

3-16

# Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

## Newsletter

### Dear Parents & Carers

#### *Celebration of Achievement Awards Evening*



On Thursday 9th October 2014 our previous Year 11 students and their guests were invited to our Celebration of Achievement Awards Evening. As a school we were delighted with the success of this year group. 53% of students gained at least 5A\* - C GCSEs including English and Maths and 72% of students gained at least 5A\* - C grades.

The evening began with light refreshments where students, staff and governors were reunited. The awards were presented by Mr Rod Davies, Chair of Governors and special guest Mr John Jones, Chair of Ebbw Vale Rugby Club and Director of Circuit of Wales. Students were recognised from all subject areas for outstanding achievements and endeavour. Each young person was presented with a certificate and voucher.

The successful Under 16's rugby team were also recognised for their achievements in reaching the final of the WRSU cup final at the Millennium Stadium.



The evening concluded with the final award presented to Joel Harries for Outstanding Achievement. The evening was a great success and we look forward to many more in the future.



### Calendar Dates



#### **INSET DAY**

Friday 24th October 2014

#### **HALF TERM**

Monday 27th October 2014 -  
Friday 31st October 2014

#### **INSET DAY**

Monday 1st December 2014

#### **WINTER CONCERT**

Tuesday 9th December 2014

#### **INSET DAY**

Friday 19th December 2014

#### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

Monday 22nd December 2014 -  
Friday 2nd January 2015

# Painting at Ebbw Vale Rugby Club

Year 9 students from Ebbw Fawr were invited by Ebbw Vale RFC to participate in the re-painting of the pitch fencing in readiness for the clubs return to the Premiership. The students, Jack Morgan, Ieuan Watkins, Victoria Morgans, Ethan Williams, Jordan Paull and Jack Scott worked alongside Ebbw Vale coach and Ebbw Fawr teacher Jason Strange along with teaching assistants Ashley Sweet and Daniel Battle and are fully intending to contribute to other community projects in the future.



## Model Bomb Shelter



As part of The Blitz topic, the children in class 10 have split into groups and are constructing a model bomb shelter from their own designs. They have started by constructing a wooden frame which they will then cover and fill with model furniture they will make from smaller pieces of wood.

This is Tianna Jones' account of the work carried out during phase 1 of the construction process:

"We worked together to do it. First, we marked the piece of wood where we wanted to cut it. I went first. To saw the wood you had to be really careful because we used a proper saw. We used a special board. You had to place the piece of wood on the board and hold it. Then you had to saw the wood. After me, it was Kayleigh's turn. She was fast. She had to do the same thing as me".

## STEM Club



Our STEM club is up and running and takes place every Tuesday after school in Miss Abraham's lab (RM 253). All students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are invited to join in every week between 3:15 – 4:15. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Activities may involve practical experiments, investigation and discussion surrounding these four subjects. STEM club is not designed to be about writing, tests, or exams. Most of all, it aims to be fun. We want to motivate and build confidence in young people who struggle with STEM subjects, and provide an extra opportunity for students who already show aptitude in these areas and are interested in furthering their learning. Ebbw Fawr STEM club will allow pupils to develop confidence in the STEM subjects in a safe and helpful environment. It brings together like-minded students and, in the past, has been regarded not only as a STEM club, but also a social club where people can meet new people and become friends.

## Class 3 & 4 Trip to Caerphilly Castle



Over two days at the start of term classes 6, 7, 8 and 9 went to Caerphilly Castle. After a short walk around the edge of the moat we all entered the castle over the bridge. In small groups we went exploring around the castle, looking out for some of the features we had learnt about in class. Some of the rooms were tricky to get to. We had to carefully climb narrow stone steps.

We all met up for lunch before going to the shop to buy souvenirs – as well as bringing back the usual pencils and sweets, we also brought back a few toy bow and arrows! Great fun was had by all and we returned to school tired at the end of each busy day!

## Young Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who have been delivering sports classes at the primary phase very successfully with many primary students taking part and enjoying the sessions.



Zoe Young and Charlotte Godding - Dance

Ryan Wetten and Ewan Williams - Football

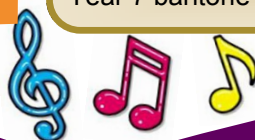
Liberty Pennington and Lucy Griffiths - Multi-sports

Sam Munkley and William Taylor - Rugby

Holly Dobbs, Amelia Page and Lucy Jones - Netball.

Congratulations to the following students who recently passed their instrumental examinations:

Katie Jones Year 9 Voice Studies grade 1, Jack Pritchard Year 9 Trombone grade 3, James Harriman Year 7 baritone grade 3.





# Ebbw Fawr through to the finals of the Blaenau Gwent Annual Football Competition



After winning two out of four and a goal scored by Dylan Collins from the half way line, we went through to the Quarter finals. There were some great saves by our goal keeper Katie Young and great teamwork between Dylan Collins and Levi Boulter. It was touch and go after a strong game against Abertillery and a coin was tossed to find a winner to go through to the finals!! We won!! Ebbw Fawr then went on to the semi finals and won against Bryngwyn at the last minute, thanks to Harrison Baker! Unfortunately we lost the final game against St Mary's CIW 3-0. All players played exceptionally well and were definitely all winners!! A great big thank you to Rob Young for being an excellent coach. WELL DONE EBBW FAWR!

## Queens Commonwealth Baton Relay



On Saturday May 24th, Lowri Young represented the Primary Phase in the Queens Commonwealth Baton Relay here in Ebbw Vale. Lowri was nominated by staff as she excels at a number of sports including rugby, cricket and football. She is passionate about all sports, particularly rugby and plays for Ebbw Vale RTB RFC, rarely missing training or matches showing fantastic commitment. Lowri did a great job of representing the school - well done!

## Community Governor (Voluntary)

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community seeks to fill a vacancy on it's Governing Body for the role of Community Governor.

We are seeking representation from the local community with relevant, recent experience in business, particularly in the areas of Finance, Public Relations, Human Resources or Audit. Posts are normally held for four years in the first instance. Meetings of the Governing Body occur early evenings on four occasions throughout the year. The school also operates a sub – committee structure which meets early evenings on a half termly basis.

For an informal discussion and further information please contact either the Chair of Governors Mr Rod Davies or School Director, Mr Graeme Harkness on 01495 354690 or by e-mail [gharkness@ebbwfawr.co.uk](mailto:gharkness@ebbwfawr.co.uk).

## Success at U14 & U16 Netball

### U16s:

Keeley Evans,  
\*Olivia Hoskins,  
Nia King, Caitlin Davies, Maria Roskowska,  
\*Lucy E. Jones,  
\*Charlotte Godding, \*Holly Dobbs and \*Georgia Watkins



### U14s:

Cloe George,  
Lori Beese,  
Olivia Wyburn,  
\*Katy Morgan,  
\*Ffion Collins, Eve Jennings,  
Rhian Wyatt,



Ffion Witcomb, Saffir Thomas and Ffion O'Callaghan

**\*Llongyfarchiadau Tîm Blaenau Gwent a Holly Dobbs Tim Sir - Congratulations Blaenau Gwent Team and Holly Dobbs for South East Wales County Selection.**

## TAPAS Maths Scheme



This term parents have been coming into school every afternoon to work with teachers and 'Family Learning' to help their child with Maths. At Ebbw Fawr Primary Phase we have

implemented the TAPAS Maths scheme to help raise standards. Parents have been learning about mental calculations and making resources to take home to help their child. This has been a great success and the turnout of parents has been brilliant! Thank you parents for your support.



Parent, Emma Williams explained 'It is brilliant to work with Mia and Joe in school and to find out what they are learning in Maths. My son doesn't usually like doing school work at home but now we are playing the Maths games at home we've made together.'



# Art Department

This year saw the Art Department at Ebbw Fawr Learning Community achieve the best results yet with 98% of all GCSE and BTEC Level 2 students achieving an A\* - C or equivalent and 42% of students achieving an A\*, A or equivalent.

“This is without doubt an amazing achievement. I thought that it would be a tough act to follow the 96% A\* - C achieved by our students the previous year, but through hard work our students have managed to do it! These are outstanding results and as a department we are quite rightly proud of our students and the work that they produce. On behalf of Miss Slater, Mrs O’Neill and myself I would like to congratulate all our students on their success.”

Mrs. S. Keohane – Subject Leader Art



During the External Moderation process students were praised for their creative and experimental use of a wide range of Art and Design mixed media in order to respond to themes and topics of a personal choice. Students have made full use of the excellent Art facilities at EFLC.

*Please enjoy viewing just a small selection of GCSE and BTEC work created by our 2014 students.*







Jake Lewis was awarded full marks for both his GCSE Coursework and Exam; this is an outstanding achievement.

### Art Can Build Bridges

Students from Pen-Y-Cwm special school visit Ebbw Fawr Secondary Phase to experience working with mainstream students and to benefit from the teaching and facilities on offer.



Pupils from Ebbw Fawr's ALN Unit, wearing their Tribal Masks.

Miss Slater said "The students at Ebbw Fawr have welcomed students from Pen-Y-Cwm into their Art class. Making links in this way has helped the Pen-Y-Cwm students to develop self-confidence and social skills. They have enjoyed learning new Art and Design techniques and are working hard towards achieving a GCSE qualification."



# EFLC Joins the 'Premier League'



Ebbw Fawr Learning Community has become part of a scheme called the Premier League Reading Stars. It is a partnership between the National Literacy Trust and the Premier League. A group of students from year 6 and year 7 will be involved in a reading intervention programme that captures the motivational power of football to inspire young people to read more and to improve their literacy skills. Over the past three years, thousands of children have used Premier League Reading Stars to raise their attainment.

We will be working with Swansea City Football Club, Wales' Premier League team to support and motivate pupils to read more. In 2014, 3 out of 4 children involved in the scheme made at least 6 months' progress in reading in just 10 weeks; 1 child in 3 made a year's progress, or more.

The initiative was launched at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, where Mr Ager (programme coordinator and Swansea City fan) met some of his heroes! Mr Ager said, "Seeing famous footballers excited by reading will be a fantastic motivational tool for our learners. If I got excited having the opportunity to meet and work with these football stars, then I know our students will be really relishing that opportunity!"

Premier League Reading Stars builds on evidence that footballers can influence the way young people view reading, particularly among boys and those on free school meals. In 2013, nearly 9 out of 10 participants said that seeing Premier League footballers read made them want to read more. The scheme will begin within the next few weeks.

# Guided Reading at Primary Phase

Our Guided Reading sessions are so much fun – they're certainly putting the enjoyment back into reading! Following a full staff training activity, teachers at the Primary Phase are guiding groups of children through reading activities by modelling and sharing strategies within our classrooms. Daily sessions include following group reading books which have been 'banded' - appropriately levelled according to ability - and which teach comprehension through fun and focussed activities, strategies to



encourage accuracy and fluency whilst engaged in monitored provision – cut up sentences, practising vocabulary development and high frequency words, extending and challenging 'games' which are imaginative and of high interest level! For children and teachers alike, Guided Reading is proving to be an uplifting and rewarding experience, ideally complementing our daily Read Write Inc instructional reading sessions. At the EFLC Primary Phase – today's the day, and every day, our children are having a reading feast!!

# Dyslexia Awareness Week

## Dyslexia Action

Taking Action • Changing Lives

Dyslexia Awareness Week is November 3rd to November 7th and our students will be raising awareness and funds for the BDA during this week... We are looking forward to the activities the students have planned and will report on them in the next newsletter. For more information please visit the British Dyslexia Association Website.

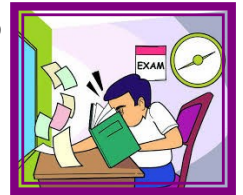
# Criw Cymraeg

Look out for the new members of the Criw Cymraeg. The keen Criw are always ready to give a helping hand with welsh. If you need help with the phrase of the week just find the Criw...

- Isobel Jones Class 1
- Millie Griffiths Class 2
- Alex Burchell Class 3
- Cerys Bound Class 4
- Nanci Rai Jones Class 5
- Katie Penaluna Class 6
- Llwyd Crump Class 7
- Rosie Fairburn Class 8
- Jessica Grimes Class 9
- Skye Whittle Class 10
- Corey Evans Class 11
- Miles Pearce Class 12

# Examinations

Congratulations to students in Years 7 - 9 who recently undertook the first Online Reading Tests. Students' behaviour and attitude throughout the whole week was excellent.



November series examinations will take place between 4th - 10th November. This will involve Maths resits and BTEC Science examinations. Those students involved will receive their timetables prior to half term. If you have any queries regarding your child's examinations please contact: Mrs D Thomas (Examinations Officer)

# Healthy Schools

At Ebbw Fawr Learning Community we are encouraging a healthier lifestyle. Therefore it is important that your child brings a healthy snack to school. In order to help achieve this biscuits, cakes, sweets, chocolate or crisps are actively discouraged. Sweets containing natural fruit juice are not a healthy option. Some suggestions for a healthy snack are:-

- 🍏 a piece of fruit
- 🥕 vegetable sticks
- 🍌 cereal bars not too high in sugar or fat
- 🧀 small portion of cheese

We would also encourage your child to bring a drinks bottle of water to school which they are allowed to keep in class. However, it will be your child's responsibility to ensure the bottle is taken home every day to wash and refill.



As part of Ebbw Fawr Learning Community's commitment to strengthening community links, we will be launching a weekly drop-in session at the **Learning Action Centre, James Street, Ebbw Vale**, every Friday from November 7th between 1pm-3pm. This will give you, as parents/ carers, an opportunity to meet with staff in a convenient

location and at a time that suits you. For more information please contact:

**Mr A Ager:** [aager@ebbwfawr.co.uk](mailto:aager@ebbwfawr.co.uk) **Miss R Bull:** [rbull@ebbwfawr.co.uk](mailto:rbull@ebbwfawr.co.uk)

Alternatively telephone: 01495 354690

## "Please sir can I have some more?"

And more is what the audience wanted after watching Blaenau Gwent Young Star's recent production of Oliver. A large number of Ebbw Fawr's students from both Primary and Secondary Phases took to the stage and wowed audiences in the local community with their professional performances. It was a pleasure to see our students shine in the local community. A big round of applause to you all.

**Miss R Bull (Curriculum Area Leader for Drama)**



## Football News...

### Year 7



After conducting two separate trials which saw over 60 boys participate, the Year 7 football team began their season with an encounter against Abertillery Comprehensive School. Eighteen boys were selected and every player proceeded to produce an emphatic performance of real quality attacking football. Captained by Calen Jones who marshalled the defence superbly throughout the game, the boys reached half time with a 7-0 advantage. The goals came from Matthew Jones (2), Eli King (2), Kieron Markey, Logan Evans and Nathaniel Williams. The goals continued to flow in the second half, despite a number of changes. Midfield dynamo Matthew Jones scored to complete his hat-trick, Morgan Davies scored a second half hat-trick and there were also goals for Liam O'Sullivan, Tyler Davies and Rhys Thomas to complete a 14-0 victory.

### Year 8

The Year 8 Football Squad progressed into the next round of the Welsh Cup with a convincing 4-0 victory over Blackwood Comprehensive School.

The boys dominated from the first whistle and produced an exceptional all round team display. The goals came from striker Callum Davies with a super hat-trick and an incredible solo strike from Callum Weaver. The team were led by the excellent Callum Foley who formed a rock solid defensive partnership with Lewis Reynolds at the back. Kian Greenland was excellent and controlled the midfield alongside Year 7 students Kieron Markey and Logan Evans who were making their debuts for the Year 8 team. The victory was built on a hard working team ethic and this approach will no doubt stand them in good stead as they progress in the competition.



### Year 9

Year 9 Football was victorious in the Welsh Cup against a highly rated Monmouth Comprehensive School. In a very entertaining game epitomised by some real quality attacking football, Ebbw Fawr were able to secure a 5-4 victory in front of a large crowd on the 3G pitch. The goals for Ebbw Fawr came from Callum Joyce, Elai Roberts, Morgan Boulter and a brace from captain on the night Sam Phillips,

## Cross Country Success



An outstanding effort this season from our Cross Country Team. The team travelled to King Henry, St Josephs, Croesyceiliog and Llantarnam for league races where the top 4 runners scored for the team. Each race saw very competitive fields of over 160 runners. The season culminated in a challenging hill clad race around Monmouthshire show ground. The final race results were as follows:

### Year 7 girls

Molly Ball 3, Grace Lawless 70, Lowri Young 98, Millie Plowman 100, Olivia Davies 101.

### Year 8/9 boys

Dylan Bees 8, Elai Roberts 11, Tom Beynon 20, Callum Weaver 28, Liam Clark 45.

Tia Greet, Ieuan Evans and Josh Lane also contributed to the success of the team. A special mention to Molly Ball, Tia Greet, Dylan Bees, Elai Roberts and Tom Beynon who were consistently in the top 20 runners in each race. We are eagerly awaiting the announcement of the County and Welsh squads – watch this space!

including the winning goal a couple of minutes from time. Special mentions also go to goalkeeper Kian Evans who made a number of fine saves and defenders Jack Annett and Ieuan Evans who kept the opposition at bay throughout.





# Attendance...

Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

## Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to

succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including GCSEs, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

## Getting in early

It's never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts. Schools are there to help – if you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

## What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

**"Day off"** – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – When students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy, the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with the classroom teacher or pastoral managers as early as possible.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your year pastoral manager or other relevant staff members know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 sixteen students throughout different year groups received anti bullying training from Ebbw Fawr Communities First to become buddies for the school.

Students received training to understand the definition of bullying, types of bullying and other reasons why students may come to speak to them. As a group they looked at barriers to why students may not access the buddy service and ways to overcome them. In addition the buddy group looked at ways to promote the system to help students in the school. The buddies will be available certain lunch and break times for students to come and speak to them about things they may be worried about or just for a general chat.

Students often find it easier to speak to other students than adults, so our anti bullying ambassadors will be available. Our ambassadors will also have badges, so it will be easy to approach them during any break or lunch time as well.



**Drop In OutREACH Sessions**

COMMENCING 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Blaenau ICC**  
Heart of the Valleys ICC, High Street,  
Blaenau, Blaenau Gwent, NP23 3BN  
Wednesdays 1:30pm – 4:00pm

**Ebbw Fawr ICC**  
Strand Anneling Lane, Ebbw Vale,  
Blaenau Gwent NP23 6AN  
Thursdays 9:30am – 12:00pm

We can provide information on a wide range of topics including the following:

- » Parent and toddler groups
- » Childcare provisions
- » Day nurseries
- » Breastfeeding support groups
- » Baby massage sessions
- » Toddler swim sessions
- » Child safety
- » Children's behaviour
- » Working tax credits
- » Help with childcare costs
- » Flying start programme

And much more!

Tel: 08000 32 33 39 E-mail: [frs@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:frs@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)  
Text: 07860 025100 Website: [www.01495info.com](http://www.01495info.com)