

3-16

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

Newsletter

Education Minister full of praise for Learning Community.

Headline taken from the Gwent Gazette.

During an hour long visit Education & Skills Minister Huw Lewis AM, met students who have represented Wales in a variety of sports, discussed the school's progress since opening with student Ambassadors and learnt a little of the history of the Works site from staff who now work for the school, but previously held posts on the site.

Earlier in the year we briefed the Minister on the developments the school has made to engage more with parents this year through such activities as "Chat", parental forums, drop – in sessions for skill developments and consultation events around literacy and numeracy.

As part of the visit the Minister was pleased to help us launch an Ebbw Fawr 'app' which can be down loaded to tablets, ipads and smart phones. The app links directly to our website, but also allows us to push notifications directly to parents around events in the school, or notifications if issues exist around weather or transport.



"I'd like to congratulate the school on its work in developing the "app". This development will improve engagement between the school, pupils, parents and the wider community and demonstrates how we are working hard to improve the life chances of our learners".

Huw Lewis AM

Movers & Shakers.

At this time of year it is normal to see a turnover of staff moving on in their careers or to pastures new and we offer our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the following staff and thank them for their contribution to life at Ebbw Fawr.

Appointed to Headship.

Congratulations to Mr Collins, Phase Director (Secondary) on his well deserved promotion to the Headship of Ysgol Abersychan School.

“Mr Collins has made a significant impact as Phase Director here at Ebbw Fawr, this is a fantastic appointment for Abersychan School and we know he will move them on to great things. Good luck Phil.”

Rod Davies

Chair of Governors

Appointed to Head of Department.

King Henry VIII School Abergavenny have snapped up Mrs Boulter as Head of Additional Learning Needs from September.

“Clearly King Henry VIII have appointed a star performer in Mrs Boulter, this is a great opportunity for her to lead her own department. Their gain is our loss, enjoy the challenge Bethan.”

Graeme Harkness

Director

Moving nearer home.

After two highly successful years as a Teach First colleague with us **Ms Hamilton-White** is talking up a post in Somerset, some 5 miles from her home.

Also moving closer to home is **Mrs Abraham** who has recently completed her NQT year and is joining a school in Swansea.

Mr **Sweet** is moving only slightly nearer to home by joining BFS as Rugby Development Officer.

“Many thanks for your commitment , enthusiasm and support, we all wish you well for your new posts”

Phil Collins

Phase Director (Secondary)

Retirement beckons for.....

Mrs Thomas & Mrs Holden

Two of our long serving staff are shortly to start their well deserved retirements

Mrs Thomas from the primary phase started teaching 3-16 before the idea was even thought of, working across primary and secondary schools or junior comprehensive as it was known led Mrs Thomas to teach in Hafod y Ddol Junior Comprehensive Nantyglo, Coed Cae Primary, Cwm Celyn Infants and Ty Graig Primary and Abertillery Comprehensive before arriving at Waunlwyd Primary in 1996.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching and I could not have wished for more than to end my career with such an excellent group of colleagues and lovely children. It has been a real privilege to be part of the new 3-16 school " Mrs Thomas

Mrs Holden is taking early retirement to take up new challenges after being Head of MFL at Ebbw Fawr and Glyncoed Comprehensive school.

"We wish both colleagues a long and happy retirement - take care and don't be strangers."

We also say farewell to the following members of staff and wish them well for their future careers.

Mrs John (History) Mr Morris and Mr Phillips (Specialist intervention team) Miss Blanchard, Miss Davies, Miss Hathaway, Miss Poole (Teaching Assistants)



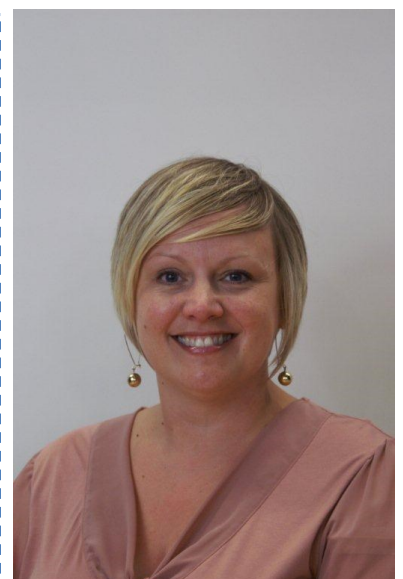
Congratulations to **Mr Strange** who is leaving us for 12 months to join the WRU as National Skills Coach. This follows his Principality Premiership Coach of the Year Award and work as WRU U20 Coach in the recent Six Nations and Junior World Cup.

Welcome to

Mrs N Davies, Phase Director (Secondary)

"It is with great pleasure that I take up the post from September I am really looking forward to getting to know the fantastic learners and staff in the school. I look forward to developing close working partnerships with parents and carers, ensuring we all work together as a community to support our young people achieve their potential.

It is exciting to be part of Ebbw Fawr as the school goes from strength to strength. I am delighted to join you on the next stage of the journey. "



LETTER OF THANKS

"A big thank you to the two young girls from Ebbw Fawr for assisting me down the slippery hill on Libanus Road during the bad weather early this year. I didn't take their names, however, I thought it was imperative to contact the school to show how grateful I was and that I was taken aback by their pure kindness."

Well done to those two students, we would love to know who you are.



WELL DONE!

Dear Mr Harkness,

Several of your year 6 pupils attended a Keep Wales Tidy session at Ebbw Vale Learning Action Centre, earlier this week.

I have to commend them on their exemplary behaviour throughout the day, particularly as they were in such an adult setting.

They were here all day, had lunch at the Centre and were well behaved and polite at all times. They are all a credit to your School.

Best wishes

Karen Bennett BA (Hons) PGCE
Adult Education Manager
Ebbw Vale Learning Action Centre



Student Assistance Programme

At Ebbw Fawr we are the only school in Blaenau Gwent at present to run a Student Assistance Programme .

These groups are held weekly, and they provide a safe place to share needs, feelings and thoughts.

Support is provided to work through any concerns in our lives.

Problems can range from low feelings of self-worth, unhealthy relationships, concern for the use of drugs and alcohol by self and others. The aim is to identify these self-defeating behaviours and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness, raising self- esteem.

Some pupil comments:-

"Everyone in the group helped me"

"Thank you for listening to me"

"Thank you to everyone who has listened to me and helped me out. I feel a lot more not alone that others go through similar situations to me"

"Thank you for making me a stronger person than I already was"

OFFICAL OPENING

16th JULY 2015.

**We are delighted that the
Rt. Hon Carwyn Jones AM**

First Minister of Wales

will formally open the school on the 16th July



Have you got the app ?



Get it on
Google play



Available on the
App Store



Congratulations to Skye Whittle on becoming the Blaenau Gwent Year 5 Girls Cross Country Champion. Skye won the event comfortably in 6 mins 4 secs.

Congratulations Skye — keep on running!



Urdd Eisteddfodd Swimming Results:

Congratulations to all those who represented the Gwent region in the second Urdd swimming Gala's held in Cardiff. Special congratulations to those who came first/second and third in the finals of both Galas.

Kian O'Connell placed 9th in 100m fly and 7th in 100m Breast Stroke year 7-8 category.

Mackenzie Morgan 1st 100m Fly and 6th in the IM year 7/8 category.

Amy Richards 1st 100m Fly and 1st in 100m Freestyle in year 11-13 category.

Canlynidau yr Urdd (Urdd Results) Cystadlaethau Adran AG (PE Dept Competition) Cyfuniad o rygbi/pel droed (bechgyn) pel rywd/ dodgeball (merched)

Blwyddyn 7

1af GELERT
2ail GLYNDWR
3ydd BRANWEN
4ydd TALIESIN

Blwyddyn 8

1af GELERT
2ail BRANWEN
3ydd GLYNDWR
4ydd TALIESIN

Blwyddyn 9

1af TALIESIN
2ail BRANWEN
3ydd GLYNDWR
4ydd GELERT

OVERALL KEYSTAGE 3

**1af GELERT
2ail BRANWEN
3ydd GLYNDWR
4ydd TALIESIN**

Year 7 have raised £980 for LEPR Charity by doing a sponsored Zumba session.

Year 8s make South East Wales League Semi Finals

The girls have been victorious in every game (friendly and league) this season leading up to the semi-finals in Bassaleg. Our journey to success was Abersychan 15-5, Risca 6-4, Gwynllyw 11-5, St Albans 9-1. Unfortunately a loss against a very strong Bassaleg team meant that we didn't make it to the final this year. However all of the girls should be commended in their efforts and attitudes throughout this season. Arbennig o dda merched!



Abbey Wyatt, Saffir Thomas, Robyn Jones, Ffion Witcomb, Rhian Wyatt, Lowri Clay, Kacey Worlock, Ffion O'Callaghan, Beth Gratton and Megan Williams.

SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning).

This programme builds confidence, explains in detail the importance of attendance helps the pupils realise the different relationships they can have within the school and ensures they know they are valued.

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community has been running

SEAL sessions for attendance for the last two years. Of the all pupils targeted for this intervention, 76.3% have improved their attendance. These pupils are monitored afterwards to ensure the improvement is sustained.

Students working in a Secondary phase SEAL session.



Our primary SEAL group have been working on the topic "Getting on and falling out" and have been learning different skills about how they could get on better with each other.

They discussed what makes a good friend and completed a range of activities to encourage them to be better friends and also what to do if they fall out.

Pupils made sorry cards and posters of situations that had upset them.





Primary Buildings win National Design Award

The primary building was recently nominated for the GGB Award by Building Design Partnership – a major international practice of architects, designers, engineers and urbanists.

In a joint statement, Graeme Harkness, the Director at Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, and Darya Brill Williams, head teacher of Pen-y-Cwm Special School, said:

“The buildings have transformed the facilities for teaching and learning from the previous sites, our pupils and staff now have the very latest designs

and technologies available to them, pupils in both schools certainly enjoy their learning here.”

Lynette Jones, Corporate Director of Education in Blaenau Gwent, said:

“The Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, Pen-y-Cwm Special Schools and the ICC are an integral part of the council’s vision to provide modern 21st century environments fit for learners of all ages, including early years.”

“We continue apace with our 21st Century Schools programme with support from the Welsh Government. I would like to congratulate everyone involved on achieving this special award.”

Primary Phase Digital Leaders



Following on from Internet Safety Week, where the children had assemblies and presentations about keeping safe online, each child was invited to apply for the role of Digital Leader. Responsibilities will include: attending training on new ICT equipment and attending meetings on behalf of their class amongst other duties. The selection process was extremely difficult as there was an excellent response.

Congratulations to our Primary Phase Digital Leaders

Welsh Bacallaureate annual visit to London and the Houses of Parliament

The very popular Welsh Bacallaureate annual visit to London and the Houses of Parliament took place earlier this year. The busy weekend of activities began with a visit to the 4D cinema to experience a birds-eye view over the City of London, this was just the start of what was to come. The pupils still overcome by their vertigo embarked the London Eye for a 45-minute flight. Here they experienced the “real” views of the Capital City where plenty of snapshots were taken to record their experiences.

Following our landing we disembarked and took a quick dash over to Portcullis House where we were met by our hosts from Parliament Education UK for a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. Our luck was in, we were fortunate to actually sit in the gallery to observe debate in action within the House of Commons – www.parliamentlive.tv. Before our pupils could join in the debate we whipped them off to



continue the historical tour around Parliament. Whilst wandering around Westminster Hall we were approached by a familiar face - Nick Smith, the MP for Blaenau Gwent spotted us and grabbed an opportunity for a photo-shoot under “Big Ben” before leaving us briefly to complete our tour. Two workshops followed that were designed to support the teaching of Wales, Europe & the World – Politics “Elections & Voting” and “Making Laws”. These activities enabled the pupils to participate in mock elections and role-play, of which they all thoroughly enjoyed and were wholly engaged. Nick Smith made his re-appearance where he 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.

Foundation phase gardening club.



The children from the foundation phase have been working very hard in the after school gardening club. Over the last couple of weeks they have made hanging baskets, planted strawberries, peas and runner beans. The runner beans were grown by the pupils in Miss Griffith’s and Miss Bowen’s class and then the gardening club planted them in the raised beds.

As well as this they have scattered hundreds of wild flower seeds in the school picnic area where we hope to have lots of wild flowers to help the bees.



Ebbw Vale Town Sports Athletics Competition



50 Pupils from the Primary Phase took part in the annual Ebbw Vale Town Sports Athletics Competition attended by seven local primary schools.

Representatives from Years 3-6 took part in the sprint, the relay, the javelin and the standing long jump. All pupils were very well behaved, looked extremely smart in their Ebbw Fawr PE kit and took part enthusiastically. We were well supported by lots of parents. Many pupils got through to the Grand Final which will take place at the same venue on 30th June.

Taulupe Faletau drops in to say hello.

Former Pontygof pupil and now WRU star Taulupe Faletau caused a stir in the secondary phase when he arrived to meet staff and students and to view the building. Crowds of students gathered in reception to offer a warm welcome when they realised the unannounced visit was taking place.



During a tour of the building Taulupe presented a WRU shirt to Mr Collins, Phase Director (Secondary) and promised to return to visit the primary site and some of his former teachers in the near future.

Mr Collins said

“We are very grateful to Taulupe for his time today, he certainly made an impression on the students and was taken aback with the quality of the building and education on offer here”

School Dates 2015/16 & 2016/17

Academic Year 2015/16			
	Term Begins	Half Term	Term Ends
Autumn Term 2015	01/09/15	26/10/15 – 30/10/15	18/12/15
Spring Term 2016	04/01/16	15/02/16 - 19/02/16	24/03/16
Summer Term 2016	11/04/16	30/05/16 – 03/06/16	20/07/16

Academic Year 2016/17			
	Term Begins	Half Term	Term Ends
Autumn Term 2016	01/09/16	24/10/16 – 28/10/16	19/12/16
Spring Term 2017	03/01/17	20/02/17 – 24/02/17	07/04/17
Summer Term 2018	24/04/17	29/05/17 – 02/06/17	21/07/17

START OF TERM

SEPTEMBER 2nd 2015

Term starts for all students in both phases at the normal time on Wednesday 2nd September.

Enjoy the holidays !

INSET DAYS 2015/16

The school will be closed to pupils and students on the following dates

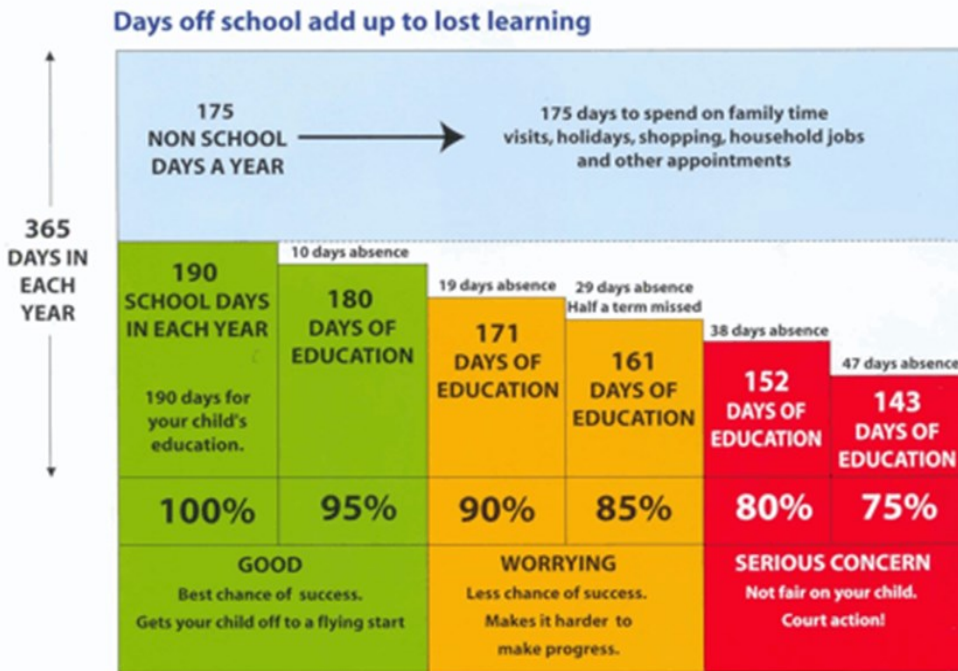
Tuesday 1st September 2015

Friday 23 October 2015

Friday 12th February 2016

Monday 4th January 2016

Wednesday 20 July 2016



- Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.
- Every school day counts.

Thank You.

We wish to thank parents for the appearance of our students this year and for the support of our uniform policy. Our students' appearance is often commended and reflects the high standards that we wish to install in them.

Nursery Day at Cyfarthfa Castle.

The nursery class have been studying knight's castles and dragons and recently attended a trip to Cyfarthfa Castle.

Our trip consisted of a fairy tale tour which the education officer linked to the foundation phase. Inside the castle the children had to complete task's in order to collect golden coins to give to the king. We had to help Cinderella do some cooking, we had to help sort Prince Charming's swords with the black smith, help play music for jack and the bean stalk and try to find objects in goldilocks' cottage. When the children collected the golden coins they had chance to design their own magical crown, which they thoroughly enjoyed.





Premier Stars

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community are definitely in the 'Premier League' as a result of their work with high flying football club Swansea City FC, and in particular their legendary former striker Lee Trundle.

Former Swans striker Lee Trundle visited pupils from the Primary Phase and held a workshop talking about his life and career as a professional footballer with Swansea City FC.

Ebbw Fawr is working closely with the Premier League club through the delivery of the Premier League reading scheme which is aimed at inspiring more pupils to read to a higher standard.

"It was a real treat for the pupils to meet Lee. They were so excited to find out what it is like to be a professional footballer and he gave the pupils so valuable tips about the importance of hard work and dedication."

Mr Ager. Associate Assistant Director.

'Reaching for the Stars'

Recent TV programmes on themes such as the 'universe' and 'astronomy' has generated a great deal of interest amongst our pupils and has led to the development of an astronomy club.

Amongst other recent events, the club has:

- Arranged a visit to a 3D Sky presentation at View Cinema (Nantgarw)
- Worked with the Heads of the Valleys Astronomical Society (HOVAS) who have visited the school and lectured on the use of binoculars and telescopes and lunar observations.
- Arranged with HOVAS to visit the Primary Phase to enable our younger pupils to experience the virtual night skies through the use of their own Planetarium.
- Planning to run a visit to the Dark Skies centre in Brecon
- Presented a lecture from Dr Martin Griffiths, Senior Lecturer at the University of South Wales

Future events and feedback from events will be posted on our website. Pupils and parents alike are warmly invited to support the club for experiences truly 'out of this world'.