

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 18 December 2023 / Dydd Llyn Rhagfyr 18 2023	Week 15 / Wythnos 15

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the final Major News edition of 2023.

It has been a really successful term and we have much to celebrate, as outlined by Mrs Wilson below. Our students have worked hard right up until the end of term with mock examinations continuing this week for our examination year groups. We have been most impressed with their commitment and dedication and it has been lovely to enjoy a slightly more informal end to term today with Christmas jumper day. There have been an impressive array of different offerings on display!

Many thanks to all parents who responded to the survey included in last week's newsletter. The results were extremely encouraging and the responses much more positive than they were to the parental survey last term. This is fantastic to see. We know that we still have work to do and that there is a lot of change afoot and it is therefore reassuring to confirm that parents can see the systems and processes we are putting in place making a difference. I will provide a more detailed breakdown of the responses in the next newsletter.

This has been a long and tiring term for students and teachers alike and it is therefore important that all of them take this opportunity to have a good rest. Please be advised that the school will be closed until Monday 8th January, so emails and enquiries will not be processed until then. We do not expect our young people to send the Christmas holidays working. Christmas is a time when we should relax with our families and friends, so please encourage your child/children to switch off for at least some of the break, rest, relax and recharge.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and thank you as ever for your continued support.

Mrs C L Robins

Message from the Deputy Headteacher

What a busy, fun filled and exciting term we have had. So many amazing achievements and events going on across the school over the term and students and staff should be really proud of their efforts. We are seeing our new behaviour policy working well and a clear improvement in behaviour across the school and more positive attitudes to learning. We have seen a whopping 124,989 achievement points given out since September compared to 9009 behaviour points. This is a huge positive and shows us that our students are making lots of really good decisions and taking ownership of their learning and behaviour. I have really enjoyed seeing the winners in each year group this week with their certificates for various things like being the most ambitious in their year group or being the most capable learner.

We still have lots to do and in January will really be focusing with families and students on improving attendance. All children need to be in school as often as possible in order to meet their potential, develop their social skills and enhance their emotional and physical wellbeing. We will also be trialling on behalf of the Vale a new system for reporting safeguarding and bullying called 'My Voice'. Learners and parents will have a link/QR code they can use to report directly into our safeguarding system. More details will be sent out in January regarding this.

Please can all parents ensure they are logged onto Class charts. Most are, but we still have 136 parents that are not and we will be using this more and more to communicate with you. If you are experiencing any issues please contact the school and we will be able to help you.

Finally I want to wish all Llantwit Major learners a fantastic Christmas and I am already looking forward to seeing them all in 2024.

Mrs E Wilson

ICT Department

Year 8 iDEA Award

Llongyfarchiadau to Preston and May for being the first pupils in Year 8 to complete their iDEA Bronze Level Award. Da iawn and good luck with the Silver Award!



We look forward to more year 8s completing the award in the New Year!

Year 7 CodeForLife



Since September Year 7 have been completing programming challenges in CodeForLife for homework. Our current Top 3 programmers in Year 7 are:

1. Evan McKeown
2. Joseph Leyshon
3. Ella Stark

There has been excellent effort shown by almost all Year 7s with the challenges. Da iawn! Keep up the good work and it might be your name on the list next time!

Maths Department

Year 7 have enjoyed using their numeracy skills to help cost and plan a Christmas dinner. They were surprised at how much maths was involved. They used their money skills to keep within a budget, as well as their measurements and time skills to ensure dinner would be cooked and on time. We would love your children to help get involved with the planning of your Christmas day! Merry Christmas from Llantwit Maths Department.



English Department



Exploring the World of Books: A Literary Journey for Year 7 and 8 Students

In the last two weeks before the end of term, year 7 and 8 classes embarked on an enriching adventure to the Llantwit Library, immersing themselves in the magical realm of books. This initiative aimed not only to foster a love for reading but also to highlight the crucial role literature plays in academic and personal development.

Importance of Reading

Studies consistently emphasise the profound impact of reading on a student's cognitive and academic abilities. According to recent research by the National Literacy Trust, students who read for pleasure show higher levels of achievement in various subjects. Additionally, reading contributes significantly to vocabulary development, critical thinking skills, and overall academic success.

Students' Enjoyment and Engagement:

The library visits were met with enthusiasm as students delved into an extensive collection of fiction and non-fiction books. Many students spend their time reading or talking about books with their peers. They expressed their excitement about the diverse genres available, showcasing the library as a treasure trove of knowledge and entertainment.

During these visits, some students took the initiative to sign up for library memberships, extending their access to the vast literary resources available. Moreover, we are pleased to see a growing number of students continuing their library visits even after school hours, demonstrating a sustained interest in reading beyond the classroom setting.

Future Plans

Recognising the positive impact of these library visits, we are excited to announce that we will be making these trips a regular occurrence. Starting next term, year 7 and 8 classes will have the opportunity to explore the library once a term. This initiative aligns with our commitment to nurturing a culture of reading within our school community and fostering lifelong learners.

As we wrap up the year, we celebrate the curiosity and enthusiasm our students have shown during these library visits. Let us continue to unlock the doors that reading opens, providing our students with the keys to knowledge, imagination, and a brighter future. Happy reading, everyone!

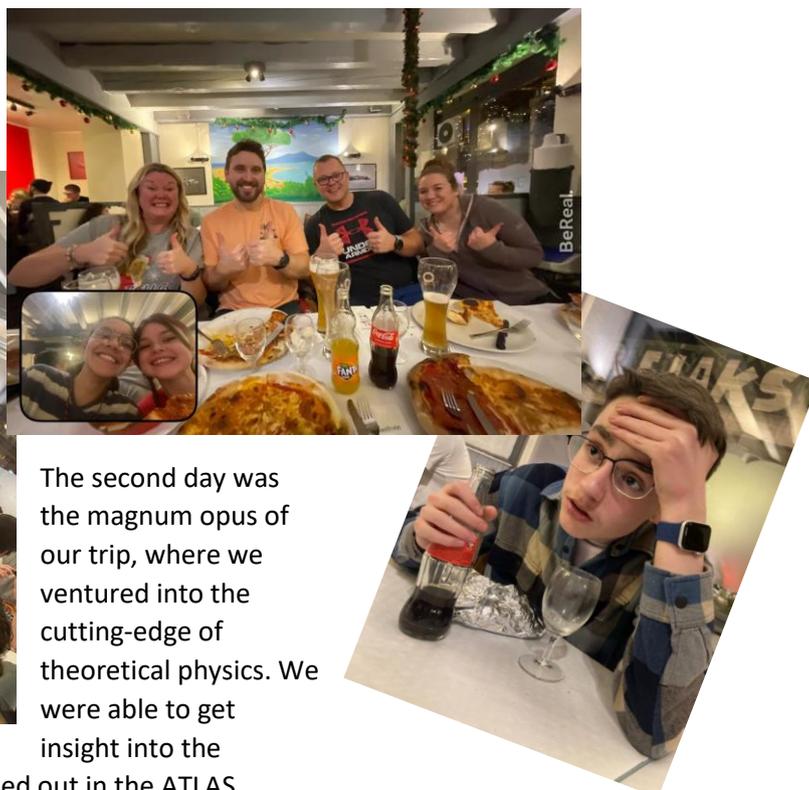


CERN Trip

Over the weekend, students from years 11, 12 and 13 were able to go on a once in a lifetime trip to visit CERN and make the pilgrimage to the forefront of scientific research for Europe, whilst also being able to visit the beautiful city of Geneva.



The long journey of the first day was bookended by a fabulous meal in a local Swiss pizzeria where we were able to kick back, relax and share our excitement for the adventure ahead. Some of us coped more than others with the spicy salami pizza but the atmosphere was second to none!

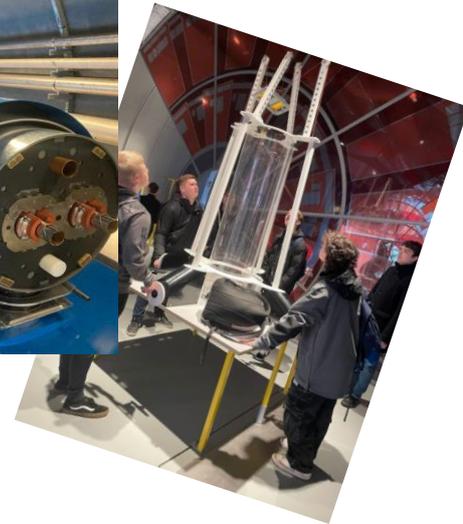


The second day was the magnum opus of our trip, where we ventured into the cutting-edge of theoretical physics. We were able to get insight into the research being carried out in the ATLAS detector, which was where the Higgs Boson was discovered. Our tour guide, Muhammad, showed us around the facility and we were also able to see the ATLAS control room as well as the computer servers, reflecting the extent to which CERN provides for our planet as they were responsible for the creation of the World Wide Web and are also the main internet provider in Switzerland. Not only were we able to learn about subatomic particles and the means by which we can study dark matter, we learnt that CERN also researches the inception

of our universe. CERN was like Disneyland for physicists - evident when observing Mr Howells running around excited by the black hole simulations!

On the third day we took the opportunity to explore Geneva, visit some eye-opening museums and explore the Christmas markets. After a short tram ride and a long walk, we were able to see the famous large water fountain on our way to our first museum. The museum was a brilliant way for us to visualise the journey science has undergone to get to where it is now and also to do some fun experiments involving angular velocity and pendulums to name a few. We then made the arduous trek through the city and past watch shops galore to get to our second museum, the Museum of Natural History. After this, we were able to stroll through the Christmas market.

The long journey home was followed by a bright and early 8.30am start with Year 13 Physics!



Here's what the group had to say:

"Being able to witness decaying particles in the cloud chamber was extraordinary!"

"Enjoyed seeing the old town of Geneva."

"Loved being able to see the application of particle physics in the creation of our universe."

[Rizik Salhab](#)

[Aspiring Medic/Head Prefect](#)



New Break Menu

The Student Council, in conjunction with the Senior Management Team, have been working with Big Fresh to improve our canteen provision.

Subsequently we are delighted to announce that from the 15th January 2024, food will be available for all pupils to purchase at break time.

The following menu options will be provided:

Mondays and Wednesdays:

Sausage wrap or baguette, hashbrown and omelette wrap or baguette, single large hashbrown, yoghurt, mixed fruit pots, bagels and tea-cakes.

Tuesdays and Thursdays:

Bacon wrap or baguette, hashbrown and omelette wrap or baguette, single large hashbrown, yoghurt, mixed fruit pots, bagels and tea-cakes.

Fridays:

Continental breakfast, pancake with honey, granola fruit and yoghurt pot, bagels and tea-cakes.

This is a new service, therefore we may need to tweak the menu or the provision over time as we see how things work in practice. We will keep you updated with any changes.

If you have elected to set a daily 'food' budget on your child's ParentPay account, please remind them that purchases at break will affect what they can purchase later at lunchtime. Please remember to check your child's/children's balance to ensure they have sufficient funds.

Llantwit Major Library

Vale of Glamorgan Libraries
 Llantwit Major Library
 Boverton Road,
 Llantwit Major,
 CF61 1XZ
 01446 792700

Library@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Year 7 and Year 8 students from Llantwit Major School will be visiting Llantwit Library over the next two weeks to learn about all the free resources that can help them with their studies and general reading. Studies have consistently shown that young people who read for pleasure do better at school.

It is free to join the library – the easiest way is to fill in the online form – click on this link:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Libraries/Join-Your-Local-Library.aspx>

This will create an online membership that can be used to access our online resources. To borrow books, convert the card to full membership by visiting the library, with one form of ID to confirm your address. A full library card will then be issued in your child's name.

The library card will allow access to thousands of free books as well as many more resources to help improve your child's school work and enhance their leisure time, including:

- FREE Wi-Fi
- FREE fiction, non-fiction, comics, graphic novels and talking books
- FREE homework help - online
- FREE e-books and e-magazines
- Clubs, games, events, activities and classes in the library
- Friendly, helpful library staff
- Somewhere safe to meet friends

Your child's details will not be shared with any external organisation.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Weeks
 Senior Librarian
 Llantwit Major Library

Help and support information

As we approach the Christmas holiday period some families may be facing financial hardship. If you feel you may need help and support with the cost of living crisis the links below may be of use.

Is my child eligible to receive free school meals?

<https://www.gov.wales/free-school-meals-information-parents-and-carers>

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

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>

If your child is in receipt of free schools meals and you would like to discuss any aspect of their school life please contact Mrs E Denscombe at denscombe@llantwitschool.org.uk

School Calendar

Week Beginning – Monday 8 January 2024 / <i>Dydd Llun Ionawr 8</i> 2024		Week 16/ <i>Wythnos 16</i>
Monday 8 January / <i>Dydd Llun Ionawr 8</i>	First day of Term - 8:30am start	
Tuesday 9 January / <i>Dydd Mawrth Ionawr 9</i>		
Wednesday 10 January / <i>Dydd Mercher Ionawr 10</i>	Year 11 English Literature resit Exam	
Thursday 11 January / <i>Dydd Iau Ionawr 11</i>		
Friday 12 January / <i>Dydd Gwener Ionawr 12</i>	Year 11 Sport Exam Year 11 Public Service Exam	
Saturday 13 January / <i>Dydd Sadwrn Ionawr 13</i>	Years 12 and 13 Bristol Old Vic Theatre Trip - Metamorphosis	
	Coming Up/ <i>I ddod</i>	
Monday 15 January / <i>Dydd Llun Ionawr 15</i>		
Tuesday 16 January / <i>Dydd Mawrth Ionawr 16</i>	Year 8 DT Trip – Renishaw Pontyclun	
Wednesday 17 January / <i>Dydd Mercher Ionawr 17</i>		
Thursday 18 January / <i>Dydd Iau Ionawr 18</i>	Year 10 Art & Design Trip – Cardiff Year 11 ICT Resit Exam	
Friday 19 January / <i>Dydd Gwener Ionawr 19</i>		

Key Academic Dates 2023/2024

Autumn 2023:

- **Term End:** Friday 22 December 2023 – **1:40pm finish**

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.