



Ysgol Hendrefelin

Newsletter

(Summer 2023)

Dear All,

We would like to thank you all again for your continued support of the school. We have had a lovely Summer Term.

We'd like to thank our school council for their input into many successful events/activities that have taken place this year.

Please take some time to read the snapshot reports 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 over the summer months.

Bryncoch Site update:

Key Stage 3 MLD: Curriculum Update



This term, we, in the MLD Unit have explored the concept of Change and delved into the intriguing Big Question of "Is change always a good thing?" We explored its significance to us as individuals, to our communities and how we formulate strategies to handle change in our own lives.

Through self-reflection, students are becoming increasingly able to utilise their understanding of the Zones of Regulation in order to devise strategies for evaluating change and managing their responses to it.

We dug deeper into this subject by examining the effects of change on our community, using the rich history of Welsh coal mining as a case study, and how its transformation over the years has had a profound effect on social and environmental policy.

An educational visit to the Big Pit heritage museum allowed the students to witness first-hand the impact of change. They were able to interact with a former miner who shared his experiences about the evolution of coal mining through the years. We also looked at the impact coal mining had on the South Wales Valleys. Class 1 enjoyed making a coal miners' pasty in their cookery lesson following the visit to the Big Pit. Many have analysed tables, pictographs and block charts of population changes during the Industrial Revolution. They have learned about the different inventions around that time and the energy transfers involved; and also about the Earth's natural resources used by humans.



Building upon this, we investigated changes that might shape their future, specifically the advent of innovative technologies that could bring about beneficial environmental shifts, like renewable energy sources. Learners have looked at evaluating in our Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) lessons and looked at the positives, minus and interesting of non - renewable and renewable energy sources.

Literacy skills have included planning and creating posters/leaflets celebrating and advertising the South Wales valleys. Learners have also written non-chronological reports on coal mining and renewable energies.

Creative skills have been developed in the form of charcoal drawing using the work of Josef Herman (particularly those inspired by Welsh mining) to see how he uses charcoal in his work. Learners have also begun learning to play the ukulele.



During the term, the students have continued to contribute to the establishment of our school garden, actively participating in the sowing, planting, and maintenance of our vegetable plot.

Pupils have also got involved in a sponsored 5k walk for 'Cash for Kids', through thinking of others with the aim of becoming enterprising, creative contributors at Ysgol Hendrefelin. Many of our pupils have benefitted from the charity and it was wonderful to work together as a team to help others in need.



Our Year 7 classes have benefitted from swimming lessons this term and Year 8 pupils have thoroughly embraced surfing lessons and also outdoor learning opportunities at Down to Earth. All learners were able to contribute towards the creation of our very special 'Memorial Garden' and are proud of what they have achieved.



Pupils from Class 5 have also been adventuring the Gower Peninsula once a week throughout the term. Each week they tackled a different section of the coast. The learners managed to walk all the way along the coast, from Three Cliffs Bay on the South coast of the Gower, to Llanmadoc Beach in North Gower. We really do all feel so fortunate to be afforded these wonderful opportunities to develop new skills.

The entire unit was invited to attend a four day residential experience at St Madoc's Residential Centre where they took part in many activities, such as archery, orienteering and rock climbing, encouraging them to become healthy, confident individuals.





Adding to the enriching experiences of the term, we embarked on an exciting trip to Folly Farm. Thanks to the generous funding and support of the Neath Rotary Club, our students had an adventurous day exploring and observing a wide array of animals.



Overall, this term has been a blend of learning, exploration, and hands-on experiences, deepening our understanding of change and the impact it has on our lives. We all feel very fortunate to be part of this thriving unit of learners and are looking forward already to what exciting learning and experiences the autumn term will bring.

As always, please take time to visit our classes on the school website for up-to-date information of the fantastic learning within our unit.



KS4 MLD

In the summer term, pupils and staff have been working hard towards examinations and final pieces of coursework, as well as focussing on transition with taster days, travel training and close working with their youth worker. Pupils have also been offered the opportunity to attend their Duke of Edinburgh overnight expedition and a career's event called an 'Employer Visit,' where Pupil will be visiting a hotel and learning about/experiencing different roles as well as recruitment procedures. The remainder of the term promises to be just as busy with the awards event, prom and leaver's assembly, followed by options and planning for the next academic year.

Aspire Unit

The pupils have successfully attended all College taster days, visits and interviews and have completed their travel training which ensures that they are able to safely get to their college in September. The pupils also arranged a BBQ for all the pupils in the Unit and worked hard to plan the celebration afternoon which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



The Aspire pupils also attended the Prom, the Leavers Assembly and Awards Ceremony and it was joyous to see pupils who in the past have been unable to attend these events because of anxiety, turn up, and throw themselves into the celebrations. Pupils got up on the dance floor, had their photographs taken, stood on the stage in front of everyone to accept their awards. It has been amazing to reflect on the social and emotional progress that these pupils have made.





We are very pleased with the numerous qualifications that the pupils have been entered for and achieved. The pupils have been able to access a vast range of qualifications in the Unit which include: GCSE English, Maths and Science, ELC English, Maths and Science, Entry Pathways Maths, SWEET Award, Mechanics, Hairdressing and DofE. All the teachers in the Unit are thrilled with the effort and determination that the pupils have thrown into their work.

Most pupils in the Unit also completed their DofE expeditions this term and staff are immensely proud of the hard work, stamina, independence and life skills that they demonstrated in order to complete the course. Thankfully the weather was kind for them and they thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor experience.



Staff in the Unit have been working hard to improve pupils' attendance. We have created a spreadsheet that is displayed in the Unit which tracks all the pupils' attendance. At the end of the May half term pupils whose attendance had improved by 5% or more and those whose attendance was 95% or more had their names put into a draw to win a voucher and receive certificates. We held a formal awards ceremony in the Unit and the pupils enjoyed the suspense of drawing names to see who the winner was.

In our drive to improve attendance we have also reduced the number of PSP in the Unit and four pupils have now ended their PSPs and there is only one pupil now who remains on a PSP in the Unit.

Moving forward we plan to hold an additional prize draw where pupils who have achieved the most Dojos for best work are entered into a draw in order to motivate the children to set goals in their learning and meaningfully reward effort and perseverance in learning.

It has been really important that the pupils continue to attend and support the Foodbank and that they are reminded about community work and helping and supporting others.

Primary LSC

Pupils at the Primary LSC have enjoyed studying the Welsh coastal path, particularly in areas of the Gower this term.

Pupils have been developing their creative writing skills by completing descriptive writing exercises on the beauty of the Gower. Pupils made comparisons of everyday life now in village of Oxwich to life there 100 years ago.

Pupils were able to match man made changes to period of times.

The pupils worked together as a group and decided to find out why the coastline is a habitat for so many creatures.

The pupils visited Llangennith, Oxwich and Mumbles.



The pupils enjoyed studying the village of mumbles. The pupils were set challenges as to why so many people visit this village.

The pupils used Google Maps and Google street view to study the shops, restaurants and businesses in Mumbles. From this information pupils made a list and organised the businesses into categories, then during the school trip to Mumbles pupils were able to locate what they'd found on Google Maps and Google street view.

The pupils at the LSC have been on a number of trips this term.

St. Fagans



Big Pit



Margam Park



Mumbles



The pupils at the LSC were fortunate enough to get funding for outdoor activities in the summer term. Wellington boots, walking boots, walking socks, waterproofs and back packs were purchased.

The LSC also gained funding to develop a breakfast club. Every day the pupils have a choice of cereal and healthy drinks.



Theodore Road and Velindre update

Theodore Road Site: KS3 SEBD

- Staff have been delivering their summer curriculum.
- 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. Nearly all pupils continue to engage, enjoying and having beneficial learning experiences developing their resilience, confidence, self-esteem and relationship building.
- Surfing lessons continued this term for pupils which has been enjoyed by all who have attended.
- Sensory Circuits and Zones of Regulation continue to be implemented to support pupils to regulate their emotions – 65% positive impact on pupil engagement and behaviours across SEBD KS 3&4. James Marshman – Occupational Therapist has been into support and give advice to staff.
- Staff continue to encourage and work towards pupils completing their Spelling, Target Practice and Precision monitoring work at the start of each day.
- School council took part in the opening of the Nicola Evans memorial garden in Bryncoch.
- Pupils took part in the whole school football tournament in Bryncoch.

Velindre Site: KS4 SEBD

Staff moved onto delivering the summer planning for both Year 10 and 11 pupils. The year 11 pupils have now completed their courses, whilst the year 10 continue with:

- WJEC GCSE English Language, Maths, Numeracy, Science, GCSE PE (SC), Child Care, Art, History
- 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 skill
- Construction - Agored Cymru
- Sensory Circuits and Zones of Regulation are continuing to be implemented to support pupils to regulate their emotions. – 65% positive impact on pupils engagement and behaviours across SEBD KS 3&4.
- Year 11 Pupils have been tested for the CSCS card – allowing pupils to work on a building site once they reach 16 years of age.
- Swimming in Cymmer Pool and Surfing lessons in Caswell Bay with Surfability
- Fitness and well-being sessions with Cynnydd staff over in Bulldogs.
- Buildings –the current life skills room and DT room are going to change so that the life skills room will become a classroom and the DT room will then become the new life skills room. Currently pupils go to Bryncoch for DT lessons.

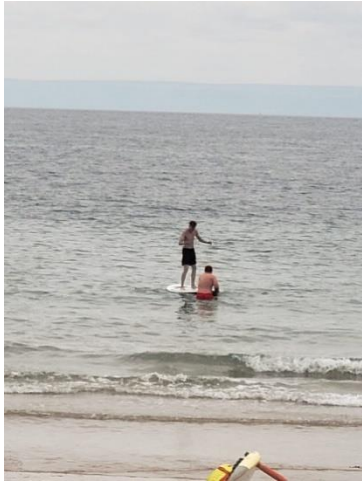
Careers

- The careers advisor meets with the pupils most Wednesday's to support them in their next phase of education, employment or training.
- Year 11 pupils have undertaken the Careers Employability Programme. The pupils have been on further visits to Neath College.
- Mr Hennessey has taken pupils on landscaping and gardening work experience in Gower

Trips

- Pupils have been taken on education trips to Kaewoo Cabins, Mcathur Glen – to spend Reward vouchers, Surfing; Porthcawl for outdoor learning/coastal schools, fishing.

The Year 11 pupils from the Velindre site have been on regular visits to Gower where their outdoor learning sessions have encompassed coastal walks, paddle boarding and route planning. The pupils are working to make progress in their thinking, problem solving and communication skills.



Year 9 Pupils in Theodore Road had a class trip and overnight stay in a log cabin in West Wales. This encompassed a trip to Tenby- visiting the beach, walking around the town, learning about welsh foods/tourism. Pupils had opportunities to develop home skills of cooking/preparing food, laying table, manners, responsibility, team building, confidence and risk-taking when engaging in new activities



School Council

School council have had a very busy summer term. It would be hard to say what our favourite moment is so here are some of our top memories made over the last few months.

The Memory Garden

Our school council worked so hard putting this together with the help of every class in Ysgol Hendrefelin. We had the great idea of designing and creating our garden through our woodwork lessons. Each class had a role to play and the end result was amazing. In memory of a past teacher Miss Nicola Evans, we celebrated opening the garden. We had food, a DJ and a bouncy castle along with other fun activities.



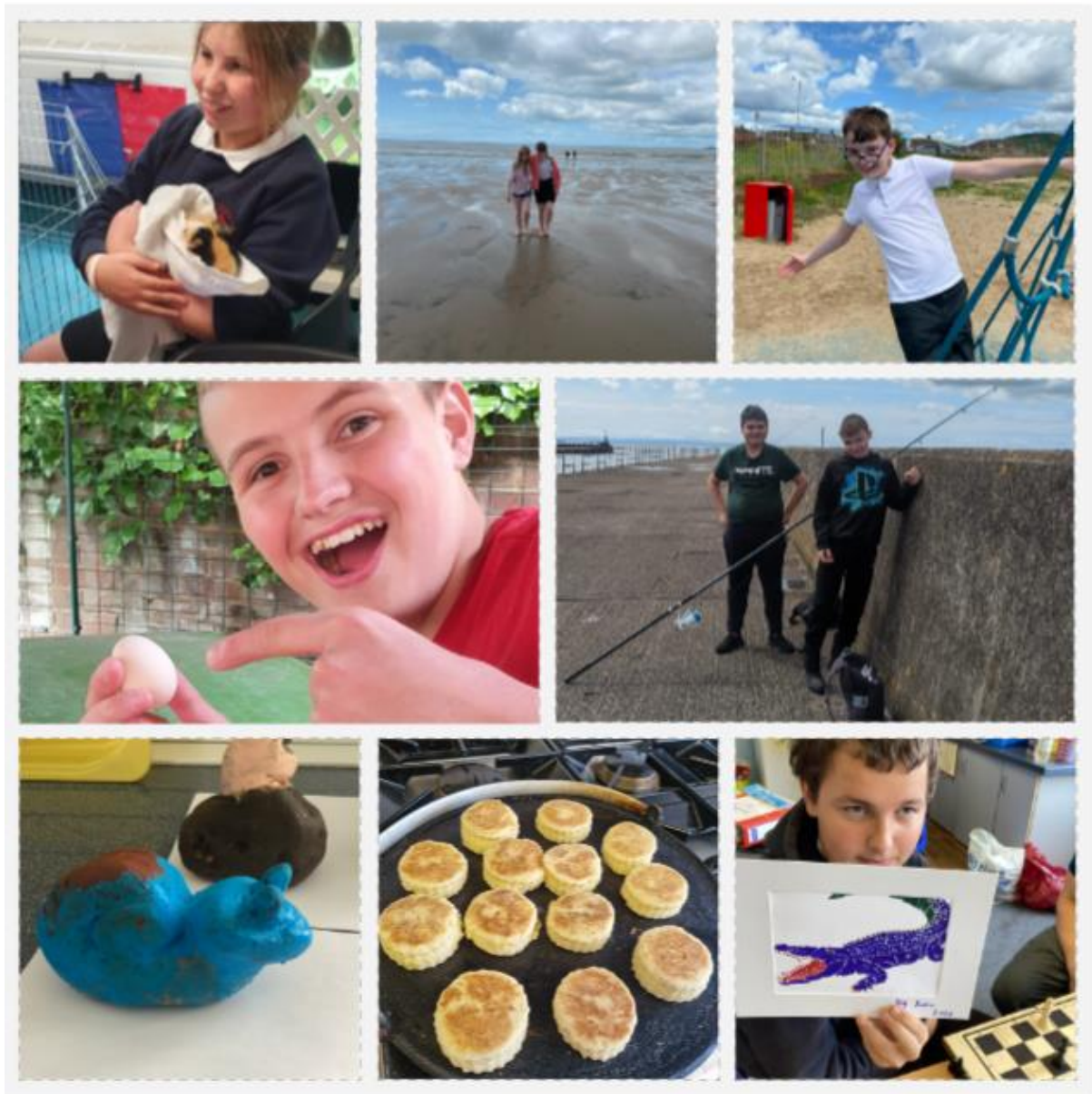
Jeremy Miles Visit

This visit was exciting because Jeremy Miles is the Minister for Education. We had tea and Welsh cakes and asked him lots of questions. He was funny and gave some very interesting answers.



Well-being days

What we love most about being in School Council is knowing our voice matters. We asked for some well-being days at the end of term and we had the opportunity to plan two days with over ten activities on each day to choose from. We had mountain biking, football, fishing, arts and crafts, cinema, outdoor cooking, woodland walk, animal day care, beach day, cooking and many more – it was a hard choice!!



We are looking forward to another fun packed year with lots on the agenda!

Important dates for your diary for Academic Year 2023-24

INSET days:

Friday October 27th

Friday June 28th

Monday July 1st