

MAJOR NEWS / NEWYDDION MAWR

AUTUMN TERM / TYMOR YR HYDREF	
Start / Dechrau:	Monday 4 September 2023 / Dydd Llun Medi 4 2023
Half Term / Hanner Tymor:	Monday 30 October 2023 – Friday 3 November 2023 / Dydd Llun Hydref 30 – Dydd Gwener Tachwedd 3 2023
End / Diwedd:	Friday 22 December 2023 / Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 22 2023
Week Beginning – Monday 16 October 2023 / Dydd Llyn Hydref 16 2023	Week 7 / Wythnos 7

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to this week's edition of Major News.

It was an absolute pleasure and privilege to accompany our Head Prefect and Chairperson of the Sixth Prefect Committee to the Civic Service of the Town Mayor last Sunday. Rizik and Tom read beautifully and were an absolute credit to the school. The Mayor spoke powerfully regarding his desire to work more closely with the local schools in order to provide as many opportunities as possible for our young people. We look forward to continuing to develop these links as the academic year develops.

We were delighted to see such a great turnout at our Parent Forum meeting on Monday, which was the best in years. Miss Toms has included an item detailing what was discussed and the action points that arose from the meeting. I would encourage as many of you as possible to endeavour to attend future events to ensure your voices can be heard. It was especially encouraging to receive positive feedback regarding the weekly newsletter and the newly introduced Class Charts.

There has been a significant increase in the number of pupils trying to attend school wearing leggings this week. **I would like to confirm that pupils are not permitted to wear leggings to school.** If pupils present to school in leggings, we will provide them with alternatives to wear for the day from our uniform store. If pupils will not engage with this, we will contact home and ask parents to bring in appropriate uniform. If neither of these solutions can be actioned then pupils will be placed into reset for the rest of the day. It is of course colder now and the heating has been turned on in school to reflect this. It is also permissible from Monday for pupils to **wear plain black socks over tights** if their feet are cold. White or coloured socks are not permitted.

Our uniform expectations have been reinforced to pupils and parents on multiple occasions since last July. We need to reinforce them consistently and fairly. I would therefore very much appreciate you discussing these rules with your child/children this weekend and ensuring they leave for school dressed in appropriate uniform every day.

As ever, many thanks for your continued support and I wish you an enjoyable and restful weekend.

Mrs C L Robins

School Buses

We have had several complaints regarding buses this week. We have been in contact with Vale of Glamorgan Transport and they have requested that parents/carers contact the Transport team on 01446 700111.

School Meals

Pin codes have been issued to pupils to replace the lunch fobs. Please remind your child/children to use their pins at the tills in the canteen to purchase food and encourage them to record these pins in a safe place. The latest menu includes an updated price list and is displayed on our school website:

[Llantwit Major School - School Menu \(llantwitschool.org.uk\)](http://llantwitmajorhs.org.uk)

Parent Forum

Thank you to the 30+ parents and guardians who attended the first Parent Forum meeting of 2023. The meeting minutes are available at <http://www.llantwitschool.org.uk/Parent-Forum/>

Currently the Parent Forum are working with the school to review homework at Llantwit Major School. Please share your views by completing the survey. <https://forms.gle/hzZhv5Y43D7NaFcb7>

Next Meeting: Monday 4th December 2023 6:00pm.

Should you wish to propose an agenda item please email llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Autumn Clubs

Many students participate in extracurricular activities. Joining a club can provide students with a sense of community, soft skills, networking opportunities, and additional learning opportunities. Students may attend any activity unless specific year groups are listed:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCH	Karaoke Club (7&8)	Languages Club (7&8)	Ukulele Club (7&8)	Senior Music Ensembles	Art Club (7&8 Week1)
			Welsh Club (7&8 Week1)	Yr. 11 GCSE Art Club	Senior Choir
			Science Club (7&8 Week2)		Chess Club (9-13Week 1) (7&8 Week 2)
			Yr. 9 GCSE Art Club		Yr. 10 GCSE Art Club
AFTERSCHOOL	Rugby (7&9)	Fixture Day	Sweeney Todd Rehearsals	Football	LGBTQ+ Network (First Friday of Month)
	Rugby (8&10)		Basketball	Gymnastics	
	Netball		Badminton		
	GCSE Art Club (Week 1)		GCSE Art Club (Week 2)		

Christmas Community Event



After last year's success, we are delighted to announce the date of our now annual **Llantwit Major School Christmas Community Event** on **Thursday 7th December 2023**.

Community Stall Holders & Traders

Should you wish to be sent the traders pack with details of how to book a stall or vendor spot please email Miss Toms at tomsh@llantwitschool.org.uk for more information.

PTA

If you would like to be involved in the organisation and running of this event, we would love to have your support. This could include running a stall to raise funds for our school under the PTA umbrella or volunteering in a different capacity. We would love to hear your ideas. Contact Miss Toms at tomsh@llantwitschool.org.uk to get involved.

Maths Department

Senior Maths Challenge

The results are in!

A massive congratulations to the three year 13 pupils who achieved awards in the senior maths challenge competition sat on Tuesday 3rd October.

Both Jamie Chandler and Luca Howles reached the threshold for a bronze award and Kayam Wade the threshold for a silver award. Kayam was also awarded best in school for achieving the highest score out of all participants in Llantwit. Stay tuned for more news on our Intermediate and Junior Maths Challenges in early 2024.

English Department

The Bookworm Haven: Cultivating a Love of Reading at Home

Reading at home is crucial for the development of 11-18 year olds in several ways. First and foremost, it enhances their language skills and vocabulary, enabling them to communicate effectively and excel academically. Regular reading also improves comprehension and critical thinking abilities, which are essential for success in various subjects.

Additionally, reading fosters creativity and imagination, allowing young minds to explore different worlds, cultures, and perspectives. It helps in developing empathy by allowing them to step into the shoes of diverse characters, thus enhancing their social understanding.

Lastly, reading provides a healthy alternative to screen time. In today's digital age, encouraging your child to read physical books not only reduces screen-related strain, but also promotes focus and concentration. Have a look at the link below for some exciting novels for your child to engage them in reading at home:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/>

Social Science

This term Yr12 Psychology students have been studying the structure of the brain and how it affects our behaviour. They were set a challenge to use their creative skills ('frontal lobes') to put what they had learned into a 3D image. Of course we made it a competition- and although every student's work was impressive- these two came out on top.

Well done Summer Scott and Kizzy Budina!



Sixth Form

We have had a busy couple of weeks in the sixth form with our early university applicants. We have had 11 students this year apply for competitive courses this year at prestigious universities.

We have Katie Fletcher applying to US universities through the Sutton Trust as well as Oxford for Chemistry, Luca Howles and Ruby Whitlam applying to Cambridge for Natural Sciences and Veterinary Science respectively. We also have a number of students applying to Oxford this year with Kayam Wade, Ewan Robertson, Menna Wilson, Brooke Hillberg and Carys Fellows applying for Mathematics, English Literature, Law and Biology.



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



We have also been lucky enough to have one of our talented musicians apply for Guild Hall as well as other top music courses. Daisy Jones has worked tirelessly for years to be at the top of her game and to be considered. We wish her all the best with the audition and interview process.

Some of these students have also had to sit entrance exams, for which the preparation has been in process since last academic year. A massive well done to them all for being so dedicated to their studies.

The NSAA, BMAT, ELAT, LNAT and MAT have been undertaken over the last couple of days as these are requirements for the particular courses, due to their competitive nature. We wait with baited breath for the outcomes.

Well done to them all!

I actively encourage our new sixth form students to be looking at the courses they would like to study so that active preparations can be made. We will be having these discussions in the near future.

Health & Wellbeing

This week, we have had a visit from Bethan Jones, an NHS advisor. She came to take Health and Wellbeing lessons with year 8 pupils with a focus on the dangers of vaping.

During the lesson, discussions were had regarding the reasons why there is a rapid rise in the number of young people vaping. Pupils were introduced to a variety of health concerns that are linked to smoking in general and in particular, e cigarettes. It was interesting to discuss how big companies were specifically targeting younger people into buying them by developing a range of fruity flavours and bright packaging. It was shocking to learn that sometimes, the nicotine content of these vapes could be higher than found in regular cigarettes – which will inevitably lead to a rise in nicotine addiction. This is especially worrying as it meant that children who are exposed to vaping are developing nicotine addictions at an even earlier age. As a class, discussions were had about the fact that research has not yet been done on the long term impact of vaping and pupils offered a range of ways in which we could tackle the problem: even suggesting that vapes should be only available by prescription to adults who were trying to quit smoking.

Remember, it is illegal for adults to buy vapes on behalf of under-18s. Those selling or suspected of selling either nicotine vapes or tobacco products to under-18s can be reported anonymously to 'No Ifs. No Butts'.

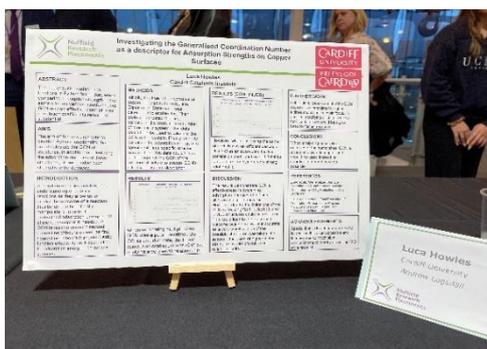
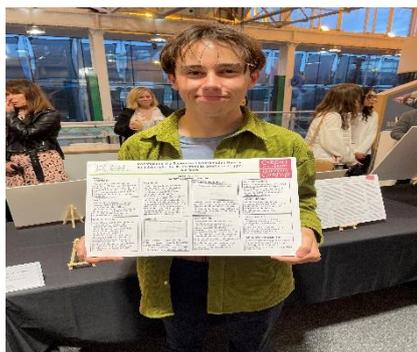


Science

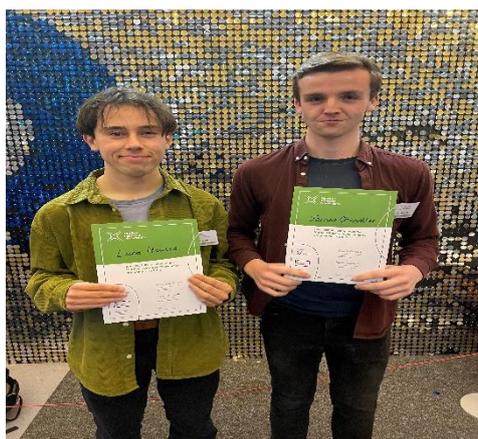
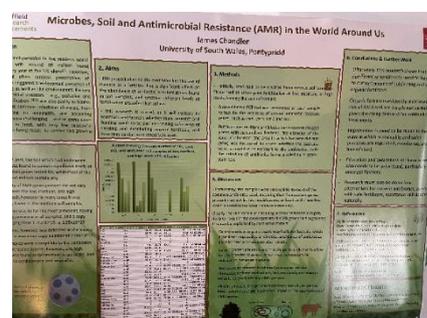
Huge congratulations to Luca and Jamie who successfully completed Nuffield Research Placements over the summer. These placements are highly sought after and we are so proud of both of you and the work you have completed.

I was lucky enough to be invited to the Awards ceremony at Techniquest last night and the level of work on display was outstanding. Both Luca and Jamie did exceptional presentations to guests at the event describing and explaining the work they had carried out.

Luca worked at Cardiff University investigating the generalised coordination number as a descriptor for adsorption strengths on copper surfaces.



Jamie worked at the University of South Wales investigating microbes, soil and antimicrobial (AMR) in the world around us.

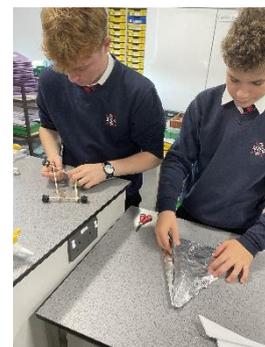


Well done on your amazing achievements – Da iawn!

Our Year 9 Triple Physicists continue to go from strength to strength as they undertake a series of engineering challenges. Congratulations to Kaleb and Bryan who won the challenge to build the fastest rubber band racer.



Meanwhile our hovercraft challenge saw two teams in joint pole position. Da iawn Fiona and Ffion who tied with Lucy, Rebecca and Imogen.



I am already very excited to see what ideas they can come up with for next week's challenge which will be designing life jackets or flotation devices for dogs.

We have had a number of our pupils already signing up to take part in the Salters Chemistry Club which is excellent. We would be really grateful if you could also support us in encouraging your child to take part in the extracurricular and enrichment opportunities we are offering.

A message from Salters Institute:

Chemistry Club was created by the Salters Institute to inspire 11-14 year olds to choose chemistry as a subject to study in school. 86% of active Chemistry Club learners surveyed have an increased confidence in their chemistry ability!

Read more and register here:

<https://www.salterschemistryclub.co.uk/register>

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CHEMISTRY
the salters' institute chemistry club

SIGN UP TO CHEMISTRY CLUB

Each month discover the chemistry behind a new theme by completing fun, interactive content released every week day.

SPACE EMOTIONS LIGHTS FOOD
TEXTILES OCEANS

www.salterschemistryclub.co.uk/register

We are also seeing an increased number of pupils attending our lower school science club which is wonderful.

Next week's theme is 'Bonfire Night' and Miss Gunn will be posting further information on Google Classroom.

It would be great to see you there!



As part of our commitment to communicating with parents if your child misses an assessment we will endeavour to let you know via email when a catch up session has been arranged. There is no requirement for you to respond to these emails (unless you would like to) they are simply to keep you as informed as possible.

School Calendar

Week Beginning – Monday 23 October 2023 / <i>Dydd Llyn Hydref 23 2023</i>		Week 8/ <i>Wythnos 8</i>
Monday 23 October / <i>Dydd Llun Hydref 23</i>	INSET Day	
Tuesday 24 October / <i>Dydd Mawrth Hydref 24</i>		
Wednesday 25 October / <i>Dydd Mercher Hydref 25</i>		
Thursday 26 October / <i>Dydd Iau Hydref 26</i>	Year 9 Parents Evening	
Friday 27 October / <i>Dydd Gwener Hydref 27</i>	TRIP: Y7/Y8 PE Gymnastics Bro Morgannwg	
	Coming Up/ <i>I ddod</i>	
Monday 30 October / <i>Dydd Llun Tachwedd 30</i>	HALF TERM	
Tuesday 31 October / <i>Dydd Mawrth Tachwedd 31</i>	HALF TERM	
Wednesday 1 November / <i>Dydd Mercher Tachwedd 1</i>	HALF TERM	
Thursday 2 November / <i>Dydd Iau Tachwedd 2</i>	HALF TERM	
Friday 3 November / <i>Dydd Gwener Tachwedd 3</i>	HALF TERM	

Key Academic Dates 2023/2024

Autumn 2023:

- **Half term:** Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November 2023
- **End:** Friday 22 December 2023

Spring 2024:

- **Start:** Monday 8 January 2024
- **Half term:** Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024
- **End:** Friday 22 March 2024

Summer 2024:

- **Start:** Monday 8 April 2024
- **May Day BH:** Monday 6 May 2024
- **Half term:** Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
- **End:** Monday 22 July 2024 (**INSET**) (Students finish on Friday 19 July 2024)

INSET Days:

- **INSET Day 3:** Monday 23 October 2023
- **INSET Day 4:** Monday 19 February 2024
- **INSET Day 5:** Monday 8 July 2024
- **INSET Day 6:** Monday 22 July 2024

General Information

Contacting School

Please refrain from telephoning the school, other than for urgent purposes. For all general enquiries please email llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. **Please be reminded that we operate an appointments only system for meeting with parents and if you present at school requesting an immediate appointment we will not be able to accommodate you.**

Forgotten Items

We can no longer accept the delivery of forgotten items such as PE kit, books, lunch boxes etc. during the school day. Please ensure your child arrives at school with the equipment needed for the day. In the exceptional case that you do need to bring an item into school for your child, you will be asked to leave it on the desk in the main entrance. This is to reduce traffic on to the school site and ensure student safety during lesson transitions.

Medication

Please note we **do not** stock medication of any kind in school, including paracetamol, and we are not allowed to dispense medication without parental consent. If your child receives prescribed medication a medical form, available from main Reception to be collected by your son/daughter, will be required to be completed and returned to Reception. Should your child need medication throughout the school day please ensure they bring just what is needed for the day to school with them.