



Ysgol Hendrefelin

Autumn Newsletter

2022

Dear All,

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school. Despite the pandemic we have managed to have an enjoyable and busy last term with many enjoyable learning activities taking place across all our units.

Please take some time to read the small reports below from each of our Units highlighting aspects of the curriculum, trips, activities, fundraising and links to community activities that have taken place across our school site this summer.

[Key Stage 2 Learning Support Centre, Bryncoch](#)

Curriculum Developments



The LSC have continued to follow the thematic approach to learning during the Summer Term. The first half of the term focused on 'Healthy Lifestyles', and the second half term the focus was 'the Gower'.

The new 'Cruyff Court' was utilised to support the work being carried out around "healthy lifestyles" with daily sporting and fitness activities to promote improved fitness levels. The pupils were included in the planning of these sessions, with whole class discussions as to reasons for wanting to improve fitness levels. Staff taught lessons encouraging the development of higher order thinking skills to training in discussions, allowing pupils to achieve deeper learning.

Working collaboratively, the pupils decided that they'd like to learn more about track and field athletics as none of the pupils had experienced being part of an athletics club out of school. The pupils experienced sprinting and endurance events using the track on the outside of the 'Cruyff Court', events included, 100 metres, 200 metres and 800 metres. Pupils recorded each other's times and attempted to beat their personal best daily. Pupils also took part in throwing and jumping activities, e.g., javelin, shot put, discuss, long jump and triple jump; results were recorded and collated into a table so pupils could monitor progress over time. The pupils contributed to a class display of their achievements.

The pupils have also had opportunities to understand, write and give presentations on a variety of topics related to health. Cross curricular activities have included writing reports on healthy eating, creating healthy eating pamphlets and listing the diets of famous athletes. Pupils have had opportunities to study various food groups and create a healthy meal.

Within the 'Gower' topic, the pupils were encouraged to draw on their previous experiences of the Gower. As a group, pupils created a list of things they'd like to find out about the Gower. The pupils decided they'd like to investigate Gower coastal paths, jobs, sporting activities, places to eat, famous people, popular resorts and also they decided they'd like to visit the Gower on a school trip.

Activities/ Trips

The school purchased several new mountain bikes for the pupils at the LSC, therefore some of our pupils have experienced bike riding around the Afan Loop at the Afan Forest Park on a number of occasions throughout the Summer Term. Pupils were involved in planning these trips

by thinking and organising what equipment, and planning is needed to make the ride a safe experience.

The pupils experienced a school trip to Oxwich Bay in the Gower on Friday 1st of July, taking part in a beach treasure hunt, sand art activities and a shell hunt. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities.

Several of the pupils have achieved swimming distance awards at 'Swim Afan' at Cymer. The pupils visited Cymer swimming pool every Wednesday throughout the Summer Term. Awards have included 25 metres, 50 metres, 100 metres and 200 metres.

[Links with the community/funding/sponsorship](#)

A new sensory room has been developed at the LSC following the whole school focus on sensory circuits. It has been supported by the Education Occupational Therapist, James Marshman.

[Key Stage 3 Unit, Bryncoch](#)

This term's Big Question has been, 'Is Everything Connected?' It has provided a rich context for learning and taken us on a journey across the oceans of the world.

KS3 learners have experienced painting using watercolours and learnt about the work of Monet. They have visited a fishmonger and discovered where in the world the fish that we eat are caught.



A big part of learning has centred on the huge problem of plastics in our oceans and sea. Through investigating food chains and also the problem of plastics, the learners were shocked to discover how micro-plastics end up in their food and also harm our precious wildlife.



The learners were eager to get out and about and start litter picking; both at the beach and around school and complete a rock pool study. The education officer from Mumbles RNLI visited every class to talk about the important work that the charity do and help learners understand that whilst



the water can be such a fun place, it has many hidden dangers and care is needed. All learners learnt how to get help when in danger and what the flags mean at the beach.

Everyone loved learning tie-dye techniques to design and create stunning t-shirts (each unique to the learner). These are just some of the opportunities the topic has provided us. Learners have been taught skills of analysis throughout the topic and are now able to understand better how they learn. Most importantly, pupils have enjoyed learning, are fully engaged and demonstrated how much they care about the world in which we live.



Alongside our topic work, the learners have also benefitted from the following:

Year 9 – Down to Earth – A firm favourite with ALL learners.



Years 7,8 & 9 – Forest School - learning how to tie knots (overhand and clove hitch), identifying various trees from different shape leaves, building dens, learnt how to make a campfire, and made mini beast hotels. They have also learned how to safely use several different forest school tools such as secateurs, potato peelers, saws, and hand drills. These activities have provided them with an opportunity to take supported risks.

School Beat – We welcomed a new School Community Police Officer, P.C. Lee Jones. He has provided a number of sessions already including those on bullying, sexual exploitation and consequences of crime.



Joanne Goddard from Go! Explore! Learn! has continued to work with our pupils. This term they have learnt the importance of growing your own food examining issues such as food security, food miles and understanding where our food comes from. They have also looked at the life cycle of a plant, parts of a seed and what factors are needed for a successful growing environment. Kayden has also learnt about the importance of attracting pollinators and wildlife into the school garden area and how this helps increase biodiversity, builds habitats, and makes healthy ecosystems. Residents of Caewern and Bryncoch have kindly donated a range of flower and vegetable plants to the school, all of which have been planted.



Year 8 – Surfing, swimming, gymnastics and paddle boarding.



Year 7 – took part in the Crucial Crew event at Margam Park

School Council activities – investigated well-being at Bryncoch site. They created a video for the Commissioner for Wales about well-being at school. They undertook an audit of current outdoor equipment for yard and following this, a pupil voice activity to investigate what the pupils would want/need. The pupils agreed that they would like to develop the bottom yard (outside canteen) and include a 'Buddy Bench' where pupils could sit when in need of a friendly face. A fun Day was arranged to raise money to resource the ideas.

Mrs Macpherson Jones (school governor) has worked with a group of keen knitters to teach them how to knit. The results have been astounding! The pupils have an immense sense of pride in what they have achieved. We are so grateful for the time Paula has given so freely and enthusiastically.

Pupils all enjoyed when Neath Rotary Club funded a fun day at Folly Farm for all KS3 pupils.



Fundraising activities

- The Eco-committee have recently completed a litter pick with local councillor, Jo Hale.
- School Council Fun day,
- Staff climb Pen-y-Fan – raising money to further improve school yard provision.
- Bacon roll fundraiser for Olivia Finch towards vital cancer treatment.
- Clothes/Toiletries collection to be sent to Ukraine.
- School Council are in process of applying to Tesco for Blue Token funding.

Key stage 4 Unit, Bryncoch

Curriculum Developments/ qualifications/ courses



A new options event was trialled giving pupils the opportunity to shape part of their curriculum. Options included Art, Performing Arts, Photography, Ceramics, Woodwork, Bricklaying, Cookery, Geography, History, Humanities, Volunteering, Leisure and Recreation, Childcare and First Aid and Health.

All pupils have left this year with at least one recognised qualification, including those educated off site. We have successfully completed the Welsh Agored Cymru qualification, Agored Cymru Award and Certificate completed in WRE and ICT WJEC Entry Pathways qualification for the first time.



Mrs Angelina Lewis and Mrs Charlotte Hopkins completed the Duke of Edinburgh assistant course.



Activities/ trips

An Erasmus trip to Malaga which focused on inclusion, arts and local monuments was attended by Mr Draper and Mrs Rees. Pupils were sadly unable to attend as planned due to Covid, but were still included virtually.

Pupils enjoyed completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award overnight trip.



The prom has been reinstated and ran successfully in the Glyn Clydach Hotel. The leaver's assembly was also reinstated and ran successfully.



Key Stage 3 & 4 Hendre Unit, Bryncoch

Pupils have started "What a Good One Looks Like" (WAGOLL) folders where pupils display examples of their best work in any of the topics covered. This has been a great incentive in motivating pupils to take more care and pride in their work. The improvements in the quality of pupils' work and attitude to work is marked since the introduction of these folders.

In the Hendre Unit, we have been planning for the New curriculum following the topics that are covered in KS3 MLD but extending the content and demand for the ASD pupils. Staff continuously plan against the What Matters Statements as well as ensuring that we are challenging pupils through the Progression Steps.

Pupils have become more familiar with Growth Mindset language and there are displays all around the Unit that reinforce this. This enables us to challenge the pupils more, encouraging more effort, the redrafting of work and increased positivity about school and learning. Pupils are also becoming familiar with acronyms that are being used in lessons to extend learning such as:

Today I learned that (TILT)

Even Better If (EBI)

What Went Well (WWW)

What I Now Know (WINK) What A Good One Looks Like (WAGOLL)

Solo Taxonomy has recently been introduced which provides pupils with the images and language to link and think deeper in their learning. This alongside the Growth Mindset work and the New Curriculum provides us with a real purposeful and positive direction in our learning.





Pupils in the Unit have been volunteering in the Foodbank. At first the pupils were very reluctant to take part and were even asking to be paid. However, the pupils now engage really well with the other volunteers and are far more respectful and understanding of the need and demand for volunteers. The pupils have collected, weighed, dated and stored different food items. The activity has been hugely beneficial for the pupils' social skills and their sense of community.

It has been really good to see Hendre pupils join and socialise in KS4 events such as surfing and the Prom. These pupils, despite being reluctant at first have joined in these events and have enjoyed themselves. KS4 Hendre pupils will also have the opportunity to join with KS4 Bryncoch pupils in the option lessons next year which is another exciting development.

[Key Stage 3 Theodore Road Site, Port Talbot](#)

Our pupils continue to respond really well to KS3 outdoor learning. This term, as well as continuing to develop their woodcraft, environmental and survival skills in Forest school they have also been to Caswell Bay, Aberavon beach and Kenfig Ponds to complete Coastal schools work. Most pupils continue to engage, enjoying and having beneficial learning experiences developing their resilience, confidence, self-esteem and relationship building, through rock pool exploration, team sports and thinking skill challenges.



Swimming lessons continued for all pupils this term where pupils are now working towards their badges and the year 8&9 pupils have also benefitted and enjoyed going surfing.

Sensory Circuits and Zones of Regulation have started to be implemented to support pupils to regulate their emotions.

Staff have taken pupils on trips as part of the curriculum to provide further learning opportunities. These include:

- Pembrey country Park
- Travel Training – using train and bus rides to either Cardiff, Swansea and Port Talbot
- Mumbles Life boat station
- Animal Therapy Encounter
- Folly Farm
- Kaewood Cabins – overnight stay for year 8 class.
- Pheonix project (Fire Brigade in July for year 7)

Funding has also been accessed through different means to support pupils learning and links with the community.

It has been used to support the following:

- Breakfast club
- Community flowers
- Outdoor learning, mountain bikes were purchased.
- Community safety partnership, funding used to purchase school hoodies for the pupils
- Cynnydd funding used to support the Jubilee Party.

- Emmalee Wilson – Drama therapist, 5 pupils are currently attending and engaging really well during these sessions and are finding them very beneficial.
- PC Dan Garlick has been delivering session to the pupils on sexual exploitation, crime prevention, personal safety, personal relationships and online safety.

The purchase of an extra minibus has really helped the flexibility of the curriculum options. This has had a positive impact on managing pupil's behaviour and on their engagement in lessons.

[Key Stage 4 Velindre Site, Bryncoch](#)

All Year 10 and 11 pupils have been or are continuing to work towards a variety of qualifications:

- WJEC GCSE English Language, Maths,, Numeracy, Science (Looking to deliver GCSE PE from September), Child Care, Art, ftistory
- Entry Level English, Numeracy and Science

- Entry Pathways Humanities, ICT, Creative Media
- D of E,
- Motor Mechanics Level 1
- BTEC Sweet (life skills, travel training, independent living skills)
- Drama Therapy (music)
- Construction - Agored Cymru
- CSCS card, strimming, blowing, hedge cutting and mowing, Site Safety day course
- Sensory Circuits and Zones of Regulation have started to be implemented to support pupils to regulate their emotions.

Staff have taken pupils on trips as part of the curriculum to provide further learning opportunities. These include:

- Outdoor ftealth and Well-being
- End of year 11 trip to bowling.
- Inclusive LC2 basketball trip
- Matthew House Food bank,
- Agricultural work experience,
- Graffiti Walk, Basketball - Hendy, Coastal path walk, Surfing, Bulldogs, Swimming
- Swansea City Football project - Swans foundation

Funding has also been accessed through different means to support pupil's learning and links with the community:

- Community flowers
- Community safety partnership, money used to purchase school hoodies for the pupils
- Velindre Community Jubilee Garden,

- Application for sports equipment through Sports Wales Grant, Street games - we received approximately £400 of sports equipment, including dodgeballs, basketball, sports bag holders.
- Emmalee Wilson – Drama therapist, pupils are currently attending and engaging really well during these sessions and are finding them very beneficial.
- PC Dan Garlick has been delivering session to the pupils on sexual consent, knife crime and prevention, grooming and substance misuse.

Pupils carrying out Science practical lessons and DT



[Key Stage 3 & 4 Aspire Unit, Bryncoch](#)

This term, pupils explored how everything in the world is connected. They learnt about sea shanties and maritime music, marine soundscapes and meditation.

They enjoyed the class book called The Lost Whale, a story about a boy and his connection with a whale.

We taught about reproduction in plants and animals. In Science, they also



learned about fuels and resources, electricity, electrical circuits, renewable energy and magnets.

Pupils had the opportunity to cook and taste foods from around the world. In geography they planned trips to exotic locations and discussed the idea of sustainable travel. Our history lessons involved finding out about the inventive Victorians, their industry, holidays and pollution.

As part of their maths curriculum pupils used coordinates in problem solving exercises and created treasure maps. They explored new topics of transformations such as reflection and rotation.

Pupils were involved with the eco committee litter pick in the local community. Duke of Edinburgh expeditions allowed pupils to explore the scenery of Gower and Brecon. They also continued learning first aid and survival techniques.



Upcoming Dates for your Diary:

- Monday, September 5th School INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)
- Tuesday, September 6th, pupils return to school.
- Friday, October 28th School INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)