAT



Cyfarthfa High School celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2020. Way back in 1970 the school was established as a comprehensive following the amalgamation of Cyfarthfa Castle Grammar School and Georgetown Secondary Modern School.

Following decades of excellent learning on two sites, the school combined at Cae Mari Dwn in September 2014.

Over the years we've collected plenty of photographs and are always looking for more to share.

If you have any old school photos then send them to us and we can use them on our social media! Who do you recognise?