

3-16

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

Newsletter: Start of Term Special

Welcome back! Croeso nôl!

We were delighted to welcome back our students following the summer break and extend a particularly warm welcome to our new students in the foundation phase and into Year 7. They have made an excellent start and we look forward to working with them over the next few years.



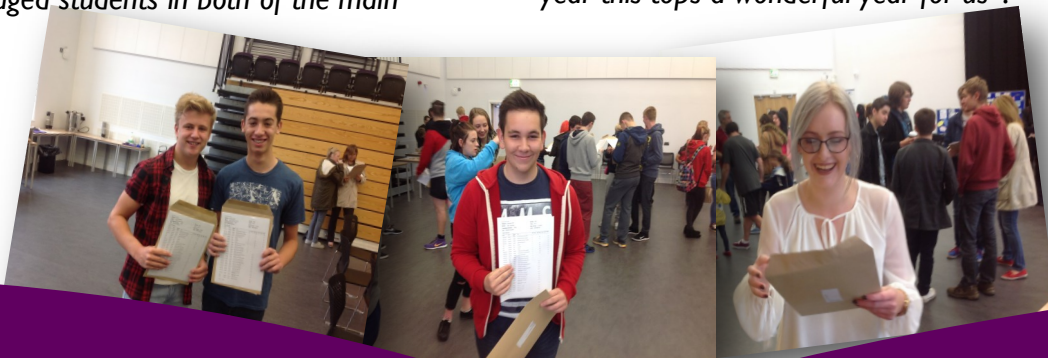
GCSE Results Improved for Third Year Running

Year 11 students achieved a 54 % pass rate at 5 A*-C grades including English & Mathematics.

indicators of 5 A*-C grades including English & Mathematics and 5 A*-C grades".

Director Graeme Harkness said: "This really is a tremendous set of results for a large numbers of students. They and the whole staff team have worked incredibly hard to achieve them. Our congratulations and best wishes for the future go to each and every student. We are also pleased to see that we have narrowed the performance gap between advantaged and disadvantaged students in both of the main

Students in Year 10 also gained outstanding results in English & Mathematics taken a full 12 months early. Chair of Governors Rod Davies said: "We are delighted for all our students; they have been supported by staff and parents to once again set new standards for the Learning Community. Coupled with improving Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 results earlier in the year this tops a wonderful year for us".



Extra Curricular Activities in the Secondary Phase

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Homework Club KS3/KS4 Room: 132 3.10-4.15	Homework Club KS3/ KS4 Room 132 3.10-4.15	Homework Club KS3/ KS4 Room 132 3.10-4.15	Homework Club KS3/ KS4 Room 132 3.10-4.15	Homework Club KS3/KS4 Room 132 3.10-4.15
	Childcare & Catering KS4 C John 161 3.10-4.15	Childcare & Catering – KS4 C John 161 3.10-4.15	KS3 Drama Club H Webley 013 3.10-4.15	
	History Club A Langdon 146 3.10-4.15	History Club D Harrett 146 3.10-4.15	History Club D Hill 147 3.10-4.15	
	Science Homework Club D Wilson 154 3.10-4.15	Debate Club C Hart/A Morgan 121 3.10-4.15	Science Homework Club D Wilson 154 3.10-4.15	
	STEM Club J Creak 253 3.15-4.15	BTEC Art H O'Neill 263 3.10-4.15	Art GCSE Club S Slater 262 3.10-4.10	
	Reading Club S Chappell/S James 111 3.10-4.10	Geography GCSE Club C Walters 142 3.10-4.15	Ebbw Fawr Press Team R Edwards/A Morgan 113 3.10-4.15	
	RS GCSE Club C Lane 144 3.10-4.15	Welsh Homework Club K Robins 044 3.10-4.00		
	Chemistry AQA Revi- sion and Catch-up T Keogh 252 3.10-4.10			

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 7 th October	PTFA Meeting 5.00pm - Primary Phase
Thursday 8 th October	Open Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm - Secondary Phase
	Class 11 Assembly & PACT Sessions - Primary Phase
Wednesday 14 th October	Harvest Festival - Primary Phase
Friday 16 th October	Parent Coffee Morning - Primary Phase
W/C Monday 19 th October	Science Challenge Week - Primary Phase
Thursday 22 nd October	Class 10 Assembly & PACT Sessions - Primary Phase
	Year 7 Meet the Tutor - Secondary Phase

Digital Champions!

Following on from the hugely successful introduction of Digital Champions in the Primary Phase, we are in the process of interviewing applicants from Year 9 for our own Secondary Phase Champions. The successful students will play a vital role supporting staff and students on how to make better use of technology in their learning. The Digital Champions will receive training on how to competently

use a wide variety of apps and software in lessons and will also be working very closely with Mr Short and Mr Williams on specific aspects of IT within the school, ranging from iPads to the Digital Signage and the school's website. This is a really exciting opportunity for students to share their passion for technology by supporting others within our school community.



Secondary Pastoral System

The Leaders of Learning for each year group are:

- Year 7 Mr S Reasons sreasons@ebbwfawr.co.uk
- Year 8 Mrs C Jones cjones@ebbwfawr.co.uk
- Year 9 Mrs F Khan fbryant@ebbwfawr.co.uk
- Year 10 Mrs J Wyburn jwyburn@ebbwfawr.co.uk
- Year 11 Miss V Roberts vroberts@ebbwfawr.co.uk

The main focus of the Leader of Learning is to ensure that students continue to make academic progress.

We also have Pastoral Managers assigned to each year group.

- Year 7 Mrs R Dixon
- Year 8 Mrs L Dowsell
- Year 9 Mrs D Bennington
- Year 10 & 11 Mrs P Williams

Their responsibility is to support students' wellbeing. Our Pastoral Managers are non-teaching and will be available by making an appointment by phone or in an emergency, by dropping in to the school.

School Attendance

Improving school attendance is a priority for Ebbw Fawr as poor school attendance can have a hugely negative impact on the lives and futures of children and young people. This is especially worrying for students in Blaenau Gwent where attendance rates, though improving, are still below the Welsh average.

In September 2013 the Welsh Government introduced the use of Fixed Penalty Notices as an early intervention tool to improve attendance. From 1st September 2014 these will now be fully operational in Blaenau Gwent and may be issued as a result of:

- Taking holidays in term time
- Unauthorised absence
- Persistent late arrival at school
- Truancy

The cost of a fixed penalty notice will be £60 per parent per child if paid within 28 days. This rises to £120 per parent if not paid within 28 days. Failure to pay this within 42 days will result in prosecution.

There is no right of appeal but anyone who has been issued with a fixed penalty notice can put any concerns in writing to the Education Welfare Service, Anvil Court, Abertillery, NP13 1DB or have their case heard in the Magistrates Court.

Arrival at School

Can we remind parents that the primary and secondary sites are unable to accept students prior to 8.00am. Students arriving at the primary site at 8.00am should be in the breakfast club while secondary students arriving between 8.00am & 8.15am should report to the restaurant area.

There are parking bays available for parents to drop children off outside of school. Please refrain from parking on the yellow lines as this is prohibited.

Uniform



We would like to thank parents and students for the support of our uniform policy. Our students' smart appearance has been commented on and reflects the high standards here at Ebbw Fawr Learning Community. Da iawn pawb!

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR					
175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments					
190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	10 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence A term missed	38 days absence	47 days absence
180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	143 DAYS OF EDUCATION	134 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	97%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start	Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		Serious Concern Not fair on your child. Court action!		

Website & School "App"



Our website contains useful information on day to day matters and can be found at www.ebbwfawr.co.uk. Here, you can also find copies of our school policies including the Child Protection Policy and Anti Bullying Policy. Ebbw Fawr has also launched its new "app" which can be

downloaded to tablets, iPad and smartphones and links directly to our website. It allows us to notify parents with immediate effect if issues arise around weather or transport.



Lunches

Our restaurants are fully Appetite for Life compliant and provide a range of hot and cold lunches for our students. A reminder that all learners in the secondary phase must remain on site for lunch.

Blaenau-Gwent Catering have announced increased meal prices from the 1st September 2015. The new prices are as follows:

Primary Meal: £2.10
Secondary Meal: £2.35

Parents are reminded that all meals taken must be paid for and that the school cannot operate a credit system.

Chat@EFLC

Following the extremely successful introduction of our drop-in surgery last year, we are pleased to inform parents and carers that CHAT@EFLC will reopen again this year. Every Friday between 1-3pm a member of staff will be available upstairs in the Learning Action Centre (next door to Home Bargains) to provide support with any queries that you may have. We will also be offering extra support and advice on specific aspects of your child's learning by offering workshops throughout the year, including helping with homework, and improving your child's literacy and numeracy skills. A timetable outlining the workshops will be available in due course. For more information, please contact Mr Ager here at the school.

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community
Cymuned Ddysgu Ebbw Fawr

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community
Parents Teachers Friends Association

Do you have any fundraising suggestions? Can you help out at our fundraising events?

The PTFA are a very friendly group who all work well as a team, organising fundraising activities for EFLC. Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat and a coffee.

Our first meeting will be held on
Wednesday 7th October—Primary Phase at 5pm

Following Meetings at 5pm
Monday 9th November – Secondary
Monday 11th January – Primary
Monday 29th February – Secondary
Monday 18th April – Primary
Monday 13th June – Secondary

Thank you!

For more information email :
susanegibbons@fsmail.net
 Susan Gibbons – Chair of PTFA

School Term Dates

We are working hard to ensure our learners experience 190 days of high quality teaching and learning at Ebbw Fawr Learning Community each academic year. Please support our work by ensuring your son or daughter attends school every day.

On the unshaded days on the term dates calendar, school is open to all students. All learners should aim to achieve an attendance record of at least 97% in order to ensure they achieve their full potential. Holidays can be taken in the purple shaded school holiday times.

Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 28 29 30 31
Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5	1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31			
May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31

