



Ysgol Gyfun

PENYRHEOL

Comprehensive School

Friday 17th November 2023

Headteacher's Fortnightly Letter – Number 5

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

The last 2 weeks have been a busy, varied and important period for our Year 11s. They have sat at least 4 GCSE exams in Maths/Numeracy and English. The Music class performed an excellent Musical Showcase on Tuesday 14th November in the theatre. This was the pupil's opportunity to run through their solo/ensemble GCSE performance pieces prior to their GCSE exam which is next week. The Drama students have also undertaken their performance exam. We have also had two days of mock interviews where people from different professions and backgrounds come in to interview our students. This helps them prepare for important future interviews as they get individual feedback on the content of their answers and on how they presented themselves. Our Year 11 pupils have done outstandingly well and their interviewers have been suitably impressed.

We have had two 'Seren' events in the last two weeks. The first was a 'talk the talk' workshop attended by some of our Year 9 students. The second event was a trip to BBC Studios in Cardiff. Pupils were given the chance to be a journalist for the day and experience how the news and weather is presented.



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Sport

Boys Football

Last Wednesday our year 8 football team had a fantastic win away against Bishop Vaughan. It was an end to end game that we eventually won 7-5.

On Thursday, the Year 7 football teams lost both fixtures against Gwyr, but it was great to see 30 year 7 boys trying their best and showing such grit and determination. One team lost 4-1, the other 3-0.

Boys Rugby

Our Year 9 rugby lost their league fixture against Gwyr last week 30-15. It was a hard-fought game and there wasn't much between the teams.

Year 8 played in the Morriston festival yesterday. They lost to Bishopston in the first game and then went on to beat Dylan Thomas and Morriston. It was a great effort from our boys.



Netball News

Well done to the U16 Netball team who drew against Morriston Comprehensive School this week. Final result was 7-7.

Huge congratulations to Ellie Pennino and Sophie Pennino, both in Year 9, who have been selected to be part of the U14 Afan Nedd Tawe Schools Netball Squad.

Cross Country

On Wednesday 8th November, 12 pupils across Years 7, 8 and 9 competed in the Afan Nedd Tawe Schools Cross Country Relays. All four teams competed exceptionally well

against the other schools in the County. In each race, there were 19 teams in total and the results were as follows:

Year 7 Boys team - 4th place (Alex Griffiths, Jackson Broome, Joshua Edwards)

Year 7 Girls team - 7th place (Eva Clapham, Annabel Edwards, Libby Beynon)

Year 8/9 Boys team - 4th place (Declan Pearson, Logan Ireland, Jay James)

Year 8/9 Girls team - 5th place (Lacey steel, Sophia Edwards, Aimee Besley).

Bronze+ Sports Ambassadors

Congratulations to Aimee Besley, Molly Pompa, Ava Pennock, Libby Beynon and Isabelle Gwynne who have been selected to be Bronze+ Sports Ambassadors for 2023-24. They join our existing Bronze+ and Silver Ambassadors - Ellie Pennino, Sophie Pennino, Annabel Williams, Sophia Edwards, Joshua Paynter and Declan Pearson.

All pupils attended a training day this week at the LC organised by the Sport and Health Team for Swansea. Once their training is complete, they will be setting up some additional sports clubs for pupils during the lunchtime, so something to keep an eye out for!

Girls football

Girls football continues to grow over the season. The U13's and U15's attendance for training is excellent each week and games have been very successful. This week U13 girls had a very competitive game against last year's league winners. The final score was 3-1 to Gowerton, but it was a great performance by all the players. Player of the Match was Taya Tymkiv.

Sports News - Outside of School

Huge congratulations to Aimee Besley, Bridget Caswell and Lewis Bowen who represented Wales at the beginning of November in Leeds at the British Life-Saving Championships.

Florida Sports Tour Fundraising events

There are a number of fundraising events taking place this month. Please help to show your support by attending the events and help to raise money for the Sport tour. There is a shopping trip to Gloucester Quays on the 2nd of December, if interested please see Miss C. Francis (Yr 9 PSO). The other event is a Virtual Horse Racing evening at Gorseinon rugby club, on the 8th December. Tickets can be bought from Miss Davies at £3 each. More Information is at the end of this letter.

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Penyrheol PTA

Penyrheol PTA are pleased to announce that 13 outside stall holders are coming to trade in our Christmas Fayre on Thursday 30th November 2023 in the theatre. We also have stalls which the pupils have organised, and they will be selling their products. We also have cake stalls, teachers treasure stalls and many more.

Please come and join us for a Festive, Fun Christmas Fayre from 3.15pm to 5.00pm. We will also be selling and drawing our raffle during the event with many fantastic prizes donated by retailers in Gorseinon High Street.

A cheque will also be presented to the school PTA and Morgan's Army from Pumdeg (the committee that was set up for Penyrheol turns 50) This committee organised the reunion concert that was held on the 2nd September at The New Lodge and the Junior Loughor verses Gorseinon rugby games.

Charity Week at Penyrheol – Monday 20th to Friday 24th November

This year, Penyrheol School are proud to announce that our Charity Week will be raising money for Ty Hafan. This is the charity that supported Morgan Ridler and his family. The charity also has a strong link to our Year 8 Pastoral Support Officer Mrs Sara Morris. These are Mrs Morris's words:

“This year my family and I are honoured to be the faces of the Ty Hafan 'When your World Stops' Appeal. Aiming to raise £350,000 in 60hrs.
Diolch ”

[Superheroes sought! Please help us raise £350,000 in 60 hours - Ty Hafan](#)



Superheroes sought! Please help us raise £350,000 in 60 hours - Ty Hafan

The When Your World Stops Appeal will feature Sara and Jason Morris from Ammanford and their twins Alfi-Jay and Besi-Jane. Tragically, not long after he was born, Alfi was diagnosed with the rare genetic condition Neonatal Marfan Syndrome.

www.tyhafan.org

We will be supporting the charity by donating all monies raised next week directly to the Ty Hafan charity.

This link shares Alfi Morris's story:

[When your world stops. We're there. Alfi's Story - YouTube](#)

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Core Value Hot Chocolate Friday

The 5 pupils nominated by their year teams for the fortnightly 'Hot Chocolate Friday' were Ffion (Year 7), Lily (Year 8), Lowri (Year 9), Keaton (Year 10), and Evan (Year 11).

These 5 pupils have embodied our core values over the last 2 weeks.

Ffion is working incredibly hard in school and gives her best every single lesson. She has made a great start and is **Thriving** in school. Lily is supportive and considerate of others and has embodied our core value of **Belonging**. Lowri is a mature, conscientious and diligent student. She is **Thriving** at Penyrheol.

Keaton has the greatest number of achievement points in all of Year 10. Since September he has shown fantastic **Aspiration** to be the best that he can be. And he is doing just that!

Evan is always respectful and polite to his peers and to staff. He is an honest, reliable student and he lives our core value of **Respect**.



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

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Standards

Attendance over the last two weeks has dropped to 85.9%. Wherever possible, please ensure your child attendance school. Missing school means missing out on learning.

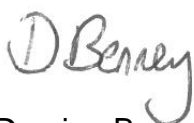
Parents/carers can track their child' achievement and behaviour points on the ClassCharts app. The information below shows the average achievement and behaviour points that a pupil in each year group has accrued **in the last 2 weeks** This may be a useful comparison when you look at your child's points.

Year	Achievement Points	Behaviour Points
7	21.3	0.6
8	15.9	2.8
9	12	2.7
10	12	1.8
11	6.6	0.7

In the last 2 weeks, the average Penyrheol pupil has had 8 achievement points for every behaviour point they have been given.

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

Yours faithfully,



Damian Benney

Headteacher

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Appendix

What's happening in the next two weeks

Date	Event
Monday 20 ^h November	Year 8 Summative Assessment Period (to Friday 1 st December) Interim Assessment Week for Year 10 English Language Group Discussions (until Tuesday 27 th November) Year 11 GCSE Music Practical Exam Charity Week
Tuesday 21 st November	Year 11 GCSE Music Practical Exam
Wednesday 22 nd November	Year 11 and 9 Interim Reports Issued
Thursday 23 rd November	Year 11 Awards Evening (7:00pm – 8:30pm)
Friday 24 th November	
Monday 27 th November	Year Council Meetings (this week) Y11 Spanish Oral Mock Exam Y11 Geography NEA this week
Tuesday 28 th November	
Wednesday 29 th November	Year 10 Interim Reports Issued
Thursday 30 th November	PTA Christmas Fayre in Theatre (3:15pm – 5:00pm)
Friday 1 st December	PSHE Lesson (Lesson 1)

Tickets available from reception from Tuesday 21st November:

A festive poster for a Christmas concert. The background is white with a border of pine branches, red and gold ornaments, and snowflakes. The title 'Cyngerdd Nadolig Christmas Concert' is written in red cursive. Below it is the Dunvant School crest, a green shield with a harp and a red cross, topped with a banner 'YD SWIRION DIXAL' and bottomed with 'DUNVANT SCHOOLS'. Below the crest, text reads 'Yn cynnwys disgyblion o Ysgol Gyfun Penyrheol Featuring pupils of Penyrheol Comprehensive School'. The Dunvant Comprehensive School logo is below that. The date and location are 'Nos Sadwrn, 16eg Rhagfyr / Saturday, 16th December ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH, GORSEINON 7pm'. Ticket information at the bottom says 'Tocynnau / Tickets - £10 07968 233718 www.dunvantchoir.wales'.

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FUNDRAISING EVENTS

There will be a number of Fundraising events coming up over the next couple of months. It would be great if we could get the support from you, your friends and family to help raise as much money as we can for the Florida Sports Tour.

**FRIDAY 8TH
DECEMBER**

**HORSE RACING
EVENING**

**@ GORSEINON
RUGBY CLUB – 7PM.**

Tickets = £3

**2ND DECEMBER
2023**

**SHOPPING TRIP TO
GLOUCESTER QUAYS**

**£25 FOR A TICKET (includes a
raffle)**

**See Miss. Francis (Yr9 P&O) for
information.**

**FRIDAY 9TH
FEBRUARY 2024**

QUIZ NIGHT AND BAND

**@ GORSEINON RUGBY CLUB –
7PM**

**£20 PER TICKET - WHICH IN-
CLUDES: BUFFET, QUIZ, RAF-
FLE AND ENTERTAINMENT.**

**Raffle donations
are very
welcome.**

BUY YOUR TICKETS FROM MISS. I. DAVIES NOW FOR :

- **8TH of DECEMBER - HORSE RACING NIGHT £3**
- **9TH of FEBRUARY - QUIZ and BAND £20**

CASH ONLY

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