

3-16

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers

Thank you! - Diolch yn fawr

What an amazing year it's been at Ebbw Fawr. We have seen four schools close; our new primary buildings open and now eagerly await our new secondary phase building in September.

We have seen Welsh Government Ministers including the First Minister beating a path to our door and now look forward to HRH The Prince of Wales visiting us shortly after this newsletter is published.

Throughout all of the changes our students have been fantastic; it's been a big change for them this year with a new management team, new standards on behaviour and discipline and not forgetting a new uniform. At the end of our first year we can look back with pride – our attendance figures in both phases are the best in any school, primary or secondary in Blaenau Gwent and our forthcoming examination results in both phases are predicated to be higher than the four predecessor schools.

We have also seen our first student gain an international vest for Wales and our Year 8 Boys Football Team becoming County Champions. We are now recognised by the WRU as a "School of Rugby" and have developed strong community links. Our students have excelled in so many quarters

this year, they truly are inspirational.

Throughout all of the changes we have been incredibly grateful for the support of Parents. Many parents supported our new uniform policy by purchasing it 12 months before it was fully required, attendance at consultation evenings is good and our Drama and Music events sell out quickly. Our numbers are increasing rapidly, we are attracting new admissions from close and further afield and soon could be full in the majority of year groups.

I am also grateful to the staff team; it is a real pleasure and privilege to lead such a talented group of education professionals. We know the areas we need to improve and collectively we remain focused on making a difference to our student's lives.

May I wish you all a lovely summer break and I look forward to welcoming all our students back in September.

Graeme Harkness
Director

Calendar Dates



TRAINING DAY

Monday 22nd July 2013

Last normal day of term is Friday 19th July 2013

TERM STARTS

Monday 2nd September 2013 -
Friday 20th December 2013

HALF TERM

Monday 28th October 2013 -
Friday 1st November 2013

SPRING TERM

Monday 6th January 2014 -
Friday 11th April 2014

HALF TERM

Monday 24th February 2014 -
Friday 28th February 2014

SUMMER TERM

Monday 28th April 2014 -
Monday 21st July 2014

HALF TERM

Monday 26th May 2014 -
Friday 30th May 2014

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community and TATA Steel



Tata Steel, Llanwern welcomed a group of Year 9 students who study French to their brand new offices on Friday 17th May 2013. Gaining so much from being in a business context, the students sat in one of the company's conference rooms. There, they met Nathalie DeFrance of the company. Nathalie spoke of the products made by TATA Steel and listed some of the companies they supply to. Amongst the long list of names mentioned by Nathalie, Renault rang a bell with the students!

The students then set to work on a role play in which they had to pretend to work in the sales office at TATA Steel. Despite some tricky vocabulary, the students did extremely well and enjoyed getting a flavour of dealing with customers.



The visit made a real impression on all those who attended, with students exclaiming "I will definitely think more positively about learning languages because I now know how important it is in work". Another student said "I would now like to pursue a career in communications abroad"

London Trip



Welsh Baccalaureate students visited the Houses of Parliament on March 15th/16th. The activities began with a guided tour followed by a workshop designed to support the teaching of Wales, Europe & the World – Politics "Elections & Voting". This activity enabled the students to participate in mock

elections and role-play, of which they all thoroughly enjoyed and were wholly engaged. Mr Nick Smith, the MP for Blaenau Gwent introduced himself to the group and gave a detailed summary of his roles and responsibilities of being a Member of Parliament; this was then concluded with question and answer session and group photography.

The remainder of our visit continued with a flight on the London Eye followed by dinner with the stars at Planet Hollywood. To finish off the first day we then ventured over to the Palace Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue to follow Don Lockwood in his ploy to bring musicals to movies in "Singin' in the Rain". A truly enjoyable performance that had the students on the edge of their seats... literally! Perhaps I should have told them I had

booked the front row seats and that they were about to get wet!



Day 2: After a good hearty breakfast we packed our bags and headed back to the city centre and to the London Dungeons. The Dungeons brought together an amazing cast of theatrical actors, special effects, stages, scenes and rides in a truly unique and exciting walk through experience that you could see, hear, touch, smell and feel. It was hilarious, fun and was sometimes a bit scary!

Now we were ready for a little shopping at the infamous Covent Garden. This London establishment perhaps appeared too commercial and crowded to provide a distinctive retail experience, but some eccentric charms lifted the experience. Here the students were also able to enjoy the diverse cultural cuisine, and the theatrical displays of the street performances.

Our final journey of the day took us over to Madame Tussauds, this time to meet the stars of yesterday and today.

Forest School

This term Class 5 and 6 have been given the opportunity to visit Silent Valley and Ebbw Vale Wildlife Centre. We had a fabulous time learning about habitats, mini beasts and roasting marshmallows on a real fire. Here is what some of the students thought about it...

"Silent Valley was very, very beautiful" Brooke Morris

"I loved Silent Valley because it was full of nature" Rosie Fairburn

"The forest fire was amazing" Alfie Davies.

All the students had such a fantastic time we are looking forward to visiting the Wildlife centre again



Hospice of the Valleys 10km run



On Sunday 28th April, five members of Ebbw Fawr Learning Community staff braved the cold and biting wind in Bryn Bach Park, to take part in the annual Hospice of the Valleys 10km race. The course was tough in parts, (especially the hills!) but all staff finished the race exhilarated at having completed the challenge, raising over £200 for this worthwhile charity. Miss Roberts set a new Ebbw Fawr record, completing the course in 56 minutes. Staff would like to thank everyone who sponsored them and supported them along the route.

Pictured (Left to Right):
Mrs D Walford-Jones
Miss F Bryant
Mrs N Owen
Mrs J Wyburn
Miss V Roberts

Drama Success!

A group of Ebbw Fawr students took their LAMDA examinations at St John's in Chepstow. The students had to perform a duologue, reciting two pieces of prose in a play format with their partner and then answer questions regarding the prose, characters and setting. The students are young to be participating in examinations of such a high level and performed fantastically, all achieving either distinctions or merits.

Year 7

Lowri Jenkins (Distinction, Grade 4)
Katherine Jones (Distinction, Grade 4)

Year 6

Ffion Witcomb (Distinction, Grade 4)

Year 4

Teagan Humphreys (Merit, Grade 3)

Eco Committee



The Eco committee has raised £20.13 for Water Aid by collecting students' and staff loose change in the canteens on both the secondary phase campus'.



Bwrdd Iechyd
Aneurin Bevan
Health Board

Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Minor Injury Service

Why wait longer than you need in a busy A & E ...

... if you or a member of your family suffers a minor injury, for instance:



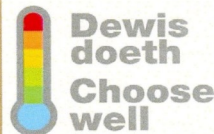
- ✓ Minor head injuries, where there has been no loss of consciousness
- ✓ Minor wounds that might need stitching
- ✓ Limb injuries or suspected broken bone
- ✓ Minor eye problems
- ✓ Animal bites and stings

Benefits of the Minor Injury Service:

- Quick access to x-ray and diagnostic equipment
- Waiting times considerably less than busy Accident and Emergency (A & E) departments
- No appointment required



If you are unsure whether you should attend a Minor Injuries Unit, or need reassurance, then please call **the Minor Injuries Unit on 01495 363318.**



Opening hours: 9.00 am to 7.00 pm week days

Closed weekends and Bank Holidays

Year 7 Girls and Boys Football



A team of Year 7 girls and boys travelled to Aberystwyth on Thursday 9th May to compete at the Urdd National football seven a side tournament. All the players did extremely well considering the monsoon conditions and the fact that the other sides consisted of mainly Year 8 students.

The girls were playing in their first competitive tournament and although they struggled with the physicality of some of the teams they battled throughout and I was very impressed with their determination and team spirit.

The boys were disappointed to lose their games and showed great character in making all the larger and more physical sides work extremely hard to beat them. The 8 boys who represented the school showed some flashes of great skill and played some wonderful football, they just were not strong enough on the day. We knew it was going to be difficult because of the difference in age groups but both sides gave everything. They came away from the experience with a positive outlook. The girls have requested more training and involvement and the boys felt that they can target this competition next year and with the experience gained go and win it.

Congratulations to Macy Downs Year 7 on gaining her Grade 2 Flute with merit in the recent Associated Board of Music.



Gymnastics Competition

The competition was not only the first to be hosted by Ebbw Fawr but also a first for Blaenau Gwent County. Schools were invited to attend from all over South Wales and there was a brilliant turnout on the day with up to 100 students competing in three categories: Under 15 girls, Under 15 boys and Under 17 girls. Each category was required to compete with two differing tumble routines



This was reflected in the results, where we brought home both gold and silver in the team event. Equally as impressive was the individual result. **Liberty Pennington** scoring the all-around highest score bringing home the gold medal with **Chloe Hayward** achieving bronze.

Team Competition Results

GOLD: Ebbw Fawr A
SILVER: Ebbw Fawr C

consisting of 5 elements each and two vaults. One set vault, and one voluntary. A panel of judges from Welsh Gymnastics marked their performances out of ten and awarded tariff points for the more difficult moves. Gold, silver and bronze medals were on offer for the all-around highest team scores and the all-around highest individual scores in these events.

Team Ebbw Fawr consisted of:

Under 15 Girls

A Team - Liberty Pennington, Chloe Hayward, Shannon Thomas, Shannon Walsh, Sophie Dowding.

B Team - Imogen Hamm, Ffion Williams, Ellie Ball, Aiesha Griffiths, Sofia Thomas.

C Team - Scarlett Knapman, Kelsey Adams, Amelia Paige, Zoe Young, Carly Ann Williams.

D Team - Ffion Roberts, Freya Rappell, Cariad Bridgeman, Lara Williams, Megan Foulger.

Under 15 Boys

Tom Hamm

Under 17 Girls

Paige Griffiths

Under 15 Girls Competition:

There was stiff competition in the category, many competitors were ex club gymnasts and the standard on the day was impressive. The display of talent from Ebbw Fawr was exceptional, each and every individual pulled out their best performances.



Individual Results

GOLD: Liberty Pennington (Ebbw Fawr)
BRONZE : Chloe Hayward (Ebbw Fawr)

Under 15 Boys Category: Was represented alone by **Tom Hamm**. It was his first ever competition and despite his nerves he gave 100% effort and his competitive spirit on the day was impressive. He faced stiff competition; there were a total of 17 competitors in this group, including a team from Brynmawr who were all ex club competitors who compete on a regular basis. Tom was able to match the skills of most of these competitors, despite this being his first time and he proudly represented this category. He unfortunately did not place in the top three individuals; however, I have high hopes for Tom in future competitions.

Overall the day was a brilliant success. An all round impressive display of Welsh talent within gymnastics from both boys and girls from all over South Wales. Teachers from other schools and members of Welsh gymnastics were highly complimentary about the talent of Ebbw Fawr students and were extremely pleased to be invited to be part of such an event. The students trained hard for many weeks prior to the competition and their efforts paid off, achieving such fantastic results.

Student Scheme Presentation

Students from Year 9 and 10 attended the Student Scheme Presentation on Thursday 6th June in Cardiff's Saint David's Centre. The event included VIP's such as Deputy Police Commissioners, Local Mayors and Police Officers from across all of the forces in Wales. They were also entertained by Ragsy who had been a competitor on The Voice.



Wildlife in the frame



Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership is launching a new biodiversity photographic competition for under 17 year olds. The aim of the competition is to encourage the younger generation in the borough to become wildlife recorders through the use of photography, whilst creating a greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of our local biodiversity and importance in our society. This year students are encouraged to participate by taking photos of plants, animals and wildlife habitats. You don't have to travel far – you can take photographs of biodiversity in your backyard, school grounds or alternatively why not visit one of Blaenau Gwent's park or nature reserves such as Beaufort Hill Woodlands or Silent Valley near Cwm. There are two categories to enter, a Schools Category and an Individual Category. Further details can be obtained from Mr J Hillier – ICT Department. Following our success within the 2012 SNAP! Biodiversity photography competition Mrs Williams presents Casey Jones, Paris Maguire and Cameron Lewis with the photography DVD's and field study guide purchased with their prize money.

Daffodil Appeal

Raising funds in aid of



In early March students from all sites collected £100 towards the Marie Curie daffodil appeal.

Theme Park Programme



In March a Welsh Baccalaureate induction activity was organised to develop new acquaintances with Year 9 students by bringing together both campuses to collaborate on "The Theme Park Programme". This was a one-day activity which was designed to provide students with an understanding of the key skills that would link them to a business experience. Teams of 6 (4 teams per form) had to complete the following tasks:

1. Create and design a novel theme park and illustrate it on a theme park map.
2. Create a poster to advertise the park including a brand, a logo and a slogan.
3. Design and build a model rollercoaster.
4. Present their work to the class and possibly the Year Group.

The programme combined the use of key skills and business skills involved in launching a new and innovative theme park.

Year 10 German NVQ Students

German Year 10 NVQ students have this week been to Capital Law in Cardiff for a days work experience.



Learner of the Year

Congratulations to Dylan Davies Year 11 who has been chosen as the 'Learner of the Year' by the Business Resource Centre. Dylan has been following the 'Tools for your Future' vocational course and was awarded a toolbox by the centre as recognition of his hard work.

EBBW FAWR GOES RED

EBBW a staggering **£2,466** for charity..

3-16 FAWR Learning Community

Thank you so, so much!

RED NOSE DAY

This year for Comic Relief, the whole of Ebbw Fawr Learning Community got together to get involved in a crazy range of activities including 'Sponge the Teacher', 'Wil Dance', 'Guess the Score', 'Chubby Bunny', 'Non-Uniform day', 'Face Painting', 'Silent Disco', 'Mini Table Tennis', 'Cake Sale', 'Film Screening', 'Parents Tea Party' and 'Design a Red Nose'.

Amazingly, through hard work, enthusiasm and compassion, our students with the support of parents /carers managed to raise a staggering **£2466** for a truly great cause. Their incredible generosity will be used by Comic Relief to fund initiatives in the UK and around the world to help transform the lives of individuals less fortunate.

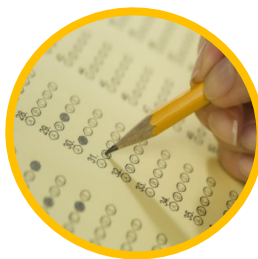
So, by 'Doing something funny for money', Ebbw Fawr Learning Community has really made a **difference** to many worthwhile projects around the world!

Many thanks,
Mrs M Thomas
Assistant Director for Care and Guidance

Year 10 - 13 Examinations

Students in Year 10 – 13 are to be congratulated for their excellent behaviour during the recent GCSE and A level examinations which have just finished. Mrs Thomas, Examinations Officer has reported that all of the invigilators have commented on the good nature and cooperation that has been forwarded to them by the Ebbw Fawr students.

"I wish them well and I am sure that all their hard work will come to fruition on results day!"



South East Wales Netball Tournament - Year 8



THE SQUAD: Lucy Williams Jade O'Keefe Olivia Hoskins Kelsie Williams
Georgia Watkins-Skyrme Jennah Alkaysi Nia King Keeley Evans

Another outstanding performance at the South East Wales County tournament - this time from our Year 8 squad! The team knew they had a lot resting on them. The tournament was a South East Wales Development Squad Trial. With twenty four teams in attendance from across the county, we had a tough battle ahead with four strong teams to play in the group stages. Our first game was against the competition hosts Blackwood. After a turnover of Blackwood's first centre pass, the first goal was scored convincingly from the circle edge by Olivia Hoskins. The girls remained composed with Keeley Evans in defence making it very difficult for the oppositions to convert their possession into goals. Jade O'Keefe was found easily above her GK and sunk the next goal to finish the opening game 2-1.

Our next opponents were Rougemont. The girls were not as confident starting as in the previous game, as they struggled to find space in the circle and the normally calm and consistent shooters not quite finding their aim in the early minutes with the final score ending 1 - 2 to Rougemont.

Losing the third toss for centre pass against Llantarnam, the girls stepped onto the court with their heads held high. Georgia Watkins-Skyrme (C) and Lucy Williams (WA) started to cause some trouble for Llantarnams defence, their passing into the circle was smooth and accurate. The girls quickly took control of the game



commanding a lead from the offset with highlight interceptions from Nia King. They were back on track as the whistle went, putting 5 points back on the score board with a 2-1 win. We needed a win from the final game against Caldicot to finish as group winners and secure a place in the finals! The girls settled relatively quickly, adopting patience to work the ball around the D before seizing opportunity to feed into the shooters, who slotted with ease. They remained composed and the formidable trio in defence of Kelsie Williams, Nia King and Keeley Evans forced mistake upon mistake from the Caldicot side to prevent their scoring opportunities, with a convincing win of 5-0, triumphantly making us group winners!!

Jennah Alkaysi had a fabulous game with strong drives off the line for the centre pass while nailing some outstanding passes through the court. Two quick turnovers put the girls in control of the game as Olivia Hoskins and Jade O'Keefe continued to work well in the circle. The mid-court was also asserting their influence and started to up the tempo, forcing mistakes from Croesyceiliog as the girls surged into 5-0 victory at full time. Their second game was a real toe-to-toe contest throughout as both shooting duo's kept calm under the incredible pressure. Newbridge took the lead in the final minutes, with the game finishing 4-2.

The final match saw us meet Abertillery to whom we had lost only two days previous at a home fixture. Not letting this hold us back and despite Abertillery winning the toss we quickly showed our intent with a well timed challenge from Nia King (GD), we quickly capitalised and were able to set Abertillery a target of two unanswered goals in the first four minutes of play. However, Abertillery took it up a notch and although the work at both ends of the court was impressive with some positive play by the two wings linking with the centre, Abertillery fought back enabling them to take control, ending the game at 4-2. As the scores were collated and third place finish was announced, the girls discussed areas for improvement, once again showing their maturity and holding their heads high in defeat. With a fantastic team performance, I was spoilt for choice for a Player of the Tournament but in recognition of some superb support play it was given to Georgia Watkins-Skyrme with Nia King a very close second (Who have both subsequently been chosen for the U14 SE Wales Netball Summer Academy).

Bloomin' Brilliant



The Ebbw Fawr Eco Warriors have been busy planting seeds and nurturing seedlings as part of the Blaenau Gwent in Bloom competition. A recent visit from one of the competition judges revealed that our plants were doing extremely well when compared with those from other schools. I'm sure our Eco Warriors can retain their green fingers until the

competition is finally judged. By then hopefully these pots should be blooming with an array of colour. The pots line the playground entrance to the Primary Campus so that parents and children can admire the plants on their way in to school. Watch this space for future projects by the Ebbw Fawr Eco Warriors.

Dan-Yr-Ogof Caves

The Foundation Phase had a **ROARING** time at Dan-Yr-Ogof Show caves. The trip was a great day to end to the topic Dinosaurs.

"The main part I loved was when I discovered the secret in the Cathedral Cave - You can get married in there!" Billie Smith - Year 2.



Foundation phase students are excited for the next topic superheroes.

Football Cup Final Champions



Abertillery R.F.C
Mini & Junior



Under 7's — Under 16's



Abertillery is a well established club which runs 11 successful teams from under 7's to Youth.

We have dedicated coaches, which give their all to ensure the children have the best coaching, positive attitude and have fun!!

Abertillery R.F.C is looking for boys and girls who have an interest in rugby.

Do you want to try a new sport?

Come and watch us train to see if you think you would like it.
We train on various days through the week.
Match day on Sundays.

ALL NEW PLAYERS WELCOME!!

For more information contact Emma Griffiths 07969464854

On the 22nd of May 2013 the Ebbw Fawr Year 8 football team travelled to Risca United's ground to play in the final of the Gwent School's Cup. The opposition was Caerleon Comprehensive School. The Ebbw Fawr boys were really nervous leading up to the game but as soon as the warm up got under way they all started to relax and enjoy the occasion. The first few minutes of the game were really tense as both teams were trying to figure each other out. Both sides struggled to get an early foothold in the game but eventually after a few minutes of play, Ebbw Fawr started to get the ball down on the deck and play some really nice 'Barcelona style' football. With just 15 minutes of play gone, striker Morgan Griffiths showed a lovely bit of trickery inside the Caerleon penalty box and was taken down unfairly by a Caerleon defender. The referee awarded a penalty-kick to Ebbw Fawr which the boys celebrated like a goal. After being fouled, Morgan stepped up to take the crucial penalty and dispatched it confidently into the bottom left corner of the goal. Ebbw Fawr were 1-0 up! As play progressed Ebbw Fawr had a number of chances to double their lead but were unable to do so due to some great saves and great defending from the Caerleon players. The game was evenly contested throughout with both sides working extremely hard in the hope



of winning the trophy. With the final whistle approaching Caerleon were awarded a free-kick just outside the Ebbw Fawr penalty box. The referee blew his whistle and the stage was set for the Caerleon captain to step up and take the free kick. For that split second in the game, the Ebbw Fawr players had their hearts in their mouths. As everyone looked on, there was only one player who could stop the ball from going in and that was goalkeeper Cameron Sims. Cameron dived through the air to his left hand side and pulled off a fantastic finger-tip save to push the ball onto the post and away from danger. The final whistle eventually blew and the Ebbw Fawr boys were due to be crowned champions of Gwent. The boys were delighted with the win as it was such a hard fought effort from them all. Each player was presented with a medal and both Joshua Wall & Jonathan Powell lifted the trophy which was presented by tournament organiser Roger Skyrme. Roger also gave a special mention during his closing speech to Ebbw Fawr defender Daniel Sykes, who he said 'had an excellent game and was his man of the match'. The boys behaved and performed tremendously well throughout the afternoon and are a huge credit to the school and to their families. Well done boys!!

Running Club



In January, Mrs R Griffiths (PE Department) invited all staff and students to participate in a post-Christmas fitness programme. This was to regularly meet after school on a Friday to "Lap the Lake" at Bryn Bach Park. This proved to be a popular venture by both staff and pupils, over the following months we saw them come and go but there was always the "Solid Crew" who still today meet every Friday. One success from the Running Club is Year 8 student Ieuan Powell. In April he entered himself in the 5K race at Bryn Bach Park where he finished first in the Under 16 category. The photograph shows Ieuan with his trophy prior to a running club meeting with Mrs R Griffiths and Mr J Hillier.

Swimming news...

Heads of the Valleys Swimming Club's Rebecca Evans recently travelled to Switzerland to compete with the Welsh Regional Squad. Rebecca competed in the 50m Fly, 200m Free, 200m Back, 400m Free, 100m Fly, 100m Back and 100m Free. This was an excellent opportunity for Rebecca to compete at a regional level and gain experience for the future. Rebecca said she enjoyed the competition and experience and looks forward to similar opportunities in the future. Well Done Rebecca!



Year 8 & 9 Rounders Update

A 24 strong squad travelled to Abertillery Comprehensive School for the annual Blaenau Gwent Rounders Tournament on Thursday 23rd May. The two teams of girls were very excited to demonstrate their rounders skills and tactics. They had to play Abertillery A and B, Brynmawr, Tredegar and of course each other. Each innings consisted of 7 minutes batting and fielding. Both teams got off to a slow start in the first game, both losing by three rounders. In the second game Ebbw Fawr A fielded brilliantly, managing to get 4 Brynmawr girls out at second base with some strong throws from Nia King. Ebbw Fawr B continued to make progress, only losing by one and half to a very strong Abertillery A. All students continued to bat accurately as well as managing to find gaps within the tightly knit fielding squads. Whilst fielding both teams were accurate when bowling, with only a hand full of no balls and also made good decisions at bases and in the deep field. The girls finished 3rd and 5th overall. The year 9 rounders tournament on Tuesday 11th June included a squad of 15 girls. The girls organised themselves into teams of 8. Throughout the tournament, there was some



excellent batting and fielding as the girls seized the opportunity to play a variety of positions within the team. I was very impressed with the back stop to second base combinations of Charlotte Godding/ Holly Dobbs and Maria Roskowska/ Kelsey Morgan. Courtney Newth, Chelsie Meredith and Bethan Lewis were the star batters and risk takers, launching the ball into deep field for their opponents to deal with. With some team encouragement from Holly Dobbs and Lauren Rogers, the teams fielded tightly and made some astonishing catches. Changing their tactics during the tournament the teams switched to focusing on double outs to outwit the batters and runners when fielding. This proved successful as the A team managed to get Abertillery B out in 5 minutes and the B team in 6 minutes 20 seconds. A very close tournament, where either team deserved to win. Each game was tight demonstrating that the Blaenau Gwent rounders set up really is developing. The A team finished 3rd and the B team 4th. Both tournaments gave the girls an opportunity to demonstrate their competitive natures.

Recycling Competition



The eco committee took part in a Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment recycling competition (WEEE) during September 2012. Ebbw Fawr came second place in the competition and received £500. Three students and Mrs S Powell attended a national Eco Schools conference at the Welsh Assembly buildings on Tuesday the 25th June.

Cricket



The Year 8 cricket team recently played Abertillery Comprehensive in an 8 a side cup competition. This was the students first cricket game of the season against a strong Abertillery team. Abertillery batted first scoring 53 off 8 overs. Ebbw Fawr then batted superbly scoring 56 with 3 balls, qualifying to represent South East Wales at Weston Super Mare in June. An added bonus for winning was the prize of £500 worth of free cricket equipment. Special mention in a superb team performance to Jonathon Powell in year 8 who scored an unbeaten 23 and Jack Freeguard from year 7 who batted and bowled superbly.

Primary Phase Violin Concert

On Friday 24th May, students participating in this year's Primary Phase String Project, performed in a concert to their families and friends. The students demonstrated techniques, musicality, confidence and obvious enjoyment! Amongst many tunes enthusiastically played, 'The Pirate Song' proved to be a great favourite with everyone.

Students commented:
'I like playing the violin because it makes me happy and I can't wait to use my bow!'; I can play music with my friends, and it's fun!



One proud mum commented 'I can't believe the children have learned so much in such a short time - I look forward to the next performance!'

Another dad pointed out that, 'The programme gave the children the opportunity to play an instrument which they might otherwise not be able to do'.

We are all very proud of the students, all of whom are aged between five and six. Well done!

Big Beat

This year, classes 7 and 8 have been working on the Big Beat Project. Big Beat involves singing, drumming, dancing and Sasa. We learned lots of different songs from different countries, which we enjoyed singing. Our favourite was "Bangalore." We really enjoyed the drumming because it was lots of fun and noisy! In April we went to the Big Beat Festival with lots of other schools. We had to compose and perform a Sasa (a type of slap dance from Samoa) in front of a large audience. We were nervous but needn't have been because we were FAB! We also performed for parents and all the other children from Ebbw Fawr Primary Phase in school.



Congratulations to Year 11 NVQ French and German students who were commended by the examiner for the professionalism of their business files and the innovation of their products.



Forging Elite Fitness at Ebbw Fawr

There is a new fitness movement sweeping across Ebbw Fawr inspired by your innovative PE Department.

So what is CrossFit?

CrossFit begins with a **belief in fitness**. The aim of CrossFit is to forge a broad, general and inclusive fitness. CrossFit is not easy and it's not simple. To be fit and physically competent to handle all of the challenges in school and life is no small endeavor. Students work to become a fitter and healthier, they will learn about:

Movement - How to move safely and effectively.

Fitness - What it means to be fit. Its definition, the supporting theories, and how to go about attaining it in real life.

Nutrition - Eat meat & vegetables, nuts & seeds, some fruit, little starch, and no sugar. Keep intake to levels that will support exercise, but not body fat.

Education is a big part of CrossFit. When students start, they are not expected to have the knowledge they need. CrossFit is an education about movement, fitness, nutrition and community. All of these things require responsibility, common sense, and work to educate each other using all the tools available in the community.



At the time of writing we have a number of classes already experiencing their first taste of Crossfit during lessons and are also one of only three schools invited to take part in the inaugural Schools Crossfit competition, where we will see a mixed Year 7 and mixed Year 10 team preparing for their first 'throwdown' at Crossfit Penybont on July 8th. Results and report to follow. Beware its coming...

Ebbw Fawr Athletics Victorious



Ebbw Fawr junior and middle athletics team competed in the regional competition on Thursday 16th May held at Spytty Park Athletics stadium in Newport. Team selection proved a difficult choice as there was so much talent in years nine and ten to select from. There was an impressive display of talent from all the high schools on the day meaning the standard of the competition was on the whole very high. However, Team Ebbw Fawr held their own and achieved some impressive scores/times and results. We had pupils in the top three in most events for both junior and middle categories.

Competitors who finished in the top two in their respective events go through to the next round where they represent their county. So although some only narrowly missed out the following students have successfully achieved a place in the next round. The athletics season continued with many more students wearing the Ebbw Fawr Athletics with pride. This time the students also competed in the South East Wales Cup Championships (14/06/13) in the boys and girls under 14 and under 16 categories. Unfortunately we did not

qualify for the county finals, although there were some excellent performances from all the pupils involved.

Finally, Jodi Beynon is continuing to go from strength to strength. After attending the Blaenau Gwent Schools Athletics Meet in May, she has recently been selected to compete for South East Wales Schools in the **National Athletics Championships (including Y Gemau Cymru)**, at Cardiff International Sports Stadium, Leckwith, Cardiff. She will compete in the 80m Sprint hurdles, high jump and the 4 x 100m relay. Jodi is an outstanding student, who always competes with determination and vigor. She is an excellent role model who really encapsulates the true athlete.

The final event of the athletics calendar is the Blaenau Gwent District Minors (Year 7 and 8). It is obvious from lessons/ extra curricular club that we have many more budding athletes in the midst, so watch this space!

Swimming Gala Volunteers



On Friday 7th June, the prestigious Blaenau Gwent Primary School Swimming Gala was held at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre. Year 10 students from Ebbw Fawr Learning Community attended as volunteers at the event, along with a few young leaders. The students were exceptional, conducted themselves impeccably and took on every task that was given to them with no qualms, looking very professional in their kit and were an absolute credit to the school for the whole two hours. It's safe to say that without the volunteers the event would have struggled to have gone ahead. Chris Kibby, Blaenau Gwent's Swimming Development Officer, commented on their importance and paid tribute to all prior to the presentation of the awards, and also mentioned he would have no hesitation in inviting them along to help out at future events.

Thank you very much to the following year 10 pupils: Lucy Keefe, Kirsty Clarke, Beth Davies, Elland Smit, Lewys Phillips, Amy Griffiths, Fatima Gomez, Mikita Weave, Beth Warburton, Ffion Marshall, Brooke Jones, Paige Timothy, Elliot Jones, Ben Bowen, Jake Lewis

Dai Langdon, Active Young People's Sport Development Officer

Celebrating the Life of St. David at Disneyland, Paris



The Welsh and French department are planning a French Culture /Welsh awareness weekend trip for Year 10 and 11 students who are studying languages at GCSE /NVQ level. More information will be available to students via languages staff in the new term.

Easter Monday Choir Performance



Following an invitation to perform at the annual Easter Singing festival at Libanus Church Ebbw Vale the choir prepared two pieces where they impressed an audience of 400 listeners. Georgia Miller and Rachael Joyce sang a beautiful arrangement of *Panis Angelicus* and the Senior Choir sang an arrangement of *When You believe*. Everyone sang well and was justly showered with compliments from audience members at the end of the service. They were all presented with Easter gifts and thanked by the president for their efforts and high standards of singing. The Senior Choir rehearse every Thursday and work extremely hard to produce a high quality sound. We will be losing two dedicated members of the choir at the end of this year. Thank you to Georgia Miller and Rachael Joyce for representing Ebbw Fawr and the community in a wide range of performances. Thanks also to all our Year 11 performers for their dedication, patience, hard work and outstanding performances. We wish you every success!

Graded Music Examinations

It takes approximately 12 months to prepare for a graded examination. The following students have spent many hours rehearsing and mastering a number of music skills to perform to an external examiner where their results range from a Distinction* to a Pass. Congratulations to the following students who have passed their instrumental and vocal examinations in April and May 2013.

Guitar

Charlie Haynes (Yr 11) and Laurie Morris (Yr10) Grade 5 Electric Guitar.
Shane Phillips (Yr 8) and Tommy Haynes (Yr 7) Grade 1 Electric Guitar.

Passing grade 5 is the equivalent to passing a GCSE with an A*- C grade.

Percussion

Jackson Page (Yr 7) Grade 1 Drum Kit

Voice

Katherine Bruten (Yr 10) Grade 2 Singing.
Aisha Brown and Jodie Edwards (Yr9) Grade 1 Singing.

Strings

Cerys Evans (Yr 7) Grade 1 Violin and Elen Johnston (Yr 7) Grade 2 Violin.

Woodwind

Alanna Williams (Yr 9) Grade 2 Clarinet and Bethan Copner (Yr 10) Grade 3 Saxophone.

We're Forever Blowing Bubbles

Recently Year 5 and 6 students have been seen getting themselves into a real 'lather' during soap making practical sessions, as part of the schools drive to raise the standards of Literacy and Numeracy.

Mixed groups of students (working in 'Pairs') were given the chance to prepare a small bar of crafted soap and have it moulded along with fragrances and essential oils of their choice. Throughout the session, the provider Yola Orłowska who owns and runs her own health care product company, worked with the students on their spelling and mathematics. Every student had several challenging opportunities during the session to spell some difficult key words which later appeared in a crossword. A 'Simple' costing sheet was also used for the

students to work out the price of the soap and its additives, the cost of a completed bar and the profit which could be made when the bar might eventually be sold to the public.



This was an immensely enjoyable and rewarding morning for all students, Yola continually reinforced the need for each of the students to work hard in school, to believe in themselves and to strive to achieve their maximum potential.

Each group after the very busy sessions were over, took their bars of soap home as a reminder of their novel literacy and numeracy work shops –all pupils by now were well and truly 'washed out'!

Primary Phase Class 9 and 10 Events

On Tuesday 7th June 15 students from class 9 and 10 took part in a 'Kwik Cricket tournament'. It was held at Ebbw Vale Bowling & Cricket Club. Students played against other schools in Blaenau Gwent including: All Saints, Willowtown, Glyncoed and Beaufort Hill.

They also had a go at playing a game of bowls, coached by the Bowling Team, who were very supportive and encouraging.

This is what Matthew Bailey had to say "It was lots of fun and I would like to go again sometime soon".

This is what Heidi Norris had to say "I really enjoyed it and can't wait to go again!"

On Friday 3rd June 15 students from class 9 and 10 competed in the 2013 swimming gala at Ebbw Vale leisure centre. We had a good outcome as Megan Williams (Class 9) came 3rd in breast stroke individual race and received a certificate. This is what she had to say about it:

"I was very pleased with my place and I enjoyed it very much. I hope, next year, I will do as well as I did this year if not better."



Junior Aspirations is a course of lessons about careers, work and jobs. Every week the students from class 9 and 10 have a new individual to come in and talk about their job. So far they've had Mr Kevan Lines, who is a local solicitor and parent of two of our school's students. The children enjoyed his visit a lot, and they cannot wait for the next person to come in and talk to them. Mr Lines enjoyed his visit to Ebbw Fawr as well.

Class 9+10 are also looking forward to their trip on Thursday 11th July, where they will visit Newport University, to give them the opportunity to find out about a potential learning venue of the future.

Reporters: Lowri Clay and Kacey Worlock, Class 9

Centre of Rugby Excellence launched at Ebbw Fawr



Rugby stars of the future received a boost this week with the announcement that a centre of rugby excellence is to be created at Ebbw Fawr Learning Community. The new 3-16 school has been recognised by the Welsh Rugby Union as a flagship "School of Rugby"

– one of only 15 nationally. The award brings support for high quality specialist training for all ages and involves development of senior and junior rugby for boys and girls through the school with links into Ebbw Vale Rugby Club and Newport Gwent Dragons.

Adrian Evans, WRU Rugby Partnership Manager said "It is an honour to be selected for this award and it speaks highly of how well Ebbw Fawr's work within the development of rugby union is perceived. It is a positive contribution that deserves Welsh Rugby Union recognition."

Founding Director at Ebbw Fawr Learning Community Graeme Harkness said

"This is fantastic news for our students, the links with the WRU, Ebbw Vale Rugby Club and the Dragons will lead to a superb opportunity for those students interested in rugby"

"We are also delighted to announce that ITN mark Education – one of UK's largest education recruitment agencies have agreed to sponsor our new kit for the 2013/14 season."

Roger Marsh, Managing Director of ITN Mark said "The opportunity for ITN Mark to support the development of rugby for the aspiring students of Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, particularly at a time when Welsh rugby is so buoyant, is a real privilege".



N.P.Q.H

The Governing Body wish to congratulate Mr P Collins, Secondary Phase Director, on completing the NPQH Award.

NPQH is the qualification approved by the National Assembly of Wales as evidence of a person being suitably equipped for headship. Mr Collins now joins six other members of staff who have this award.



Ebbw Fawr's Top Attenders!



Congratulations to the following students who achieved 100% attendance for this academic year.

School Meal Price Increase

The Council have notified us that prices will rise in September as shown below:

- ◆ Infants: £1.90 (increase of 10p)
- ◆ Junior: £1.90 (no change)
- ◆ Secondary: £2.15 (increase of 10p)

The Council have asked us to point out that existing prices have remained unchanged since September 2010, even though the cost of producing the school meals has increased by over 35% in that period of time. Since the introduction of Welsh Governments Appetite for Life there is very little difference in the portion sizes being served to the Infant and Junior age children, as they are now controlled by the guidance issued from Welsh Government. Therefore, there is a valid view that the prices for each should be the same.

Secondary Phase

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Shafi Alam Thomas Beynon Connor Bool Macy Downs Ieuan Evans Katherine Gane Becci Harper Tanni Jones-Probert Aimee Orr Ben Pinch Lowri Powell Dyan Shorthouse	Lewis Cross Morgan Day Garbrijela Klaric-Grubb Taryn Langley Kelsey Price Annalise Reid Jema-Mai Roberts Jayden Williams	Katie Blanchard Ellys Connor Aiesha Griffiths Samuel Pritchard	Rhys Gillett Amy Griffiths Joshua Hodson Thomas Lynch Sophie Petts Lewys Phillips Matthew Stevens James Whitby

Primary Phase

Nursery	Reception	Years 1– 6	
Iestyn Morris Alex Burchell Madeleine Fairburn	Sky Pritchard Mia Williams	Liam Burchell Alfie Davies Holly Davies Rosie Fairburn Dylan Tibbs Jamie White Ryan Williams Heidi Norris	Kieran Boulter Hannah Jenkins Evan Kember Matthew Bailey Lowri Clay Corey England Alexander Kirkby Lleuci Hill

Moving to the new site...

With the end of term now only a matter of weeks away and over 3000 packing boxes arrived on our two secondary sites, our thoughts and planning are now directed towards the last weekend in August when we will actually start the move to Lime Avenue on the Works Site.

Everything is on track to take possession on the 2nd September when the unpacking can start and we can really understand the fantastic facilities that are on offer to us.

We will take a Training Day on Monday 2nd September for the whole staff team to undertake Health & Safety work in the new build. Following this there are three closure days approved by the Welsh Government to prepare the building. Our first students - our new Year 7 will arrive on Friday 6th September for an 8.45am start followed later in the morning by our Year 11. Years 8, 9 and 10 will start on the following Monday while our Primary Phase will start on Tuesday 3rd September. Information for pupils in the Primary Phase will be sent home towards the end of term.

A detailed newsletter with all the information for the secondary phase will be sent out before the end of term – any changes will be placed on our website throughout the summer (www.ebbwfawr.co.uk).

Attendance Reminder Leave of absence in term-time



We have been asked to remind parents that leave of absence is not a parental right and Blaenau Gwent Local Education Authority has made the decision not to authorise any holidays in term time. As a result any parents taking their child on holidays during term time face the possibility of statutory action being taken. Regular and punctual attendance at school is a legal requirement under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. It is essential that parents maximise the educational opportunities available for their children and provide the best possible start in life.

Truancy from School

Section 23 of the Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 introduced new powers for designated Local Education Officers, authorised school officers and the police to issue penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school. Under previous legislation, parents of a registered pupil whose child failed to attend school regularly and whose absence was unauthorised committed an offence for which prosecution was the only available sanction. With the Education (Penalty notices) Regulations 2013, penalty notices were introduced as an early intervention strategy as an alternative to the previous sanction by allowing parents an opportunity to discharge potential liability for conviction for the offence. From 1st September 2013 the fine will be £60 if paid within 28 days and £120 if paid within 42 days. If the penalty remains unpaid by the end of 42 days, the Local Authority (LA) must consider the commencement of proceedings.



Secondary Phase



Lime Avenue
Ebbw Vale
Blaenau Gwent
NP23 6GL

TEL: (01495) 354690

Please note the above details are available from September 2013

Primary Phase



Strand Annealing
Lane
Ebbw Vale
Blaenau Gwent
NP23 6AN

TEL: (01495) 357755