

# IN THE LEAD

## CYFARTHFA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### School Filled With Music & Song

Cyfarthfa High School students raised the roof with their outstanding production of **Matilda The Musical**.

Mrs Jo James produced and directed one of the school's best shows in living memory with an outstanding cast of performers.

With hit songs like "Naughty", "When I Grow Up" and "School Song", the Cyfarthfa auditorium was rocking throughout the entire run,

With music and lyrics by Tim Minchin and a book by Dennis Kelly, Matilda is based on the 1988 novel by Roald Dahl. The musical centres on Matilda Wormwood, a precocious 5-year-old girl with the gift of telekinesis, who loves reading, overcomes obstacles caused by her family and school, and helps her teacher to reclaim her life.

*Turn to Page 2*

### NEWS & FEATURES

CERN Collider Visit Reveals "Big Bang" Theory

**PAGE 3**

Disneyland Paris Rides Thrill and Excite

**PAGE 4**

Exploring the Corridors of Power at Westminster

**PAGE 5**

Scaling the Swiss Slopes on Ski Adventure

**PAGE 6**

Exploring the SS Great Britain

**PAGE 7**

Meeting the stars at Silverstone

**PAGE 9**



# FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



Time moves rapidly when life is busy and sometimes you have to take stock of all that happens around you. Just look at the first six months of 2023 and the global events that we have witnessed.

On the one hand, the sorrow of a war-torn Ukraine, on the other, the crowning of a new King after seventy years of loyal service by Queen Elizabeth II. History is made every day, whether locally or globally - and here at Cyfarthfa we celebrate the many milestones that we witness on a regular basis.

As I approach the end of my first full year as Headteacher of Cyfarthfa High School may I take this opportunity to thank the staff, governors, teachers and students alike for an unforgettable chapter in my career.

Looking back on the last term alone, I remain continually impressed with the range of activities where our students don't just participate but also excel. There has been a phenomenal amount of sporting success, particularly where students are involved in extra-curricular activities.

Looking towards the future and we will welcome 200 new students to the school in September. We have successfully held a series of Transition Programme Days for primary school students to visit Cyfarthfa High School and learn about how we operate before they in turn become students themselves.

This has been an amazing year and I look forward to the future.

Have a wonderful summer break!



## When I Grow Up!

For months the cast and crew worked extremely hard to produce a first-class show at Cyfarthfa.

And the audiences who flocked to the school night after night were not disappointed.

## The Cast List:

**Matilda - Louise Evans**  
**Agatha Trunchbull - Cameron Lewis**  
**Jenny Honey - Sophia Winslade**  
**Mr Wormwood - Ben Rees**  
**Mrs Wormwood - Amber McGovern**  
**Mrs Phelps - Amberley Thomas**  
**Escapologist - Alexander Carr**  
**Acrobat - Rebecca Daniel**  
**Bruce Bogtrotter - Harry Board**  
**Lavender - Brooke Thomas**  
**Nigel - Charlie Cross**  
**Amanda - Lily-beth McGovern**  
**Tommy - George Davies**  
**Eric - Braynan Pawelk**  
**Alice - Addison Coleman**  
**Hortensia - Shannon Jones**  
**Michael - Charlie Gowan**  
**Cookie kid - Ethan Jones**  
**Rodolfo - Reuben Entwistle**  
**Sergei - Evann Davies**



## Chorus Members:

Ash Button, Ava Leigh Owens, Amy Finney, Olivia Atherton, Grace Thomas, Lily Hudson, Carys Davies, Cerys Norman, May Jones, Isobelle Sweet Jones, Alfie Wilce, Seren Mahoney





# Students Enthralled by "Big Bang" Collider Experience

Students from Year 11 experienced the wonders of particle physics right at the heart of the largest physics facility in the world -CERN. They witnessed the incredible work that scientists and engineers do in this area of physics. From the Large Hadron Collider and the CMS detector where the famous Higgs Boson particle was discovered, to the Antimatter Factory which inspired the Dan Brown book, *Angels and Demons*.



it was a true super curricular experience and one they will never forget. But, it wasn't all physics! On one of the days, students ventured to the skiing village of Chamonix where they had a ride in a cable car to the highest restaurant in the world.

At the top, they could even stand in the glass box known as 'the void' that overlooked the edge of the mountain and see the 3000 foot drop below! The group also took a mountain railway to the amazing ice caves. Carved into a huge glacier that is currently forging a path through the mountains, the ice caves are a real spectacle. There was also plenty of opportunities to explore the delights of Geneva including its beautiful lake and historic sites!



## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Peace Ambassadors Excel

Our bonds of friendship continue to strengthen between Cyfarthfa and schools in Romania, Turkey and Slovenia.



### With my little pick and shovel!

A group of Year 8 students learned more about Wales's rich industrial history with a visit to Big Pit.



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### Kind-Hearted Oliver Celebrated

Year 7 student Oliver is a wonderful example of a kind and considerate Cyfarthfa student.

Oliver recently spent time fundraising for Merthyr community members after a devastating explosion in their home. Mrs McCarthy is incredibly proud of the kindness that Oliver showed.



### Senior Team 2023-24 Announced

We would like to introduce our new senior team for September 2023. Congratulations to Head Girl Jenna and Head Boy Carwyn. Deputy Head Girl Alyce and Deputy Head Boy Cameron and our Senior Prefects Nell, Lucy and Jayden.

Students enjoyed a short visit to Paris during the Easter holidays. The group explored the French capital, including the Eiffel Tower and enjoyed the sites and sounds of the Champs-Élysées. Then they were treated to two days at Disneyland Paris. They had plenty of fun on the rides and activities in the park.



## Llangrannog Adventures for Students



A school trip to Llangrannog is a right of passage for young people in Wales. The opportunity to spend a weekend at the Gwersyll yr Urdd above the little fishing village is not-to-be-missed. There's plenty of activities to enjoy - as our students discovered!

## A Gorge-ous Adventure!

What an adventure for our Year 10 students when they enjoyed a day of gorge-walking! They worked very hard for the Learning in the Outdoors qualifications.





## Cyfarthfa Students Explore the Houses of Parliament

On a snow day when the school was closed, headteacher Mr Brennan accompanied the Zachary (head boy) and Marley (head girl) on a trip to Westminster at the invitation of Gerald Jones MP.

They received a private guided tour of both the House of Lords and the Commons which was fascinating.

They were also able to view the Prime Ministers Question Time where Mr Jones actually asked a question of the PM.

## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Student Volunteers Celebrated

We are so proud of two of our amazing volunteers who were recognised at the Cyfarthfa High School Awards.

Charlotte Williams received the Gerald Jones MP Community Cup and Andrew Millar received the John Wallbank Mendicants Charity Shield.



### Duke of Edinburgh Awards

What a fantastic effort from everyone who took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Training Day.

Students assisted by staff tackled Table Mountain, Crickhowell.

Table Mountain is the site of an ancient Iron Age hill fort and well worth visiting for the glorious views!



## Taking Care of a Community

School caretaker Kerry Bunce has received a top award for his dedication to supporting the armed forces.

He received The High Sheriff Award for his services to the armed forces, the Royal British Legion, and the Royal Welsh Association.

The High Sheriff thanked him for his “unfailing contribution” and for “the support and valuable services to make the lives of people in our community safer, healthier, and more secure”.

See more



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## Cyfarthfa Connect



**Developing Skills at Forest School**  
Students split wood to boil water for hot chocolate and made popcorn in a recent Forest School class.

Teacher Mr Smith was very impressed with their skills and congratulated them on their achievements.

Forest School is an inspirational process, offering children and young people opportunities to achieve, developing confidence and self-esteem, through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland environment.



### Shaping Future Learning

Cyfarthfa High School's Student Council has had the privilege of working with Qualifications Wales. The opportunity allowed them to discuss and shape the next generation of 14-16 qualifications. Thank you for listening to our learners!

# Ski School Adventures on the Swiss Slopes!



When it comes to enjoying a ski holiday, Cyfarthfa students show no fear on the slopes! Regardless of abilities and previous experience, the group had an amazing time on

their visit to Switzerland where they launched themselves off the piste of a Chamonix ski resort. Staff were astonished by how much progress students made after a few days.

They also got to enjoy the breathtaking sights of ice caves, a mountain railways and meals in the prestigious resort town.

Although every day ended with a lot of tired legs from the slopes! Unfortunately, the week-long visit was soon over, but memories of the trip will be long lasting. The development of students' skills was fantastic, while the patience and support from the instructors was superb.



# Iconic Brunel Ship Visited



A group of Year 7 students went to Bristol to view Brunel's SS Great Britain. She was the largest passenger ship in the world from 1845 to 1854, built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806–1859), for the Great Western Steamship Company's transatlantic service between Bristol and New York City. She was the first iron steamer to cross the Atlantic Ocean, which she did in 14 days.



## Big Book Swap Was Highlight of Event



Students and staff made this year's World Book Day one to remember with their array of costumes and activities! One of the highlights this year was the Big Book Swap which proved to be a huge success at the school. A special thanks to Year 9 students who ran the shop!

## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Engineering Award Winners

Congratulations to Marley, Danny and Josiah who have been awarded a Panasonic Future Engineers Award bursary.

They plan to continue their studies at Merthyr Tydfil College in September



### World Book Day Winners

Massive congratulations to the winners of the World Book Day Quiz! Kerry and Sophia from Year 7 won the top prizes.

Congratulations to you both on your success!

This was another highlight of the annual literary event.



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## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Will's Athletics Success

Will from Year 8 competed in the last of the five Gwent League Cross Country events and he won the Bronze medal for the league overall.

Well done Will! Such a talent and achievements in your first year of competitive athletics



### Valley Athletic Tournament

Year 8 and 9 students competed in the Glamorgan Valleys Athletics Championships,

## Rugby Team Reach Glittering Finals after Successful League



Well done to our Year 7 rugby team attending the Mountain Ash 7s festival.

After a number of tough games, making it through the group stages and semi finals undefeated, they made the final against a very tough Ysgol Garth Olwg side.

In a great game the boys finished runners up. We are all proud of their achievements



## Dance Fever Delights

Step aside Fred Astaire or Shirley Ballas - we have a new dance team in Cyfarthfa!

Samara-Grace Williams Hamer and Julia Stachowska danced in the British National Dance Championships in Blackpool.

We look forward to following their successful journey in the future.



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# Ethan Speed To Victory in Championship Race



Congratulations to Ethan in Year 7 has won the Southern Karting Championship and is the first ever Inter Rotax Southern Champion. This success was on the back of a clean sweep at Forest Edge Kart Club, winning all three heats and winning the final with a gap of 2.3 seconds!

## Students Racing Ahead at Silverstone



Team Astro have been to Silverstone representing Caedraw Primary and Cyfarthfa High School.

Students had a tour of the Alfa Romeo garage, chatted tactics with the head strategist and aerodynamics engineer.

They met both Valtteri Bottas and Zhou Guanya in the Alfa Romeo suit and spotted Yuki Tsunoda in the paddocks.

## Cyfarthfa Connect



### Champion Performer!

Massive well done to Celyn in Year 7 who took part in a gymnastic competition and came in the following positions: 1st on beam; 2nd vault; 5th bar; 4th floor; First overall



### Well Done Katie!

Katie James won the Under15 shot putt at the Inter Squadron Athletics at Leckwith Stadium in Cardiff.



### Football Referee Hopes

Tabitha Ryan is our newly qualified FAW Level 1 Referee.



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