

## MAJOR NEWS / NEWYDDION MAWR

### AUTUMN TERM / TYMOR YR HYDREF

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

Week Beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 / *Dydd Llun Tachwedd 4 2024*

**Week 9 / Wythnos 9**

### Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to this week's edition of Major News. We have been delighted to welcome our young people back from half term for a productive week of learning and trust you all enjoyed a refreshing and relaxing break.

Some of our learners have returned from the break and are bringing blankets to school in the place of coats. Pupils walking around school with blankets draped around their shoulders is not appropriate. Several of our young people have also been wearing leggings this week, which are not permitted. Our uniform expectations have been reinforced in assemblies and form time this week, but I would very much appreciate you reiterating them to your children this weekend. Major Items is well stocked with all uniform items, including coats, so if you are struggling to obtain any uniform items, please do let us know and we would be delighted to assist you. Equally, if learners present to school in incorrect uniform they will be expected to change into items from our uniform store and if they refuse to do so parents/carers will be contacted and asked to bring correct uniform into school.

We are currently looking for work experience placements for a small number of our Key Stage 4 learners that are on flexible timetables. The idea is that these learners will complete work experience one or two days a week alongside a package of both onsite and offsite provision. We are looking to place a few learners in beauty salons, hairdressers, barbers, retail, fashion and construction, but are open to exploring placements in other sectors. We are keenly aware that a number of our parents are small business owners and managers in the local area and may be able to assist. If you think you would be able to help, please do make contact with me [headteacher@llantwitschool.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@llantwitschool.org.uk) We will of course ensure all the relevant Health and Safety and insurance arrangements are in place and this a really valuable way of us strengthening links with the local community.

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

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

## Safeguarding



Social media influencers are people who have established credibility in a specific industry and have the power to influence other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, 'influencers' will usually have a large number of followers and be viewed as authentic by their audience. It is for this reason that many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.



# What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'INFLUENCERS'



## AN UNREALISTIC PERCEPTION OF BODY IMAGE

Some of the most popular social media influencers often depict themselves as having the 'perfect body' and are paid to promote items such as health supplements or swimwear, which young people believe can help them achieve the same look. What is not always realised is that these images can be edited or filtered and aren't always a true-life representation. Your child may feel like this is what they need to look like and in some cases, become obsessed with their body image, which could contribute towards a lower self-esteem or even becoming depressed if they can't achieve the same look.



## BECOMING UNREALISTIC ROLE MODELS

As children become more and more involved on social media and identify who their favourite people are to follow, they may come to see social media influencers as role models, particularly if they are attracted by the lifestyle they see online. This could lead them into developing potentially unrealistic expectations of life and in some cases, using their role models as an escape from reality, particularly if they feel like they're own life isn't very fulfilling.



## ENCOURAGING BAD HABITS

Although many social media influencers will get paid to advertise brands and their products, they will also post their own material online too, usually depicting their daily life or an activity for example. This may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, with influencers able to inspire both good habits, such as healthy eating, exercise or kindness. However it may also encourage children to adopt bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing or even criminal behaviour, particularly if these are seen to be endorsed by the influencer.



## THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING

Many social media influencers will take photos or videos of themselves wearing the latest fashion or jewellery which companies want them to promote. They may also be provided with the latest gadgets to promote or, if they are children, toys to play with in order to persuade their followers to purchase them. Many children will be keen to buy these items in order to keep up with the latest trends however if they get left behind, they could be made to feel inadequate or inferior by other children who do have them.



## AUTHENTICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS

Social media influencers hold a lot of persuasion with their audience and are often looked up to by younger followers. Many children will see them as credible, authentic and trust what they see online. However, some influencers may not always believe in the product they are promoting and therefore can mislead their followers, abusing their level of confidence in them. Your child may therefore find themselves looking up to people who are disingenuous or who feign interest in activities that they themselves do not actually care about.



# Safety Tips For Parents



## FOLLOW WHO THEY FOLLOW

A good way to see first-hand who may be influencing your child is to create your own social media account and follow the same people they do. This will give you a strong indication of what is shaping how your child behaves, what they like and what they are taking an interest in.



## TALK ABOUT ROLE MODELS

Role models can play an important part of your child's life, particularly outside of the home. Talk to your child about who they look up to and why. Remind them that not everybody online is who they seem to be and if you do have concerns that your child is being negatively influenced, work with them in finding more positive alternatives.

## BUILD THEIR SELF-ESTEEM

It's important that your child is aware of how unrealistic perceptions of life can be depicted on social media and that it is easy to be deceived. Discuss with your child how images can be heavily edited, cropped or manipulated to create artificial scenarios and that often the lifestyle that people display on social media isn't always realistic or in fact the truth.



## DISCUSS REALISTIC VS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

If you notice your child has suddenly taken a strong interest in the way they look, or you find they are a lot more body conscious, then it's a good idea to speak to them about why they feel that way. If they seem unhappy, try to build their self-esteem by talking to them and listening to their concerns, helping to build their confidence through praise and positivity. Remind them that looks aren't everything and not everything they see online is actually a true depiction of real life.



## ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING

Social media influencers can be quite powerful individuals who hold a lot of persuasive power so it's important to encourage your child to think independently about everything they see and engage with online. Talk to them about the dangers of blindly following others and in keeping an open mind when viewing content. Teach them to always question people's motives online, especially when they see individuals are promoting a brand or product which they are likely to have been paid to advertise but may not necessarily personally endorse.



## Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



## *A Week in Sport*

A great game of rugby this week saw a lot of opportunities for new players and a lot of defensive work for the whole team, when we faced local rivals Cowbridge. 🏈 The year 7 team continue to improve and continue to grow as a unit. 🏈 Well done to Cowbridge who took the win with a score of 22-0 and we will play them again this year and hopefully get over the white line. 🏈



Mr Crocker's' men of the match: Oshy Thomas Faux and Riley-Jay Chick for their defensive efforts and fearless attitude throughout. 🏆 [#teamlantwit](#)

🏀 Well done to our Year 7 Netball Teams! 🏀 Although both Year 7 teams came up short on the scoreboard, they played with fantastic skill and determination from start to finish. Their teamwork, resilience, and commitment to improving shone through in every play. 🏀🏀



A big thank you to year 12 pupils Ruby Phillips and Freya Perry for umpiring the games. ⭐

🏆 Miss Bowen's player of the match:

7 A Team: Daisy Bacon.

7 B Team: Isabelle Ryan.

🏆 [#teamlantwit](#)



A great extracurricular football session, run by our sixth formers Lily-May Colston and Maddison Lindsay, who are gaining experience for their Welsh Bacc voluntary hours. 🏆

[#teamlantwit](#)

A fantastic effort from the Year 8 rugby team. They played a well organised Bro Morgannwg team. Defensively, they put in a performance of the season and made a huge effort until the very end! Some costly mistakes in the red zone left us with only the one try. What is pleasing is the team are creating chances against strong opponents. 🏈



Very pleasing to see new pupils joining the rugby team and strengthening the squad. 🏈 [#teamlantwit](#)

Try Scorer 🏈 Tomos Curtis. 🏈

🏆 Mr Nunes' Player of the Match: 🏆🏆 Logan Keith 🏆🏆 Harry Brown Pilcher 🏆

### *Pupil Health & Wellbeing*



Unfortunately, the extra training session held on the morning of the recent inset day did nothing to improve our skills, as once again the Year 7's beat Mr Tomsa and Mr Pascoe at Basketball.

Don't forget if any pupil is interested in taking part in the fun and showing staff how to really play, come along to Friday morning Games Club. Please speak to Mr Tomas for more information.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form News

### **Sixth Form Subject Marketplace:**

Following the opportunity that Year 11's had to learn about A-level courses at the Marketplace, the Sixth Form invite all Year 11 students and their parents/carers to the Open Evening on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, regardless of whether they are currently considering returning to Llantwit for their further study.

The open evening will be a great opportunity for parents/carers and students alike to ask sixth form staff, teachers, and current Year 12 and 13 students any questions about the sixth form courses on offer at Llantwit Major, and what the Sixth Form environment is like here.

The evening will run from 6pm until 8pm and will begin with a presentation by the Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form in the Main Hall. Following this, we encourage attendees to sit in on department presentations for any of the subjects, prospective students are considering taking next year. This will be a beneficial opportunity to learn more about the A-level subjects, students' suitability for different courses, and to talk to staff about specifications and job prospects after A-levels.

In addition to the host of subjects already on offer at Llantwit Sixth Form, our curriculum has been further expanded in recent years to ensure that all prospective students are provided with the most exciting and rewarding qualifications. We strongly advise attending the evening to ensure that prospective students are making informed decisions about their future study.'

### **Youth Speaks- Public Speaking Competition 2025**

On the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> November, our public speaking teams attended Cowbridge Comprehensive School for the local rounds of the 2025 Youth Speaks competition.

Our teams decided on their own topics for discussion with a proposer, oppose and a chair to lead each discussion.

#### **Team 1:**

Molly Chislett-Reynolds, Mick Davies, Dylan Wilcox- "Should all students be taught self-defence?"

#### **Team 2:**

Rees Harris, Zainab Shahzad, Layla Maidment- "Is renewable energy the best course of action to climate change?"

#### **Team 3:**

Amrit Kaur, Catrin Black, Lyla McGuinness- "Are rainbow poppies inclusive?"

There was excellent quality on show throughout the competition which made it even more rewarding to see Team 2 from Llantwit Major Sixth Form winning the local round. They will now progress onto the regional round, where they will develop their skills further. Best of luck to them all!

**School Calendar – upcoming events**

<b>Week Beginning – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 / <i>Dydd Llun Tachwedd 28 2024</i></b>		<b>Week 10 <i>Wythnos 10</i></b>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November / <i>Dydd Llun Tachwedd 11</i>		
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November / <i>Dydd Mawrth Tachwedd 12</i>		
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November / <i>Dydd Mercher Tachwedd 13</i>		
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November / <i>Dydd Iau Tachwedd 14</i>		
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November / <i>Dydd Gwener Tachwedd 15</i>		
<b>Week Beginning – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 / <i>Dydd Llun Tachwedd 18 2024</i></b>		<b>Week 10 <i>Wythnos 10</i></b>
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November / <i>Dydd Llun Tachwedd 18</i>		
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November / <i>Dydd Mawrth Tachwedd 19</i>		
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November / <i>Dydd Mercher Tachwedd 20</i>		
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November / <i>Dydd Iau Tachwedd 21</i>		
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November / <i>Dydd Gwener Tachwedd 22</i>		

**Key Academic Dates 2024/2025**

**Autumn 2024:**

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

**INSET Days:**

- **INSET Day 3:** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- **INSET Day 4:** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pownalll@llantwitschool.org.uk)

### **Primary Contact - email addresses**

<b>Progress Leader Team</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Progress Leader Yr7	<a href="mailto:Year7ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk">Year7ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk</a>
Progress Leader Yr8	<a href="mailto:Year8ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk">Year8ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk</a>
Progress Leader Yr9	<a href="mailto:Year9ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk">Year9ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk</a>
Progress Leader Yr10	<a href="mailto:Year10ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk">Year10ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk</a>
Progress Leader Yr11	<a href="mailto:Year11ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk">Year11ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk</a>
Progress Leader 6th Form	<a href="mailto:Year1213ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk">Year1213ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk</a>
Headteacher	<a href="mailto:headteacher@llantwitschool.org.uk">headteacher@llantwitschool.org.uk</a>

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

<b>Generic Email Accounts</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
<b>ParentPay Enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:parentpay@llantwitschool.org.uk">parentpay@llantwitschool.org.uk</a>
<b>General School Enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk">llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk</a>



## **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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](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>