

MAJOR NEWS / NEWYDDION MAWR

SPRING TERM / TYMOR Y GWANWYN	
Start / Dechrau:	Monday 8 January 2024 / <i>Dydd Llun Ionawr 8 2024</i>
Half Term / Hanner Tymor:	Monday 12 February 2024 – Friday 16 February 2024/ <i>Dydd Llun Chwefror 12 – Dydd Llun Chwefror 16 2024</i>
End / Diwedd:	Friday 22 March 2024 / <i>Dydd Gwener Mawrth 22 2024</i>
Week Beginning – Monday 29 January 2024 / <i>Dydd Llun Ionawr 29 2024</i>	Week 19/ Wythnos 19

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the latest edition of Major News.

You will be aware that improving communication with parents/carers is a key school priority this year. A number of parents/carers expressed dissatisfaction in a survey last summer regarding how easy it is to reach staff and direct their enquiry to the appropriate place. As a result, we set up Progress Team inboxes last term so you could make direct email with your child's Progress Team. The addresses have been shared in the newsletter previously and are as follows:

Progress Leader Team	Email Address
Progress Leader Yr7	Year7ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader Yr8	Year8ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader Yr9	Year9ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader Yr10	Year10ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader Yr11	Year11ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk
Progress Leader 6th Form	Year1213ProgTeam@llantwitschool.org.uk

It has been expressed that parents/carers would also like a more direct line of communication with subject teachers. As a result, departmental inboxes have now been set up. If you have a query regarding a certain subject, please email that departmental inbox and the Head of Department will process your enquiry and respond back to you:

Department	Email Address
Additional Learning Needs Department	ALN@llantwitschool.org.uk
Art Department	ArtDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Business/Careers Department	CareersDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Cymraeg Department	CymraegDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
D&T Department	DTDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
English Department	EnglishDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Geography Department	GeogDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
History Department	HistoryDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
ICT Department	ICTDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Maths Department	MathsDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
MFL Department	MFLDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
PE Department	PEDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Performing Arts Department	PerformingArtsDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
RS Department	RSDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Science Department	ScienceDepartment@llantwitschool.org.uk
Welsh Bacc Department	WelshBacc@llantwitschool.org.uk

May I also encourage as many of you as possible to attend the Parent Forum on 5 February at 6pm. Active participation in this stakeholder engagement group is another way in which we can further strengthen relationships between home and school.

As ever, I thank you for your continued support and wish you a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Mrs C L Robins

Message from the Deputy Headteacher

Another busy week in Llantwit Major School. We are keen to continue and improve the communication between ourselves and parents/carers. We will be making contact with all parents who have not activated their class charts accounts over the next few weeks. Please ensure you have your account active and that you have notifications turned on. We will be using this for ALL important and key information moving forward. Any questions or issues with your account please just ask.

Mrs E Wilson

School Calendar

Week Beginning – Monday 5 February 2024 / <i>Dydd Llun Chwefror 5 2024</i>	Week 20/ <i>Wythnos 20</i>
Monday 5 February / <i>Dydd Llun Chwefror 5</i>	Parent Forum - 5:00pm Year 10 Exam Fortnight begins
Tuesday 6 February / <i>Dydd Mawrth Chwefror 6</i>	
Wednesday 7 February / <i>Dydd Mercher Chwefror 7</i>	Trip: Llangrannog
Thursday 8 February / <i>Dydd Iau Chwefror 8</i>	Trip: Krakow
Friday 9 February / <i>Dydd Gwener Chwefror 9</i>	
	Coming Up/ <i>I ddod</i>
Monday 12 February / <i>Dydd Llun Chwefror 12</i>	Half Term
Tuesday 13 February / <i>Dydd Mawrth Chwefror 13</i>	Half Term
Wednesday 14 February / <i>Dydd Mercher Chwefror 14</i>	Half Term
Thursday 15 February / <i>Dydd Iau Chwefror 15</i>	Half Term
Friday 16 February / <i>Dydd Gwener Chwefror 16</i>	Half Term
Monday 19 February / <i>Dydd Llun Chwefror 19</i>	Inset Day

English Department

Air pods and Adventures: Empowering Reading Through Audiobooks

Audiobooks offer a dynamic gateway to literature, especially for teenagers. In an era dominated by digital screens, audiobooks provide a refreshing and accessible way for young minds to engage with stories. With the flexibility to listen while commuting, exercising, or winding down, audiobooks seamlessly integrate reading into their busy lives. For struggling readers or those with learning differences, audiobooks can offer an inclusive approach to literature. By embracing audiobooks, teenagers not only expand their literary horizons but also develop essential listening skills, making the reading experience multi-sensory and enjoyable. Below is some research conducted by the National Literacy Trust on the role of audiobooks to engage reluctant readers.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/the-role-of-audiobooks-to-engage-reluctant-readers-and-underrepresented-children-and-young-people/#:~:text=Of%20those%20who%20listen%20to,46.1%25>

Year 10 Exams - Advisory Dates for Parents

Welsh Second Language Oral:

16, 17 & 18 April 2024 - students will be notified of their individual schedule by their teacher.

Summer Series Exams:

English Literature Prose	13 May 2024 – morning session.
RS Christianity & Islam Unit 1	16 May 2024 – afternoon session.
Biology Unit 1	10 June 2024 – morning session.
Chemistry Unit 1	13 June 2024 – morning session.
Physics Unit 1	17 June 2024 – morning session.

Eco-Schools Platinum renewal

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in our renewal application for Platinum Eco-School Status.

Our fantastic coordinator Sarah Trotman did a fantastic job in taking the renewal forward, and received direct feedback from the assessor, which we wanted to share with you.

Dear Mrs Trotman and Eco Committee

Many thanks for submitting your Eco-Schools Platinum renewal application recently. I was really pleased to see that the Eco-Schools process is still running effectively at Llantwit Major School and that you have continued to progress with new projects and ideas, as well as having many thoughts on developments for the future.

*I am delighted to confirm that you have **retained your Platinum Eco-Schools status** and wish you every success with this year's projects. Maintaining the Eco-Schools Platinum status is a fantastic achievement. The school, staff and pupils, should feel proud of their hard work and commitment.*

Next year's renewal will be a visit year for you which involves completing some information on our website, we will send you a reminder beforehand. Should you require any help in the meantime with sustaining the programme, undertaking actions or publicising your successes, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Congratulations once again!

The accessing officer commented:

A great application for platinum renewal status. A comprehensive and varied action plan showing whole school activities and ongoing positive impacts. A fantastic case study and focus this year on waste minimisation activities, locally and globally, that included the reuse of items such as school uniforms, prom costumes and Christmas jumpers, as well as Book Swop initiatives and globally supporting pupils in Nigeria with sports clothing and equipment! Other areas were also impressive including the Back to Nature project going from strength to strength, work around period poverty and continual well-being and fitness activities.

Well done once again. Well-deserved Eco-Schools Platinum renewal.

Parent Forum

Next Meeting Date: Monday 5th March 5pm. School Hall

If you would like to suggest an agenda item prior to the meeting, please email tomsh@llantwitschool.org.uk

Previous Meeting Minutes: http://www.llantwitschool.org.uk/docs/Meeting_Two_04th_December_2023.pdf

What is the Parent Forum?

The Parent Forum is a partnership between parents and the school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views, and concerns and make suggestions for improvement.

The aims of the Parent Forum will be to:

- work together to improve the education provided for our children
- share information, knowledge and skills
- meet in a mutually supportive environment
- further improve communications between parents/carers and staff/governors

The parent forum does not have any statutory responsibilities, duties or powers in the school.

Who can be part of the parent forum?

Any parent/carer of children currently at Llantwit Major School is welcome to join any parent forum meeting. The forum will be chaired by Miss Toms. At times other members of the school community will also attend the meetings depending on the agenda items and what the school feels they would like to share with the parents, such as new initiatives.

**LLANTWIT MAJOR SCHOOL
PARENT FORUM
MEETING**

**Monday 05th February 2024
5:00pm**



An opportunity for the school to consult with parents on upcoming events, new initiatives and existing practices.



Provide a structured way to have your views and questions shared on big school topics.



Working together with the best interests of our students at the heart of every meeting.

Welcoming new & existing members

Talking Teens Free Workshops

TALKING TEENS

Free workshop for Llantwit Major Families

Talking Teens develops parents understanding of teenage development and the influence of brain development on behaviour. It promotes positive approaches to boundary setting and problem solving while encouraging the importance of listening, verbal and non-verbal communication.

**WEEK 1 Being a parent of a teenager; the role of parents and responding to difficult feelings
Tuesday 20th February 4:30pm* -7:00pm**

*Registration Session

**WEEK 2 Understanding your teenager;
Teenage development, parenting styles and
praise & criticism
Tuesday 27th February 5:00pm - 7:00pm**

**WEEK 3 Communicating with your teenager;
talking & listening, communicating clearly &
handling difficult issues.
Tuesday 5th March 5:00pm - 7:00pm**

**WEEK 4 Managing conflict; rules &
boundaries, choosing how to respond and
problem solving.
Tuesday 12th March 5:00pm - 7:00pm**

This course will be delivered by Welsh Government initiative
Families First.

Llantwit Major School is a host venue.
Catering and refreshments provided for attendees.



Classroom Expectations



The poster features a dark blue header with a white and red geometric pattern on the left and the title 'CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS' in white. Below the header are four horizontal bars of varying shades of blue, each containing a large yellow letter and a word. The letters spell out 'BEST'. At the bottom, the phrase 'BEING THE BEST WE CAN BE' is written in white and yellow, with 'BEST' in yellow. The poster is decorated with yellow hexagonal icons.

**CLASSROOM
EXPECTATIONS**

Be Ready

Engaged

Safe

Take Responsibility

BEING THE **BEST** WE CAN BE

Key Academic Dates 2023/2024

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.