

# IN THE LEAD

## CYFARTHFA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### Cyfarthfa celebrated for supporting armed services children at school

Cyfarthfa High School is being congratulated for the support it offers students whose parents are either serving or have served with the British armed forces.

This week the SSCE Cymru Armed Forces Friendly Schools initiative presented staff with Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards – the first school in Merthyr Tydfil Borough to attain this level of recognition.

The certificate of achievement was received due to the level of support and the range of activities offered to eligible students.

Headteacher Lyndon Brennan said: "We are delighted to be celebrated in this way for the tireless work undertaken by our staff to support service children."

*Turn to Page 2*

### NEWS & FEATURES

Cyfarthfa Students Head to Slovenia

**PAGE 4**

Remembering Her Majesty's Legacy

**PAGE 3**

Supporting Students' Needs

**PAGE 6**

Oxford and Cambridge Visits for Students

**PAGE 5**

Sporting Champions Celebrate Success

**PAGES 7 & 8**



# FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



They say that time flies when you're enjoying yourself which is why this term has passed us by so very quickly. I've had an amazing first term as headteacher, getting to meet

parents, governors, children and of course the staff themselves of this great school.

It's been a term of many achievements and events that have left a strong impression on me.

I genuinely believe our school uniform is one of the smartest I have ever seen and the introduction of the Uniform Swap Shop will allow students who don't have a full uniform gain access to one. This ensures the whole school community looks as smart as each other.

Congratulations to the Peace Project students and staff who are creating a valuable template for other schools around the world to follow.

I was privileged to listen to a group of exceptional Year 9 students in Cambridge deliver their "Big Questions" presentation which was well received and included topics such as: renewables, dreams, universal language, what makes a successful life and emotional intelligence. They were excellent and I was very proud of their endeavours.

I am always impressed by the amount of students who achieve so much outside of the school environment, particularly in fields of music and sport. These success are all listed in this newsletter.

On behalf of Cyfarthfa High School may I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy and Prosperous New Year!

*From Page 1*

"Read brarIt is our intention to continually provide a positive environment for service children and would encourage other schools to also become more engaged with their Armed Forces community."

We look forward to developing this programme in the year ahead by providing a wider range of activities and specific provisions tailored to the needs of this particular group of students in the 'Cyfarthfa family'."

Around 30 students are currently involved In the scheme which is hosted by trained staff members who understand the unique pressures and difficulties encountered by families where a parent is armed forces personnel.

With group meetings, activities and fun days, students are able to share experiences and worries with each other, make new friends in the school which they may have moved to mid-term, allowed special leave of absence if their parent is home from the armed forces and even enjoy the experience of looking after a pet – in the shape of Cyfarthfa High School's dog, Nancy.

Since SSCE Cymru launched the programme in 2014 it has raised awareness and understanding of the experiences of children of Armed Forces personnel.

It has also developed guidance and digital resources for schools and families, hosted conferences and stakeholder days, and commissioned research to better understand the needs of Service children in education.



## Festive Christmas Fayre!

What a fantastically festive afternoon at our Christmas Fayre. A massive thank you to everyone who took the time to come along and visit.

Also thank you to Cyfarthfa High School Friends and Communities Together group.

Loads of lovely bargains and festive fun galore!



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# Rugby Works Victory

Congratulations to all those who participated in Lawrence Dallaglio Rugby Works, an

intensive, long-term skills development programme based on rugby, through which the aim is to get students into sustained education, employment or training courses. Six female students received their certificates while Livvie Cleaver was named as the champion player at the competition.

Headteacher Lyndon Brennan made presentations to all those students who took part in this rewarding scheme.

## Remembering Her Majesty

Royal family super fan Ffion Westwater has been awarded a commemorative medal from the Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil.

Cllr Declan Salmonn congratulated the Cyfarthfa High School student for designing an imaginative Book of Condolence in honour of the late Queen Elizabeth II. Fifteen-year-old Ffion created her own book depicting images of the late monarch which was filled with messages



of condolence by the teenager's extended family in Merthyr Tydfil.

"I'm a big fan of the royal family and thought it was really sad when I learned that the Queen had died," she said.

"So I collected lots of photographs of her and the royal family and put my own book together to remember her.

"This is now kept in the council offices and maybe on his next visit King Charles will get to see my work for himself!"

Twice a week Ffion attends Bridging the Gap Youth, a community enterprise that provides after school clubs for young people aged 3-19 and is fully inclusive of young people with specific needs.

When she took her book to the club one of the leaders got in touch with Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council and the Mayor was impressed by her kind-hearted approach to the period of national mourning.

He presented Ffion with a medallion as a token of gratitude for her hard work in completing the project and involving her friends and relatives along the way.



Students from Cyfarthfa High School also took part in a Remembrance Service to Her Majesty the Queen in Merthyr Tydfil.

The event welcomed VIP guests, schools, businesses and members of the public to pay their respects to our longest serving monarch.

## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Children in Need

We want to say a massive thank you to all the parents, students and staff who helped support BBC Children in Need. It is because of all your support we raised a whopping £1088.



### High Sheriff's Praise

A group of Year 9 students made Cyfarthfa proud, discussing their volunteering role in the 'Bees in Schools' project with the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan.



### Festive decoration creation

Christmas decoration making is well under way this term. Some wonderful creations made from clay which sold well at the school fayre.



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## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Sound Effect Workshop

Into Film Cymru Sound Effects workshop took place with Year 7 students.

They had a great time creating sound effects for television animation.



### Siartr Iaith Agreed

At Cyfarthfa, we have been working hard as a whole to achieve the targets set for the Bronze Siarter Iaith Award. We are proud to announce that Bethan Davies, our Welsh Development Advisor, conducted an assessment of our progress and has presented us with the Award.

Therefore, we have now started on our Silver Award journey! Well done to everyone involved for such an achievement!

# Peace Students Build Bonds of Friendship!



Building bonds of peace is a priority for Cyfarthfa High School as it stretches its hands of friendship around the globe.

Students and teachers from Cyfarthfa High School visited Maribor, Slovenia as part of a pan-European Erasmus+ project cultivating development of national Peace Schools programmes between partners in Wales, Romania, Turkey and Slovenia.

Our peace ambassadors had the experience of a lifetime, getting to know students from the other countries, sharing their learning and project ideas towards establishing an "International Toolkit" of collaboration and practice for peace schools worldwide.

As well as visiting and working in a school in Maribor, our pupils had the opportunity to visit the Museum of National Liberation in Maribor, to take part in a workshop on creative thinking and problem solving and they enjoyed a cultural tour of the city.

The project continues to foster international friendships and understanding and it has given the pupils an opportunity to appreciate and experience other cultures first hand. More of our pupils will continue to work to develop the project in Wales and they will also experience a cultural exchange when they visit Romania in March 2023 to develop the project further.



## Supporting cancer charity with a coffee

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning.

Also well done to our senior prefect team who did a fantastic job running the event!

We are delighted to have supported this wonderful charity.





# Cyfarthfa Students Visit Top Universities



Students from Year 10 & 11 had memorable visits to Cambridge University and Jesus College, Oxford. The colleges provided them with important information on A level choices, and courses of study available and for also giving them a taster of life as a university student.

## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Microscopic Project

Mrs Webb's Year 9 class excelled themselves by preparing microscope slides and using a microscope to view onion cells.



### "Tell Me It's Not True..."

A group of Year 11 students had the wonderful experience of visiting the Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay. They saw a production of Blood Brothers - there was laughter and tears all round!



### Getting Physical

The happy hormones were in force with Year 7 in their Health and Well-being session. Students enjoyed learning about the science of how the body moves



## World Kindness Day

Students from 9U decided they wanted to do something for the elderly for World Kindness Day.

They hosted a tea party with music for some residents from Daffodils Care Home and thoroughly enjoyed speaking to them.

Well done to our students for being so thoughtful



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## Cyfarthfa Connect



**Christmas Card Contest**  
Mr Gwyn was delighted by the 150 entries to the Cyfarthfa Cluster Christmas Card Competition! There was so much talent and artistic skill involved! Well done to winner Grace from Heolgerrig Community School.



**Take an 'eiffel of this!**  
Students had a great learning experience in their International Languages class. This term they got to know more about France! Formidable!



**Tree Planting Project**  
A great day for Forest School and Eco Committee students planting trees thanks to the Woodland Trust for their support.

# Reading for Gold boosts literacy for students



Year 7 have made the most of the 'Read for Good Readathon'. Our Breakfast Book Club was busier than ever this term! The English Department has thoroughly enjoyed seeing pupils engaged and reading for pleasure again, while also raising money for a very worthwhile cause.

And remember - "A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one." - George R. R. Martin  
We also wanted to celebrate our superstar reader Chloe (pictured right) has read a staggering 33 books since September!



## Panasonic Engineering Achievement

A group of aspiring engineers from Year 9 had an amazing visit to Panasonic UK. They have been designing phone holders and stands as part of the Welsh Valleys Engineering Project. The tough books division were able to 3D print a few of the best designs.



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# Rugby Squads Try, Try Again!



Our Year 7 and 8 teams have played a variety of games against the other schools in Merthyr and the Cynon Valley.

Year 7 started the year winning a festival at Afon Taf, defeating, Afon Taf, Pen Y Dre, Mountain Ash and Ysgol Cwm Rhondda. They have also had impressive

performances against Aberdare School and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. Year 8 pupils have also been involved in friendly matches as well as Welsh cup matches.

We are proud that Cyfarthfa has so many students representing Merthyr District schools and it's been a pleasure to see them all play with the side getting through to the national Plate competition.



## Back of the net!

Our teams continue to grow in popularity and again have seen a range of successes.

Year 7 and 9 teams made it through the early stages of t

Welsh Cup with victories over Idris Davies High, Afon Taf and Y Pant. Year 8 have played friendly fixtures against St Johns, Aberdare and Afon Taf. The Senior football team have played 3 and won 3 in the pool stages of the Welsh Competition and now find themselves in the quarter finals of the Welsh Plate. In the pool stages they were victorious over Radyr, Calon Cymru HS and Cardiff West.

## HOCKEY TEAMS REACH FOR THE STARS

Our U16 team played in the Welsh Schools Hockey tournament at the Sue Noake Leisure ground in Ystrad Mynach and finished 3rd place.

Nia Bow was nominated 'player of the tournament'.

Two of our young pupils in Year 9 - Kazie Drew and Leila Williams - took part in a Hockey Ambassador programme with Hoci Cymru and are also completing their bronze coaching award.

Year 8 & 9 teams played against Mountain Ash school this week and both teams achieved a good win of 9-2 and 10-3.

Our U14s team have shown excellent commitment to their training sessions after school on Tuesdays' to help prepare them for the Welsh Hockey schools tournament Thursday 15th December. We will be hosting these matches on our astro-turf and playing four other schools from our county.

## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Ryan is US Bound!

We are so proud of our Year 11 student Ryan, who travelled to the USA, after being selected for Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales U15s Squad.



### Amelia's Vault of Pride

Well done to Amelia in Year 7 who has taken part in a gymnastics competition in hereford. 500 children took part and Amelia won silver in the individual vault.



### Karate Duo Compete

Nathan Preece (pictured) & Alex Lawrence competed in the Junior Karate World Championships in Turkey.

Nathan competed at Under 21, Alex competed at Cadet



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## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Ethan karts to glory

Well done to Year 7 student Ethan who finished 3rd overall in the Ultimate Karting Championship and 12th overall in the British Kart Championship. We're incredibly proud of your success



### Kickboxers are A grade"

Alexia & Bethan passed another kickboxing grading. They also gained another new belt, both passing with A's.



### Running duo's marathon task

Congratulations to Evan and Joshua who completed the junior Cardiff Half Marathon. A fantastic achievement"!



## Netball champions take winning glory with pride

The U16 took part in the Merthyr plate competition at Pen Y Dre High School and come 1st place.

We won all our games and only conceded 3 goals against all other schools in the borough. Sophia Wade, Olivia Flynn and Grace Flynn were chosen to represent Merthyr district.

They also went on to trial for the County at the House of Sport Cardiff. Our Year 7 team played their first match against Afon Taf and come away with a win of 10-6.

Our Year 8 A&B teams travelled to Rhydywaun and come away with one win one loss to a very experienced and competitive group of young players. Well done to Reese Gray and Emily Williams who were chosen by the opposition players to receive the 'player of the match' award.



## Bowled over by top team's successful season!

Four of our students have been selected in the u18's Welsh Indoor Bowls Squad!

Jack in Year 11, Talan, Oliver and Elijah in Year 8.

Talan and Oliver have only been playing for seven months and were invited to trial with everyone despite that, they've been selected as travelling reserves.

They'll all be heading off to Birmingham in January for the British Isles Indoor Bowls Championship. n outstanding achievement

