

MAJOR NEWS / NEWYDDION MAWR

AUTUMN TERM / *TYMOR YR HYDREF*

Start / <i>Dechrau:</i>	Wednesday 4th September 2024 / <i>Dydd Mercher Medi 4 2024</i>
Half Term / <i>Hanner Tymor:</i>	Monday 28 October 2024 – Friday 1 November 2024/ <i>Dydd Llun Hydref 28 2024 – Dydd Gwener Tachwedd 1 2024</i>
End / <i>Diwedd:</i>	Friday 20 December 2024 / <i>Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 20 2024</i>

Week Beginning Monday 2nd December 2024 / *Dydd Llun Rhagfyr 2 2024*

Week 13 / *Wythnos 13*

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to this week's edition of Major News. I would like to extend a personal thank you to the parents that took the time to attend Parent Forum this week. Please read the item from one dedicated Parent Forum member later in the newsletter. I would like to echo her plea for more parents to attend next time. It is an invaluable opportunity to have a full and frank face-to-face discussion and a really useful way for me to gauge how parents and carers are feeling about important issues.

Many thanks to all parents and pupils that came along to our Year 11 Open Evening on Tuesday. It was extremely well attended and pupils were really complimentary about the quality of the subject presentations and information provided about different subjects. If you were unable to attend or have any further questions regarding the sixth form please do contact Mr Jones, Director of Sixth Form, who will be delighted to assist you.

I very much hope that your child/children have enjoyed the opportunity to take some time for rest and relaxation on today's INSET day. May I also remind you that we will be finishing early on Friday 20th December with buses departing at 12.30pm. Should you wish your child to remain on the school site until 3pm please email the High School inbox and we will be able to accommodate this.

As ever, I wish you an enjoyable weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs C L Robins
Headteacher/Pennaeth
Llantwit Major School/ Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr

Safeguarding



FaceApp, as the name suggests, is an app by Wireless Lab which uses uploaded images of someone's face and allows them to add a variety of interesting filters making themselves look older, younger, appear with different hair colour and so on. The app uses either the camera on your phone to take a selfie, or lets you use a picture from somewhere like Facebook or Instagram to apply these filters. While this all sounds like innocent fun, there have been some valid concerns raised about the terms and conditions, and what the company is doing with all these selfies and pictures.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.



What parents need to know about

FACEAPP



WHY IS IT SO POPULAR?

The app went viral in the middle of July 2019 with the #faceappchallenge, where users download Faceapp, take a picture of their face adding the old age filter, and then share the image of themselves online with friends. It can be fun to see what you might look like when you're more well travelled, and the results are pretty convincing (much to the amusement of older family members!).



HOW DOES IT WORK?

The app scans the uploaded face, and uses a neural network (basically a huge database of sample faces) to show what it thinks you'll look like when you're old; adding wrinkles, grey hairs, yellowed teeth etc. Anybody can upload an image they have access to, even those of children, without any kind of consent being needed. As explained in the lengthy terms and conditions of the app, these images are saved by Wireless Lab and can be used however they see fit, at any time in the future.



IS IT SAFE?

This is the contentious question. Wireless Lab, the Russian company behind the FaceApp app, are particularly vague with their descriptions of what they can potentially do with a person's details, to the point where a lot of people are worried about their images being used for nefarious purposes like cyber crime or political campaigns. In reality, the app is no more or less safe than any other, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be vigilant of what you or your child is agreeing to online.



LEVEL OF ACCESS?

Buried in the legal jargon and technical mumbo jumbo, FaceApp has a worryingly large amount of access to your or your child's device. As well as storing any pictures you upload to the app, it also has access to your internet history, and basic information like your name and location. Naturally this sounds scary because it has been highlighted so publicly, but this is the normal kind of access and information apps take from us nowadays. If you are at all concerned it's worth leafing through those lengthy Terms of Service before making a decision on if you're happy for your child to use an app.



SHOULD I BE WORRIED?

While your details COULD be used in the wrong way, the company has publicly stated they have no desire to do so and a number of independent probes into the app seem to suggest everything is being stored correctly and safely. That's not to say it will always be this way, so it's worth bearing in mind that this could change further down the line.



FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE

An app that takes an image of a face and uses it to commit online crimes or say things pretending to be somebody else might sound like the plot of a Hollywood thriller, but with today's technology it can be a very real fear. Facial recognition software is now so advanced, a fake picture or video of a face can be produced without your knowledge or permission, potentially by a company you thought was safe. Now it must be stressed that this is extremely unlikely to happen, especially as this advanced technology is still being worked out, so you shouldn't be too worried about it - but always be aware of the permissions you're giving to unknown parties.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips For Parents



CHECK DOWNLOADS

It may seem obvious to keep an eye on what is downloaded on a device, but it can be very easy to miss out on new fads and viral hits. Most app stores let you see what's currently trending, alongside descriptions of what an app is. Talking to your child about what current trends they're enjoying will help you keep an eye on what's popular. You also get to see what you might look like in the future, which could be a blessing or a curse!



BE REALISTIC ABOUT YOUR DATA

When it comes to online security, the phrase 'better the devil you know' is particularly apt. While companies like Facebook and Google are by no means virtuous in their collection of our data, we do at least know (for the most part) a lot about how it's being handled. Luckily, we know Wireless Lab are treating our information correctly for now, but apps you don't know or trust, may not. It's always worth reading up on an app and making sure it's the real deal before downloading it.



BE AWARE OF COPYCAT APPS

When something like FaceApp goes viral, many copycat apps can pop up on the store piggybacking off the success of the original. These apps can contain viruses that are often far more malicious and dangerous to you and your child than the terms in the 'safe' version of the app. Make sure you're aware of which is the original before making any downloads.



KNOW IF YOU CAN SPEND MONEY ON AN APP

Like most things these days, there is a way to spend money on FaceApp. You can purchase a 'pro' version which unlocks additional filters either through your phone's app store, or on the app itself. This subscription ranges from 1 month for £3.99, 12 months for £19.99 or lifetime access for £38.49. It's very easy to make this purchase without too much thought so do make sure you know about any additional costs of an app your child is using.



ALWAYS READ THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Many of us don't have the time or energy to read through pages and pages of legal speak, and that's normal, but leafing through the fineprint can unearth a lot of grizzly permissions you didn't know you were giving. Often, at times they are unavoidable, but knowing what you're signing up for and if there's anything you can do about it could help you make more informed decisions on the types of content you expose your child to.



Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



SOURCES: <https://www.techradar.com/uk/news/is-faceapp-safe-a-deeper-look-at-the-viral-hit>, <https://www.tomsguide.com/news/faceapp-photos-privacy-worries>, <https://fortune.com/2019/07/17/faceapp-safe-privacy-russian-old-face-app/>, <https://www.unilad.co.uk/technology/faceapp-could-be-sharing-all-your-photos-without-you-knowing/>, <https://www.faceapp.com/terms>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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Attendance



Llantwit Major School's 10 Days of Christmas



Attendance Draw

We are excited to announce our "10 Days of Christmas Attendance Draw". If your child attends school every day for the 10 days leading up to Christmas break, they'll be entered to win a fantastic Marks and Spencer Hamper worth £150 for the whole family to enjoy.

Attendance is particularly important in these last days of term as we reinforce and assess key learning, and celebrate achievements together. Keeping attendance strong ensures students stay on track academically and don't miss out.

Attendance Reward Trip

Prize Draw will take place on Monday 16th December

What you need to achieve to be entered into prize draw:

1. No negative points
2. 95% attendance
3. Attend all assemblies and form periods and good punctuality record



If I win, what prize will I get?

- ✓ An opportunity for you and a friend of your choosing to attend end of year Christmas themed trip
- ✓ (Friend must have achieved criteria too)
- ✓ Trip will take place on Thursday 19th or Friday 20th December
- ✓ 5-10 pupils will be drawn from each year group



What if I don't win a ticket to attend trip?

We want to reward everyone who is trying their best, therefore all students who achieve all **3 criteria** will receive a secret Christmas reward in the last week of term



Exam Preparation

Pupils in Year 10 and selected pupils in Year 11 have an English Literature exam that will take place at 8:30am on Wednesday 8th of January. Students have been given their individual timetables for the exam this week, during Form. Please take this opportunity to discuss the posters below from the JCQ to help ensure that your child is aware of the exam regulations and that they have the appropriate equipment.




On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

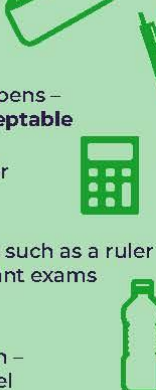
Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

What you cannot take into exams:

- any type of phone
 - revision notes
 - any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)
- 

What you will need:

- a clear pencil case
 - at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable**
 - an approved calculator for relevant exams
 - appropriate apparatus such as a ruler or protractor for relevant exams
 - a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in – it **must not** have a label
- 

Other important information:

- Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- If you need additional answer sheets, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will provide you with one. Remember to add your details to this booklet.
- If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will escort you from the exam room.
- Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

Contingency sessions:

- There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2025 exam timetable – the afternoon of 11 June 2025 and the morning and afternoon of 25 June 2025. Make sure you are available on all three dates even if you do not have an exam.

If you have any questions about your exams, please ask your teacher or exams officer.



You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

Warning to candidates



 AQA	 City & Guilds	 CCEA	 OCR	 Pearson	 WJEC
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1

You **must** be on time for all your examinations.

2

Possession of a mobile phone or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the exam/qualification.

3

You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.

4

You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.

5

You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.

6

You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.

7

If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

The *Warning to candidates* must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.



Bilingualism News



We will be launching the Her Nadolig Gymraeg / Welsh Christmas Challenge in form classes next week. Each day pupils will be given a new Welsh word to learn to do with Christmas. If they can remember the word and say it to their teachers throughout the day, then they will achieve use of Welsh positive points. Jump the queue passes to use in the school canteen will be awarded to the pupils with the most use of Welsh points in January. Below is a list of Welsh Christmas words which may come up in the challenge next week. What about having a go of using these words at home over the Christmas period?



Parent Forum

On Monday 2nd December we held the first parent forum of the new academic year. A massive thank you to those parents that came along. Parent forum is a two-way conversation, an opportunity to keep parents informed about school and to provide an opportunity to ask questions. Following the meeting one of the parents who attended the meeting kindly volunteered to provide the following update to share:

Parent Forum – a Parents Perspective.

We had our first Parents Forum meeting this week, chaired by Mrs Robins. It was attended by only 5 parents.

The objective of the Parent Forum is to give parents and carers the opportunity to have a relaxed conversation with the Head Teacher, raising any issues that may be relevant and find out more about what is happening in school.

There is an agenda set for each meeting, so again if you wish to raise an issue it may be done prior to the meeting, so no need to have to speak out during the meeting if you wish not to, as some people prefer this.

The Parent Forum is a great way to get involved in the school, and we encourage more members. The meeting lasts for about a hour, and there is fabulous coffee and tea available.

I encourage all to come along, even just once to see what it is about.

Pupil Health & Wellbeing

Public Health Wales has published a new vaping resource for parents and carers '*Young People and Vaping – Information for Parents and Carers*'. This resource is now available on the PHW website [Vaping - Public Health Wales](#) in both English and Welsh.

You will no doubt read in the press of the dangers of vaping and that its effect on both health and development are a major concern, this in itself has sparked various debates.

Please refer to the attached resources, which hopefully will be of help to you.

Direct links to the resource:

Cymraeg: icc.gig.cymru/pynciau/fepio/pobl-ifanc-a-fepio-gwybodaeth-i-rieni-a-gofalwyr/

English: phw.nhs.wales/topics/vaping/young-people-and-vaping-information-for-parents-and-carers/

An associated press release can be found here:

- Cymraeg: [Sgyrsiau agored gyda'ch plant yw'r ffordd orau o fynd i'r afael â phryderon am fepio - Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru](#)
- English: [Open conversations with your child best way to address vaping concerns - Public Health Wales](#)

School Calendar – upcoming events

Week Beginning – Monday 2 nd December 2024 / <i>Dydd Llun Rhagfyr 2 2024</i>		Week 13 <i>Wythnos 12</i>
Monday 9 th December / <i>Dydd Llun Rhagfyr 2</i>		
Tuesday 10 th December / <i>Dydd Mawrth Rhagfyr 3</i>		
Wednesday 11 th December / <i>Dydd Mercher Rhagfyr 4</i>		
Thursday 12 th December / <i>Dydd Iau Rhagfyr 5</i>		
Friday 13 th December / <i>Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 6</i>		
Week Beginning – Monday 9 th December / <i>Dydd Llun Rhagfyr 9 2024</i>		Week 14 <i>Wythnos 13</i>
Monday 16 th December / <i>Dydd Llun Rhagfyr 9</i>		
Tuesday 17 th December / <i>Dydd Mawrth Rhagfyr 10</i>		
Wednesday 18 th December / <i>Dydd Mercher Rhagfyr 11</i>		
Thursday 19 th December / <i>Dydd Iau Rhagfyr 12</i>	Attendance Award Trip	
Friday 20 th December / <i>Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 13</i>	Last day of term – school closes as 12.30pm	

Key Academic Dates 2024/2025

Autumn 2024:

- **Start:** Wednesday 4th September 2024
- **Half term:** Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024
- **End:** Friday 20th December 2024

INSET Days:

- **INSET Day 3:** Friday 25th October 2024
- **INSET Day 4:** Friday 6th December 2024

General Information

Contacting School

Please refrain from telephoning the school, other than for urgent purposes.

Email is the preferred means of communication, and all the relevant email addresses are listed on the following page to allow you to directly contact either your child 'subject' department teacher, their progress teams or other areas of the school for assistance.

Please be reminded that we operate an appointment only system for meetings with parents/carers 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 where you do need to bring an item into school for your child, you will be asked to leave it with reception located in the school's 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 only what is needed for that day.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and you would like to discuss any aspect of their school life, please contact Mrs L Pownall at pownalll@llantwitschool.org.uk

Primary Contact - email addresses

Progress Leader Team	Email Address
Progress Leader Yr7	Year7ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader Yr8	Year8ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader Yr9	Year9ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader Yr10	Year10ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader Yr11	Year11ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader 6th Form	Year1213ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Headteacher	headteacher@llantwitschool.org.uk

Department	Email Address
Additional Learning Needs Department	ALN@llantwitschool.org.uk
Art Department	ArtDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Business/Careers Department	CareersDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Cymraeg Department	CymraegDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
D&T Department	DTDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
English Department	EnglishDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Geography Department	GeogDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
History Department	HistoryDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Home Economics	HomeEcDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
ICT Department	ICTDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Maths Department	MathsDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
MFL Department	MFLDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
PE Department	PEDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Performing Arts Department	PerformingArtsDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
RS Department	RSDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Science Department	ScienceDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Welsh Bacc Department	WelshBacc@llantwitschool.org.uk

Generic Email Accounts	Email Address
ParentPay Enquiries	parentpay@llantwitschool.org.uk
Parent Forum	parentforum@llantwitschool.org.uk
General School Enquiries	llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Help and Support Information – outside of school

Schools Essentials Grant/School Uniform

Welsh Government have informed us that the School Essentials Grant remains open until 31st May 2025. Removing barriers to participating in education, including helping families with the cost of the school day, including school uniform, is so vital, especially in the current climate.

Registering as eligible for free school meals with your Local Authority unlocks access to the School Essentials Grant. It also means schools get more funding. With the introduction of free school meals for primary pupils, many parents/carers do not realise that schools will lose out unless they continue to register as eligible.

Please click on the link below for more information on both the grant and free school meals:

<https://www.gov.wales/get-help-school-costs>

Services and support that help with food costs. Information on food vouchers and food banks.

Penarth food pod:

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/March/New-Food-Pod-opens-in-Penarth.aspx

Vale Food Bank: <https://vale.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/foodbank-vouchers/#Vale%20foodbank>

Food Vale: <https://foodvale.org/where-can-i-get-support/>

How to get free or cheap food: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/how-to-get-free-or-cheap-food/>

Find information on grants and benefits available to you such as Council Tax Reduction.

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/Cost-of-Living/Grants-and-benefits.aspx>

Get help with household and energy bills.

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/Cost-of-Living/Household-and-energy-bills.aspx>