

MAJOR NEWS / NEWYDDION MAWR

AUTUMN TERM / TYMOR YR HYDREF	
Start / Dechrau:	Monday 4 September 2023 / Dydd Llun Medi 4 2023
Half Term / Hanner Tymor:	Monday 30 October 2023 – Friday 3 November 2023 / Dydd Llun Hydref 30 – Dydd Gwener Tachwedd 3 2023
End / Diwedd:	Friday 22 December 2023 / Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 22 2023
Week Beginning – Monday 6 November 2023 / Dydd Llyn Tachwedd 6 2023	Week 9/ Wythnos 9

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to this week's edition of Major News.

Our Year 11 students have sat their GCSE Numeracy exams this week and their efforts and attitude have been commendable. I would like to encourage all Year 11 students and their parents/carers to attend our Year 11 information evening on Thursday 23rd November. The event will take place between 6.00pm and 8.00pm and will begin with a presentation in the Main Hall. After this, students and their parents/carers will be invited to visit departments to listen to presentations on courses they may be interested in studying. There will also be the opportunity to talk to staff about specifications, job prospects and suitability for different courses. Sixth form members of staff and current pupils will also be on hand to talk more widely about what life in Llantwit Major sixth form is like. We have widened our curriculum offer this year and are confident that we will be able to offer all prospective students an exciting and appropriate diet of qualifications. Even if your child thinks they have definitely made their mind up about going elsewhere, I would strongly encourage you to attend to see what is on offer and ensure they are making informed decisions.

You will see from subsequent items in the newsletter that we have a number of events coming up which allow parents and members of the local community to come into school, including our curry and quiz night and the Christmas Fair. Continuing to develop and strengthen links with parents remains a key school priority for us and I would encourage as many of you as possible to support these events. It would be great to see you.

I wish you all an enjoyable and restful weekend and thank you as ever for your continued support.

Mrs C L Robins

English Department

What is Tier 3 language and why is it important?

It's important to emphasize the significance of rich vocabulary in your child's development. Tier 3 words are domain-specific, uncommon words that are often encountered in textbooks and specialized reading materials. As a parent, we encourage you to expose your children to Tier 3 words through conversations, reading, and daily interactions as these can greatly enhance their language skills, comprehension, and overall academic performance. By fostering a language-rich environment at home, parents can play a pivotal role in nurturing their child's literacy skills and intellectual growth. Have a look at the link below to find out more:

<https://bedrocklearning.org/literacy-blogs/using-vocabulary-tiers-to-improve-literacy/>

Maths Department

Congratulations to the whole of year 11 that have sat their Numeracy GCSE this week and for those that engaged and took full advantage of the 2 full days of revision this week!

Fingers crossed that the hard work pays off and you get the results you deserve in January.

Music and Performing Arts Department

Private Music Lessons at Llantwit Major School

We are writing to inform you about change to the pricing structure of private music lessons at our school. Over the years, we have strived to provide your children with the highest quality education and opportunities in the field of music. Our aim has always been to nurture their talents, cultivate their passion, and help them reach their full potential.

In order to continue delivering this level of excellence, we have made the decision to adjust the prices of our music lessons. The current payment structure was last reviewed in September 2016. Effective from January 2024, there will be a modest increase in the fees for music lessons from £10 to £13 for 20 minutes. We understand that any increase in expenses can create challenges, especially in the current economic climate. However, this adjustment is necessary for us to sustain and enhance the music program at our school. Allow us to assure you that this price adjustment is a result of careful consideration and thorough analysis of the resources required to maintain the high standards our students have come to expect. We have taken into account factors such as the cost of sheet music, instrument maintenance, and the remuneration of our talented music teachers – all of which contribute to providing your children with the best musical education.

We are more than happy to address any concerns or queries you may have regarding this adjustment, as we firmly believe that collaboration between the school and parents is essential for the success and well-being of our students. It is our utmost priority to continue offering a dynamic and enriching musical experience for all our students, and we sincerely appreciate your continued support and understanding in this matter. Together, we can ensure that our children receive the best musical education possible, guiding them towards a future enriched with creativity and a deep appreciation for the arts. Thank you for your attention and cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact Miss H Toms tomsh@llantwitschool.org.uk if you require any further information or have any concerns.

A week in Sport

A huge thank you to the Godfrey family who made a generous donation to the PE Department last year. The Godfrey's generosity has allowed for our new health and well-being leaders to receive their personalised 1/4 zip tops so they can be even more recognisable around the school. 🙌 Ben Godfrey was previously a health and wellbeing leader and with this, the culture of health and wellbeing can continue throughout the school. 📖

Here we have two of our current health and wellbeing leaders, Lydia McGinn and Rueben Morris Jones looking very excited to wear their new tops. 🙌

Thank you again to the Godfrey family. [#teamllantwit](#)



STEM Club

This week saw the launch of STEM club, a joint maths and science club where pupils from year 9 are embarking on a project to gain a bronze CREST award.

They are very excited to be completing a project looking at fraud detection of coins and gold.



Chess Club



CHESS CLUB RELAUNCH

After a much-anticipated wait and many pupil requests Chess Club has finally returned!

Mrs Rees has been thrilled to see so much interest from pupils across all year groups and of all abilities.



Pupils have enjoyed playing against friends from other year groups as well as against Mrs Rees (and sometimes beating her!)

Chess club runs every Friday lunchtime in M4.



Week 1 for years 9 – 13

Week 2 for years 7 – 8



SHRN data collection

Further to the letter that went out earlier this week, all pupils in the school will be taking part in this data collection. Previous results have given us valuable information regarding how our pupils rated in comparison with other Vale schools and also across the whole of Wales. Key areas that show up as needing addressing are then informing the planning and delivery of Health and Wellbeing lessons, assemblies, correspondence with parents and guest speakers etc. We look forward to seeing the results of this year's survey and of course, sharing the highlights with you as parents/carers when they become available to us next Spring.

Student Council



On Friday 26th October, the student council welcomed Councillor David Powell to their student council meeting. He introduced himself and explained the function of the council within the community. The students gave ideas about what they feel is important to focus on in our community and have volunteered to assist this year in some of their community garden projects. They were proud to show the Mayor around Llantwit Major School's very own community garden which lots of the council have worked on over the years.

This week the student council will be visiting the Barry Civic offices to meet with Student Councils across the Vale to discuss concerns for students across South Wales.

Youth Voice Meeting Civic Office Barry



Llantwit Major School Christmas Community Fayre



Llantwit Major School
Christmas Community Fayre
 Ffair Nadolig Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr
Thursday 7th December 2023 17 00 till 20 00

Local Crafts and Gifts Market
 Hot Food and Beverages
 Sweet Treats
 Fairground Rides
 Facepainting & Craft
 Live Music from LMS Students

Special Guests
 TBC






Sixth Form Market Place

On Friday 27th October, Year 12 and 13 organised taster stalls for each of our Sixth Form qualifications, designed to encourage as many Year 11 students as possible to return to Llantwit Major for Sixth Form.

The marketplace was successfully incorporated last year to ensure that prospective students have enough time to fully consider returning to Llantwit, and which subjects they want to take. Once again, it has proved to be an engaging and effective way to introduce upcoming students to the possibility of studying at Llantwit Major Sixth Form before both completing their provisional options form by the 8th of December, and their final options deadlines later in the year.

The event was a great opportunity to expose students to subjects they may not have encountered at GCSE such as Media Studies, Psychology, and Public Services. Year 11s fully engaged with the opportunity to ask questions, gain advice and the experiences of current sixth-formers and even win prizes for participating in stall activities.

Exposing Year 11s to as much information about the Sixth Form as possible in this early stage will ensure that they are prepared to make well-informed decisions about their future study. In addition to the Marketplace, **the Sixth Form Open Evening** will be held on the **23rd of November 2023 at 6pm** to allow both prospective students and their parents/carers to gain a more in-depth outline of the course from teachers as well as current students.



Sixth Form Curry and Quiz Night



Following the success of last year's Sixth Form pizza socials, the Prefect Team have organised and will be running their first Curry and Quiz Night. The event will run on Friday 1st of December 2023 and will be a fun way to engage with the Sixth Form.

Doors will open at 18:30, the quiz will begin at 19:00, bar available and food will be served at 20:00.

Tickets are £10 each and are available to buy through the following website

www.ticketsource.co.uk/llantwitmajorsixthform

We look forward to seeing you there!

Information for parents and carers about measles outbreak and MMR vaccination



Following the press release we sent out to you earlier this week from Public Health Wales regarding the recent outbreak of measles in Cardiff, we have now been asked to forward the following information to you, as it provides more detail on the MMR vaccine.

On 1 November a measles [outbreak](#) was declared in Cardiff. Seven children have been confirmed as having measles over the past six weeks, and it is possible that more cases could be identified over the coming weeks. Further information about measles can be found on the Public Health Wales [website](#).

Complications due to measles infection is common, with 1 in 10 children requiring hospitalisation due to severe complications such as pneumonia and meningitis. Sadly for every 1000 cases of measles, there is at least one reported fatality due to the complications of the infection.

Measles is highly infectious, and the only way to prevent outbreaks is through MMR vaccination. The vaccine is safe, quick and effective. Two doses of the vaccine are given, the first at 12 months of age and the second just after three years of age. However, it is never too late to catch up, so if a child has missed their MMR vaccine they can get it from their GP practice.

Children who have had one dose, but are not yet old enough to have received a second dose at just after 3 years old do not need to have this earlier than scheduled. Adults who have never had measles or the MMR vaccine and who are in close contact with children are urged to speak to their GP about vaccination. Here are some frequently asked questions about the MMR vaccine:

- **What does the vaccine contain and is it safe?**
Vaccines contain a number of different ingredients that ensure they can work effectively. Some vaccines contain very small amounts of viruses or bacteria that have been weakened. There is no risk of a healthy person catching any disease from a vaccine. The ingredients are safe and are regulated by the Medicine and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
- **Is there gelatine in the MMR vaccine?**
One MMR vaccine used in the UK (MMR VaxPro) contains tiny amounts of porcine (pork) gelatine. An alternative, gelatine free MMR vaccine (Priorix) is available, just ask your GP. More information about vaccines and porcine gelatine can be found [here](#).
- **Can the MMR vaccine cause autism?**
Many studies have shown that there is **no** evidence of a link between the MMR vaccine and autism.
- **Does the MMR vaccine cause side effects?**
Like all vaccines, some mild side effects are possible, such as a sore arm or a slight fever, but these should last no more than a couple of days. Give children liquid paracetamol if needed. Note: do not give aspirin to children under 16 years unless prescribed by a doctor.

All parents and carers are encouraged to check if their child is up to date with their MMR vaccine, and if needed, make an appointment with their GP practice.

For further information about all childhood vaccinations, including leaflets and animations about different vaccines, please visit the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board website. <https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/childhood-immunisations/>

Call the Child Health

Team to find out if your child is up to date. 029 2183 2077

Community Centre: ValePlus Christmas Coffee Morning



ValePlus
Christmas Coffee Morning

In Partnership with Hays Travel
 LLantwit Major

Friday 24 November 2023
10.30am to 12.30pm
CF61 Community Centre
Station Road
LLantwit Major
CF61 1ST

All proceeds from this event will help provide educational and training opportunities for students using ValePlus Day Service. Charity No 1099224



IMPORTANT Bus Information (S42)

We have been informed by the Vale of Glamorgan Passenger Transport Team that due to road works being done at the interchange at Rhoose point from the 4th December 2023 to 22nd December 2023 the bus stop will not be used. The school transport service will collect and drop off all passengers who get on at the interchange from the **Trem Echni** bus stop.

If parents/carers have any questions, please contact the Transport Team.

School Calendar

Week Beginning – Monday 13 November 2023 / <i>Dydd Llyn Tachwedd 13 2023</i>		Week 10/ <i>Wythnos109</i>
Monday 13 November / <i>Dydd Llun Tachwedd 13</i>		
Tuesday 14 November / <i>Dydd Mawrth Tachwedd 14</i>		
Wednesday 15 November / <i>Dydd Mercher Tachwedd 15</i>		
Thursday 16 November / <i>Dydd Iau Tachwedd 16</i>	Year 11 Parents' Evening GCSE Drama Unit 1 exam	
Friday 17 November / <i>Dydd Gwener Tachwedd 17</i>	GCSE Drama Unit 1 exam	
	Coming Up/ <i>I ddod</i>	
Monday 20 November / <i>Dydd Llun Tachwedd 20</i>		
Tuesday 21 November / <i>Dydd Mawrth Tachwedd 21</i>		
Wednesday 22 November / <i>Dydd Mercher Tachwedd 22</i>		
Thursday 23 November / <i>Dydd Iau Tachwedd 23</i>	Sixth Form Open Evening	
Friday 24 November / <i>Dydd Gwener Tachwedd 24</i>		

Key Academic Dates 2023/2024

Autumn 2023:

- **Term End:** Friday 22 December 2023

Spring 2024:

- **Start:** Monday 8 January 2024
- **Half term:** Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024
- **End:** Friday 22 March 2024

Summer 2024:

- **Start:** Monday 8 April 2024
- **May Day BH:** Monday 6 May 2024
- **Half term:** Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
- **End:** Monday 22 July 2024 (**INSET**) (Students finish on Friday 19 July 2024)

INSET Days:

- **INSET Day 4:** Monday 19 February 2024
- **INSET Day 5:** Monday 8 July 2024
- **INSET Day 6:** Monday 22 July 2024

General Information

Contacting School

Please refrain from telephoning the school, other than for urgent purposes. For all general enquiries please email llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. **Please be reminded that we operate an appointments only system for meeting with parents 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 that you do need to bring an item into school for your child, you will be asked to leave it on the desk in the 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 just what is needed for the day to school with them.