



Ysgol Hendrefelin

Autumn Newsletter

2023

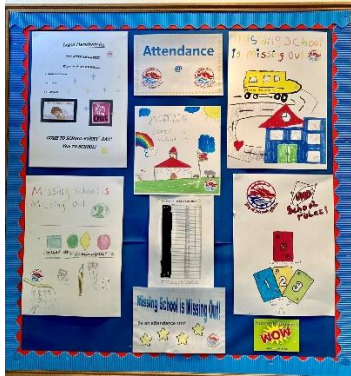
Dear All,

Before reading about all the exciting activities and learning that has taken place at school recently please could you take note of our drive to raise attendance levels across school. Children are encouraged at school to attend regularly. As parents/ carers please can you support our pupils and help motivate them to improve their attendance. As you will have heard on the news, attendance throughout the country remains lower than pre- Covid figures.

At Ysgol Hendrefelin, we are seeing a steady improvement to our attendance overall.

As a school, we are doing as much as we can to promote good attendance in order to help all of our pupils reach their full potential. We know that, with consistent and regular attendance, our learners develop skills that will equip them for life.

This term, we had a special assembly to reward all of the pupils with excellent or improved attendance. This saw 60 certificates and chocolate bars being given out as well as a special colouring book, along with 12 certificates and vouchers for our attendance superstars who had 100% attendance in term 2. We had 6 pupils with 100% attendance since September which is fantastic! Next term, we are going to reward by class so look out for further updates on our website.



We have attendance noticeboards up with monthly updates and class teachers keep track of their pupils' weekly attendance along with individual targets for improvement.

Wow postcards are sent out to pupils who have shown improved attendance. Have you had one yet?

Please continue to help us support our pupils to aim for awesome attendance!

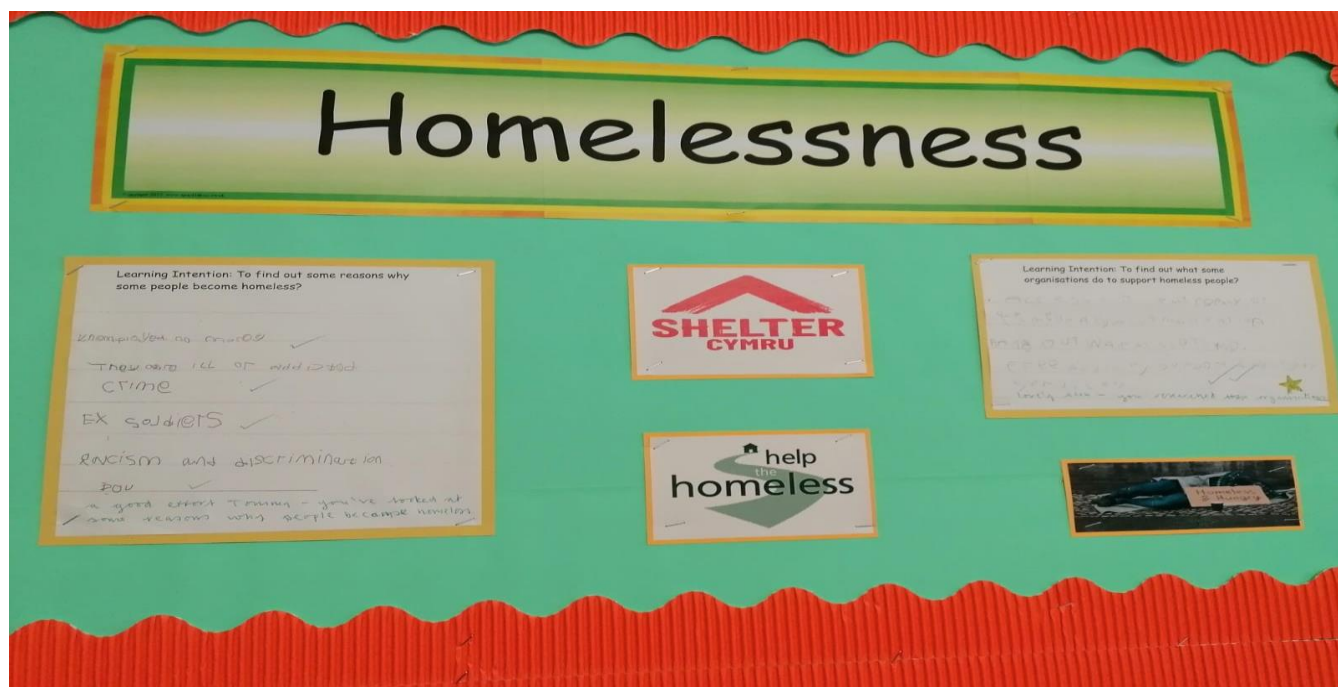
Missing school is missing out!

Attendance Barometer for one academic year (38 weeks)

100% attendance	Not missing any lessons
95% attendance	Missing about 2 weeks of school
90% attendance	Missing about 3 weeks of school
80% attendance	Missing at least 8 weeks of school
75% attendance	Missing about 10 weeks of school

Can I take this opportunity to thank you again for your continued support of the school.

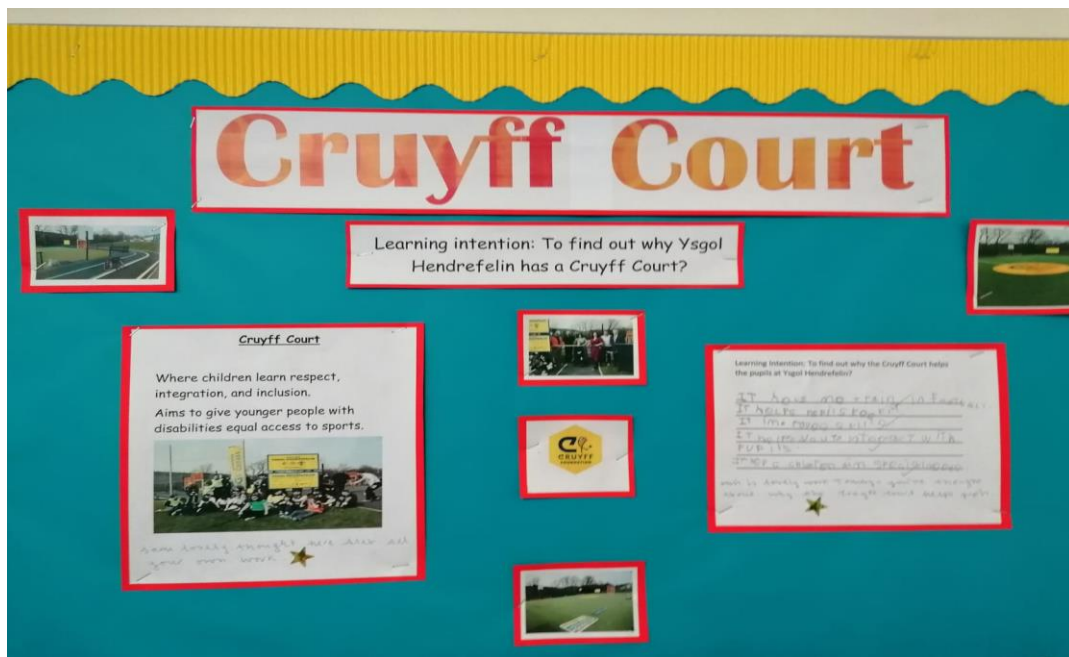
The pupils at the LSC have been following the concept of 'Values' throughout the Autumn Term, putting focus on the big question. 'Can what I want be as important as what I need?' The pupils have studied homelessness and decided that they wanted to find out some reasons why people become homeless? The pupils worked collaboratively to create a class display. The staff and pupils are planning a trip to a Homeless Charity later this Autumn Term.



The pupils decided they wanted to learn about people who help others. They decided collaboratively that they wanted to research who would help the victims of the Moroccan Earthquake? A class display was created with the learning intention of: To find out Why Search and Rescue Teams are so important?



The pupils have been learning about the 'Cruyff Court' facility at our school. The pupils worked to create a class display looking at the '14 rules of Johan Cruyff' and why the court helps the pupils of Ysgol Hendrefelin?



The pupils enjoyed a school trip to the Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagans, they particularly enjoyed the 'Voices of the Red Wall' exhibition. They were fascinated by the pennants of the three countries Wales played in the 1958 World cup.



Alex compared his height now to that of a Neanderthal child. He recorded his height on a post-it note and attached it to the image.



Alex Smith Evans has three reasons to celebrate this Autumn Term:

- He now follows a full-time timetable.
- He celebrated an attendance Award with our Attendance officer Mrs Phillips.
- He was voted onto the 'School Council'.

Well done Alex!

[Key Stage 3 Unit, Bryncoch](#)

Bryncoch Site KS3 (MLD) Autumn Term Update:

It has been a pleasure to welcome back our wonderful learners this autumn term. Everyone was excited to get back to school and eager to start learning. Our new Year 7 learners have had a wonderful start to their first few weeks at Ysgol Hendrefelin. They have already started to build some wonderful relationships, which will last them throughout their time at secondary school.


This term the whole school concept focus is 'Values'. Our Big Question is, 'Do bad things only happen to

bad people?’

This concept and big question provides us with a rich context for learning and the pupils have enjoyed contributing their ideas for activities which will help them to fully embrace the topic.

We have begun by learning about Black History and exploring terms race, racism and anti-racism. Learners have also had the opportunities to rate the legitimacy of common myths around race/racism. Later in the term, we will focus on the religious persecution of Jewish people. We hope to learn lots about the Jewish faith and visit a synagogue.

Tuesday 3rd October
L.I I can infer using a source square



What I can infer (guess)

They are praying/ speaking to God.

They could be in Passover

What I can see

They are at a Bar Mitzvah


They are in a synagogue.

They are sharing practices for a Jewish holidays.

I can see the Torah

I can see Jews / Jewish people

I can see three



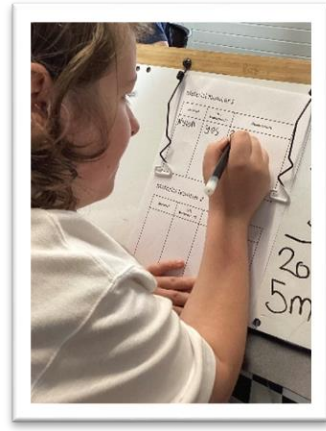
They are wearing a Kippah.

They are wearing a Shallit.

I can see a Rabbi.

Within our Expressive Arts lessons, we have started to learn about the art of zines, creating art relating to something we care about. We had lots of lovely ideas such as the Rights of the Child, anti -bullying, anti-racism, animal protection & healthy lunches.

Our Science & Technology lessons have focused on Materials and their Properties. Our year 7 learners have explored and sorted a range of different materials, year 8 learners have planned and investigated the best materials to make an umbrella with and our year 9 pupils have explored what happens when materials are mixed.



Many of our classes have already had some lovely experiences outside of the school grounds including visits to the Gnoll Park, Aberavon Beach and Neath Library. The learners have also had opportunities to develop their life skills by learning to make a boiled egg and soldiers and the obligatory cup of tea. Yum!

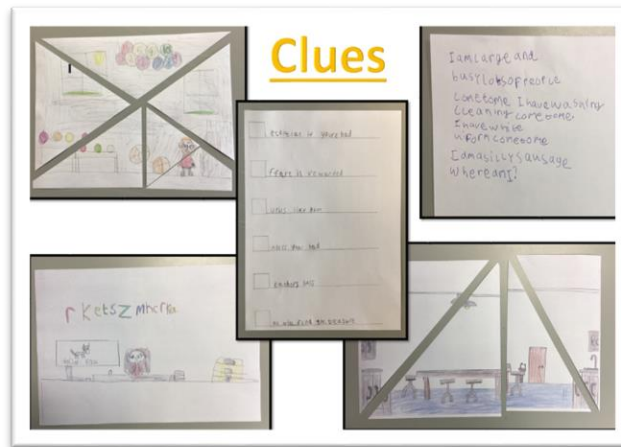
Our Class 5 learners have had opportunities to explore their own Well-Being and create healthy eating habits at school. Pupils have been learning about the nutritional impact fruit and vegetables can have on their bodies.

Not only have pupils been learning the theory behind the nutritional value of these foods, but they have also learnt how to prepare the food for themselves and other pupils within Key Stage 3. Through this work, pupils have created a Nutrition Club where everyone from around school is able to come to their tuck shop and try out different fruits and vegetables free of charge.

Class 5 have decided that this is something they will look to promote once a month within school. This will give all pupils at school the chance to try new fruits and vegetables and learn about portion size. Class 5 have already learnt some really important things about portion size and the amount of fruit and vegetables we should aim to eat every day.

Year 9 have delved into the life of the infamous Welsh pirate Black Bart. As part of this fascinating topic, the students designed a treasure hunt for their peers, incorporating problem-solving clues that involved acrostic poems, riddles, and artwork. Together, they explored the school, decoding clues and hunting for the hidden treasure, creating an unforgettable "argh - venture"

"In a place where words are shaped and shown,
Find the treasure where language is known."



Thursday 28th September 2023

Class 6 Treasure hunt

L.I. To create a series of clues.

Jesh and Jayden:

Picture Puzzles - The PE hall and the cookery room

Layton:

Acrostic Poem - The deputy's office

Cellum:

Rhyme - The dinner hall

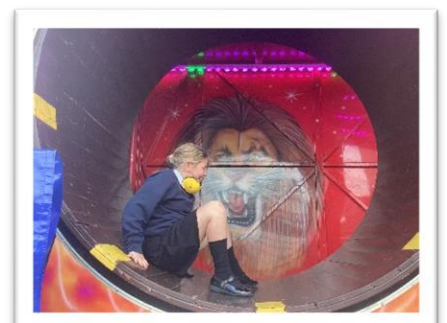
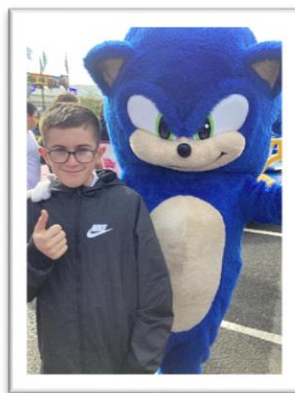
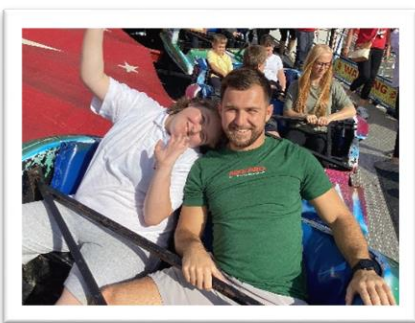
Summer:

Anagram - the main office (Mrs Kretzschmar)



Extra-Curricular Events

Additionally, the students enjoyed exciting outings, including a thrilling day at Neath Fair filled with rollercoaster adventures, where their bravery shone, while the teachers may have been a bit less courageous. They were also privileged to attend the NPT Music Annual Period Roadshow, witnessing their own music teachers perform live at the Princess Royal Theatre – a truly incredible day out for everyone involved!



We are thrilled to have sent off a cheque for nearly £220 to Little Hearts Matter. The charity is very close to our hearts as a pupil's sister had a life-saving heart operation recently. The staff and pupils were amazing at helping to raise the money in the 'Teacher Soak' and selling produce (eggs and home grown vegetables etc).



Little Hearts Matter

We also spent a day wearing the brightest, boldest colours to celebrate our abilities and raised £53.00 which we have sent to The Abilities in Me Foundation. They are a registered charity, who writes stories based on real families and the child's condition. Their goal is to eventually set up 'The Abilities project', in the hope they can help to create safe and inclusive spaces in mainstream environments and provide them with sensory room equipment to help support all children's needs.

We all have so much more to look forward to this term. There are lots more learning experiences planned.

KS4 Bryncoch Site (MLD)

KS4 Examination and Qualification Results Summer 2023

Our Year 11 cohort last year left with multiple qualifications including, WJEC Entry Pathways, Agored Cymru individual units and qualifications, and Duke of Edinburgh. It is also notable that all pupils made impressive gains in their reading age.

Curriculum Update

Pupil options in KS4 continue to be operating well and some new options have been added to the mix this year to cater to the interests and ambitions of our pupils – these include pottery, bricklaying and catering. Our hairdressing course, that we operate in conjunction with the college, has also had a re-vamp due to pupil voice. Pupils enjoyed the course but felt it was slightly too repetitive and would have liked it to include more content. We took this to the college and they have agreed to incorporate some content on nail care, which this year's students are very excited about.

We are also working with our communities through both volunteering, where we have linked with a local community councillor to help tidy up the canal area, and life skills, where we are supporting a local food bank with collecting, storing and sorting.



Activities/Trips/ Fundraisers

Pupils this term have been out and about a lot already – with college trips to Neath college and Afan College, to support pupils in transition and familiarise them with some of the options they have after KS4. Our year 11s have also taken part in an Employer visit in the Village Hotel. During this visit pupils had the opportunity to tour the hotel, learn about different jobs available in the hospitality sector and ask questions to their staff.

We have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the mental health charity Platform over this half term. A group of 11 pupils have had weekly sessions focusing on understanding mental health and exploring ways to manage their own.



ASPIRE - Ambitious, capable learners

Year 11 Leavers

It has been a privilege to work with our Year 11 leavers and we are very proud of their successes and the progress that they have made in managing social situations, regulation, and sensory overload.

All our leavers were successful in achieving an English and Maths qualifications and this is in part due to the range of appropriately challenging courses that staff were able to offer.

Some success stories include:

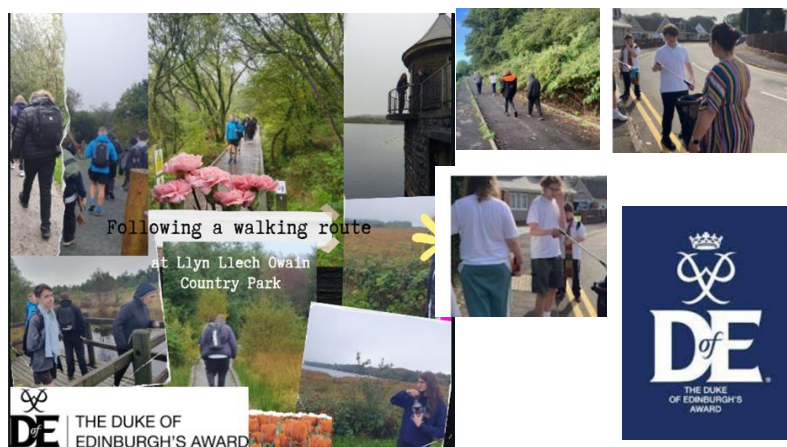
All pupils achieved a qualification in math. $\frac{7}{8}$ Pupils achieved Entry 3 and 1 pupil Entry 2.

Notably: Kaitlyn Brown: Entry Level Certificate Mathematics - Numeracy. Entry 3.

Two pupils achieved a level 1 Pass in GCSE Double Award Science and Entry 3 in Entry Level Science which is a fantastic achievement.

62% of pupils achieved Entry 2 in Entry Pathways ICT.

Enterprising, creative contributors



Four pupils achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and worked extremely well to overcome some fitness and group work challenges as well as managing new experiences and learning new skills.

NPTC Group



We are thrilled that pupils in Aspire have successfully accessed College courses with other pupils outside of the Unit. Many pupils struggled to manage in these new environments however they have achieved some great results with 1 pupil achieving a level 1 pass in Hairdressing and 3 pupils achieving an Entry Level 3 Pass

in the "Introduction to Automotive Maintenance and Repair with the Institute of Motor Industry" qualification.

We are very pleased that the new year 11s have also committed to completing College courses and pupils are again attending courses where they can achieve qualifications in Mechanics and Hairdressing.

All year 11 pupils have transitioned to Neath, Afan and Bridgend College and we have already received some positive feedback on their progress with some being spotted by the new year 11s during their latest college visit.

As part of our self-evaluation process, we have targeted that in 2023-24 all pupils have access to a qualification in science, ICT, welsh, and personal development. We also continue to support pupils attending vocational college places and those pupils who can access a mainstream setting for some subjects.

Teaching and Learning and Self Evaluation

At Aspire, the teachers and students have excellent relationships and are very brave when trying to make things better. We are currently working on one improvement, which is helping the students become better at thinking so that they can be more creative and independent learners.

Right now, we are working hard to practice our evaluating and analysis skills so we can think more deeply about what we learn. This will help us do more advanced activities and learn even more. In our classes, we have different levels of learning called bronze, silver, and gold. This helps us know what thinking skills we are using and how we can progress to get better. It's like a challenge that encourages us to aim for higher levels.



We use bronze, silver, and gold levels throughout the day, even when we are learning about how to handle social situations and our emotions. This helps us practice and apply our social skills in different situations. Students have been using "Snakes and Ladders" to think about their learning in a different way. They use ladders to show the things they are doing well and the things that are helping them learn more. The ladders also help them think about how they can get even better.

The snakes, on the other hand, help them think about the things that are making it harder for them to learn. They can find the things that are tripping them up and stopping them from making progress. Using these

visual tools has helped the students understand and analyze their learning and progress better. Most of the students are good at marking their work and giving themselves feedback. They can also talk about how evaluating their own work is another step in their learning.

As part of our improvement plan, we will be focusing on peer assessment. This means listening to our classmates' opinions and ideas. Sometimes, it can be difficult to understand what others are saying or to consider their point of view. That's why we will be learning about something called Theory of Mind and perspective taking in our social skills lessons.

In our class, we have noticed that some students do not enjoy writing and can feel tired and overwhelmed when they are asked to write for long periods of time. We understand that this can make it difficult for them to access their learning and keep up with the curriculum.

To help these students, we have bought special headphones that can turn their voice into written words. This means they can talk instead of writing, and the headphones will type out their words for them. We also have a special pen that can read out what is written on paper. These tools have been very helpful for the students. They feel more motivated to do their work and they are more engaged in their learning.

We want all our students to feel supported and encouraged in their learning journey. These tools are just some of the ways we can make the learning experience more accessible for everyone.

Pupils' One-Page Profiles are regularly reviewed with staff to ensure that our plans meet our pupils' needs and that every voice is heard. We use these pages to keep track of how well pupils are doing and how well they are managing to regulate.

One Page Profiles help us to:

Listen to pupils' thoughts and opinions

Keep track of how things are doing

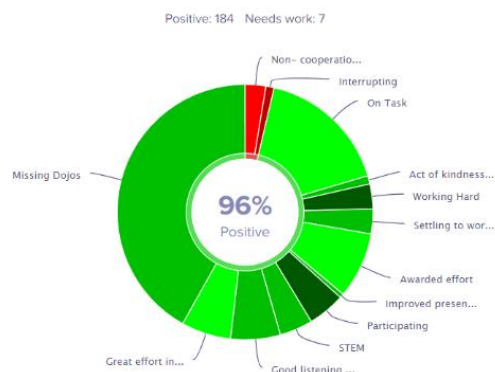
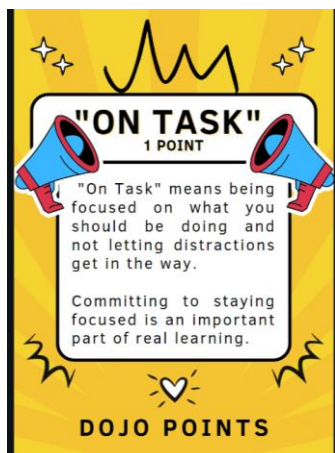
Set new goals and targets

Have meaningful discussions about progress in social skills and emotional regulation.

Dojos and Rewards

In our class, we have a system called Dojos to help motivate and reward students. It is important for every student in the class to collect 5 Dojos each day. Dojos show that pupils have been focused and engaged during each of our five lessons. You can also earn extra Dojos for showing good social skills, making progress, and having a positive attitude.

Last year, we used to award Dojos for completing work. However, after thinking about it, the teachers agreed that being "On Task" is a more exact way to measure what we want our students to strive for. The Dojo system and the reward shop are always being monitored and improved by the teachers and students. We want to make sure that the system is fair and rewarding for everyone.

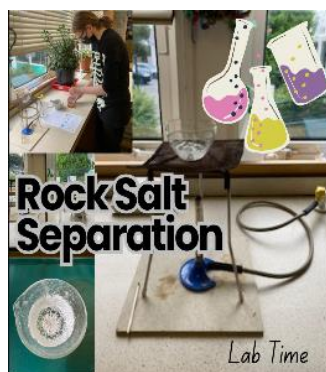


Trips and Activities

This term, students in Years 7, 8, and 9 are learning about "Values". They have been finding their values and thinking about how values affect their decisions, actions, way of life, and community. They have questioned what they hold dear and how values have changed over time. As part of their studies, students have learned about the Victorian era and looked at people's opinions on work, family, and money. As a special activity, the Aspire students went on a visit to Big Pit, which helped them think about their most important values.



This year, the students can go to the science lab every Wednesday. The students are excited about this because they get to use what they have learned in their science lessons. They do plenty of experiments and it helps the teachers see how well they can adjust to new places and things that might be dangerous.



KS4 SEBD Velindre Site

1. Examination results

This year we entered our pupils for a host of qualifications including English, Maths, Numeracy, Science and PE GCSE's. Entry Level English, Maths, Science. Entry pathways Science, Humanities, Creative Arts and ICT and BTEC SWEET. Our pupils have also attained vocational qualifications, Mechanics Entry 3, CSCS, strimming, mowing and blowing.

This was the first year we have entered pupils for GCSE PE. All pupils passed, with Adam Groves achieving a C grade and Luke Mabbitt and Cameron Rees doing exceptionally well in achieving B grades. These were excellent results and we are very proud of the work put in by pupils and staff on the journey to achieving these grades.

Many of our year 10 pupils achieved a Level 3 in English and Numeracy entry Level and are now going on to study for GCSE English and Maths. All the pupils entered achieved a pass in Entry pathways Science, ICT, Humanities as did the pupils who were entered for SWEET.

2. Curriculum Update

This term our Concept is Values and our big questions are "Can we live without rules?" for year 10 and "Why bother keeping safe?" for year 11. In year 10 we are exploring People and protest and pupils are completing projects on protesters both past and present. We are preparing for our pupils to complete their oracy coursework. October is Black History month and this is something that all our pupils have been exploring. We have held a McMillan coffee morning where we made cakes.

3. Activities, trips, fundraising, charity days

This term we have a mixture of outdoor activities and trips, pupils have been on coastal walks, Bike maintenance and BMX, Mechanics, Surfing, Bulldogs, Swimming and farm/ garden maintenance. We have also made visits to Margam Park, Bryngarw Park.







KS3 SEBD Theodore Road Update

Curriculum update/ activities/ charities & fundraising/professional learning

We've had a very busy Autumn term in Theodore Road. We welcomed the new Year 7 pupils and were delighted to see them arrive in our school uniform. As a team we decided to re-introduce uniform in a drive to keep expectations and standards high in this very challenging setting. Their curriculum is exciting and varied. All pupils at Theodore Road have the opportunity to participate in Surfing, Skateboarding, forest schools, swimming and cookery as part of their regular timetable. They have been utilising the freshly renovated learning corner in the back yard. A team of pupils and staff lead by Mr. Spendiff created a calm outdoor area.

Our school focus for the term is around wellbeing and attendance. We have a close, productive relationship with the school's newly appointed Attendance officer, Rachel Phillips. Together we aim to support pupils and families with any issues which may be impacting on the pupils' ability to attend school. Platform have been delivering sessions to our learners to help their mental health and that of their peers. By raising awareness of the issues around young people and mental health, we are enabling learners to spot changes in themselves or their friends and seek the appropriate support. To further support the pupils we are continuing the intensive work around Zones of regulation using lessons and sensory circuits. We have a dedicated member of staff who is developing and delivering sensory circuits to pupils, combined with ELSA sessions. This holistic approach is designed to embed zones of regulation and emotional literacy into all the fabric of the learning experience for every child.

Our curriculum focus is on skills in order to improve pupils ability to learn and become independent learners. This term's topic allows us to discuss "values": What do we value most in life? This exciting topic has lead to meaningful discussions around world poverty, war, industrial revolution, habitats, chemical substances, families, emotional needs, nutrition to name just a few. The pupils took part in a charity day for the Abilities in Me Foundation raising money for children with additional learning needs. We also plan to support the show racism the red card charity day. Learners have thoroughly enjoyed a field trip to discover more about habitats in rock pools in Port Eynon. They have enrolled in Bulldogs training (fitness through boxing and training) and attend weekly sessions. They have also visited IKEA as part of their curriculum comparing the cost and importance of household items. In addition to this, some learners have also attended coastal school sessions at Langland Bay.

Zones of regulation using cars



Rock Climbing

