



# IN THE LEAD

## CYFARTHFA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

No. 6



## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Welcome to the new and exciting term at Cyfarthfa High School.

Together we have successfully navigated our way through a set of exceptional circumstances in the school community.

As always students have continued to flourish.

This term the curriculum structure at Cyfarthfa High School moves from departments to faculties which allows for more collaboration across subject disciplines and supports work in preparation for the New Curriculum in Wales.

The new faculties are: Science & Technology, Maths, Numeracy & ICT, Languages Literacy & Communication, Expressive Arts, Humanities and Health & Wellbeing. This will be an innovative and challenging term as we adapt and change to what promises to be a very enjoyable and rewarding new teaching strategy at the school.

**Rod Francis**  
Headteacher

## GCSE RESULTS SUCCESS DESPITE ALL THE ODDS!

**Students at Cyfarthfa High School are celebrating improved GCSE results after overcoming the many unprecedented challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.**



Staff, parents and governors recognise the commitment and hard work of all students at the Merthyr Tydfil school who achieved glowing results despite the odds.

Headteacher Rod Francis said: "Students and staff worked extremely hard under very difficult conditions this year to produce the evidence that generated the results. "The staff, students and parents

must also be congratulated on their sustained hard work over the year and their full engagement despite the many disruptions of lockdowns, restrictions and of course home-schooling.

"We look forward to the new academic year with renewed strength and determination to build on our achievements and continue to excel in the future."



## Cyfarthfa Connect

### In Memoriam

Students, staff and governors were deeply sorry to hear of the passing of Andrew Cunningham. Mr Cunningham was not only a former pupil but a fantastic supply teacher and all round supporter of all things Cyfarthfa. He will be greatly missed.

### Stunning Work

We had many incredible pieces of homework in Geography before the end of the last term.



This one from Jenna Jones blew us all out of the water! Well done to every one of their innovative ideas and projects.

### Diary Dates

There are six Professional Learning Days for staff (formerly INSET Days). Therefore the school will be closed to all students on the remaining dates:

Friday 3 December  
Tuesday 4 January  
Friday 27 May  
Friday 24 June

Please make a note in your diary!

## HEAD STUDENTS ANNOUNCED



**Cyfarthfa High School is delighted to welcome its new Senior Student Team.**

The fab foursome of Head / Deputy Head Boy and Head / Deputy Head Girl was announced at the start of term.

We are delighted to announce that Tomas Butler is Head Boy and Emma Gough has been named Head Girl.

Natalia Nawara is the new Deputy Head Girl and Dylan Oakley is the new Deputy Head Boy.

We look forward to their contribution to the School Leadership Team.

## New School Uniform Changes

**Following our two-year transition period, our new school uniform is now compulsory across the whole school.**

Polo shirts, black jumpers or Cyfarthfa hoodies are no longer permissible and must no longer be worn on the school premises.

A one-year discretion period on the purchase of our blazer has been afforded to Year 11 only,

All other Year Groups will be required to wear:

- blazer
- a blue shirt / blouse
- tie
- black formal trousers / skirts
- black socks / tights
- leather / leather look formal shoes

Details of how to order from our supplier can be found on the school website.

# PRIORITISE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance is vital and compulsory and at Cyfarthfa High School our high expectations apply.

However, as a reminder for the new academic year, students should self isolate and not come to school if they have coronavirus symptoms or have a positive test result.

Nor should they attend if they live with someone who has symptoms or has a positive test result or are a close contact of someone who has had a positive test result.

We would like to encourage all parents / carer to use Class Charts to notify us of any absences wherever possible.

This will allow us to identify and monitor absences more efficiently. If you are unable to notify us of an absence via this method, then call the school directly on 01685 725222.

Remember that a key factor in raising levels of achievement in our school is establishing a regular pattern of attendance and punctuality. Students cannot achieve if they are absent from school.

Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.

Research has shown that achievement is directly linked to attendance. Students with a high level of attendance invariably perform better in class and in examinations.

Its important to remember that:

- Children with less than 85% attendance to school are unlikely to gain 5 A\* to C GCSEs or any qualifications.
- The number of GCSEs you pass at grade C will affect the amount of money you can earn as an adult.
- Only 44.6% per cent of students whose absence was 10% - missing four weeks in a year – gained five or more A\* - C grades at GCSE.

## TRANSFORMING OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT



Following consultation with our students graffiti artist Tee2Sugars has been working really hard to transforming the school.

The incredible murals reflect the hard hitting questions being posed by the students, while also having a positive message throughout

## Cyfarthfa Connect

### Fond Farewells

At the end of the summer term we bid a fond farewell to several teaching, support and administrative staff who have moved on to pastures new. We wish the very best to Arian Ball, Charlotte Blatchford, Robert Bradley, Caylee Davies, Rhian George, Beverly Jones, Sharon McKean, Camella Monk, Alan Muluka, Rochelle Parker, Rebecca Parry, Tom Phillips, Catherine Williams and Joe Willis.

### Congrats to Caitlin



A huge well done to Caitlin who has represented Wales this weekend in the GB and Irish mountain running championships and come away with a Bronze medal. An incredible achievement, one that shows your hard work and determination. We're very proud of you.

## Cyfarthfa Connect

### Welcome to Cyfarthfa!

This term we welcome the following members of staff to the school: Lucy Brown, Cheryl Winkle, Matthew Davies, Kathryn Evans, Nathan Phillips, Jack Smyth, Karyn Carstairs, Diane Colcombe, Margeurite Courtney-Solbachm, Taylor Meade, Stacey O'Reagan, Sarah Stebbing, Bethany Irvine, Simon Davies and Balvinder Kaur. We hope you all have a very happy future with us!

### Join our family

We are excited to work with parents/carers and members of the community to form our new Cyfarthfa High School Families and Communities Together (previously known as the PTA) group. Time commitments will be totally flexible and any time you can commit will be invaluable. Your voice and input will be essential in helping us move forward. This is a fantastic opportunity and we hope you will join our team and help us become the best school in Wales.

### Wellbeing Drop In

Our Wellbeing Hub is holding weekly drop-in sessions for students where they can share any concerns and worries with a cuppa and a chat. The sessions are every Thursday 3pm-4pm for Year 7,8 and 9 or Monday from 3pm-4pm for Years 10 & 11.

## TRANSITION DAYS WELCOMED

A series of successful transition days took place at Cyfarthfa High School throughout the last term to prepare Year 6 students for their future education.



They had plenty of lessons to attend, fun to be had and lots of information shared. It was also a great chance to make new friends!



Each of the primary schools have been involved in transition events to help with the seamless move to the high school this term.

We look forward to welcoming the new year into the Cyfarthfa family!

Hannah Thomas of ITV Wales (below) visited a transition day and allowed pupils to interview her about her career and views on Merthyr as part of a literacy and numeracy project called "Perceptions of Merthyr Tydfil."

