

IN THE LEAD

CYFARTHFA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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US Visit Supports Global Citizenship for Students

Students and staff of Cyfarthfa High School in Merthyr Tydfil have enjoyed a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to visit Cleveland, Ohio as guests of Campus International.

A group of 15 students left Merthyr Tydfil with fellow Welsh students from Dylan Thomas Community School in Swansea for the five-day visit to the USA.

Although the Welsh pride themselves in offering a “Welcome in the Hillside” there was no doubt that the warm greetings of the Cleveland people was unforgettable.

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FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

As we reflect on the academic year I feel confident that much has been achieved and I want to offer my personal thanks to staff, students, governors and the wider community for their support and unwavering commitment to the school.

As a community-based school we are surrounded by a strong mechanism of support from all parts of the locality. This is important for the long-term success of the school and our commitment to working closely with organisations and individuals in Merthyr Tydfil will put us in good stead for the future.

Cyfarthfa High School is stretching its hand of friendship far further than we could have possibly imagined. This year saw a group of students traveling stateside to forge strong bonds with their contemporaries in Ohio, USA. The opportunity to share experiences, knowledge and understand different cultures and beliefs was undoubtedly a highlight in the lives of the young people who undertook the trip.

Finally, I want to conclude my last Headteacher's Report by thanking Cyfarthfa High School for the opportunities it has given me to work with some outstanding individuals. I am very proud of my time as head and am particularly grateful to the school and the strong community that surrounds it.
Rod Francis
Headteacher

Transatlantic journey builds Ohio friendships



From Page 1

While many friendships were forged during the visit, it was also an ideal opportunity to learn more about how the 750-student American high school operated, from classroom learning to healthy eating practices. This included the school's working practices and ethos as a Self Organised Learning Environment (SOLE). Principal Julie Beers and her staff ensured a busy timeline for their guests by providing school-based lessons and a host of social activities.

The Welsh contingency visited the Science Museum, Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame, shopping mall and enjoyed the thrilling atmosphere of a basketball game in the packed local stadium. They also spent time with host families, experiencing different cultures and lifestyles from their own. Headteacher Rod Francis said: "The state-of-the-art design of the high school was incredibly impressive, which reflected the learning ethos of the campus itself. All four floors of learning, were occupied by polite, enthusiastic and inquisitive students.

"Thanks to our wonderful hosts, the students were given the opportunity to experience life in a totally different environment. The chance to interact with other students, experience their home life, social activities and cultures helped to broaden horizons and break down barriers.

"For our students the proving benefit of travelling to another country cannot be underestimated and the cultural and educational elements of the visit widened their knowledge of a world outside of their own homes. It was an exceptionally successful opportunity for everyone involved."

The visits were planned by International Schools who introduce schools from different parts of the world to forge links for the mutual benefit of students and staff alike.



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High Sheriff Awards Night Celebrate Merthyr's Youth



Young people from across Merthyr Tydfil have done themselves and the Borough proud once again at the High Sheriff Awards

Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum won two awards - one being the overall group prize for the Domestic Abuse animation and workshop
Barnardos won an awards for their careers book

Commonwealth Baton



It was a fantastic opportunity for students and staff to represent our school on the Queen's Baton Relay 2022.

Just two weeks before the start of the games, the baton Commonwealth arrived in Aberfan Community Centre travelling through the borough.

Cyfarthfa Connect



IOAN'S CHARITY TREK

Huge well done to Ioan in Year 8 who took part in the Merthyr walkathon yesterday. He did so raising money for the NHS. He walked an eye watering 14 miles.



BUDDING ENGINEERS THRIVE

Our future female engineers have been busy on the A465 Future Valleys Project learning about careers in construction industry.



SCHOOL VALUE SESSION

Students have been working on their class values. They decided the values they most wanted to demonstrate were: thinking positively; respect, fairness; honesty, trust; kindness and being supportive.



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ORDER OF ST JOHN

Congratulations to Rhys in Year 8 who has been awarded with his Super Badger Award as he is now enrolled officially as a Cadet with St Johns Ambulance. Dawn Bowden MS has also presented him with his Young Lifesaver Award. He is a very dedicated young man!



BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Students have carried out biodiversity activities with the Bees in School Lottery Fund Project, including linking up with Years 4 & 5 from Pantysgallog Primary School. Activities included pond dipping, eco-art and wildlife hunt.

Community Room Project

Cyfarthfa High School Leadership Team is planning to create a community room to allow a comfortable and additional space for students to relax.

It will also provide an ideal area to meet with parents / carers and become a suitable location for community meetings, sessions and classes.

This exciting facility will help to bring families and our community together in a safe and pleasant environment.

The School Leadership Team wish list to complete the room ranges from fidgets, books, puzzles, colouring/drawing items, board games, bean bags, comfy additional seating, paint to redecorate the room and create murals to brighten up the space, cushions & blinds.

In addition to supporting our fundraisers we are also looking for people in the local community who are skilled to help establishing the room?

- Do you have any contacts who could donate items, even good condition second items unused around the house can help & benefit the project.
 - Do you have any time and skills to help create, paint & build items in the room?
 - Do you have a van/vehicle large enough to help collect/deliver larger items?
- If you are able to support our students please get in touch on 01685 725222.

Bristol Art-Attack For Students



Students from Year 9 visited Bristol where they took part in a graffiti art workshop. They toured many areas of the city where street art is prominent and showed plenty of enthusiasm for the work and how it was created.



New Youth Mayor Appointed

Cyfarthfa High School student Samee Furreed has been appointed as the Youth Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil at a special Inauguration.



Samee, who is 16 years of age and is a student at Cyfarthfa High School became the 12th Youth Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil. Katy Richards, who attends Bishop Hedley High School and is age 15, became the Deputy Youth Mayor. In his acceptance speech the Youth Mayor outlined his three pledges for his term of office. His first pledge is to raise awareness and develop support for young people's mental health.

Samee's second pledge is that he will raise awareness and bring attention to the hate speech and bullying that is all too common in our everyday lives. Samee said that he feels that 'these things have no place in today's world and changes urgently need to be made'.

His third pledge is that in the coming year he wants to work on Climate Change in Merthyr Tydfil. He would like to improve education about climate change in schools under the new curriculum and look at ways of and means of improving our local environment.

Samee's slogan, which he used as part of his hustings campaign, is 'Not for me. For us,' and it is that way of thinking that will be embraced by the whole Youth Cabinet as they work on his pledges.

Samee said, "I take my first steps into my new role as the Youth Mayor, and I do so proudly. I would not be here today without the support of the wonderful young people of Merthyr Tydfil. I will work tirelessly for them and I will treat this office with the dignity and respect it deserves".

Read All About it on World Book Day



World Book Day was another successful annual event in Cyfarthfa High School. The event changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. We are a charity that operates in the UK

Cyfarthfa Connect

SUPPORTING UKRAINE

More than £1000 was donated to support those in Ukraine thanks to a fundraising day in the school. We're grateful to everyone for their efforts and kindness.



HAY ON WYE FESTIVAL

A beautiful day was spent at The Hay Festival where students interacted with three inspiring authors: listening to their presentations, asking questions and getting their books signed. Mrs Crane felt that one of the highlights was the group singing all the way home.



AWARD WINNERS

Well done to Molly, Harri, Kayla and Lola who achieved a place on the Panasonic Future Engineers Award! Their application and interviews were exceptional, so this is very well deserved.

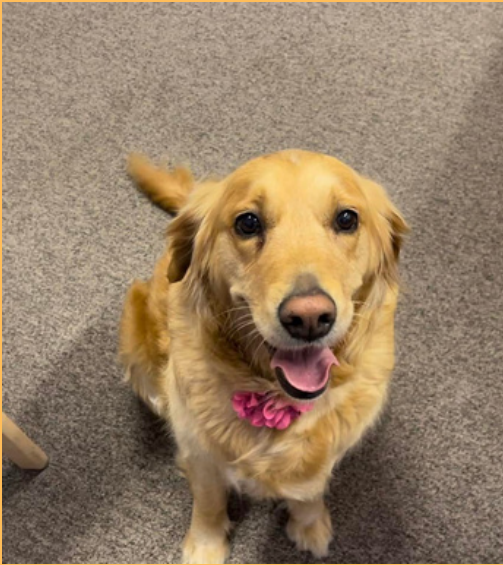


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CYFARTHFA FAMILY PET

Have we got a 'tail' for you!

Our student leadership team have worked hard to secure a dog for our school to develop well-being for students and staff. We're delighted to welcome the beautiful Nancy to our Cyfarthfa family! Nancy is receiving training at the moment and is already having a positive effect on those she works with.



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

We proudly introduce our new School Leadership Team for 2022 / 23! The Leadership Team plays a very active role in the development of the school's progress throughout the academic year and we look forward to their collective ideas, talents and commitment!

Duke of Edinburgh Award



Founded by in 1956, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is widely recognised as the world's leading youth achievement award. Now operating in more than 140 countries, the DofE has helped to transform the lives of millions of young people in the United Kingdom and across the globe.

At Cyfarthfa High School we continue to support the scheme, which has been difficult to maintain during the two long years of Covid.

Fortunately, as life gets back to some normality. we've been able to inspire our students to participate once again and many sessions have taken place this term,

The DofE was designed to challenge young people between the ages of 14-24 to attain standards of achievement and endeavours in a wide variety of active interests – to serve their communities, experience adventure and to develop and learn outside the classroom.

Participation in the Award has grown every year since inception. By 2017, over six million people had taken part in DofE programmes in the UK, with over eight million worldwide.

Local Fundraising Campaign



Cyfarthfa High School is proud of the role it plays in the community. The Student Leadership Team presented the MTBC Housing Services Manager with a cheque from students fundraising efforts. It was great to support Cwm Taf Morgannwg Mind.



Future Oxford Blues Inspired By Uni Visit



Our year 8 and 9 pupils had a great day exploring Oxford University and presenting the research they undertook at school in Jesus College.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students to walk the hallowed halls of this world-famous centre of learning.

Thank you Matthew Williams for giving our pupils this amazing opportunity.

Peace Schools Unite in Friendship



We were delighted to welcome our peace schools partners from Turkey.

They enjoyed some musical items from Amy and Andrew as well as hearing about our students experiences and views on what it means to them to be a peace school.

Cyfarthfa Connect



REMEMBERING JONATHAN

We were deeply saddened to hear this morning of the sad passing of former Cyfarthfa student and founding member of Disability Sport Merthyr, Jonathan Williams.

Jon was loved and respected in the organisation for many years, He was there at the very start and was pivotal to it all. His passion and drive to make things better, to support other people and to make sure disabled people got the same opportunities, was what led to the creation of the group.

Jon started as a young ambassador, talking to young people and professionals alike about his experiences. He then went on to be part of the Disability Sport Wales National Youth Board and was also shortlisted for a Sport Wales award. Jon volunteered in schools and community groups and attended numerous local forums.

Everything Jon did was with his usual enthusiasm and sense of humour and he was a pleasure to be around. He leaves a massive legacy.



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ATHLETIC HEROES

Congratulations to Year 7 who performed amazingly at athletics this term. Particular shout out to Will Mackie who won the Boys 800m race. It was an outstanding performances from everyone!



WELL DONE TABITHA!

Well done to Tabitha in 9L who played chess for Wales under-14s in matches against the English regions, She scored three wins from four games.



Ready, Steady, Go!

Our Year 7 and 8 daredevils were flying high at BikePark Wales A fantastic session was had by everyone

Students enjoyed the adrenaline-rush of the course!

CYFARTHFA SPORTS DAY BRINGS SUCCESSFUL TERM TO CLOSE



What a fantastic day!

What a great Cyfarthfa High School Sports Day we had this summer. The entire event was filled with different categories and plenty of talented sports people, eager to gain the winning prize. Well done to all who were involved!



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