



"Great works are performed, not by strength but by perseverance"

Newsletter

A Heartfelt Holiday Greeting!

**Welcome
from Headteacher**



As we approach the end of another incredible term at Ysgol Treffynnon, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes during this festive season.

It's been a year filled with hard work, dedication, and countless achievements, and I'm incredibly proud of the progress we've made together.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated students, passionate staff and supportive parents for making Ysgol Treffynnon the school that it is today. Our school community's unwavering commitment to excellence in education continues to inspire and uplift us all.

This festive season, let us remember the importance of compassion, kindness, and togetherness. It is the perfect time to cherish the bonds we share with one another and extend a helping hand to those in need. I encourage you all to take a moment to reflect on the year gone by and to look forward to the opportunities that the future holds.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to our wonderful students who consistently impress us with their hard work, creativity and enthusiasm for learning. Our dedicated teaching and support staff, along with the invaluable support of parents, play a pivotal role in nurturing our student's potential.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with health and prosperity. I look forward to another successful term when we return in January. I hope you enjoy reading about the exciting things that have happened during this last term!

Best Wishes,
John Weir - Headteacher

Open Evening 2023

We started this academic year by welcoming prospective students into the school to find out what we are all about.

More than 140 families attended to gain an insight into every faculty and participate in a host of interactive activities, as well as hearing from our current year 7's about their experiences since joining Ysgol Treffynnon in September. The children who visited from our partner primary schools were an absolute credit to their families, exemplifying the highest standards of politeness and engagement. Their enthusiastic participation in activities and thoughtful conversations with our staff and students significantly enriched the event.





Army Royal Signals inspire Year 11 ICT students



We welcomed two members of The Army Royal Signals into our Year 11 ICT class to shed light on the vast array of ICT roles within the military and to immerse students in a captivating cyber challenge.

Students had the unique opportunity to explore the intricate world of ethical hacking, demonstrating just how easily information about individuals can be accessed, offering a glimpse into the importance of cybersecurity in our technology-driven age.

The Army Royal Signals representatives not only shared valuable insights into the diverse roles within their field but also facilitated a hands-on experience that left the students both informed and thoroughly engaged. The cyber challenge not only tested their skills but also fostered an environment of learning and collaboration. The interactive session not only broadened their understanding of ICT in practical terms but also provided a real-world perspective on the ethical considerations in the realm of hacking.



Democracy in Action

Students from all over Flintshire were invited by Hannah Blythyn MS and Jack Sargeant MS to take part in the 'Democracy in Action Day' held at Deeside Sixth.

Following a warm welcome from the chief executive of Coleg Cambria, Yana Williams, students worked hard in groups to debate the issues important to them. The students created a youth manifesto with issues such as sports and leisure appearing from every school. Ysgol Treffynnon Head-girl Abigail Frost explained that quality work experience is something that could be planned for by the Senedd. Abigail and the YT team made some very sensible suggestions! Carole Green from ITV Cymru News then hosted a question time event where the students enjoyed posing challenging questions to the politicians.



Rotary Club Technology Tournament

Some of our year 9 students competed against other Flintshire schools in this year's Technology Tournament hosted by the local Rotary Club.

Working in teams, students had to design, make and test a gravity powered vehicle capable of travelling up an incline, using limited materials all whilst against the clock.

Despite not winning their age category, students were commended on their team work, creativity and design portfolios by both members of the Rotary Club and apprentices from Airbus who were acting as mentors throughout the day.

Mr Hobbs, who accompanied the students said: 'I'm so proud of how our students conducted themselves today. They showed great ingenuity producing a range of creative ideas and remained resilient throughout the day despite many challenges being thrown their way.'



Curriculum for Wales Information and Consultation Evening

We really enjoyed hosting parents and carers from pupils in Year 7 and 8 as part of our information and consultation evening on the new Curriculum for Wales.

Deputy Headteacher, Helen Franklin gave a presentation on the new curriculum, and it was great to discuss queries and questions on reporting, experiences and other opportunities in school. All departments set up taster activities for families to experience some of the learning opportunities that the children undertake every day.



BBC Bitesize School Tour

We have thoroughly enjoyed hosting BBC bitesize school tour at Ysgol Treffynnon this term.



This event brought together a diverse panel of passionate professionals to share their career experiences with our students.

The event was led by the host, Megan Davies, and featured a panel that included Eleri Griffiths, a BBC staff member, alongside external panellists Sam Beavan from Woodpecker Films and Heather Johnson from Flintshire County Council. Their discussions focused on their respective careers, aiming to showcase the multitude of options available to our pupils.

One of the highlights of the day was the opportunity for students to engage directly with the panellists, asking them thought-provoking questions about their career journeys. This interactive element allowed our students to gain deeper insights into the world of work and the various career paths they might consider.

The BBC Bitesize Schools Tour was not only an enriching experience but also a vital contribution to our school's career provision. It provided our students with the chance to connect with local employers, opening doors to future opportunities.



Trip to AMRC Cymru

26 Ysgol Treffynnon Year 8 students joined schools from across North Wales at AMRC Cymru for an event celebrating North Wales Engineering, Manufacturing and Energy.

Organised by Deeside Business Forum, students were able to interact with local employers including TATA Steel, Toyota and Airbus, taking part in fun challenges, handling exhibits and hearing about opportunities for careers and further study. Students also heard from AMRC's own engineers who showcased their robotic, virtual reality and 3D printing technology. AMRC is the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and is part of the University of Sheffield.

Students also left topping the leader board of a Toyota challenge!



Choose Life Workshop sheds light on Drug Danger



Year 9 students took part in this powerful workshop delivered by Choose Life, a remarkable organisation that leverages the first-hand experiences of recovered drug users to educate young people on the dangers of class A drugs.

The recovered addicts who work with Choose Life take the stage, sharing their harrowing and emotional journeys through addiction. They recount the series of events that led them down the treacherous road to substance abuse. These personal testimonies offer an invaluable insight into the raw and forceful reality of addiction, a perspective that cannot be acquired through traditional means. The session was an eye-opening opportunity for our students to engage with individuals who had once walked a perilous path but emerged as survivors, committed to making a difference in the lives of young people.

The workshop left an indelible mark on our Year 9 students. It offered them a glimpse into the consequences of poor decisions, but more importantly, it empowered them with the knowledge and awareness needed to resist the lure of substance abuse. By humanising the issue through personal stories, Choose Life made a lasting impression on the young minds in our school.



Empowering Students with Life Saving Skills – Restart a Heart 2023



Restart a Heart Day seeks to emphasise that the early moments following a cardiac arrest are critical and that a trained bystander can make a life-saving difference.

By promoting education and training in CPR, this event plays a pivotal role in enhancing the chances of survival for those experiencing heart-related emergencies.

At Ysgol Treffynnon, 92 Year 7 pupils had the unique opportunity to gain invaluable insights into the significance of CPR and defibrillators. The event was organised with great enthusiasm, with the presence of Sandra Silcock from the Welsh Ambulance Service, alongside Mrs. V. Bond, who led the engaging sessions for our Year 7 students.

Throughout the day, the students were educated about the essential components of CPR, including recognising the signs of cardiac arrest, ensuring personal safety, summoning professional help, administering CPR, and comprehending the life-saving significance of defibrillators. The students actively participated in hands-on sessions that exposed them to real-life scenarios, teaching them how to act independently or collaboratively to save lives.





Insightful PSE session for Year 8



In a bid to prioritise the mental health and emotional wellbeing of students, Year 8 at Ysgol Treffynnon participated in a comprehensive Personal and Social Education (PSE) session facilitated by the Wrexham and Flintshire Inspire Service.

The engaging session aimed to equip students with valuable tools and insights to navigate the complexities of emotional wellbeing.

The session, saw students immersed in interactive activities and discussions designed to foster self-awareness and emotional intelligence. The Wrexham and Flintshire Inspire Service, renowned for its expertise in mental health and wellbeing, brought a curriculum tailored to the specific needs of Year 8 students.

One of the key focal points of the session was to encourage an open dialogue about emotions, enabling students to express themselves in a safe and supportive environment. Through a series of thought-provoking exercises, students explored various aspects of emotional wellbeing, including stress management, coping mechanisms, and the importance of seeking help.

Students Blaze towards fire safety

In an effort to promote safety awareness and equip themselves with valuable life skills, a group of Year 11 students recently participated in a Level 2 Fire Safety Course delivered by safety expert Sharon Stubbs from Dream safety.

The culmination of this course will see these students emerge as qualified fire marshals.

One of the highlights of the course involved hands-on experience with various fire extinguishers, as the students gathered in the school car park to put their newfound knowledge into practice. Under the expert guidance of Sharon Stubbs, they learned which types of extinguishers are effective for different types of fires. The practical demonstration not only enhanced their understanding but also allowed them to develop the skills necessary to handle fire emergencies effectively.

Multi-generational Community Event

Ysgol Treffynnon, in partnership with Friends of Holway, Community Focused Schools, and the Community Development Team, organised a heart-warming community event.

The event not only brought the community closer but also allowed students to develop new skills and engage with members of the local community.

The event was graced by four dedicated pupils from Ysgol Treffynnon - Evie, Maja, Ffion, and Alice. These young individuals played an integral role in the success of the event by assisting with various activities, showcasing their commitment to the community.

This event underscored the importance of community engagement and collaboration between educational institutions, community organisations, and local businesses. By working together, the team were able to create a sense of togetherness and belonging within the Holway community.

Mary Jones, Deputy Headteacher from Ysgol Treffynnon shared her gratitude, stating, "We are overwhelmed by the tremendous support and cooperation we received from the community. It's heartening to see how we can come together and create a positive impact. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, and everyone who made this event a resounding success."



Royal Institute wows students with explosive science shows

In an electrifying event, the Royal Institute of Great Britain (Ri) brought the magic of science to life for the year 7 and 8 pupils here at Ysgol Treffynnon.

The Science in Schools show, a hallmark of the Ri, is designed to provide a break from the ordinary school routine and offer children a captivating introduction to the power of science.

The shows were not short of excitement, with every moment filled with experiments, explosions, and hands-on participation by our enthusiastic students. The focus was on exploring energy, energy changes, and the conservation of energy, making complex scientific concepts accessible and entertaining for our students in attendance.



Ysgol Treffynnon triumph in Engineering Team Challenge at Coleg Cambria



In a display of creativity and engineering prowess, a group of Year 10 students showcased their talents at the Engineering Team Challenge hosted by the Engineering Centre for North and Mid Wales at Coleg Cambria.

The competition brought together students from various Flintshire schools and colleges, challenging them to design, construct, and operate a model of a hand-powered generator capable of registering and sustaining voltage for at least ten seconds. The event aimed to foster teamwork, innovation, and problem-solving skills among budding engineers.

The Ysgol Treffynnon team, composed of Neve Richards, Louie Doleman, and Hayden Flint, emerged victorious, claiming the top spot in the competition.

A second Ysgol Treffynnon team, comprised of Callum Ready, Braydon Bryan, Ben Davies, and Alfie Owens, also demonstrated exceptional skill, securing the second position in the challenge. The outstanding performance of both teams reflected the dedication and talent of the Ysgol Treffynnon students.

The Engineering Team Challenge not only showcased the promising talent within Ysgol Treffynnon but also emphasised the importance of hands-on experiences and collaborative learning in the field of engineering. The school's success in the competition serves as a testament to the dedication of both students and teachers in fostering a passion for engineering and preparing the next generation of innovators.



School Collaboration on Forest School Project

Ysgol Treffynnon has joined forces with the Flintshire Youth Participation Service to launch an exciting Forest School Project for a group of our Year 8 pupils.

The program aims to provide students with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in an outdoor learning environment, fostering a range of skills and promoting personal development.

The Forest School Project offers students the chance to learn and develop a variety of skills within picturesque natural surroundings. Activities include everything from building campfires to mastering the art of cooking lunch in the great outdoors.

Beyond the acquisition of practical skills, the project places a strong emphasis on relationship building and the development of self-confidence. Participants are encouraged to collaborate, problem-solve, and engage in activities that challenge them to step out of their comfort zones.



GCSE Preparation

Learning Performance have been in school carrying out sessions with Year 10 and 11 helping them prepare for GCSE examinations.

This was followed by an evening session where parents and carers joined students in an event designed to foster creative and effective learning strategies. Participants were treated to a wealth of knowledge, including practical tips, smart revision techniques and creative strategies such as memory techniques.



It's Christmas time ...

Students spread creativity at Christmas Fair

Students showcased their creativity and community spirit at the recent Christmas fair organised by Friends of Holway. The school stall featured an array of handmade items, including hot chocolate, sweet cones, reindeer food and wooden baubles all crafted by the talented students themselves. Adding to the festive atmosphere, the school choir entertained visitors with a fantastic performance of festive songs. Yet another event highlighting the importance of community engagement and collaboration.

Intergenerational activities in the Holway Christmas Dinner

Students and volunteers, gathered at the Holway Community Centre to prepare and serve a festive Christmas dinner for members of the community. The event not only provided a delicious meal but also created a wonderful opportunity for meaningful interactions between the younger generation and local residents. Adding a musical touch to the celebration, the junior choir from Ysgol Treffynnon joined the event, filling the air with the sounds of festive songs. The presence of the choir not only enhanced the festive atmosphere but also showcased the talent and enthusiasm of the young students.



Students decorate Holywell Town Council Christmas Tree

Students have dedicated time in their art classes to produce some lovely decorations inspired by renowned artists that they have been learning about in school. With over 100 beautiful decorations in hand, the students transformed the tree into a radiant display of colour and creativity.



Choir performs at Holywell Town Christmas Light Switch on

Our wonderful junior choir, under the direction of their talented music teacher, took their places on the stage to entertain the crowds at the Christmas Light Switch on in Holywell town centre.



Christmas Concert

From soulful renditions of classic Christmas carols to upbeat and energetic instrumentals, the evening unfolded as a celebration of musical diversity. The solo performances showcased the unique voices and instrumental skills of the students, leaving the audience in awe of their individual talents.

One of the highlights of the evening was the performance by the Junior choir, whose harmonious voices echoed through the church, spreading joy and warmth.

Parents, teachers, and community members alike were moved by the magical atmosphere created by the students. The Christmas Concert served not only as a showcase of talent but also as a reminder of the importance of music in bringing people together and spreading joy during the festive season.

E Praise Leader board

Our students work hard to earn valuable praise points linked to developing their integral skills.

They can exchange points for rewards in our online shop. Here is the form group leader board for this academic year.

No	Form Group	E-Praise Points
1	LLYWELYN	2391
2	GWENLLIAN	2292
3	SIWAN	2092
4	IDWAL	1760

A huge well done to Llywelyn!

Merry Christmas!

Key Dates Next Term

- 8th January** – Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils
- 9th January** – Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils
- 15th January** – Year 11 Parents Evening
- 12th – 16th February** – February Half Term – School closed to pupils
- 19th February** – Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils
- 26th February** – Year 8 Parents Evening
- 18th March** – Year 7 Parents Evening

