



## Nadolig Llawn!

We had a great time celebrating Christmas at Garth Olwg this year with various activities including trips to the theatre, shopping, cinema, concerts and Winter Wonderland.



## Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all the pupils for joining in the fun wearing their Christmas jumpers and contributing to the school's charities. The jumpers were great again this year!



## '& Juliet' London Theatre Trip

Pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 went on a trip to London organised by the Music department in order to watch & Juliet. We left school at 7:00 am and travelled by Edwards coach to London and we were all very excited. Time flew by and before we knew it we could see Big Ben, the House of Commons and the skyscrapers of London on the horizon ... we had arrived England's capital. Firstly, we went to Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park. We browsed the different stalls, ate food, tasted sweet Christmas snacks from all over the world and rode the roller coasters.

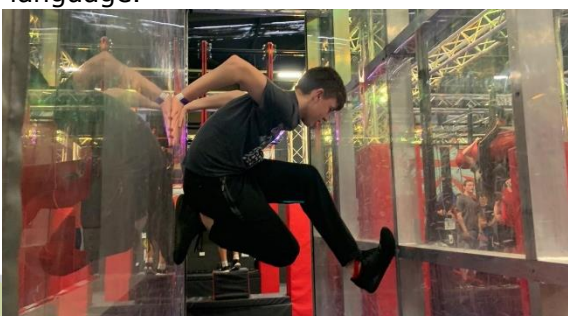


Then it was time for the show! The Shaftesbury Theatre was beautiful – full of crystal chandeliers and fine art. We were led to our seats and the curtain went up. Spoiler! - Romeo died but Juliet did not. The storyline developed as Juliet made her choices – find a new partner? Travel the world? The show was fun, funny and full of catchy songs. It's certainly a show worth seeing! With the songs stuck in our heads, we headed back to the bus and left London at 5:30 pm. It was a long journey back on the motorway but we were still laughing and smiling and talking about the show. It was a day to remember!



## Ninja Warrior UK

We had a lot of fun at Ninja Warrior UK in Cardiff for the Welsh reward trip for Years 9-11. Everyone was smiling whilst jumping over the obstacles. It was a great trip to celebrate the pupils who have shown pride towards the language.



## Year 12 and 13 Trip

Senior School pupils had a great time at Winter Wonderland in Cardiff and it was a fun way to relax at the end of the term.

## Year 7 and 8 Trip

On the last Tuesday of term, Year 7 and 8 pupils went on trips to celebrate Christmas and the end of a busy term. Everyone enjoyed watching a Christmas film in the morning and in the afternoon Year 8 went to ten pin bowling and Year 7 went to Cardiff. It was great to spend time with friends and to enjoy each other's company before the Christmas holidays.



## Year 5 and 6 Trip

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, pupils from years 5 and 6 went on a special trip to Winter Wonderland in Cardiff city centre. The pupils enjoyed ice-skating in the gardens of Cardiff Castle, seeing the Alice exhibition, buying delicious food and sweets and riding the rides in the fair. Everyone was smiling from ear to ear especially after watching Mr. Welsby's ice skating performance.



### Year 9, 10, 11 Trip

Pupils from years 9, 10 and 11 had fun on their trips to McArthur Glen, Cardiff and to the cinema in Nantgarw at the end of term. It was a fantastic opportunity to get a break from the school after a busy term.



### Carol and Song Celebration

After the disappointment of cancelling the Carol and Song Celebration, we decided to record the concert. You can watch it virtually by clicking [here](#).



### Institut Français

Due to COVID, the International Languages department has been unable to organise its usual trips to France for quite some time. So, in order to be able to experience some French culture, the GCSE and A Level classes went on a trip to the *Institut Français* on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. After leaving the school, we travelled to London with a pit stop for breakfast on the way. We arrived at the *Institut Français* at 10:30 for a day of activities. Firstly, we spent some time in the library using the resources to answer questions about the influence of immigrants and immigration on French culture. We all agreed that the influence has been incredibly positive. After lunch, we watched a film called *Fahim*. The film tells the tale of a young boy that flees from Bangladesh to France with his father to avoid persecution. In France, he hones his chess skills and participates in competitions. In the background, his father feverishly tries to secure the right for them to stay in France. It was a striking and emotional film with a few tears shed in the audience. At the end of the day, we had the opportunity to visit Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park. It was great to relax at the end of a busy term of hard work. The rides were fun and we tasted some sweet snacks including *churros* and waffles. It was a day to remember and we will certainly be visiting the *Institut Français* again in the future. *Joyeux Noël* from all of us in the International Languages department.





Woodland Walk in Efail Isaf. The pupils were over the moon and they are even more excited for Christmas by now!

### Carol Singing

On Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, pupils from years 7-12 and teachers went to spread some Christmas cheer by singing carols outside Garth Olwg care home. A great afternoon was had by all!

### Santa Claus

The Reception and Nursery classes had a very special experience of meeting Santa Claus and his elves in the



### Museum – ‘A long time ago’

As we are coming to the end of this term’s theme ‘A long time ago’, it was great to welcome a number of parents to the school to see the displays in the form of a museum of the pupils’ fantastic work. Years 3 and 4 showed an exhibition of their work about the history of the Second World War.

### Salem Chapel

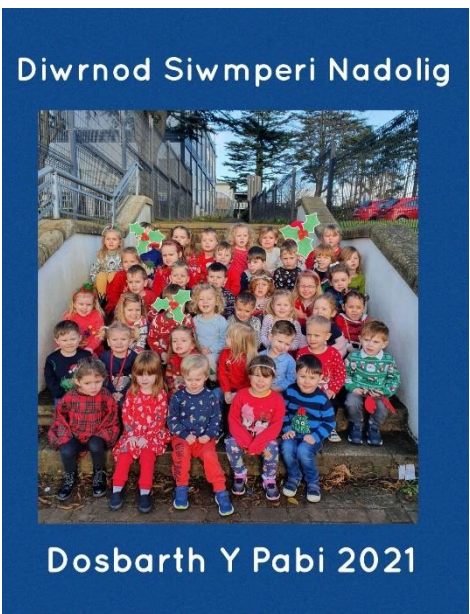
Recently, Years 1 and 2 went down to Salem Chapel in Tonteg

for an interesting session doing Christmas crafts. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Diolch!



### Virtual Christmas show and singing on the yard

Over the past few weeks, the pupils have been very busy preparing for their virtual Christmas show. In addition to this, the parents had the pleasure of seeing the pupils perform Christmas carols outside the classrooms during a dry morning last week. Well done children! You were all great!



Diwrnod Siwmperi Nadolig

Dosbarth Y Pabi 2021

## Food Bank

Thank you to staff and pupils for donating food for the Christmas hampers for the local food bank. Thousands of items were donated and they will be distributed to local families by the Food Bank.



## The Addams Family

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, I had the pleasure of watching The Addams Family – a dark, funny and fun musical. The show started with a fabulous opening number that introduced us to the whole Addams clan. The song gave us an insight into the 'deadly' nature of the show with many cheesy jokes about danger and death – it really is a show suitable for all ages. Unexpectedly, love was an important theme in the show with each character having a different perspective and storyline. Although the plot was nothing to write home about, the cast was amazing and the show was worth watching.



The cast included Joanne Clifton of Strictly Come Dancing Fame as Morticia Addams. The role of Gomez Addams was once again played by Cameron Blakely. There was fantastic chemistry between the two with plenty of passion, love and a strong bond. It's hard to believe they're not really a couple! The character of Lurch (played by Dickon Gough) provided some much-needed comic relief with his slow walking and constant grunting. The role was simple but effective. The highlight of the show had to be Kingsley Morton's voice. She belted the song 'One Normal Night' in the role of Wednesday Addams. She was note perfect leaving the audience speechless. So, if you're a fan of musical theatre and are looking for a show full of humour and fantastic vocal performances, this is the show for you! Bethan Lloyd, Year 13.

## Teaching Welsh as a Second Language at Aberdare Park Primary



Year 10 pupils visited Aberdare Park Primary in November to offer Welsh activities on the book Mam-gu Morgan as well as vocabulary games with Year 2 pupils. We are looking forward to visiting again in March.

Garth Olwg's Year 3 and 4 pupils have made new pen pal friends with Year 3 and 4 pupils from the school as well. The pupils enjoy receiving letters from their new friends.

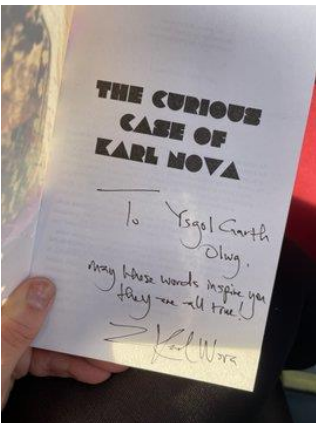


### Samba Workshop

On Friday the 19th of November, a Samba workshop was held by Mr Mark Galozzi-Hibbert for Year 9 pupils. Pupils enjoyed learning about the music as part of the Music of the World theme.



### Hay on Wye Festival



The trip to the Hay-on-Wye Festival was great because I had the chance to buy books and listen to different authors. We saw Karl Nova who was great and it was an inspiration to hear how he created his book. We also got his signature. It was a great day and thank you to the English department for organising. By Annie Chalk, Year 9.

### Siarter Iaith Competition

We have launched a competition to encourage people to speak Welsh at local businesses. Use your Welsh in shops around the school!



### Year 6 Transition Day – Expressive Arts – Garth’s Arts



On Thursday 2nd of December, Year 6 pupils from our partnership primary schools spent the day with the Expressive Arts teachers. They used the day to have a taster session in the Art, Music, Drama and Design & Technology departments. The pupils were busy making Christmas hats during the textiles session. During the art session, they had the opportunity to create prints for their Christmas cards and they experimented

with rhythm in the music session. They even had a chance to perform in the spotlight in drama! The day was a huge success. The pupils showed great pride in their work after rising to the challenge. We as Expressive Arts teachers are looking forward to welcoming them back again soon.





## Haf Weighton Workshop

As I study both Art and Photography, I had the opportunity of taking part in a workshop led by the artist Haf Weighton. Haf is renowned for her work with textiles and her work has been displayed in exhibitions around the world including the local area and also London and even Rome! I really enjoyed seeing how Haf showed us how she layers her work by placing images on fabrics. We experimented with different techniques and we succeeded in creating a postcard on a piece of material. Haf explained that we were participating in a project with Cwm Taf University Health Board, the Royal Mint and Coleg y Cymoedd. The aim is to work together to create a visual and creative exhibition to promote the Welsh language. We look forward to inviting Haf to work with us again in January to finish creating our pieces for the exhibition. Seren Chicken, Year 12



## Black History Month

November saw the opportunity to celebrate Black History month and focus on the contributions of the BAME community across all areas of learning and experience. Betty Campbell's sculpture sparked morning discussions in registration about curriculum changes, the importance of the month itself and the importance of discussing and raising awareness about the contributions of those who have previously been hidden from history.



This also provided a focus for the Humanities monthly project (which is available on the departmental website) and a focus for the Humanities club to work on creative tasks to celebrate the month. Each year had the special experience of listening to Marcelle Dos Santos talking about her experiences with pupils and the school's Equality Committee. The month focused on discussions that would continue in Ethics and Humanities lessons and ensure that the discussion does not come to end but provides focus for our curriculum.

## Year 7 Trip to the Sherman Theatre

60 year 7 pupils journeyed through time to attend a production of A Christmas Carol at the Sherman theatre on the ninth of December. It was an incredibly fun experience and reinforced pupils' prior knowledge of the characterisation of Scrooge from their English lessons. Seeing a woman play Scrooge was fascinating and led to detailed discussions about stereotyping in literature. The set was very effective and the acting was great. The Ghost of Christmas Present was hilarious and encouraged the audience to dance and sing! English and Welsh songs were sung and the nods to Welsh tradition, such as y Fari Lwyd, were appreciated. What a wonderful trip. It was brilliant to back in the theatre!



Half Term Dates	Start	Finish
3 (Spring 2022)	<b>06/01/2022</b>	18/02/2022
4 (Spring 2022)	28/02/2022	08/04/2022
5 (Summer 2022)	25/04/2022	27/05/2022
6 ( Summer 2022)	06/06/2022	22/07/2022



## Cardiff University Masterclass Project with A Level History Pupils

This week my history class and I went on a trip to the National Welsh Library in Aberystwyth. We were greeted by Dr Marion Loeffler, a Reader in Welsh History from Cardiff University. I am certain that this experience with a University Reader was extremely beneficial for me. It provided me with an insight into the type of work that is completed at University and enabled me to strengthen my ability to thoroughly analyse primary sources, which will be a crucial skill for me whilst at university. During this project we learned about the History of Wales and focused on a riot that took place in Merthyr Tydfil in 1800 due to famine. I particularly enjoyed this experience as I was able to apply my own knowledge of the French Revolution. The French Revolution was a major contributor to the industrial revolution in Wales and therefore the information we learned intertwined with much of the content from my history A Level course. My prior knowledge on the subject made the experience significantly more enjoyable. At the library I also was provided with the opportunity to present my ideas and annotations to the rest of the room. Not only did this project provide me with analysing skills but it also enabled me to hone my communication and presentation skills that will be very crucial for me in my future career. During my time at Aberystwyth we were given free food at the Library and time to look around the gift shop. We also walked down the the town and were able to explore the shops and cafes with my friends. Despite the torrential rain and storm Barra this was a really educational, beneficial and a fun experience that I would happily do all over again! By Phoebe Colson, Year 13



## Wales Youth Parliament

Hello, my name is Ffion Fairclough, I'm 16 years old and I have been chosen to represent Pontypridd in the Youth Parliament. This area means the world to me but I believe that we, the young people of Pontypridd, deserve better. In this area, over a quarter of children and young people live in poverty. The number of people who are suffering with their health is higher than the rest of Wales on average and many pupils leave school without any qualifications. But, there is nothing in our DNA that says that we have to be poorer, more ill or have fewer opportunities than anybody else. This area is a fantastic place to live but it needs more support to give a better future to young people. I am looking forward to take on this role to discuss and try to resolve some of the issues that we are facing such as lowering the cost of public transport so that we do not need to pay £7.70 for a return train ticket to Cardiff. They want to tackle climate change by encouraging public transport, but why is anyone going to do this when it is so expensive? I will also be focusing on supporting young people who have additional learning needs and provide more opportunities as well as equal opportunities to everyone who lives in the valleys.



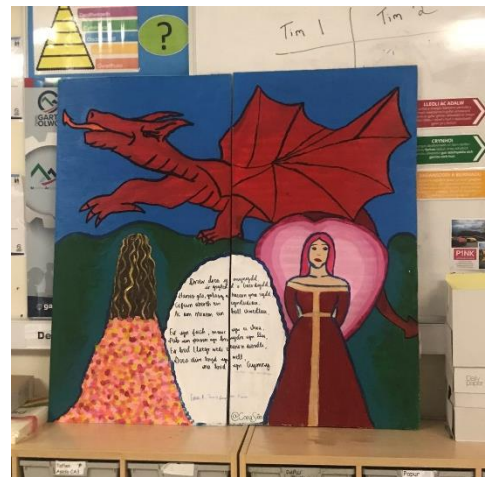
INSET Days
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022





## Mural Workshop

Thank you to Siôn Owen for holding a mural workshop with a group of Year 11 pupils. Some of the pupils were working on writing a poem for the mural whilst the others were busy designing and painting. The end product is great and we look forward to seeing it on the wall in the Welsh Department.



## Geography Visit

In October, pupils from Year 13 who are studying Geography went on many fieldwork visits for their individual investigation. Each pupil had chosen a different theme so we went down to Merthyr Mawr sand dunes and Southerndown beach on the first day. The weather was lovely on both days but a little windy. Everyone enjoyed the 'Big Dipper' and



a few people got their feet wet on our trip to Southerndown! On our second day we did woodland work in Ty'n y Coed forest where we were lost! We got did manage to find our way to Cathays in the afternoon to question students and we went to Cardiff Bay to study deprivation. Both days were very beneficial for the pupils who are now busy writing their individual investigation.



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## Sporting Success

Congratulations to the girls Year 7 and 8 netball team for coming 2nd in the Urdd Netball Plate Competition after losing 6-5 to Glantaf in the final!



Congratulations to Kara Bennett, Year 10, for winning the Newport Family Race.

Congratulations to pupils from Years 10 and 11 who were a part of the team who were in the final for the Blues region in November.



Megan Bowen has recently been chosen as Barri FC temporary captain. Megan led the team to victory against Pontypridd for the last game of term winning 3-0!

Abigail Potheroe and Lily Prygodzicz recently competed in the British Championship and European Championship as part of an 8-pair and 4-pair formation team in Blackpool and Stoke. The team went on to win the crown in both Latin American dance competitions for the second time! Congratulations!



Congratulations to Kacey Peck and Ruby Neale for their recent success in dancing. Kacey won a European competition with her dance titled 'Adam and Eve'. Both came second in the under 14 competition with their dance 'Be Kind'. The team also won the British championship with 'Adam and Eve' and came third with the 'Be Kind' dance.

Congratulations to the boys in Year 9 for winning their rugby caps playing for RCT.

