



YSGOL GYFUN GYMRAEG
GLANTAF
CORON GWLAD EI MAMIAITH

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf

Heol y Bont, Ystum Taf
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10 June 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Urdd Eisteddfod – Dinbych 2022

It was wonderful to return to the Eisteddfod field over half term and experience the buzz and excitement of this unique Youth Festival. This year, every pupil, group and ensemble were able to perform on one of three main stages

at the Eisteddfod which ensured every competitor had the experience of performing in a professional and appreciative arena. Glantaf's successes were numerous as students came to the fore in the literature (Heledd Newton), composition (Caleb Griffiths & Milo Davies), art and design (Cadi Davage; Beca Davage, Martha King) competitions but also in several memorable performances on the main stages. Special mention to our Gold and Silver Medalists: Remy Segrott (Cello); Megan Jones (Brass); Betsan Lees; Lili Mohammed, Nansi Rhys Adams (Vocal); Mari Fflur Thomas (Recitation) and Elen Morlais (Dance) as well as Junior Boys Choir (Gold) and Senior Girls Choir and Instrumental Ensemble (Silver). Hearty congratulations also to Nansi for being awarded an Eisteddfod Scholarship of £2,000 following her considerable successes and to former pupil Ioan Williams on being awarded a place in the Bryn Terfel Scholarship competition!



Senior Girls Choir 2022



Megan, Remy, Betsan and Nansi

2022 Summer No Phones Challenge

This week we have launched our Summer Challenge which includes three specific objectives to live a healthier lifestyle.

Firstly to decrease phone dependency and screen time through strictly restricting mobile use during the school day. Secondly to increase physical activity, promoting more active routes to school, and finally a focus on promoting social and communication skills, speaking kindly as well as greeting and thanking each other during the school day. Recent studies in the UK (2019), showed that on average 5-7 year olds spent 4hrs per day on screen; this increases to 4.5hrs for 8-11 year olds and increased further to 6.5hrs per day for teenagers. Studies following the pandemic suggest that this may be averaging 8hrs per day among certain teenager groups. We are sure you share our concerns regarding pupils' dependency on mobile phones, the growing attachment issues we experience, as well as the increased influence of personal devices in our own adult lives. This forms the basis for our summer 'no phones' challenge, to promote a more wholesome and kinder school community, as well as educating our young people on safer use of their mobile phones. We encourage you to join this challenge by checking your own screen time (check the settings tab on your mobile), you may be surprised at your own use! Finally, we are very aware that many of you have already discussed this matter with your children, and pupil response this week has been very promising – *diolch yn fawr*.



Celebrations for our Junior Boys Choir

Yr7&8 Homework Club: every Thursday until 4pm

A reminder that pupils in Yrs 7&8 are welcome at our homework club until 4pm every Thursday, for more details contact Mrs C Arnopp on arnoppc@hwbcymru.net

HPV inoculations

You will have received information regarding the upcoming HPV inoculations for all pupils in Year 8 on the 24th of June. This offer is extended to all pupils who have yet to receive their first dose of the vaccine in years 9-11 and you should have received a letter regarding this immunisation programme if your child has not had their first dose. To those pupils in Yrs 9-11 who have not received their second vaccine, please contact this number to organise an appointment: 07969732790 as this will not be offered in school.



Lili and Nansi Duet

Drama Workshop

Many thanks to Trinity St-David's University of Wales for joining us to offer our Yr9 Drama students a creative workshop on their upcoming performance of "Crazy for You".

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (ALNET 2018)

The system for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disability in Wales has changed in January 2022. The Welsh Government is bringing in a more flexible and responsive system of meeting the needs of children with SEN or disabilities and are striving to deliver a fully inclusive education system for the learners of Wales. The second cohorts to be affected are pupils who are in Yr8 and Yr9 in this academic year 21/22 and will move gradually to the new system during September 22/23. This link provides the information for parents: [210326-the-additional-learning-needs-code-for-wales-2021.pdf \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/210326-the-additional-learning-needs-code-for-wales-2021.pdf) We will write to parents separately to share the specific changes in more detail. For more information, please contact Mrs C Arnopp, Asst Head & ALNCo arnoppc@hwbcymru.net

National Tests Yrs7-9, Yr 10 examinations and welcome back to Yr12

All pupils Yrs7-9 will be completing their National Tests in Welsh, English and Numeracy next week 13-24 June and have been practising with past papers this week. All pupils have been given a timetable of these assessments. As Yr10 are in the middle of their exam season, may we kindly remind pupils to remain in school following each examination and to return to their normal school timetable. Yr12 will return to classes following their AS examinations next Monday 13th June, (wk1).

Upcoming events

As we start a busy half term, we are looking forward to a number of activities in the next few weeks: Celebrating Pride in LGBTQ+ month this June / Yr9 history workshop on war memorials (17 June) / Tafwyl Festival (18-19 June) / *Debate Mate* Competition (22 June) / School Sports Day (23 June) / Glantaf Art Exhibition (28 June) / Yr 11 > 12 transition events (from 28 June>) / Primary Sports Day 30 June / Yr 6 Transition Day 1st July / Yr 6 Open Evening 4&5 July.

Good news this week that our Athletics teams in Yr8 &9 were crowned County Champions this week with several outstanding results for individual athletes. Commendation to National Football Champions, u13 Girls and u15 Boys on winning their respective finals at the Cardiff City Stadium before the half term break - a great night for Glantaf pupils! Congratulations Alyas and Elan! To close, a reminder of our final INSET training day this year: **Wednesday 29th of June** when school will be closed for all pupils.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M H Evans".

Matthew H T Evans
Pennaeth / Head
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf



Two happy captains: Alyas and Elan