

# Yn y Lwp!

(In the loop - Ysgol Cwm Brombil's Weekly Bulletin)

## In this edition:

- Champions of Wales! – YCB senior netball team take the grand prize;
- Rugby news;
- Senedd update;
- The School Production team are putting in the finishing touches;

### Spring Term / TYMOR Y GWANWYN

Start / *Dechrau*: Monday 8 January 2024 / *Dydd Llun Ionawr 8 2024*

Half Term : Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February /

*Hanner Tymor*: Dydd Llun Chwefror 12 – Dydd Gwener Chwefror 16

End / *Diwedd*: Friday 22 March 2024 / *Dydd Gwener Mawrth 22 2024*

## Upcoming activities:

Week Beginning -	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Week 2
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	School Production	
Thursday	School Production	
Friday	School Production	

Week Beginning -	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Week 1
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Yr 10 Parents Evening	
Thursday	Ski Trip Departure	
Friday	SCHOOL INSET DAY.	



# Senior Girls Netball – Welsh Champions!

## Netball

On the 26th of January, we competed in an Afan Nedd Ann Smart netball tournament against all the school netball teams in our region. In this tournament we beat Bishopston in the final after going into extra time, which resulted in us qualifying for the National Schools Ann Smart Championship tournament in Cardiff on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.

After arriving at House of Sport in Cardiff, we won our first two games in our pool against Newbridge Comprehensive (27-10) and Ysgol Llanfyllin (24-7) but lost our third game to Alun School. Our loss in the pool caused a few heads to drop. However, as a team we worked together to raise moral and motivate one another. Despite this defeat, we progressed to the semi-finals as the runners-up from pool B and played against the winners of pool A, Ysgol Maes Y Gwendraeth. The loss in the pool, we went into the semi-final more determined to win.

The semi-final was a tough game in which we won 22-19. After winning the semi-final we advanced to the final against the runner-up of pool A, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymney. Throughout the match, the score line was close and there was no room for error. In the last minute of the game, we tightly defended our opposition, which led to a held ball from Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymney. We took this penalty quickly and calmly progressed the ball down the court and capitalised on our opponents' space created from the counterattack to score. Then, as our centre pass was about to be taken, the final whistle went, and we celebrated the 18-16 win as a team. Overall, throughout the whole tournament, Lilia-Faye Thomas, Lexi Warlow, Lowri Smith and Katie Eenmaa scored a combined number of 101 goals!

We as a squad would like to say a huge thanks to Miss Mackey, Miss Curran and Miss Walters for taking us on the day and for preparing us so well over our time in school building up to this wonderful day.

By Tilly Spears and Lilia Berni (year 11).



Ann Smart 2024 National Champions. We laughed, fought, cried but most importantly enjoyed every minute. The girls showed resilience, character, courage and leadership. Well done to Lilia Thomas who won the Player of the Tournament award, Brilliant achievement. What a way to end an incredible 5 years!

## School Uniform Expectations

All students are expected to wear school uniform throughout the school day. Below are uniform guidelines for both boys and girls, as well as PE Kit:

### All pupils Year 7 to 11

Blazer	Black school blazer	Available from Bergoni. Blazers must be brought to school and worn every day.
Shirt	White shirt with collar.	Can be purchased from any retailer.
Trousers	Plain black tailored uniform style trousers.	Jean style, corduroys, skinny or casual trousers are not permitted.
Skirt *	Plain black school uniform style skirt.	Skirts should be an appropriate length.
Tights	Plain black tights	Can be purchased from any retailer.
Shoes	Black shoes with black laces.	Available from any retailer. Black leather converse shoes are permitted. NO TRAINERS
Tie	School tie.	Available from Bergoni.
Jumper	Black with badge and claret trim around the collar.	Available from Bergoni. Jumpers are optional.
Shorts	Black tailored shorts.	Optional for the summer term.
Outdoor coat/Jacket	Coats should be waterproof and black in colour.	Available from any retailer.
Socks (only if not wearing tights)	Ankle height, plain black or white.	Available from any retailer.

For further information regarding our uniform expectations please see our school website:

<https://ysgolcwmbrombil.npted.org/uniform.html>

## Extra Curricular Timetable

There are lots of lunchtime and after school activities to suit a variety of tastes. Please complete the transport form using the link below. Completing this form will confirm the pupils request for transport and will aid staff to allocate appropriate transport if it is required for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

[Click here for the transport form](#)

Day	Lunch Time	Room + Staff	After School	Room + Staff
<b>Monday</b>	Library (Yrs 9, 10, 11) Choir (Yrs 9, 10, 11) International Club (Yrs 9, 10, 11) Basketball (Yrs 7 & 8)	B15 – Miss Collins A3 – Miss Clarke C3 – Mrs Stead Sports Hall	Homework & Catch up Club Art Club Young Carers First Aid Club (all years) Netball (Yrs 7 & 8) Girls Football (Yrs 7 - 11)	Learning Centre B11 – Miss Parry-Jones B36 – Miss Leahy Medical room - Mrs Jerwood & Mrs Thomas Sports Hall 3G/Grass Pitch
<b>Tuesday</b>	Library (Yrs 7 & 8) MFL Club (Yrs 7 & 8) International Club Junior Safeguarding Board Chess Club	B15 – Miss Collins C5 – Mrs Laderval-Thomas C3 – Mrs Stead <b>(Yrs 7 &amp; 8 Week 2 Only / Yrs 9, 10, 11 Week 1 Only)</b> C6 – Mrs Pereira-Thomas (Yrs 9, 10, 11) C29 – Mr McDaid (Yrs 9, 10, 11)	Homework & Catch up Club Strength & Conditioning (Yrs 7-11) Netball Hall (Yrs 9, 10, 11)	Learning Centre Back Gym/Multi-Gym Sports Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	Library (Yrs 7 & 8 <b>Week 2 Only</b> ) Criw Cymraeg (Yrs 7 & 8) Strength & Conditioning (Yrs 7-11)	B15 – Miss Collins C3 – Mrs Stead Back Gym	Homework & Catch up Club Badminton (Yrs 7 - 11) Drama & Music Club / School production Rehearsals Book Club (Yrs 7 ,8 & 9) Science Club (Yrs 7 & 8) Additional Maths GCSE (Yr11) Cross Country GCSE History Revision & Catch up GCSE Graphic Design Coursework Support	Learning Centre Sports Hall Drama Theatre – Miss Michael Library – Mrs Sherlock C9 – Miss Woodington C31 – Miss Curson Whole school grounds B21 – Mrs Sims (Yrs 9, 10, 11) B20 – Mr Hopkins (Yrs 9, 10, 11)
<b>Thursday</b>	Choir Criw Cymraeg PE/ Sport Catch up Revision	A3 – Miss Clarke (Y7, Y8) C3 – Mrs Stead ( <b>Week 2 Only / Y9, 10, 11</b> ) B29 – Miss Mackey & Miss Curran	Homework & Catch up Club Darts Club Debate Club Eco Club Male Choir Crochet Club Creative Writing Club Strength & Conditioning Maths Revision	Learning Centre C33 – Mr Davies B3 – Miss Harris ( <b>Week 2 Only</b> ) B25 – Mr Westrop A3 – Mr Murray B11 – Mrs Jones B30 – Miss Evans (Yrs 7 & 8) Back Gym/Multi-Gym (Yrs 9, 10, 11) C24 – Mrs James (Y11)
<b>Friday</b>	Belly Dancing Strength & Conditioning (Yrs 9, 10, 11)	C5 – Mrs Laderval-Thomas (Y7 & 8) Back Gym		

## Sports News

The senior Rugby Team played their last game for the school this week. It was an emotional evening over at Ysgol Bae Baglan where the boys pulled out all the stops for a convincing win.

27 boys have played for the team this year with many of them representing Aberavon schools as well.

Many thanks to the PE staff for their support over the years in particular Mr Dyers who has supported the boys tirelessly.



Congratulations as well go to year 10 for a good win at home against Cefn Saeson this week.

## Senedd Update.

The Senedd had a workshop with the children's rights charity, Claire and Janine to discuss issues with school transportation. Two meetings were held, with both the senior and junior Senedd groups. The main focus of the workshop was to discuss the 3-mile radius school transport rule - if pupils live within 3 of the school, they are not able to get free transport to school. We also talked about the struggles of walking long distances daily regardless of the weather, path and the dangers, and how it can affect one's wellbeing and the children's rights it abuses. Students discussed ways it could impact pupils with their schoolwork, attendance and their focus during class. The solutions raised in our discussion included our staff walking the 3 miles to and from school to empathise with children who struggle with long walking distances. This meeting generated a number of effective solutions to tackle this issue, and hopefully we will be acting upon it soon.

## Year 9 Scholar Programme

Congratulations to those year 9 pupils who have been selected for the Ysgol Cwm Brombil Scholar's Programme. All pupils taking part had to apply for the Programme and will spend time over the next few months working on a project linked to a particular area of interest. This is an excellent opportunity for the pupils to take part in super-curricular activities and will look great on their college and university application forms! The Programme will run until June and the pupils who successfully complete their projects will be invited to attend a presentation and award event where they will have the opportunity to showcase their work to parents and guests. On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, those students took part in the Programme attended a launch event where they were treated to presentations from guest speakers and began thinking about the topics that they want to work on. There are already some really interesting ideas that were discussed and we can't wait to see what the pupils produce.

School Production final rehearsals.

The students are working hard putting the final touches to the school show, Beauty and the Beast. It promises to be an extravaganza!

Tickets are available to be purchased on ParentPay.

**YSGOL CWM BROMBIL  
PROUDLY PRESENTS**



**Disney  
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
**THE BROADWAY MUSICAL**

**March 13th, 14th , & 15th**

**Curtain up at 7pm**

**(doors open 6.30)**

**Tickets — £10**

**Entry is strictly by ticket only**

**Ysgol Cwm Brombil, Bertha Rd, Margam, SA12 3AN**

**01639 760110**

**Music by  
Alan Menken**

**Book by  
Linda Woolverton**

**Lyrics by**

**Howard Ashman & Tim Rice**

**Originally Directed by Robert Jess Roth**

**Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions**

**This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International**

**All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI**

**[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)**



## Attendance Information

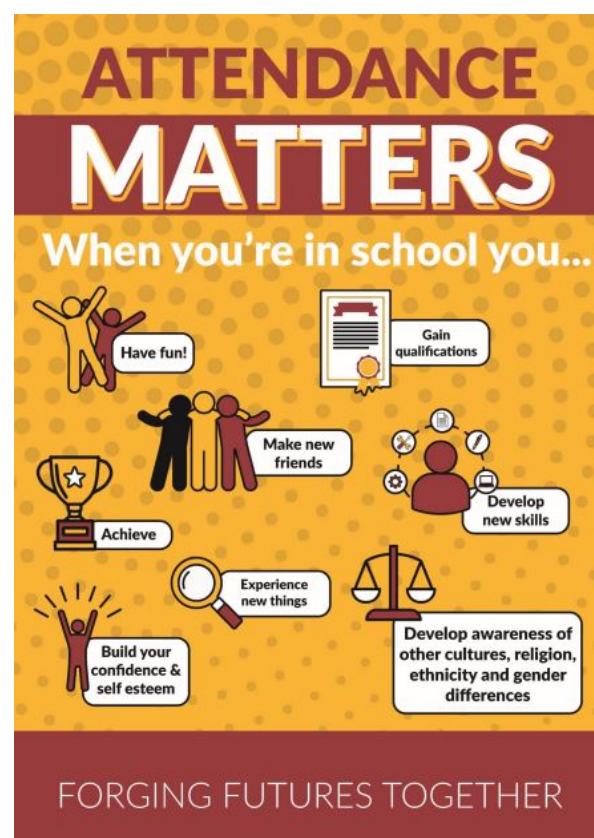
Our attendance target for all students is 100% and our **minimum expectation is 95%**. The infographic above shows the impact of days missed and minutes late can have on a child's learning.

For example:

- If a child is **late to school just 5 minutes** each day, throughout the year that equates to **3 days lost to learning (15 hours)**.
- Attendances of **97%** allows for one day of absence per half term and results in **30 hours lost to learning**.

### Important Reminders:

1. Parents **MUST** contact school to report any absences on **01639 760110 before 8.30 am**.
2. Parents should contact the school **each day** that a pupil is not attending.
3. If the school are not notified, then **you will be contacted** by a member of the Attendance team to find out why your child is not in school.
4. If you child is not notified of the reason for the absence it will be recorded as **unauthorised absence**.
5. If there are three unauthorised absences in a row, the Safeguarding Lead and Education Welfare Officer will be made aware in order to ensure that you child is safe.
6. You will be required to produce medical evidence if you state that your child is ill for 3 or more consecutive days.
7. We will ask the school Healthcare Professional to contact you if there is an absence of more than 2 weeks.
8. Term time leave will only be granted by the headteacher on request.
9. Where possible, **all appointments should be made outside of the school day**.



# Vaping/ e-cigarettes

## Information regarding e-cigarettes / vaping

We want to bring to your attention the worrying trend amongst a few peoples in school. We are taking this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have and the negative affect it can have on a pupil's learning.

This letter aims to:

- Inform you of the issue;
- Give you access to information and resources;
- Alert you to the consequences if your child vaping on school property

### What is vaping?

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an e cigarette or electronic vaporiser (vape). The vapour that is inhaled usually contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, and many other chemicals which are potentially harmful. Some vapes even contain cannabis oil! The liquids that are inhaled are often flavoured and can even smell fruity. Some vapes are marketed with sweet like names and come in attractive colours.

### Health concerns

The aerosol from e-cigarettes can be damaging to a person's health, particularly the developing bodies of adolescents. It can contain harmful chemicals, including nicotine; ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs; flavourings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to lung disease; volatile organic compounds such as Benzene which is also found in car exhaust fumes and heavy metals such as nickel, tin and lead which can build up to toxic levels in the body over time.

There has been a significant increase in underage vaping over the last couple of years.

Vaping is illegal to under 18's. Research shows that the adolescent brain is far more susceptible to addictive substances and this ultimately leads to an unnecessary and potentially harmful distraction from the child's learning.

Our first and foremost concern is pupil health and safety. Pupils who are using these devices are inhaling nicotine and other harmful chemicals thinking it is safe. Pupils purchasing and using these vapes, particularly those from the internet, risk inhaling higher levels of nicotine than cigarettes. Nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development in adolescents. There is also the risk of other illegal substances and even more dangerous substances in some of these vapes.

### How the school has responded,

There has been a significant amount of publicity about the concerns with underage vaping. At Ysgol Cwm Brombil we have installed vape alarms as a deterrent in toilets around the school. These allow us to identify pupils that are vaping and impose consequences as well as provide support for what is, essentially, an addiction to nicotine.

### Consequences for a child found vaping on school site and / or bringing a vape onto the school site.

Smoking (including the smoking of e-cigarettes / vapes) is against the law for young people under the age of 18, and, as our policy states, smoking is prohibited throughout the school premises. This includes school buses.

Pupils caught vaping will receive an afterschool detention in the first instance, an internal exclusion if they are caught a second time and a third time will result in an external exclusion from school.

The e-cigarette / vape will be confiscated and the child's parent / carer informed. The parent / carer may collect the e-cigarette / vape in the following week. Under no circumstance will they be returned to the child themselves. If the e-cigarette / vape is not collected within a week it will be safely disposed of.



# HARMFUL EFFECTS OF VAPING



## BRAIN

- Nicotine addiction
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Seizures
- Tremors
- Anxiety
- Restlessness
- Confusion
- Attention problem
- Learning and mood disorders

## EYES

- Irritation
- Blurry
- Vision

## MOUTH

- Irritation
- Can cause gum disease

## THROAT

- Sore throat

## LUNGS

- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Permanent lung damage from diacetyl, a flavoring chemical, which scars tiny air sacs making airways thick and narrow

## HEART

- Increased risk of heart attack and stroke
- Chest pain

## STOMACH & INTESTINES

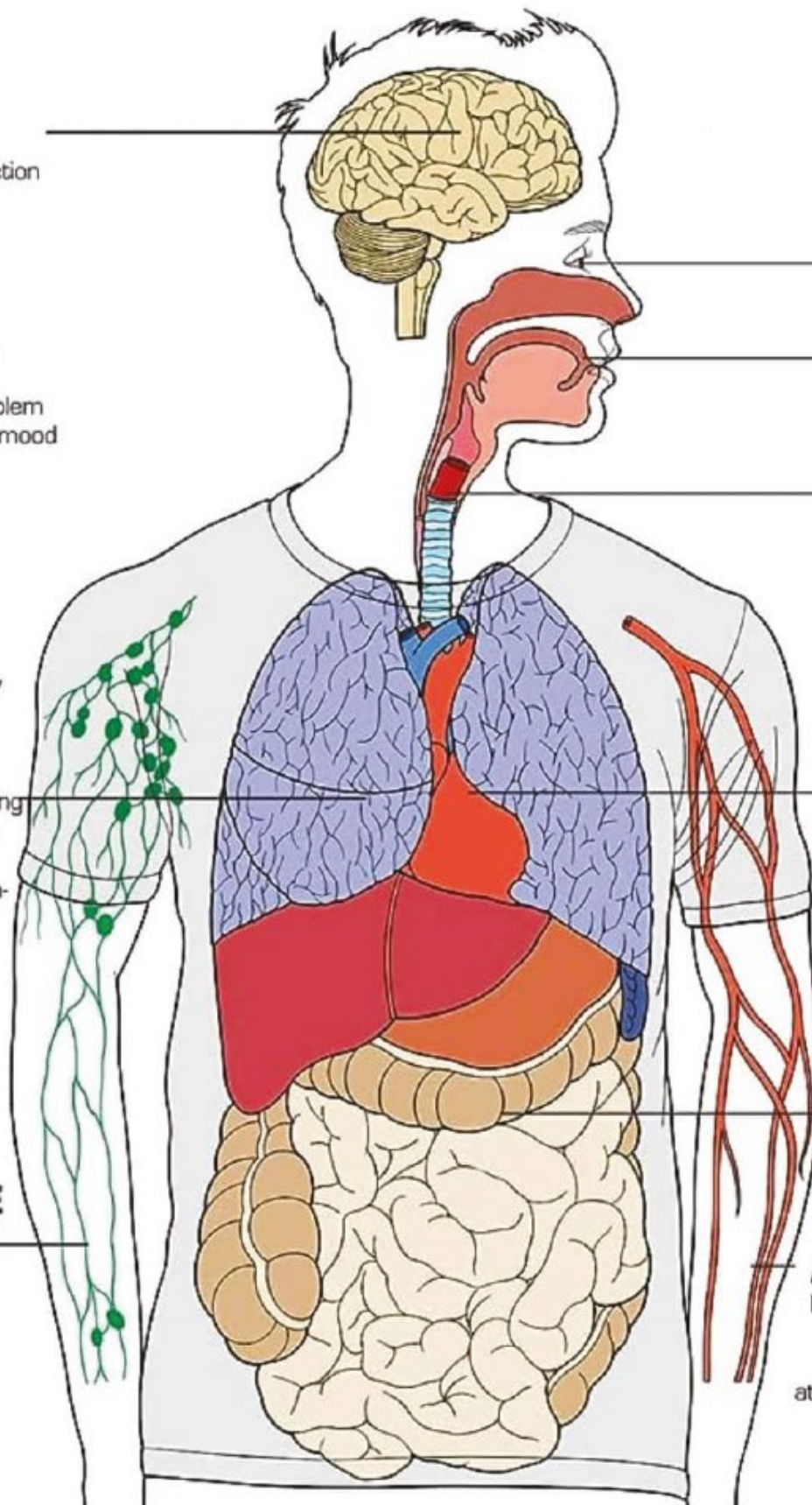
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Abdominal pain

## IMMUNE SYSTEM

- Can harm your immune system increasing your risk of illnesses

## ARTERIES

- Increases blood pressure and risk of heart attack and stroke



## Term dates for 2023-24

Autumn Term, half term 1 2023-24	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Year 7 & 11 attend school
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Years 8,9 & 10 attend school
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Last Day of half term 1
Half Term holiday - Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	
Autumn Term, half term 2 2023-24	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Term starts
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Last Day of half term 2
Christmas Holiday – Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	
Spring Term, half term 3 2023-24	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Half term 3 Starts for all pupils
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Last Day of half term 3
Half Term holiday - Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	
Spring Term, half term 4 2023-24	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Term 4 Starts
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> 2024	Last Day of half term 4 for pupils
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Easter holiday - Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	
Summer Term, half term 5 2023-24	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Term 5 Starts
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Last Day of half term 5
Half Term - Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	
Summer Term Half term 6 2023-24	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Half term 6 Starts
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Last Day of half term 6 & End of school Year

