

3-16

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

At the end of my first term at Ebbw Fawr I'd like to thank you all for your support of our 3-16 school. As you know I have spent a considerable amount of time in the Secondary Phase, but have also spent a lot of time in the Primary Phase. I have genuinely found the school to be full of delightful, well-mannered pupils. Those who have not responded in an appropriate manner have been dealt with accordingly. I have also been impressed with the general standards of Learning and Teaching at the school. I conduct almost daily learning walks and have detected a growing confidence amongst staff and pupils.

I am also very proud of the many achievements of our pupils, and it's worth noting that in Sam Taylor we have the first ever pupil from our school community to speak in the Houses of Parliament – what an achievement! I am also excited that our music and drama department have combined with the Learning Zone to organise a huge end of year production of Les Miserables. This is what collaboration is all about. Auditions have already taken place, and I'm sure it will be a great success. Our sporting record also speaks for itself with many teams reaching regional and national competitions.

We have also made several important changes to the school this term and it's worth noting these developments.

- We have opened a Wellbeing and Achievement Centre in both the primary and secondary phase. These centres are there to provide emotional, social and curriculum support for our more vulnerable learners.
- We have developed a KS4 youth engagement project called EVE (Ebbw Vale Engage) This project will support learners who are experiencing difficulties in school by providing them with a more appropriate curriculum.
- We have formed a new Pastoral Support team in the secondary phase. Mrs Williams, Mr Lane and Mr Battle are not teachers and therefore they are on call at any time to deal with pastoral issues including the reporting of bullying.
- We have appointed more anti bullying ambassadors and opened a safe space room so that pupils have someone to talk to and somewhere to go if they are worried.
- We have also run a full survey with all pupils in the secondary phase and I'm delighted to report that more pupils than ever feel that we deal well with bullying and that they feel happy and safe in school. However we are not complacent and fully realise we have more work to do.

I thank you for your continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nadolig Llawen

Calendar Dates



INSET DAY

Friday 16th December 2016

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Monday 19th December 2016 -
Monday 2nd January 2017

START OF TERM

Tuesday 3rd January 2017

YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING

Thursday 9th February 2017

HALF TERM

Monday 20th February 2017 -
Friday 24th February 2017

INSET DAY

Monday 27th February 2017

PRIMARY PHASE PARENTS' EVENING

Monday 6th March 2017

YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING

Thursday 9th March 2017

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British Open Water Age Groups Championships



On 25th September Mackenzie Morgan (Year 10) travelled to London to compete in the British Open Water Age Groups Championships which was held at Hyde Park. She swam 1600m in the Serpentine and managed to gain 4th place (narrowly missing out on 3rd). Ebbw Fawr would like to congratulate Mackenzie on this outstanding achievement. Well done Mackenzie!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The total raised this year for the "Big Coffee Morning" on the Secondary Phase was a fantastic £281.



Many thanks to pupils and staff who supported the event and helped to make it a massive success. A huge thank you to the Year 11 Catering and ASDAN groups who helped to serve and sell the cakes and hot chocolate.



A special thank you to Costa Coffee who donated coffee beans and to the PTFA for supporting the morning.

Gwent Wildlife visits the Primary Phase



The Primary Phase has enjoyed three visits from Gwent Wildlife trust over the past few weeks. The Foundation Phase found out lots about hedgehogs and how to look after them in our school grounds and at home.

Key Stage 2 completed a range of activities in a sustainability carousel. They looked at clothes, air miles, recycling, plastic pollution and paper to name a few. They also wrote letters to the council about recycling and have been visited by the recycling team in Blaenau Gwent.

The Primary Phase eco council are looking forward to tackling some of the issues.



Gold for Chloe Butler!



Chloe Butler (10DPi) competed in a kickboxing competition in Italy during September.

Chloe won an individual gold, a team gold and 2 individual bronze medals.

Congratulations Chloe on your fantastic achievement!

Learning Resource Base Enterprise Day



On Wednesday 16th November the Key Stage 4 pupils in the Learning Resource Base (LRB) took part in an Enterprise day, as part of their Success with Education, Employment and Training (SWEET) qualification.

The latest module the pupils are working on is focused on 'Enterprise & Employability'. As part of this module the pupils have researched the world of business and the work of entrepreneurs.

Sustainability

Various people from different organisations visited each classroom in the Primary Phase of Key Stage 2 to educate them about how they can make a big difference, through little changes, in their lifestyle. There were numerous activities which ranged from matching the sugar quantity to the drink, to making a timeline to show the time it takes for different substances to decompose. Every pupil was astonished at how much impact one miniscule choice at home can make like buying a fizzy drink or how not checking the ingredients in their toothpaste can effect an array of creatures you would never expect. At the end of the day, an assembly recapped what had been learnt, and all pupils went home much more aware about the choices they make.

A major component of the 'Enterprise & Employability' module will see the KS4 create their own business and sell their very own product.

In order for the pupils to learn how to effectively advertise and market their business and product, the pupils had an outside speaker join them for the day. The pupils were joined by Mr Ben Griffiths who owns and runs his own business, Camping Connect (a telecommunications service provider).

Mr Griffiths spoke to the pupils about the crucial areas of marketing and business, and then helped the pupils come up with an effective marketing strategy. This included developing their ideas for a poster and a video



which will be part of their advertising campaign.

All of the pupils agreed that the help and advice given by Mr Griffiths has proved invaluable in helping them organise their advertising and marketing ideas. They are now working hard to finalise all their plans and start their advertising campaign, in order to get their product ready for Christmas! So keep an eye out for the adverts appearing around school!

Class Assemblies



This term, many classes in Key Stage 2 have been taking part in the popular class assemblies, which recap their topic for that term. Pupils have been explaining various aspects of the topic through dressing up and acting out scenes and interacting with the audience. Pupils also read out numerous astonishing facts, and made models and paintings to display to the audience. Parents were invited to all of these assemblies, and all were delighted with the results of the cautious planning of each individual assembly. All assemblies had their own unique defining feature which made them memorable to the parents through hilarious humour and incredible information. They really gave an insight to the parents into what goes on in the classroom. Pupils were also enlightened by these fantastic occasions, as all of the school watched each assembly. Finally, but most importantly, the pupils participating in these festivities really enjoyed themselves and were ecstatic that they got to show their parents what their everyday school life was like through dressing up and putting on a fantastic performance. After each of these occasions, the parents were invited to an intriguing PACT session with the same theme as the assembly. Parents could pair up with their children to complete a range of different activities. All in all, each assembly was a memorable occasion.

Urdd Gala



Longyfarchiadau to Mackenzie Morgan, Madison Lovell, Mia Jones and Eleanor James who represented Ebbw Fawr Learning Community in the Urdd Swimming Gala in Pontypool Leisure Centre this month. All pupils swam exceptionally well, with notable performances from Madison who came second in the Freestyle and Butterfly and Mackenzie who came first in the Butterfly and Individual Medley.

Mackenzie now qualifies for the National Gala in Cardiff on Sunday 22nd January.

Da iawn marched!

Fundraising for Cancer Charities



Within the Primary Phase there has been two different occasions by where we have raised money for cancer charities this term. In September some staff members decided they would like to take part in the 'race for life, pretty muddy' and they completed this with great pride! The pictures really do say it all, not a clean body in sight! An assembly was held following this where the pupils were able to see all of the days photos, the hall was full of laughter (especially when they saw Mrs Gregory covered in mud!) Well done to all staff who took part, an amazing gesture and effort! **Over £1300 was raised!**

We also held a MacMillan coffee morning! Lots of cakes were made and sold to the pupils and staff which were thoroughly enjoyed! **Over £300 was raised!**

Within the primary phase we are planning to continue our amazing fundraising work. Once again a huge well done to all staff members, family supporters and our fantastic pupils at Ebbw Fawr Primary!



Evan Prosser Year 8 - Performing with the Multi Award Winning Ebbw Valley Brass Band

Congratulations to Evan Prosser 8VW who performed as a soloist with Ebbw Valley Brass Band on Saturday 15 October 2016. Evan, a promising Euphonium player dazzled a packed audience in Newbridge with his performance skills. A member of the Junior Brass Band Academy, Evan has been developing his musical skills for many years and his performance certainly demonstrated his potential and enthusiasm for the instrument.

Da iawn Evan, it was a very enjoyable evening.



Liberty Stadium Tour



We were privileged to allow 9 pupils a tour of the Liberty Stadium, courtesy of Swansea City Football Club. The day came about after our pupils completed a 6 day project which ran over a

period of 6 weeks, with the Swansea City Community Trust Schools officers last year.

The areas of the stadium the pupils visited were:

- The press conference room, where Swansea City's manager, Bob Bradley, answers to the world's media before and after every game.
- The home and away changing rooms where the world's best footballers prepare before a match day.

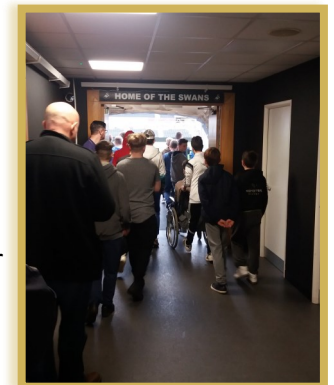


- The tunnel that leads to the field of play where the players line up side by side, sizing up their opponents before going into battle.

- The side of the pitch. We were strictly forbidden to step foot on the immaculate hallowed turf. The grass gets cut 30 times a week!!
- The dugouts where Bob Bradley, his staff and the Swansea City substitutes sit on a match day.
- The stand where thousands of Swansea City supporters sit, chant and applaud their heroes during a match day.



The boys had an unbelievable day. The amazement on their faces as they walked around the stadium was absolutely priceless. A massive thank you must go to Swansea City FC for allowing the pupils such a wonderful experience, one they will never forget.



Children In Need



On Friday 18th November 2016, pupils held a fundraiser for Children in Need. We managed to raise a whopping £946.14. There were prizes awarded to the best dressed pupil in the Foundation Phase and in Key Stage 2. Primary Phase staff donated cakes to be sold on the day, Year 11 pupils attended school in fancy dress and pupils from both

phases brought a donation for non-uniform day. Thanks to all pupils, staff, parents and anyone else who contributed.

"It was fantastic that we are able to help other children," Cai, Class 10.

"It was a very eventful day and it was a brilliant opportunity to donate to a charity," Erin. Class 10.

Rugby News



Congratulations to the following students: Dylan Shorthouse, Sam Phillips, Jevon Griffiths and Mason Bartlett - they worked extremely hard during the summer and made it into the Dragons North U16s squad.

Pupils Leading their own Learning

This term we have been privileged to see and hear over 200 of our learners presenting their thoughts as a form class in whole school assemblies based on our weekly Thought for the Week.



In September 7HWE, 8GP, 9SL, 10HON and 11CL prepared a form tutor presentation on Reaping and Sowing celebrating our Harvest Festival. Paige Coles and Katie Jones both Year 11 vocalists performed We Plough the Fields and Scatter (Godspell) to each year group with tremendous 2part harmony.

In November 7FKE, 8VW, 9REH, 10KR and 11KD prepared a form tutor presentation on Diwali celebrating the Hindu Festival of Lights. Eve Thomas (Y11) performed What a Wonderful World on guitar and vocals. A beautiful performance! 11DHa prepared a powerful and moving message for Remembrance Week celebrating the lives of our soldiers from Ebbw Vale and the Community of Blaenau Gwent.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors presented a very strong message on Bullying during Anti-Bullying Week. Michael Pudge 7LWA prepared a very personal tribute for our Remembering Aberfan Day in October. He shared a story about both his grandfathers who were volunteer workers during the disaster - one a miner from Cwm and the other a lorry driver from Newport. Staff and pupils were very moved by Michael's story.

Da iawn to all our learners who have been part of our assembly programme. It has been wonderful to start the school day with so much talent and commitment to our Learning Community.

Class 7 Library Visit



Children in Class 7 were very excited to visit Ebbw Vale library this month to celebrate the one hundredth year anniversary of Roald Dahl.

During the visit the children were mesmerised by re-enactments of some of Roald Dahl's famous fictional stories including The BFG, The Witches and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

The children were excited to explore all the fantastic books the library had to offer. Class 7 cannot wait for their next visit in the coming months!

Crucial Crew

Year 6 students went to the general offices to learn about different aspects of safety, and how to approach an array of situations in the most secure way possible. Pupils



were put into different groups which rotated clockwise across the various stalls set up around the perimeter of the hall. The variety of safety messages that were passed on to the children were amazing, ranging from; what to do if you are worried by a dog; how to stay safe by the sea; a humorous explanation about food poisoning and a shocking video displaying the results of not wearing a seatbelt. The day was enjoyable, but with many lessons that year six will surely recall for the rest of their lives.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Awareness Training at Ebbw Fawr



Ebbw Fawr Learning Community is working towards gaining the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Friendly Schools Award. By delivering ASD

awareness training to the whole school the aim is to not only promote ASD awareness but to also promote inclusion throughout our learning community.

To date all staff in the Secondary Phase have now successfully gained their ASD Awareness Certificates via www.asdinfoales.co.uk/asdaware, which are proudly

displayed in all classrooms.

Over the coming year all pupils in the secondary phase will receive ASD awareness sessions. The first set of pupils to participate in the ASD Awareness training were Mrs Owen's Year 10 and 11 Health and Social Care classes. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed and actively participated in the awareness session, and gained their ASD awareness certificates. If you have any questions about ASD or wish to know more please contact Mrs Emma Thomas – ethomas@ebbwfawr.co.uk



KS3 LRB – Educational Visit to Caerphilly Castle



As part of their curriculum KS3 students from the LRB have recently been studying castles. The pupils have been learning about the key features of castles and how they have changed over time. As well as learning all about castles in school (including building their very own models), they were lucky enough to have an educational visit to

Caerphilly Castle. The pupils had worksheets to complete on their fact finding mission tour around the castle, which they used to finish their project back in school.

All of the pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the magnificent Caerphilly Castle. They even found time to visit the gift shop!

Careers Wales Workshop

A group of our Year 11 students attended a Careers Wales workshop in Cwmbran Stadium and they received advice and support about a range of potential career paths. They carried out sports based learning, engineering, craft, tended to farm animals and even did some radio broadcasting! The students were impeccably well behaved and careers wales commented at how interactive and proactive our students were. We think the students will now have a much better idea of the career paths they wish to take when they leave school and the college courses they will need to complete to achieve their goals.

Football News



Year 9 have progressed to the Welsh Cup Football Regional final after a convincing 7-1 victory over Crickhowell. They remain unbeaten this season. Despite missing injured captain, Calen Jones, the boys looked too strong from the start & scored some quality goals from Eli King (3), Nathaniel Williams (3) & Liam O'Sullivan to set up a final against Llanwern High School. Well done boys.

The Wellbeing Centre

Secondary Phase



Primary Phase



Ebbw Fawr Learning Community has opened its very own Wellbeing Centre where interventions and support are provided for a range of pupils across the school. The centre also offers vocational type studies e.g. vehicle maintenance, wood work, cookery, ASDAN bronze award, Arts award and many more qualifications. Each week a pupil wins the 'Student of the Week Award' too. Tyler Norris from Year 9 won the award in the first week of opening for spectacular effort and positive attitude in the wellbeing centre. Katie Hole, Elli Bruton and Thomas Harris have also received awards for fabulous effort and achievement in the WC. Ten pupils also achieved an accreditation for ASD Awareness last week and have received certificates from ASD Wales to recognise their work. It is early days for the Centre but parents, staff and pupils have been very positive about the support and we hope that it will continue to help pupils at our school for many years to come.

Excited members of the Primary Phase School Council, along with Mrs Bennington and Mrs Gregory, officially opened the new Wellbeing Centre in the Primary Phase on Friday 25th November.

Pupils were amazed with the lovely resources and colourful displays. Mrs Bennington looks forward to welcoming individuals and groups of pupils to listen to and share any concerns they may have in a positive and constructive environment.



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

