

# Penyrheol Newsletter

CHRISTMAS 2024  
AUTUMN TERM





# A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers,

We find ourselves at the end of what has been a busy, varied but hugely rewarding Autumn Term. I hope that reading this newsletter will be a great reminder of how the efforts and achievements of our pupils has shone through in the last few months.

This term, we have enjoyed our Year 6 Open Evening, the School Show, the Carol Concert, Progress Evenings, the Christmas Fayre and the monthly ALN Coffee Mornings to name but a few. Engaging with our community has made this term a real joy. Penyrheol belongs to the community it serves and we are very proud to serve our community.

I have continued to send fortnightly letters home to parents/carers. This Christmas Newsletter is the perfect companion to those letters and I hope parents/carers enjoy reading the articles and seeing the photos of some of the events that have taken place at Penyrheol. I trust that parents/carers will read the newsletter and see the excellent opportunities that pupils get at Penyrheol.

I am very proud of all the many and varied things that our pupils have achieved this term. More than that though, I am proud of the effort and the commitment that the overwhelming majority of our pupils show every day at school. Since September, the average Penyrheol pupil has been awarded 14 achievement points for every behaviour point accrued.

We have wonderful pupils at Penyrheol. They embody our Core Values of Respect, Aspire, Thrive and Belong. It is my privilege to be the headteacher of such a vibrant and inclusive school.

I would like to thank all parents/carers for their ongoing support of the school.

I wish the whole school community a happy and peaceful Christmas. The Spring term begins on Tuesday 7th January.

Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd ddai gyfeillion Ysgol Gyfun Penyrheol.

Yours faithfully,



D. Benney

Headteacher/Pennaeth

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
<b>Monday</b>			
Registration	Orchestra	Orchestra	Orchestra Senior Choir
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space Film Club Room A11 Club Cymraeg Badminton Club Philosophy Club String Group	STF Safe Space Film Club Room A11 Club Cymraeg Badminton Club Philosophy Club String Group	STF Safe Space Badminton Club Philosophy Club String Group
After school	Homework Club Indoor Rounders Club	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Indoor Rounders Club	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct)
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Registration	Reading Buddies Brass Group	Brass Group	Brass Group
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space Art Club	STF Safe Space Art Club School Production Music (Sept to Oct)	STF Safe Space Art Club School Production Music (Sept to Oct)
After school	Homework Club Girls Football	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Girls Football	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Chamber Choir Girls Football
<b>Wednesday</b>			
Registration	-	-	Battle of the Bands
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space C U Wednesday Benchball Art Club	STF Safe Space C U Wednesday Benchball Art Club	STF Safe Space C U Wednesday Benchball Art Club
After school	Homework Club Art Club	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Art Club	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Netball Art Club
<b>Thursday</b>			
Registration	Reading Buddies Rock Group Keyboard Group	Rock Group Keyboard Group	Rock Group Keyboard Group
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space Art Club	STF Safe Space Art Club	STF Safe Space Art Club Chamber Choir
After school	Homework Club Netball	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Netball)	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct)
<b>Friday</b>			
Registration	Junior Choir	Junior Choir	
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space Games and Puzzles Club (Week 1 only) Board Games Club (Week 2 only)	STF Safe Space School Production Music (Sept to Oct) Games and Puzzles Club (Week 1 only) Board Games Club (Week 2 only)	STF Safe Space School Production Music (Sept to Oct) Games and Puzzles Club (Week 1 only) Board Games Club (Week 2 only)
After school	Homework Club	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct)	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct)

# Extra Curricular Activities

	Year 10	Year 11
<b>Monday</b>		
Registration	Senior Choir	Senior Choir
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space Badminton Club Philosophy Club String Group GCSE Skills Drop in (A14) (Week 2 only)	STF Safe Space Badminton Club Philosophy Club String Group GCSE Skills Drop in (A14) (Week 2 only)
After school	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct)	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct)
<b>Tuesday</b>		
Registration		Reading Buddies Music Performance Platform
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space Art Club School Production Music (Sept to Oct)	STF Safe Space Art Club School Production Music (Sept to Oct)
After school	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Chamber Choir Girls Football	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Chamber Choir Girls Football
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Registration	-	-
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space C U Wednesday Benchball Art Club	STF Safe Space C U Wednesday Benchball Art Club
After school	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Netball	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) Netball
<b>Thursday</b>		
Registration	Rock Group Keyboard Group KS4 Composition Club	Reading Buddies Rock Group Keyboard Group KS4 Composition Club
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space Art Club Chamber Choir	STF Safe Space Art Club Chamber Choir
After school	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) GCSE Art Club Mock Trial	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct) GCSE Art Club Mock Trial
<b>Friday</b>		
Registration	-	-
Lunchtime	STF Safe Space School Production Music (Sept to Oct) Board Games Club (Week 2 only)	STF Safe Space School Production Music (Sept to Oct) Board Games Club (Week 2 only)
After school	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct)	Homework Club School Production (Sept to Oct)

# Hot Chocolate Fridays

Every fortnight one pupil from each year group is chosen to have a hot chocolate with Mr Benney as a reward for positive behaviour based on our four core values - ***Respect, Aspire, Thrive, Belong.***





# Pupils recognised for Autumn T

	Year 7	Year 8
HEAD OF YEAR	Oghosa Iyobor Kimberly Tancock	Isabelle Robotham Morgan Mitchell
AGORED	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>
ART	Madisson McKavett Safia Williams	Libby Beynon Shane Coleman
BUSINESS STUDIES	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>
CONSTRUCTION	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>
DRAMA	Edward Jarman Maddie McKavett	Theo Jones Amelia Hands
ENGLISH	Edward Jarman Niamh Davies	Callum Mills Ayse Beliki
FASHION & TEXTILES	Hollie Wright Edward Jarman	Marley Young Brooke Morris
FOOD & NUTRITION	Raphael Moses Niamh Davies	Joshua Edwards Elliot Moses
GEOGRAPHY	Mia Jones	Charlie Kenndy Mcgregor
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>
HISTORY	Edward Jarman Elynor Gambell	Isabelle Gwynne Charlie Kennedy-McGregor
ICT	Oscar Phillips Edward Jarman	Tyler Davies Brooke Francis
INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES	Harry Pompa Grace Roderick	Charlie Kennedy-McGregor Marley Young

# Attainment and Effort

## Term 2024

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Serena Hooson-Jones Ethan Thomas		Emily Matthews Josef Nisbet
<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	Jamie-Leigh Watkins Lucas Field	Jimmy Elliott Tomos Apsimon
Thomas Davies Oscar Moore	Joshua Williams Lucas Field	Sophie Brewer Mia Pridmore
<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	Leon Beavers Bella Stock	Lillie Ahern Olivia Davis
<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	Tom Clapham Jack Pennino	Ethan Wilcox Jaydon Taylor
Anya Patrick Thomas Davies	Ruby Bissmire Lowri Gambell	Josh Jones Ami-Rose Williams
Freddie Mears Jack Slater	Miley Davies Sophie Pennino	Cerys Owens-Williams Sophie Brewer
Romilly Rahim-Smith Molly Pompa	—————	—————
Aimee Besley Ethan Thomas	Lucas Field Polly Mock-Davies	Rhianna Griffiths Cadie Isaac-Hamer
Sandro Jones	Andrew Nolan	Serenity-Jade Green
<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	Alana Elliott Layla James	Ellie Mae Danbrough Lewis Maya Buckley
Joseph Lewis Molly Pompa	Megan Kavanagh Junior Judd	Alex Thomas Phoebe Joseph
Cameron Hughes Mylie knight	Ellie Pennino Thomas Keogh	Ryan Thomas Samuel Webb
Cameron Hughes Craig Howe	Eluned Botzaropoulus Kate Garland - Thomas	Serafina Haile Kamsi Ebisi

MATHS	Freddie Abraham Oghosa Iyobor	Eva-Wood Griffiths Jake Ellis	
MEDIA STUDIES	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>No</i>
MUSIC	Theo Thomas Isla John	Laila Morgan Amelia Hands	
P.E BOYS	Adam Gronow Jacob Ellery-Thomas	James Mathias Khiari Shakes	
P.E. GIRLS	Hollie Wright Lexi Lewis	Isabelle Gwynne Grace Morgan	
PRODUCT DESIGN	Wyatt Prior Hannah Kelly	Lacey May Carey Olivia Lewis	
PUBLIC SERVICES	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>No</i>
ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY	Jack Thomas Freya Besley	Charlie Kennedy-McGregor Caitlyn Anthony	
SCIENCE	Jacob Morgan Maddison McKavett	Isla Howells Logan Jay Cross	
SOCIOLOGY	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>No</i>
WBQ	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>Not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	<i>No</i>
WELSH/ CYMRAEG	Paris Thomas Jack Thomas	Elliot Moses Marley Young	

Joel Sheaf Aimee Besley	Ffion Leahy Bridget Caswell	Maiya Buckley Josef Nisbet
<i>not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>		
Rosa Shepherd Jack Griffiths	Lois Bambridge Polly Mock Davies	Cerys Owens Williams Oxana Olaru
Jack Griffiths Felix Jenkins	Thomas Clapham Rhys Wonnacott	Sam Davies Ashton Maybank
Lily Parslow Rosie Bird	Scarlet Bamford Annabel Williams	Rhianna Griffiths Phoebe Joseph
Craig Howe Josh Jenkins	Dylan McComas Sophie Pennino	Josef Nisbet Jimmy (James) Elliott
<i>not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	Michelle Agboola Liam Smith	
Craig Howe Ava Pennock	————	————
Rhys Walters Anya Patrick	Jennifer Phillips Ellie Pennino	Harrison Williams Kamsi Ebisi
<i>not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	————	Brooke Cooper - Jones Alex Thomas
<i>not applicable to Key Stage 3</i>	Polly Mock Davies Lola Bradley	Joanie Pearcey Summer Harris
Taya Tymkiv Ella-May Kelly	Sonny McCarley Scarlet Bamford	Michael Agboola Maiya Buckley



Our Student Voice representatives held their first meeting on 13th December. This term, all pupils had the chance to suggest ways to improve our school. These suggestions were reviewed by our Senior Prefects, who then met with all Form Reps for further discussion.

On 17th December, our Senior Prefects will present this information to Senior Staff.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Toilets
- Dinner queue
- PSE lessons
- Uniform
- Possible Student Voice name change

An update will be provided in our next newsletter.



# Pupil Governors



Our new pupil governors have started their governance roles during this half term. These pupils offer the school governing body and the senior leadership team a unique insight and perspective on school life. Our pupil governors have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and to use their learner voice in making a difference to the strategic direction of the school.

Our leadership pupil governors are as follows:

Georgia and Dylan (leadership pupil governors)

Henry and Liam (curriculum/teaching and learning pupil governors)

Scarlet and Lowri (wellbeing pupil governors)

Pupil governors have attended governing body meetings and will be coming together to discuss the strategic direction of the school, by addressing the priorities in the whole school improvement plan.

Thank you to our fantastic pupil governors for their time, energy and commitment into making the school a better place for all learners!

# Charity Week...



We raised **£528.42** for Children in Need.

Thank you all for your generous contribution!

We raised **£230** on Charity Day. Here is a snippet of the stalls and activities pupils set up...



Photo with the inflatables



Drinks and sweets were sold on the top floor



Fun games



"The Grinch has slimed Santa" - 50p a go to clean him up

# I'M A TEACHER GET ME OUT OF HERE!

Well done to Mr Benney, Mr Silke, Mr Evans, Mrs James, Dr Evans, Madame Wade, Mr Lloyd and Mr Morgan who all were great sports and took part in our annual I'm a Teacher Get Me Out of Here!! We raised £528.42!!



## Set Menu

### Appetizer

*Crunchy Cricket Smoothie*

A protein-packed smoothie that's as bold as it is nutritious! It's the ultimate combination of smooth, crunchy, and earthy flavours—perfect for the adventurous eater!

### First course

*Seaummy Seafood Sensation*

Dive into the freshest ocean flavours with this delightful medley! A vibrant blend of seafood sensation topped with a variety of critters, it is as light as it is delicious

### Main Course

*All wrapped up*

Get ready for the ultimate crunchy adventure! This loaded wrap is packed with bold flavours and textures that will surprise your taste buds. Topped with a velvety-smooth sauce creating a balance from the satisfying crunch of bugs for that daring crunch factor. A truly "all wrapped up" creation for the curious eater!

### Dessert

*Mysterious medley*

A dessert for the bold and fearless! This creamy, velvety delight is taken to a whole new level with added crunch for a surprising texture and earthy twist. A unique depth of flavour that's both sweet and slightly tangy. It's a whimsical treat that dares to break the mold—perfect for the adventurous foodie looking to push the boundaries of dessert!





# Footloose

the musical



**WOW** .....what a show!!!!

In the week before half term, we enjoyed another spectacular school show.

Over seventy pupils were involved and they put on four performances which had the audience (metaphorically) dancing in the aisles.

The show is a true community event and we are appreciative of the support the pupils had from their families and friends.

A massive thank you and well done to all pupils who were

involved, our amazing Drama Department and wonderful Music Department!!

Roll on next year!

*"The school show really gave me a sense of belonging and an opportunity to do what I love. This show was the first time I have had a name role, and it was such a fun experience. I have made some really nice friends from doing Footloose, and I felt it gave me a purpose, along with something to do after school (rehearsals). As someone who wants to pursue a career in musical theatre, these shows are a really good chance to see what it's like performing on stage, doing what I enjoy and feeding my motivation to continue chasing my dreams. Everyone involved did excellently, and once I leave school, I will carry these memories with me for the rest of my life, and think back to them when I am (hopefully) on a professional stage. To say I miss Footloose is an understatement."*

Isaiah Jewell

*"I was part of crew in the production for Footloose and my job was on the follow spots with one other person. I liked doing the follow spots because it was something different to what I did in the previous show."*

Liam Smith









## Netball

Well done to Ellie and Sophie (Year 10) who have been selected to train with the Afan Nedd Tawe Schools U16 Netball squad.

Annabel (Year 10) and Libby (Year 8) have both been selected to train as part of the West Wales Regional Netball teams.  
Congratulations!

# FOOTBALL

What a superb season for the football girls. All of the girls have been motivated, dedicated and enthusiastic during the season. They have shown commitment to training every Tuesday that has paid off in the results.

The U13's have been unbeatable so far and have not lost a game in the league. They got through to the final of the Swansea Schools Tournament and narrowly missed out on the win by just 1 goal in extra time.

The U15's have also had a great season where they have shown resilience and courage when faced with tough opposition.

The pupils have been an absolute pleasure to coach this year and we hope they are successful in the next round of the league after Christmas.

The girls and myself would like to say a huge thank you to

Mr Wonnacott for giving up his time to coach and support the girls this year.



# Urdd Concert

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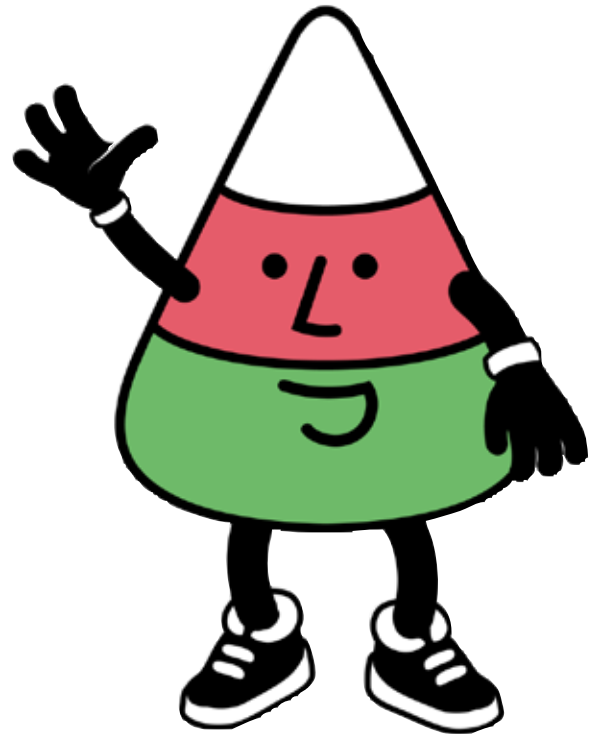
On Tuesday 3rd December Penyrheol Music Department were invited to perform in a Christmas celebration with the Eisteddfod Yr Urdd in St Catherines Church, Gorseinon.

The event was to raise money for the upcoming Eisteddfod Yr Urdd in Margam in May 2025. Pupils from Penyrheol performed alongside vocal soloists, harp soloists and Penllergaer Primary School and Penyrheol Primary School. The chamber choir started the performance by Penyrheol by performing a beautiful welsh hymn called Hwiangerdd Mair followed by a rousing rendition of the piece 'Going up a Yonder' by Walter Hawkins. The girls performed beautifully!

This was followed by two instrumental items by our Year 11 pupils Joseph, who performed the lively 'Nutcracker' duet and Oxana who performed an breath-taking rendition of 'Glasgow with love' from the film Love Actually. Penyrheol's performances were finished with Senior Rock Group performing 'Merry Christmas Everyone.' This got everyone dancing and smiling along.

The performers had fantastic feedback from the concert, including a phone call from the community who offered her congratulations for a wonderful performance. She wanted to praise the pupils who sang beautifully and were impeccably behaved and a credit to the school. Da iawn pawb!

We hope to see many of the performers above taking part in the Urdd competitions next year- watch this space!



# CYMR AEG

Bore da	Good Morning
Pnawn da	Good Afternoon
Os gwelwch un dda	Please
Darllenwch	Read
Diolch	Thank you
Hwyl fawr	Goodbye
Gwrandewch	Listen
Edrychwch	Look
Syniad da	Good idea
Da iawn ti/chi	Well done
Ardderchog	Excellent
Bendigedig	Fantastic
Dim siarad	No talking
Gwaith da	Good work
Gwaith rhagorol	Excellent work
Ble mae?	Where is?
Beth ydy hwn?	What is this?
Oes / Nac oes	Yes / No

This year as an English-medium school we are working towards the Gwobrau Siarter Iaith / Welsh Language Charter Awards. Our aim as a school is to promote the Welsh dimension across the school, and create a Welsh ethos whilst encouraging learners to use the Welsh language outside of the classroom.

In order to achieve our aims, we have created a Criw Cymraeg / Welsh Crew made up of our fantastic Year 7 and 8 pupils. They attend a weekly meeting where we discuss and come up with ideas on how we can promote the language, and encourage pupils and staff to use the language as much as possible. The "Criw Cymraeg" is growing weekly. Currently we have three Year 8 pupils and four Year 7 pupils. They are Alisha 8S, Jake 8D, Pippa 8U, Ellis 7E, Olivia 7E and Niamh 7E.

A vital part of the Siarter Iaith is working in partnership with the wider school community to support learners' use of Welsh outside school. There, we need your help to support the learning and enjoyment of the Welsh language at home. This could include encouraging the use of Welsh language learning apps - Duolingo / Quizlet / Say Something in Welsh.

## Everyday Welsh....

Why not have a go at using some of these phrases at home?

# CogUrdd Culinary

## Achievement



### Impressive Brunch Creations in CogUrdd Regional Competition

A few weeks ago, three of our talented Food and Nutrition students participated in the CogUrdd Yr. 7-9 regional Competition held at Ysgol Gwyr. The challenge required competitors to create a savoury or sweet brunch meal for one person entirely from scratch, without using any pre-made ingredients—a true test of skill and creativity.

Representing our school were Raphael, Elliot and Joshua, guided by their Food Technology teacher, Mr. Silke. Each student worked hard to produce a dish that reflected their individual creativity and technical ability.



We are particularly proud of Raphael, who earned 3rd place in the competition, standing out in a strong field of entrants from across the region. The judges praised his dish for its thoughtful preparation and execution.

Congratulations to Raphael, Elliot, and Joshua for their efforts and achievements in this competition. We look forward to seeing how their skills develop in the future.



# Journalists for the Day!



Year 9 pupils had a fantastic day at the BBC Cymru Studios in Cardiff. We were lucky enough to get a guided tour of the building and experience what it would be like to read the news and record a weather segment.

As part of the Seren more able and talented project, pupils were given invaluable information about careers at the BBC



and potential apprenticeships in the future.

Pupils enjoyed using the cameras in the studios and learnt about the importance of sound when recording live radio.

Pupils represented the school with impeccable manners and brilliant questions for the BBC school team.

Mrs Morgan



# YEAR 11 AWARDS EVENING



# Design and Technology

Year 10 Product Design:  
A Creative Challenge

Miss Meredith's Year 10 Product Design pupils have been mastering Techsoft 2D Design, diving into a particularly challenging project that has really tested

and stretched their CAD skills. The results have been nothing short of impressive, and we couldn't be prouder of how creatively and diligently the pupils have worked.

Great work Year 10 – your

dedication and hard work have truly shone through, and we look forward to seeing more fantastic designs from you in the future!



Year 9  
Resin in Design and  
Technology

In Miss Meredith's  
Design and  
Technology classes,  
our Year 9 pupils  
have been  
experimenting with  
resin to create some  
truly stunning  
pieces. From  
thoughtful gifts to  
personal keepsakes,  
the creativity on  
display has been  
exceptional.

Pupils couldn't wait  
to collect their  
design pieces and  
show them off to the  
school community.  
Well done Year 9.



# ENERGY COUNCIL



Last year our STF department and Energy Council worked with Ysgol Crug Glas and local and national Welsh artists to create their own Energy Story. Pupils attend trips all over Wales - a visit to the Big Pit, Wind Farms and Gower Beaches.

These pupils have worked hard and created some beautiful sensory pieces. Their work was showcased in the Volcano Gallery in Swansea back in September. Pupils were involved in the set up and presentation of their work.







Here is the link for the Sensory Story of Energy VR display.

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=dKdRDo-5Jpy8>

# Be a Santa to a Senior

It's that special time of year again when we at Home Instead Swansea kick off our annual Christmas gift-giving campaign, Be a Santa. Our much-loved Be a Santa initiative allows us to collect gifts generously donated by members of our local community. We then distribute these gifts to older people in the area who may not otherwise receive a present this Christmas or who might be separated from family and friends, making them even more in need of a little extra joy. This year, we're thrilled to partner with Swansea FC Women's team to bring festive cheer in the form of thoughtful gifts, including everything from fishing books and cuddly toys to jigsaws and toiletries.

Kate Webb  
Home Instead



# GEOGRAPHY

We visited Oxwich Nature Reserve with GCSE pupils as part of their course to carry out a field work enquiry and collect data for their NEA preparation.

We investigating how Oxwich NNR has change over time.

We had a beautiful sunny day! Lots of great work completed in measuring and collecting data.

Mr Hyndman also visited us!

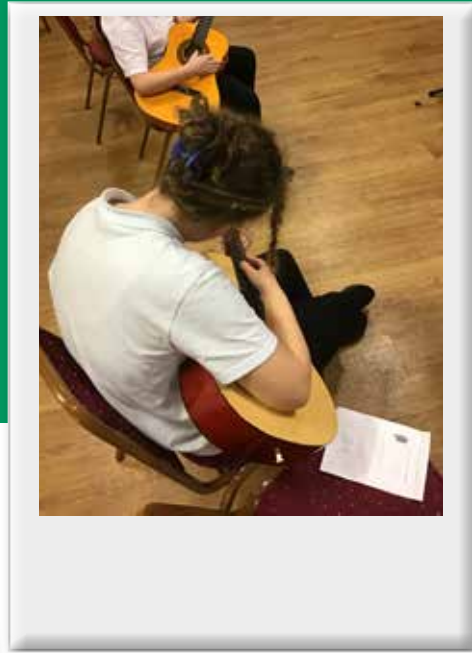


# Music Enrichment Day

On Friday September 20th Year 7 had the opportunity to be part of Music Enrichment Day. Pupils were able to experience all the instrumental lessons that Penyrheol has to offer in small workshop sessions lead by members of the Music Department and

visiting instrumental staff. This was a wonderful way to introduce our youngest pupils to the world of music. Many of these pupils now receive private lessons on their chosen instrument!





# Wellbeing at Penyrheol

This term, Miss Isaac organised for Chris from Men's Mental Health to visit a group of boys in Year 11 to discuss the topic of Mens Mental Health, something that isn't always widely acknowledged. The boys were invited to three sessions with Chris;

## Workshop 1

Mental health: what it is and why it's important – This was the topic of the first week, it was important to cover the basics of what mental health is, how it has an affect on individuals and why it is important to talk about it with others.

## Workshop 2

Societal views on Men's Mental health: facts and statistics – This week we delved deeper into the current views that society has for men related to mental health, looking at the statistics surrounding this topic, and the stigmas attached to talking and getting help for mental health as a male.

## Workshop 3

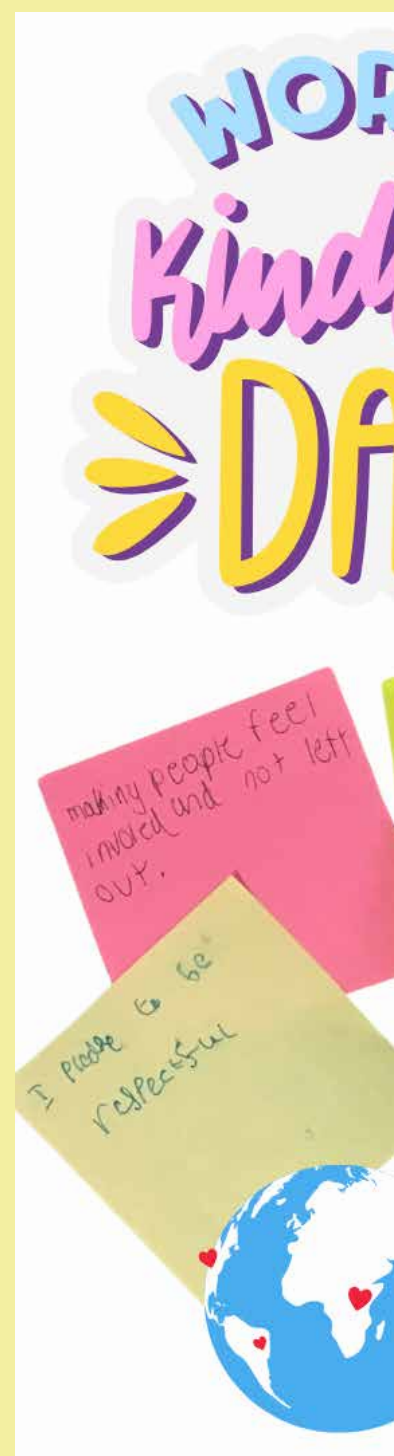
Who is there for us and how can we get help? – Finally in the last wee we looked at what services are around to reach out to, specifically those that were dedicated to supporting men through mental health struggles, and why it is important to reach out to them.

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Mr Benney met with Miss Isaac and the LGBTQ+ group to discuss pupils concerns and school experiences, and any ideas they have on how to build a more inclusive school environment.

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Mrs Harries has also focused on bullying and the importance of being kind. We have had various events take place, from signing the Kindness Wall to being donated a Christmas tree which is now decorated in beautiful words.





# WORLD Kindness DAY

To support  
#WorldKindnessDay,  
our pupils pledge to....

**World Kindness Day** is an annual event held on the 13th November. It serves as a reminder to us all to show compassion and goodwill to others. Pupils were asked during registration to pledge their act of kindness on post it notes, and to follow this up during the day. Pupils wrote some beautiful pledges....

I Pledge to  
be thinking  
about how I  
can be kind and  
respectful to  
everyone

I pledge to be  
respectful to my  
classmates, teachers,  
teammates, coaches,  
family and strangers.  
Whether it be reciprocated  
or not.

I pledge to  
be Patient and  
say kind words

I pledge to be a  
better  
Human

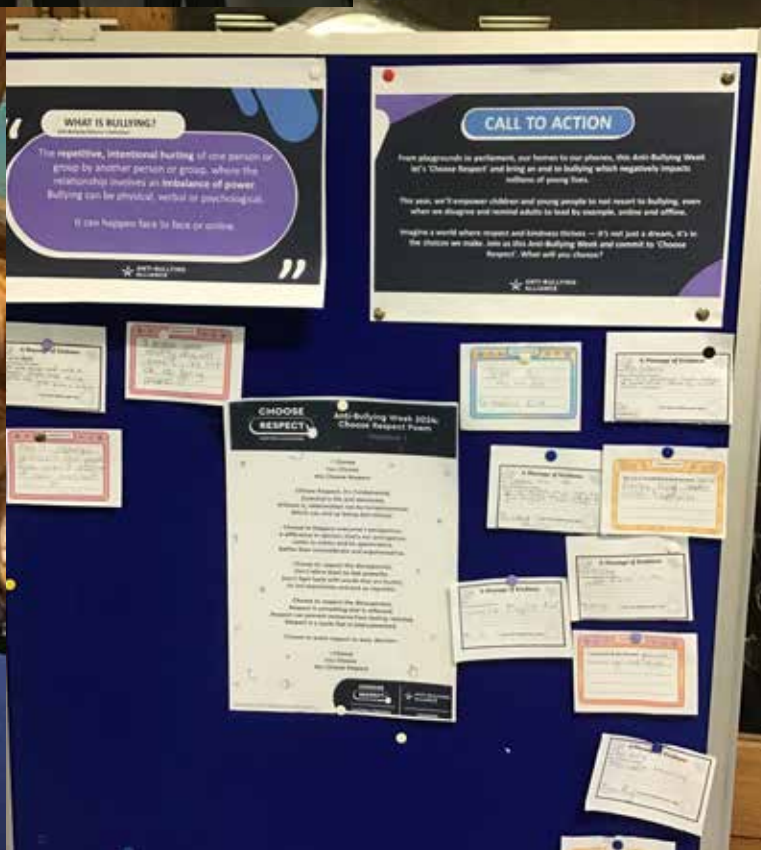
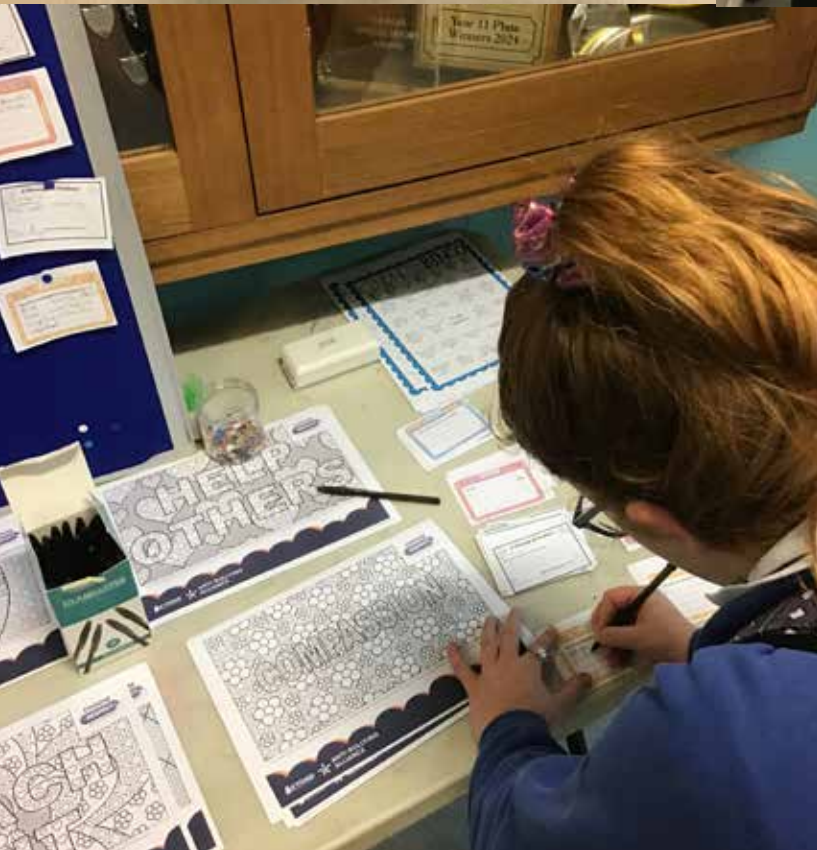
I be a better friend.  
I pledge to be a better  
friend.

I pledge to be  
respectful and  
be kind to  
everyone.

I will value  
everyone equally

# Beating Bullying

Pupils signed our Kindness Wall to commit to not allowing bullying to happen. Mrs Harries gave out compliment cards where pupils were able to write down something lovely to give to a friend, a loved one, a teacher....whoever they felt needed it. Information on bullying and how to help to stop it was available.





## *Spreading Joy and Happiness*

A massive thank you to ex-pupil Miss Teen Swansea Galaxy, Ffion Colwill, for donating a Christmas tree to our wellbeing room.

This tree will be decorated with hand made decoration from our pupils with messages of hope and wishes for our future and remembrance of loved ones no longer with us.

Thank you to Ffion and her family.





***Pupils have enjoyed making Christmas decorations, cards and colouring Christmas pictures at break and lunchtime as part of our Wellbeing Club.***

# A rare tree



A rare apple tree, named after National Trust Cymru's Llanerchaeron, has had its future secured after the property's garden team grafted a new crop of trees.

Llanerchaeron is one of only six locations where the rare Llanerchaeron Peach apple variety is known to exist.

To secure the future of this rare variety of apple, the gardening team at Llanerchaeron set about grafting new trees from the original ancient apple tree.

These rare trees have now found new homes across Ceredigion and beyond.

One of the rare trees has been gifted to Penyrheol

Comprehensive School. Together with Head Gardener Alex, the school has planted the Llanerchaeron Peach alongside other apple varieties, Nolan Pippin, Afal Aeron and Howgate Wonder as part of a new garden area in the school grounds.

Karen Jones, Assistant Headteacher at Penyrheol

Comprehensive School said: "We are delighted with the opportunity and learning that was provided by the National Trust when they visited our school. Our pupils have benefited enormously from the tree planting, and we look forward to watching them grow. We are now forging further and stronger links with the Trust so that we can work together once again on future projects."

**National Trust  
Cymru press  
release**



# Ethics and Philosophy

## Year 7

This term Year 7 have been investigating the question of 'why are there religions?'

We have been discussing communities that pupils are part of and their own beliefs. Pupils then learnt about the Census and how this can be a useful resource for seeing religious beliefs grow and decline. Pupils were able to compare Census records to see the data in our



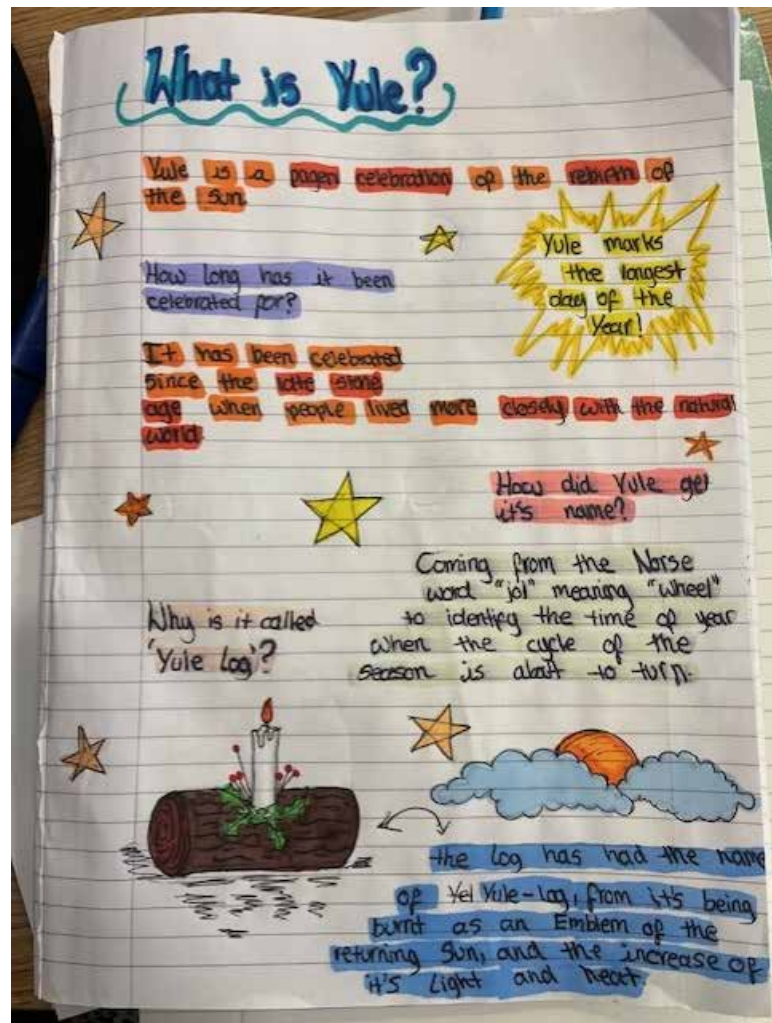
The Druid festival of Yule was celebrated by the Celts on the winter solstice, and was later absorbed into Christmas. It is sometimes thought that it was originally a Norse festival called Jol, but it is still being debated.



Yule is also mentioned by the famous monk and historian Bede, who describes it as a custom celebrated by heathen Anglo-Saxons.



Yule is also celebrated by Neo-Pagans, who gather at ancient sites on the winter solstice. In Sweden people still construct a yule goat from straw. Another modern custom is the making of a Yule Log cake, although it is thought that the Yule log was originally a real, flaming log.



area. Then, pupils moved on to looking at the early beliefs of Animism, as well as Greek, Egyptian and Norse Gods and Goddesses, as well as exploring the Six Major World Religions.

## Year 8

This term Year 8 have been exploring the question of 'why do we have rules?'

We started by looking at whether rules were useful today and how they can benefit society.

Pupils then learnt about the Christian Ten Commandments and Buddhist Five Precepts, we discussed whether these are seen in our laws today and whether they are still relevant to the modern world.

Pupils studied religious food laws, such as Halal and Kosher and examined the difficulties of following these food laws in Wales.

Then, pupils investigated clothing laws of Muslims, Jews and Sikhs, learning the names of the items in their original language and their meaning.

Finally, to conclude the term Year 8 looked at punishment for crimes and whether the prison system is effective and exploring criminal punishments, such as the Death Penalty.

## Year 9

This term Year 9 have been learning about suffering and questioning 'why is there suffering in the world?'

Pupils began by exploring the terms good and evil and discussed whether there could

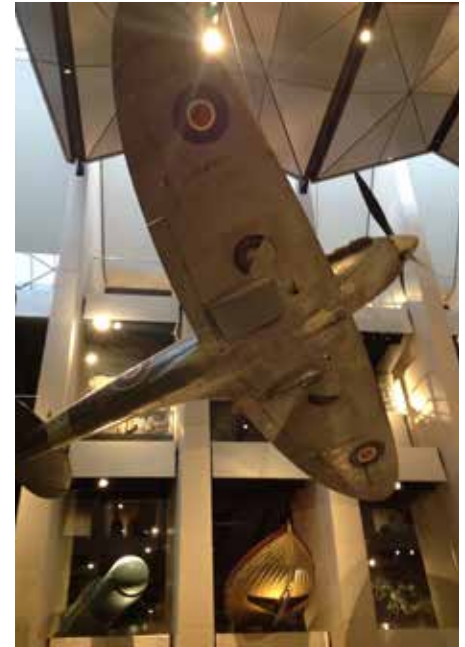
be positive outcomes to suffering.

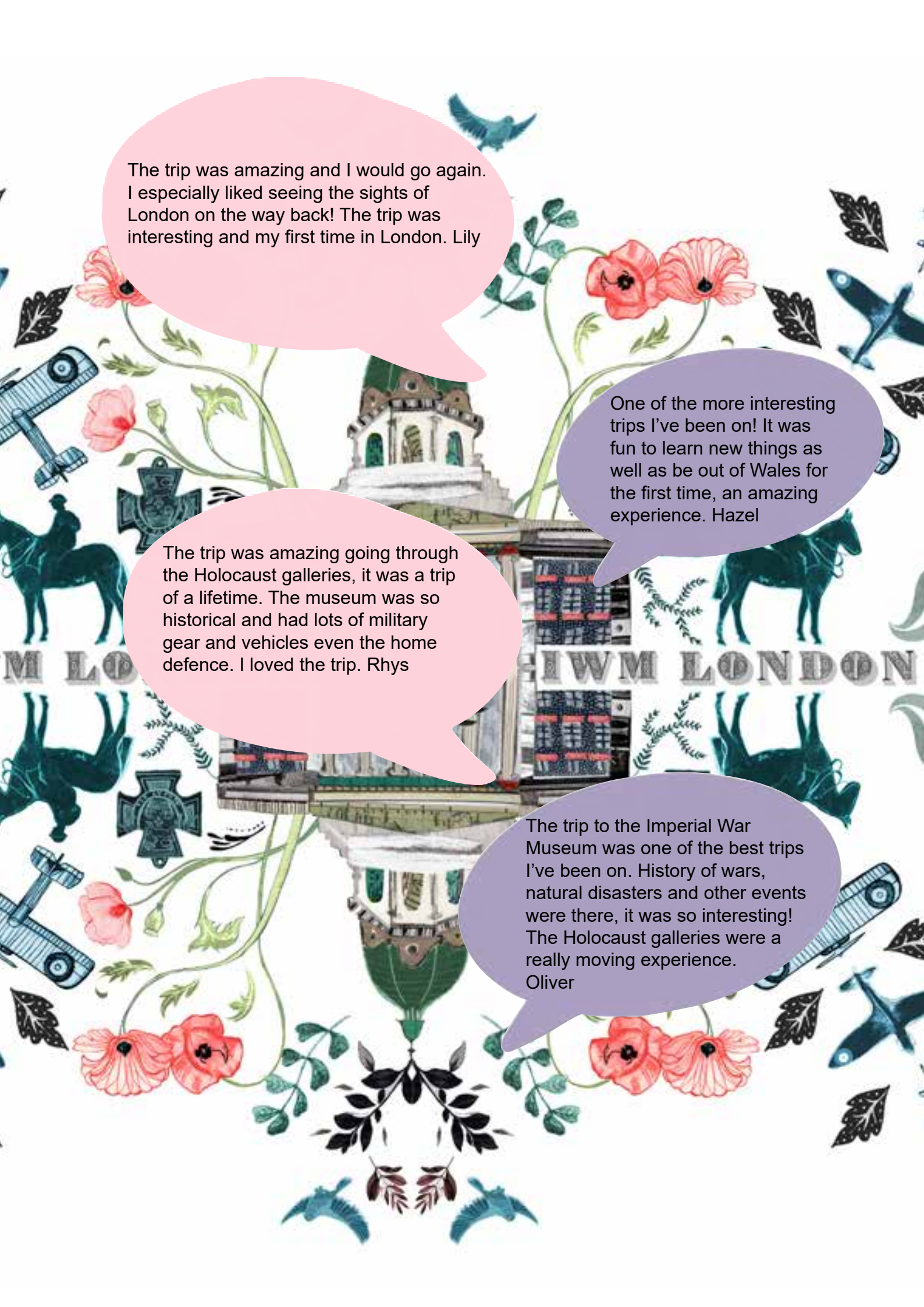
We then discussed how a Christian and a Buddhist would respond to the problem of suffering, studying their religious teachings and explanations to this, such as the story of Job and the Four Noble Truths.

Pupils investigated acts of terrorism and explored terrorism in the modern world, as well as misinterpretations of religious texts.

For the last part of this term, pupils have begun their study of the Holocaust, looking at the treatment of the Jews and Anti-Semitism.

On November 6th, 47 Year 9 pupils were taken to the Imperial War Museum in London to explore personal stories and artefacts from the Holocaust, to prepare them for their Holocaust study. Pupils really enjoyed the Holocaust Galleries and seeing these moving testimonies, as well as having a chance to explore other areas of War.





The trip was amazing and I would go again. I especially liked seeing the sights of London on the way back! The trip was interesting and my first time in London. Lily

One of the more interesting trips I've been on! It was fun to learn new things as well as be out of Wales for the first time, an amazing experience. Hazel

The trip was amazing going through the Holocaust galleries, it was a trip of a lifetime. The museum was so historical and had lots of military gear and vehicles even the home defence. I loved the trip. Rhys

The trip to the Imperial War Museum was one of the best trips I've been on. History of wars, natural disasters and other events were there, it was so interesting! The Holocaust galleries were a really moving experience. Oliver

# How can you help your child learn this content?

Test their vocabulary and discuss the philosophical table talk questions as a family!

Year 7 Vocabulary	Table talk question
Atheist Theist Agnostic Monotheism Polytheism	Will religions continue to exist in the future?
Year 8 Vocabulary	Table talk question
The Ten Commandments The Five Precepts Halal Kosher Punishment	Are religious rules still important today?
Year 9 Vocabulary	Table talk question
Natural Evil Moral Evil Terrorism Suffering	Why do acts of terrorism happen?

When we are on the train and know our destination,  
we will let you know, if we can.

Berta Keller-Moses  
July 1942



# Beyond the school gates....



We are super proud of this very talented young pupil who performed her first public gig in September at the Gower Food and Drink Festival. Completely self taught and generally very shy, this was a huge confidence booster for Seren.



“Hi my name is Joshua, I am 13 and I go to kickboxing.

Kickboxing is a hard sport. I've been going since 2022 and I am now half way to black belt. I'm currently on blue-white. It's been the best experience at G&K.

I'm now starting to do competitions. I'm waiting for the next Wales team tryout which is to go across the world to do championship's.”



In September Cody won the WMAC world championship title in 3 category points, low kick and continuous in kick boxing

Eva-Rose has been selected to play for the Under 14s girls Welsh regional team. She represents the south regional Welsh team, and is one of 7 girls of her age group across South Wales who has been selected. Eva-Rose has day release every Tuesday where she attends the University Sports of Wales in Pontypridd.



Izzy has been selected for the Wales Academy Squad in Basketball.

*Huge congratulations to sisters Aimee and Freya Besley who represented Team Wales at the RLSS UK Life-Saving championships in Leeds. A wonderful achievement - well done girls!*



In September Lacey competed in the under 21 British dressage. She had  
 2 x 1st place  
 1 x 2nd place  
 1 x 3rd Place

In November Lacey took part in the Quest Championships for horse dressage. She competed in the under 21 category and came in the top 10!!!!



# TACKLE

On 13th December, Mrs Morris and some of the Year 9 boys visited swansea.com for a Stadium tour. This was organised by Ospreys in the community as part of the Tackle project that the boys are a part of weekly.

TACKLE is a employability program fully funded by National Lottery Community Fund, working with young people aged 12 – 16 in a school setting, to develop soft skills, such as leadership, teamwork, communication & an understanding of opportunities in further education and the workplace. Using rugby as the vehicle to engage, our sessions are fun, informative, positive and resourceful.



# Year 11 Musical Showcase

Our annual Musical Showcase took place on Tuesday 12th November in the school theatre.

A wonderful evening for our Year 11 Music pupils to present their GCSE talent in front of family and friends.



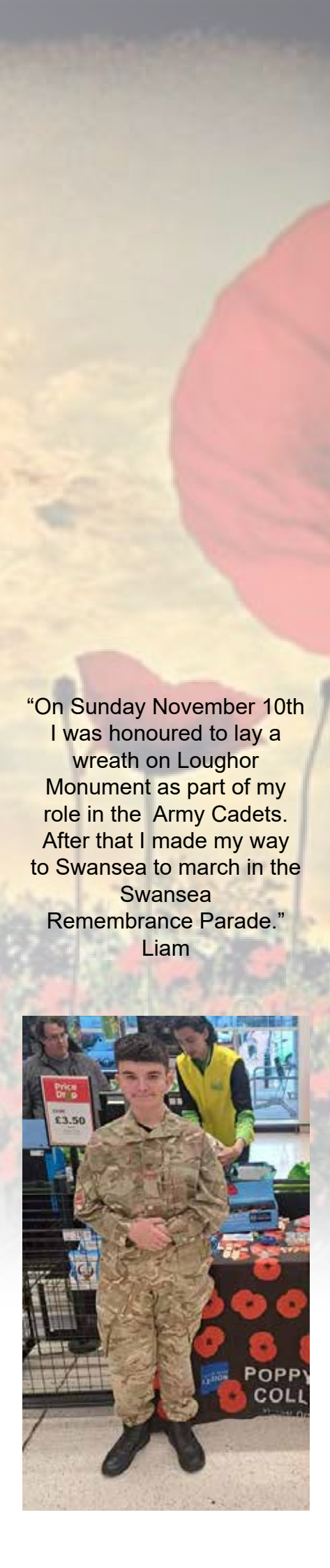
# Remembrance Sunday



“We paid our respect of remembrance through the cadets. I was the Standard Bearer on multiple occasions, to represent when the flags were carried into war. I carried the Welsh flag, lead a parade with the Union Jack and had the RBL flag during a evening in the Brandwin hall. Liam was laying a wreath to represent the ACF but over November, we both did fundraising in shops like Tesco and Asda and all the money went towards helping those who were effected by the war.”

Ruby





“On Sunday November 10th I was honoured to lay a wreath on Loughor Monument as part of my role in the Army Cadets. After that I made my way to Swansea to march in the Swansea Remembrance Parade.”  
Liam



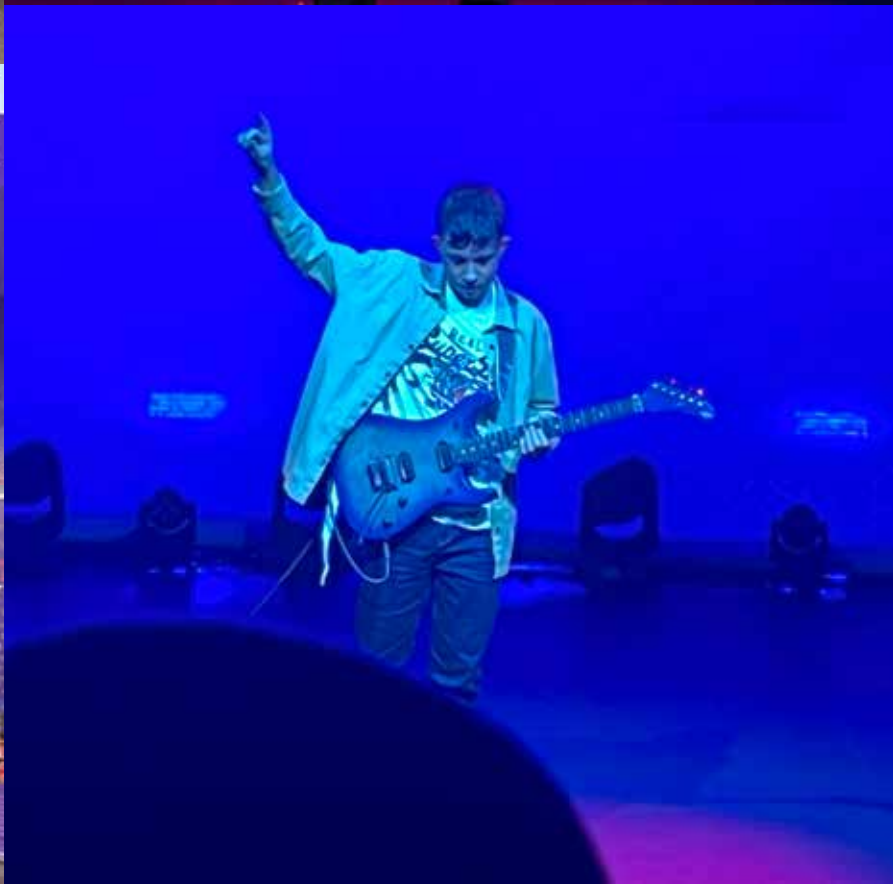
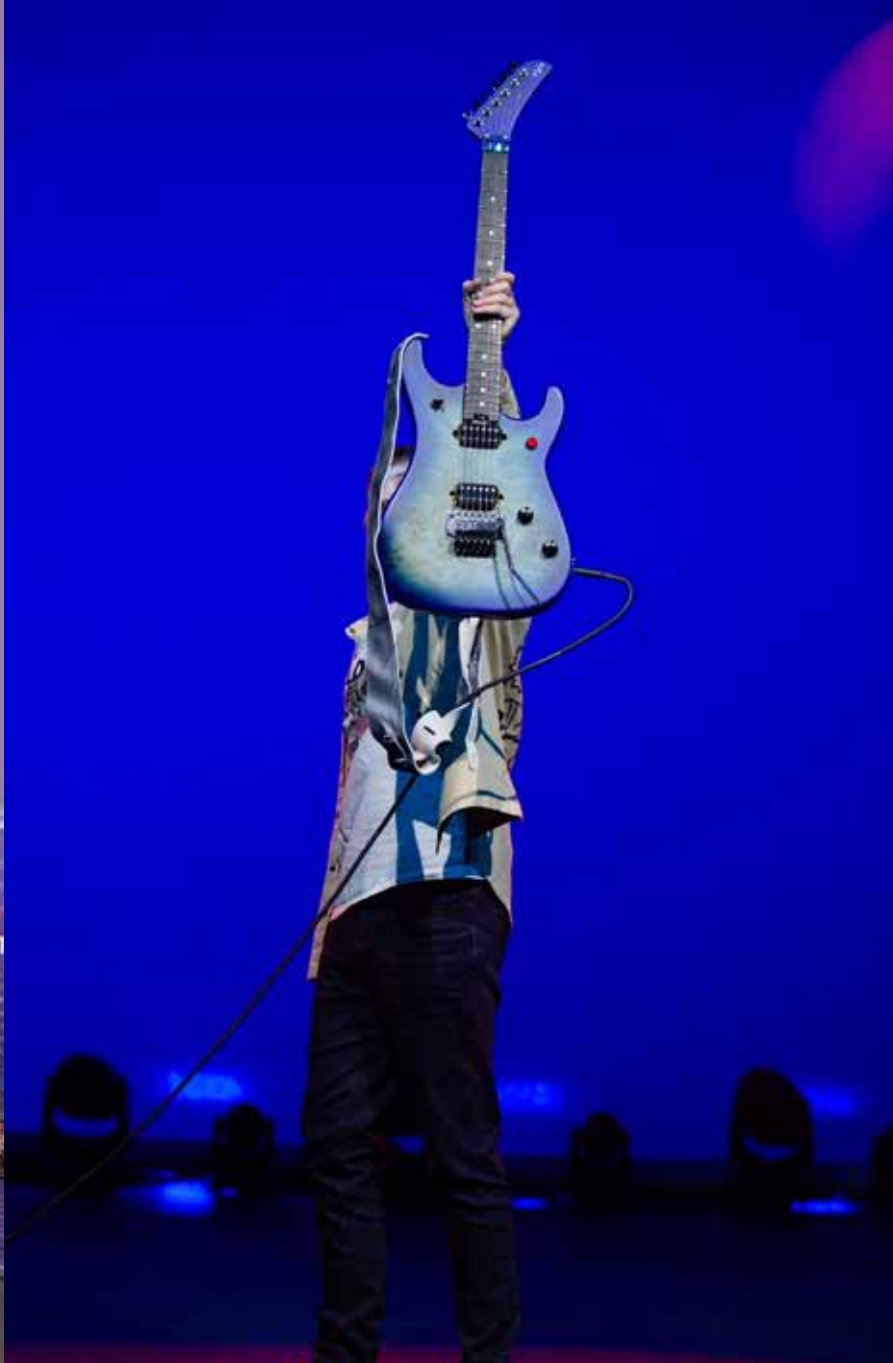
**Caydian's**



**GOT**  
**★ TALENT**

On Saturday 12th October, Caydian performed in London's Mermaid Theatre on Autism's Got Talent!! An audience of 600 went to watch the finalists, including Caydian's mum, his best friends from the STF, Mrs Metcalfe-Day and Miss Meredith.

As a school we are so proud of you Caydian!!!








"I decided to do Autisms Got Talent in February this year. I wanted to have a stepping stone for Britain's Got Talent to experience what it is like.

I was invited to the Mermaid Theatre in London on the 12th of October. I played guitar and improvised a solo for the performance. I think this helped me feel comfortable playing in front of a live audience.

I am trying to audition for BGT and get in front of a camera playing guitar. In the future, I'd like to start a charity for people who have a musical talent but can't afford instruments and start fundraisers for the community."

Caydian



On Friday 25th October our STF Department enjoyed a wonderfully muddy trip to Gower Fresh Christmas Tree Farm in Three Crosses. Pupils were able to pick and carve their own pumpkins, and they designed some great carvings. Pupils were able to get a bite to eat and even met the reindeers!!



# Pumpkin Picking



*with the STF Department*





## Christmas Concert

On December 10th 2024 we had our annual Christmas Concert in St Catherines Church. The church was full to the rafters with parents and staff supporting the 130 pupils performing from Years 7-11.

We performed songs such as 'Jingle Bell Rock,' 'All I want for Christmas,' and many more. Our personal favourite was 'Rise up' performed by Senior Choir.

The concert began with an introduction from Mr. Benney followed by performances by Senior choir, Orchestra, Wind Group, Brass Group, String group, Keyboard Ensemble, Rock Group and performances by bands from each of the year groups.

Head boy Joseph Salter along with Edward Jarman Year 7 and Lowri Gambell Year 10 performed a lovely poem about the real meaning of Christmas called a Christmas Lesson- it reminded us that:

The meaning of Christmas, you see  
my dear son,  
is not about presents or just having fun  
but the gift of a father - his own  
precious Son  
so the world would be saved  
when his work was all done.

The vicar- Reverend Doctor Adrian Morgan gave a word of Thanks before our final item where the whole school choir performed 'Christmas Time' which is about the joy that Christmas time brings to the young and the old. At the end there was a praise from everyone watching.

Maddison Harries and Romilly Rahim-Smith 9D





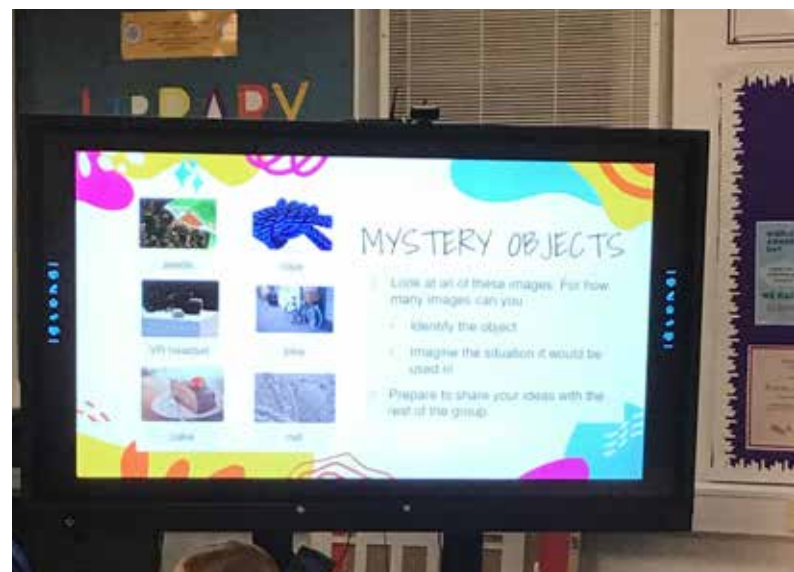
# Year 8 Enterprise

As part of the Careers and Work Related Experiences curriculum, Year 8 pupils took part in an enterprise challenge to develop their teamworking and creative thinking skills.

Groups were given the challenge of developing and branding a product based on customer feedback. Mrs Finney and Miss Kruk were delighted to see so many innovative ideas from the pupils.



Think and Wonder, Wonder and Think



# ARMY TALK

Sergeant Steven Stock came into school to chat to Year 10 about careers in the Army.



# Tasty Careers Challenge

Year 9 pupils took part in the first round of the Tasty Careers Challenge this half term. The challenge they were given was to come up with a new product that had clear health benefits, was sustainable and was also a great commercial proposition.

Each team presented their ideas in front of a panel of experts from Careers Wales and Tasty Careers. The winning team were 'Super Smoothies' who will now go on to represent Penyrheol in the next round of the competition in March. Good luck team Penyrheol!



# PTA



What a busy term we've had Circus,80's Disco and the ever popular Christmas Fayre.

and a fantastic show was put on. I've been asked to put on another one next year, you can probably guess my reply.

the circus to be a success. #TeamPenyrheol at its very best.

The day the *Circus* came to Town!

The Circus finally came to Penyrheol. Well what can I say, as promised the circus rolled into town at 11.15am and nearly rolled out again at 11.30am, due to our pitch being water logged from Sunday's rain.

As a PTA we realised 2 years ago that we needed to become a charity so that we can apply for grants and get more sponsorship. To achieve the charity status as a PTA, we had to raise over £5000 in a financial year, so we had to put

A special shout out to Nadine, Debs and Mel G for giving up their Saturdays with me to put up posters and



After what seemed like 200 phone calls to various organisations with the deadline being 1.30pm, a decision was made at 1.20pm that we could have the ground behind the skate park at Melin Mynach.



on a big event the idea of the developed.



little Al, Lisa M who gave up their time to make cones of sweets.

Luckily it all went ahead and it brought the community, cluster schools and Penyrheol Comprehensive together.

I cannot thank you all enough for the support the PTA have had from Senior staff agreeing for us to put on the event to every member of Penyrheol staff routing for

To the volunteers, staff, PTA committee that turned up to marshal the event which was far from plain sailing due to the change of venue.

Everyone enjoyed themselves

I would also like to thank all members of staff who donated money for circus tickets that went into a draw alongside LLwchwr Town Council who donated £400.00 so that all pupils had an equal chance to go to the circus.

To Hayley Lafferty for dedicating her time to produce as always fantastic, professional posters. A massive well done and without you all the event couldn't have gone ahead.



*Casllwchwr Council donating £400.00 to allow all pupils from Penyrheol Comprehensive School to have the opportunity to go to the circus.*



*Tomos won four tickets to the Circus by designing the best Circus poster.*

*Alisha being awarded her Clyne Farm voucher from Mrs Fussell PTA Chairperson.*

*Alisha won the voucher by selling the most Christmas raffle tickets. She took up the challenge with her dad that he would match the raffles she sold and between them they sold £146.00 worth of tickets!!*

*A fantastic achievement well done!*

*8S will also be receiving a tub of sweets for the form who sold the most tickets.*

*The PTA would like to thank everyone who sold or bought raffle tickets.*



Next event the **80s**  
**Disco.**

The 80's disco was a great success. A massive thank you to Carol Matthews and Nadine Ireland PTA Treasurer for helping to set up, sell tickets on the evening and then clear the room at the end of the event.

I would also like to thank Andrea Timbrell PTA community member for all her hard work organising the night but unfortunately, she was too unwell to attend. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Everyone who attended had a really fun night, dressed up and danced the night away.

Mrs Fussell, PTA Chairperson.



Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our raffle!



## Christmas Fayre

What a fantastic Christmas Fayre at Penyrheol Comprehensive School. It isn't often I'm speechless but truly I am. Everyone who attended made the Fayre a memorable occasion. All external stall holders, WBQ pupils, year groups, staff, Governors and our raffle donations and everyone who attended and helped - a massive thank you.

If there was a tick box we would have ticked all the boxes. It was also nice to hear people still talking about the circus. I'm so proud to be part of Penyrheol Comprehensive school and the community.





## Christmas Poster Art Winners

Ella-May Tucker 1st  
Olly Simmond 2nd  
Carwen Jackson 3rd

Olivia McGlynn 1st  
Maddison Mckavett 2nd  
Owen Simpson 3rd

## Photography / Graphic Poster Winners

Well done and thank you to all the pupils that entered. Mrs Kavanagh had a difficult time picking the winners.