



IN THE LEAD

CYFARTHFA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

No. 2



FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Cyfarthfa High School has faced the challenges of the term with strength and commitment.

It has been an unprecedented period and I'm proud of the way in which the students and staff have overcome so much adversity.

Their combined skills and experience saw a support & teaching staff work tirelessly as one.

I particularly want to pay tribute to the support of the parents, which has been overwhelming.

They have been patient and helpful as many students were forced to self-isolate at home due to potential Covid infections.

What is remarkable is that despite all of the odds so much has been achieved in the past three months.

This newsletter offers an insight into just some aspects of school life we want to celebrate.

We thank you for your support and for believing and trusting in our abilities to provide the very best standard of education for your children.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a brighter and better New Year ahead for us all.

Rod Francis
Headteacher

CYFARTHFA ANTI-BULLYING PLEDGE

Cyfarthfa High School students showed their support for national Anti-Bullying Week by wearing odd socks!

"United Against Bullying" was the theme of this year's campaign and Odd Socks Day marked the opening event.

Around 75% of schools in the UK participated which saw the clear anti-bullying message reaching well over 7 million young people. Cyfarthfa students were reminded how bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it.

But by channelling their collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, students pledged to reduce bullying together.



Covid-19 Mass Testing

Cyfarthfa High School is privileged to be in the first local authority in Wales to run mass testing of children and staff for the Coronavirus in all secondary schools.

Within two weeks we tested over 1,200 students and staff.

We are determined to play our part in protecting our community.

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Cyfarthfa Connect

Halloween Competition

Congratulations to our winners of the Halloween Descriptive Writing Competition:

1. Brianna Barlow
2. Sophie Rees
3. Liam Taylor
4. Jack Billingsley

All entries were of the highest quality and have gained valuable House Points as well as Class Charts Awards!

Design for Life

We've seen some great example of effective modelling to generate



accurate design ideas in D&T. Some students showed GCSE-standard of work in Mr Davies's Y9 class. Awesome effort.

Early Help Hub

We would like to remind you of the fantastic services available, such as The Early Help Hub, to young people and families within the Merthyr Tydfil area. Please feel free to contact Samantha Edwards, Family Liaison Officer on 01685 725222 to find out about this service.

KENYAN KIDS UNIFORMED



Our Cyfarthfa Family just got a whole lot bigger!

Mr Alan Muluka from the Science Department returned to his old school in Kenya to give a motivational speech to pupils. He also took donated Cyfarthfa High School uniforms for pupils there – who were very appreciative! Welcome to the family!

ALUMNI CELEBRATES CYFARTHFA SUCCESS

We have been selected as one of the 10 schools across Wales to recruit and build a community of former students, parents or carers that would like to be involved.

As part of a Welsh Government and Valleys Taskforce initiative, Careers Wales is supporting Cyfarthfa High School to build and maintain a community of alumni.

It is hoped that these alumni will act as role models to current students and be involved in the following types of activities: telling their story to pupils, offering work experience or work shadowing experiences, supporting careers events in school or attending events such as presentation evenings and prize giving.

The initiative aims to provide added value to careers activities, believing that pupils may be more engaged with former students of their school with whom they may share similar experiences and have faced the same barriers.

If you or someone you know are a past pupil of Cyfarthfa High School and would like to support your former school, please contact Michelle Common, Michelle.common@careerswales.gov.wales or Heidi Purnell Heidi.purnell@careerswales.gov.wales.

SCHOOL'S MASS TESTING PLAN



Staff at Cyfarthfa High School have been supporting students with their Lateral Flow Covid-19 Screening this term.

The main sports hall was transformed into a mass testing centre for the two-week event.

Members of the local authority and the British Army visited the school and remarked how well behaved the students were during the process.

They also commented on the professionalism of the testing facility.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM...



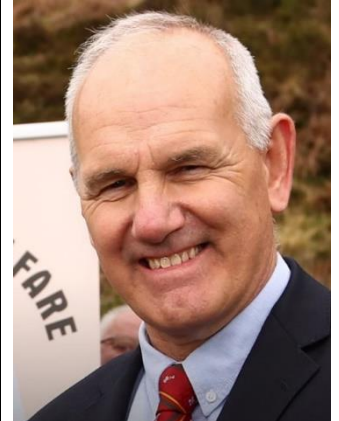
Students commemorated Remembrance Day this year by designing posters featuring the iconic symbol of the Poppy.

They also learned more about the ultimate sacrifices that were made so they could live freely today.

Well done to all classes who designed and produced some striking pieces of art.

Cyfarthfa Connect

In the Rugby Chair
Well done to Robert Butcher on being appointed Chairman of



the Welsh Rugby Union. A former Cyfarthfa High School teacher, he is continuing to lead and inspire those around him.

Website Refurbished
Have you seen our newly refurbished website? Plenty of new information has been added to help parents, students and staff alike. Visit our site today for further details about Cyfarthfa High School.

Back of the Net
Congratulations to Oliver Greenway who has received the



Footballer of the Year award from Caerphilly District Schools. His dedication and commitment is superb!

Cyfarthfa Connect

Reaching for the sky

Some exciting new drone programming technology



is being tested out in Mr Davies' Year 8 lesson. It was great to see students engaged in new and ambitious learning.

Farewell Mrs Walters!

We bid a fond farewell to Mrs Walters as she moves onto pastures new.



Mrs Walters has touched the lives of so many pupils and staff in the 12 years she has been at Cyfarthfa. She has been the real foundation on which student support was built.

Brilliant Club!

Congratulations to students who have recently completed the 'Brilliant Club' work in conjunction with the PHD Students at Bristol University.

New 2021 Term

School starts back on Tuesday January 5th 2021. Have a safe Christmas!

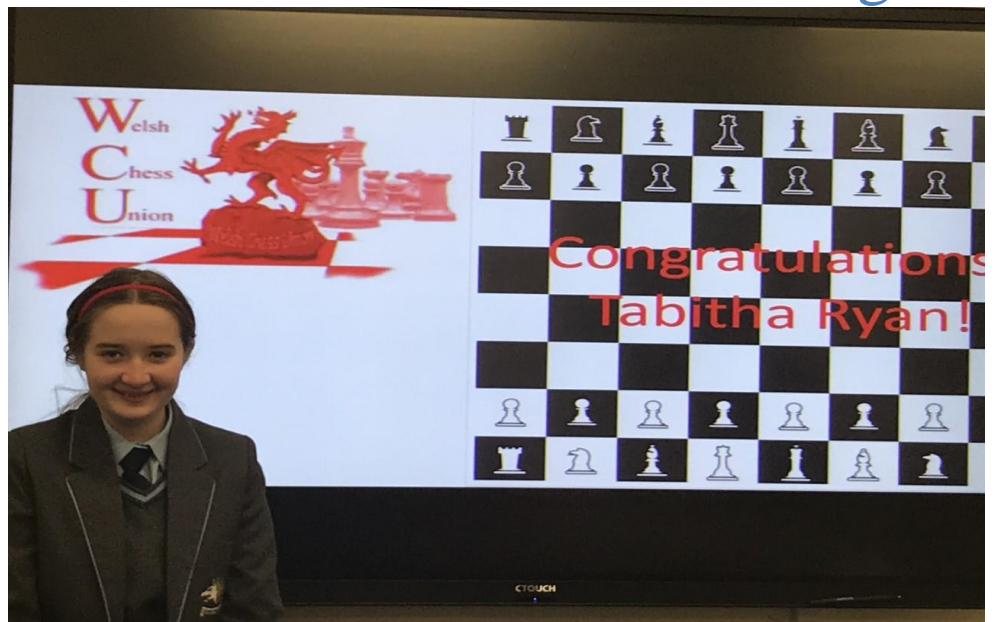
FLYING THE GREEN FLAG!



Congratulations to Cyfarthfa High School on being awarded their second green flag by Keep Wales Tidy's Eco Schools programme.

Together they re-organised the schools recycling system and held a litter picking event in conjunction with the National Keep Wales Tidy Campaign. They also helped develop Thomastown Park and promoted Fairtrade Fortnight. Students held a sustainability conference, inviting all feeder primary schools and visited the Senedd and debated the use of plastics in the debating chamber. Dawn Bowden MS visited the eco committee to talk to students about plastics. They also presented the school's Action Plan to Sue Walker, Chief Education Officer at Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council.

Tabitha's Check Mate Challenge



Well done to Tabitha Ryan for representing Wales in the Under 12 Celtic Nations Junior Chess Invitational.

Her team was placed third overall. Tabitha won 3, drew 2 and lost 1. Da iawn Tabitha!