



Ysgol Gyfun

PENYRHEOL

Comprehensive School

Friday 8th March 2024

Headteacher's Fortnightly Letter – Number 11

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is the eleventh headteacher's letter of this academic year. I trust these letters are keeping parents/carers informed about what is happening at Penyrheol School.

It has been an interesting and varied last fortnight. Last week we took 46 Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils to watch the 'Murder in the Dark' drama production at the New Theatre in Cardiff. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed and their behaviour was impeccable. This week, our Year 7s also enjoyed a fascinating RVE trip to Swansea University. We also sent a group of Year 10 Computer Science students to a cyber security event at Gower College. We have had lovely feedback from a member of staff about the engagement and behaviour of our pupils and how they were wonderful ambassadors for the school.

We had a 'St David's Day' non-uniform day last Friday and Year 7 and 8 enjoyed an outstanding Eisteddfod. We have an Eisteddfod Winner's Showcase Event in the theatre on Tuesday 19th March at 11:20 for parents/carers/family.

Last night we waved goodbye to 44 Year 9 pupils as they headed to the St David's Day Festival at Disneyland Paris. I am sure they will have a wonderful time. Bon voyage!

Activity Day Year Team Trips

On Thursday 18th July we have our annual activity day. This day includes activities at school and a number of trips out of school. Years 7 and 8 are going to Oakwood Theme Park and Years 9 and 10 are going to West Midland Safari Park - it is a huge safari park but there is also a very big theme park and most of the day will be spent there. All rides are free because they are included in the ticket price. We are going to have to make final bus and ticket bookings soon and after this, pupils will not be able to sign up. If you would like your child to attend, you can start paying now via your iPayimpact account so there are 4 months to spread the cost.

Sport

In boys football, Year 9 had a great 6-2 win last Thursday against Dylan Thomas. Well done to all involved.

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This week, Year 8 pulled off a fantastic win 5-4 against Pentrehafod. They were very strong opposition and at one stage the team were 4-1 down. However, the boys dug deep and thanks to some brilliant football and amazing saves from stand in keeper Olly Thomas, we scored 4 late goals without reply to pull off an unbelievable win. Well done boys.

Year 8 rugby won their friendly against Morryston comprehensive school this week. It was a strong win for Penyrheol with lots of brilliant running rugby. It was fantastic to see some of our Year 7 players helping out.

Two weeks back our Year 9 rugby lost their Swansea Cup final against a very physical Bishopston. It was excellent to see the commitment and determination right up until the final whistle.

Rosslyn Park 7's

Towards the end of March, we have two squads visiting Rosslyn Park 's with our girls' rugby entering for the first time. We have our Year 8 boys entering the U13's National Competition where they will be competing against five tough English schools. We also have our Year 8/9 girls entering the U14's National girls' competition. They will face two English schools and an international school from Dubai in their group stage. You can follow all the action on the day at: [Competition Microsite](https://www.competitionmicrosite.co.uk/) | [Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens \(national7s.co.uk\)](https://www.rosslynparknational.com/)

We have a new board up in reception for pupils to view:



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In netball, our Year 8 team participated in the Afan Nedd Tawe Tournament on Tuesday at Cwmtawe School. The girls played very well, securing a commendable second place in their group. Although they faced a strong Cwm Brombil team in the semi-finals, they fought well throughout the whole match and should be very proud of their performance. Congratulations to everyone involved for the efforts!

Congratulations to Alex Griffiths, Aimee Besley and Jaden Thomas for their outstanding performance at the Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships in Brecon. It was a great opportunity for them to compete against some of the most talented young athletes in Wales, and they all enjoyed the experience.

In girls football, the U13 girls football team have had a very successful term so far. The team won against Bryntawe in a very competitive game, coming away with a 4-1 win. This week the girls won in the local derby against Pontarddulais, Grace Morgan had a hat-trick to make it a 3-0 win. The girls have been superb this season and their commitment to training and game has been excellent. Da iawn!



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As already mentioned, On Monday 18th of March we are setting off to Rosslyn with our first ever girls 7s rugby team. This is a very exciting time for women's rugby and we have a great selection of girls attending the rugby tournament. Good luck to the team.

Past Pupil Sporting Success

We are delighted to announce that two former students, Megan Griffiths and Ava Williams (who completed their studies with us in 2023), have been chosen to join the Welsh Sports Acro Squad. We extend our congratulations to both of them on this wonderful achievement.

Core Value Hot Chocolate Friday



The 5 pupils nominated by their year teams for the fortnightly 'Hot Chocolate Friday' were Willow (Year 7), Charlie (Year 9), Sophie (Year 10) and Reuben (Year 11).

Willow embodies **all** our core values. She has been a fantastic pupil this year and this has been recognised by all Willow's teachers.

Charlie is one of two pupils who selflessly changed their plans for Disneyland to accommodate another pupil. For this he has not only shown

Respect for his peers but also has our complete **Respect** for his actions.

Sophie is living the core value of **Aspire**. She is an awesome musician and she is aspiring for a career in music.

Reuben has been a brilliant student for his full 5 years here. He always shows **Respect** and is simply a model pupil.

Our Year 8 nominee was enjoying the Eisteddfod during hot chocolate Friday so that pupil will feature next time.

These 4 pupils have embodied our core values over the last 2 weeks.

Congratulations to all our winners. Who will it be next time?

Penyrheol PTA

This is a shout out to parents/carers who want to join our PTA. Parents/carers can offer as much or as little time as they can afford. There are about four meetings in an academic year and it would be lovely to have more parents/carers on board, even if it's just to help out with events. If anyone is interested, they can contact the school. Details of the PTA AGM are at the end of this letter.

Standards

Attendance over the last two weeks has dropped to 86%. Wherever possible, please ensure your child attends school. Missing school means missing out on learning.

Parents/carers can track their child's achievement and behaviour points on the ClassCharts app. The information below shows the average achievement and behaviour points that a pupil in each year group has accrued **over the last two school weeks**. This may be a useful comparison when you look at your child's points.

Year	Achievement Points	Behaviour Points
7	23	1
8	19	2
9	14	3
10	14	2
11	12	1

Over the last 2 school weeks, the average Penyrheol pupil has achieved 8 achievement points for every behaviour point awarded.

Non-Uniform Day – Thursday 21st March

Thursday 20th is a colourful non-uniform day to celebrate Autism awareness. A £1 donation would be appreciated and all monies raised will go to two charities- National Autism Society UK and a local charity Active for Autism.

A table with information will be in the reception area and some pupils will be there to tell their story. Mrs Booth will be available if any pupils would like further information regarding autism during break and lunch.

The PTA will also be selling sweets, crisps, chocolate and soft drinks in the reception area during break and lunch. Cash only please.

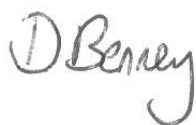
The colourful non-uniform day to celebrate Autism Awareness is the idea of Eluned in Year 9. Well done, Eluned!!

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As always, thank you to all parents/carers for their continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Damian Benney

Headteacher

Appendix

What's happening in the next two weeks

Date	Event
Monday 11 th March	Year 10 Exams Week
Tuesday 12 th March	Year 10 Exams Week Energy Council Trip to wind farm
Wednesday 13 th March	Year 10 Exams Week
Thursday 14 th March	Year 10 Exams Week
Friday 15 th March	Year 10 Exams Week Year 9 Reports Issued Year 7 Bishopston 7s rugby tournament
Monday 18 th March	Year 9 Progress Evening (Virtual) Rosslyn Park Girls Rugby Festival (Departs Monday 12:20pm, returns Tuesday Night)
Tuesday 19 th March	Eisteddfod Winners Showcase (Lesson 3)
Wednesday 20 th March	Spring Term Newsletter Published
Thursday 21 st March	Year 9 Final Option Deadline Non-uniform Day Health and Wellbeing Lesson (Lesson 1) Rosslyn Park Boys Rugby Festival (Departs Monday 12:20pm, returns Tuesday Night)
Friday 22 nd March	INSET Day: Departments/Curriculum

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION



Annual General Meeting

Stay informed and get involved!



Come along and meet our PTA Committee. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.



Wednesday 20th
March 2024



3:30-5.00pm

Parentkind

Bringing together home & school



G4 (Meet in
reception)

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