

Foreword by the Headmaster

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during this term. We are continuing to enjoy our journey as a 3-19 School and, as COVID-19 restrictions have now been lifted, it has been a joy to see pupils of all ages interacting with each other across the school. As your proud Headteacher, observing this has been a source of great satisfaction. It has been a very busy term with the pupils enjoying a number of notable successes and experiences as you can see in this newsletter. I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We very much look forward to continuing to work together as one community in the New Year.

Nôl i'r 80au

What an amazing experience it was to be part of the Nôl i'r 80au show at Garth Olwg. It has been a privilege to be able to perform for four nights to a full audience. Garth Olwg Theatre was packed as we performed the first musical show for four years. The show is exciting, full of buzz and humour and it has been an unforgettable experience working together, acting, dancing and singing with the Middle, Upper and Senior School. There is no doubt that my favourite song was 'O dyma deimlad'. It's an energetic song that makes everyone smile and it spreads enthusiasm and excitement to the audience. I would like to thank all the staff who were responsible for this production. It's been an amazing experience, thank you very much for the opportunity, and I'm really looking forward to the next show! Greta Hall Williams Yr.12



Term dates	Start	Finish
1 (Autumn 2022)	05/09/2022	28/10/2022
2 (Autumn 2022)	07/11/2022	23/12/2022
3 (Spring 2023)	09/01/2023	17/02/2023
4 (Spring 2023)	27/02/2023	31/03/2023
5 (Summer 2023)	17/04/2023	26/05/2023
6 (Summer 2023)	05/06/2023	24/07/2023



Cymoedd Eisteddfod

The Lower and Middle School choir and the Year 10 vocal ensemble competed in the Cymoedd Eisteddfod. Congratulations to both groups for their fantastic performances and to the vocal ensemble for coming 2nd place.



Plantasia Trip

At the beginning of the term, year 3 and 4 pupils had a special opportunity to visit Plantasia in Swansea as inspiration for our theme - Cynefin. The children were delighted to meet all the animals and learn a lot about their lives too.



Marged a'r Deinasor

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to Loreen Williams for visiting the Year 1 and 2 children this term. We have been reading and doing activities on the story of 'Marged a'r Deinasor' over the past few weeks and it was great to welcome the author of the story to the school. Thanks Loreen.



Police visit

One morning there was great excitement in the Ysgol Isaf when two police cars and two policemen came to the school. The pupils had the experience of sitting in the car and seeing how the blue light worked and learning a little about this important job. The children asked very mature questions and the behaviour of everyone was excellent.





Christmas Cheer

We had fun again this year celebrating Christmas with a delicious lunch - thanks to the canteen staff! The Christmas jumper competition was a fiery one this year and congratulations to Greta Williams, Ethan Forkin, Gethin Downes, Taliesin Thomas and Luke Raison for winning.



Thank you to the staff and pupils for their generosity with the donations to the Food Bank. Families in the area will appreciate the food.

Nothing says end of term like school trips to celebrate the pupils' achievements and efforts. The Lower School pupils enjoyed visiting Siôn Corn and Woodland Walk. The Middle School pupils all had a day in Winter Wonderland in Cardiff. They had the opportunity to ice skate before tackling the rides in the fairground. Year 9 and 10 pupils went to Infinity trampoline centre in Cardiff - they had a good time but were very tired after all the jumping. Year 11 pupils and the Senior School had shopping trips to Cardiff. What a lovely way to end a year full of hard work!



Visitors from Norway

It was a pleasure to welcome Tegwen Ellis, Chief Executive of The National Leadership Academy and a delegation from Norway to the school. The visit focused on 3-19 education as well as the Curriculum for Wales and the new ALN code of practice. The headteacher presented gifts and members of the delegation were very happy with their Welsh bucket hats!



A trip to London

On Thursday the 15th of December, the History and Religious Education departments went on a trip to London. We were all sleepy as we had to leave the school at 5:30 am! But we soon perked up after a nap on the bus and a hot chocolate in the services. The first stop for the RE class was the Buddhist temple in Chiswick. It was a privilege to meet the monks and learn about their work, traditions and beliefs. As well as meeting us and answering all our questions, they served us a delicious lunch and it was a truly unforgettable experience. At the same time, the History class went to the Churchill War Rooms. It was fascinating to see where the government worked while bombs were falling from above. It's difficult to imagine how dark and dank the conditions were. Following this, we met up together for lunch at Covent Gardens. After lunch, we learnt more about the Second World War in the Imperial War Museum. The exhibition on the Holocaust was especially moving and it was humble to remember the atrocities. To finish the day, we went to Winter Wonderland. Hyde Park was a feast of flashing lights and Christmas songs. We had a fabulous time screaming on the rides and stuffing our faces with delicious crêpes. It was certainly a day to remember – thanks Miss. Higgins.



Cardiff University Mentoring

At the start of November, a mentor from Cardiff University came to work with year 8. The aim of the sessions was to encourage pupils to think about the importance of languages and to encourage them to continue to study French and other languages in the future. The mentor came from China and she had a special interest in K Pop. The pupils really enjoyed learning about other cultures and many of them are now seriously thinking about continuing with their French studies in year 9. They are looking forward to the second session in the new year.



Seren Establishment

The Seren Foundation is an aspirational programme for learners in years 8 to 11 at state schools across Wales, that supports the development of valuable skills and academic ability at GCSE level. It is a pathway to the Seren Academy, which is available to year 12 and 13 students.

The Seren Star Challenge was introduced in 2021 where the Seren Foundation Network teamed up with OpenLearn to introduce interesting courses on a variety of topics. We are very proud of two of our year 12 pupils who completed The OpenLearn Olympiad over the Summer. Both Morgan Davies and Catrin England are two of the few learners in Wales who achieved the Platinum Award (the highest award possible) having completed over 65 hours of study. We wish to congratulate you both on your achievement. In their words:



Morgan: The OpenLearn Olympiad gave me the opportunity to learn new skills as well as to reinforce GCSE skills such as French grammar and music theory. I studied a wide range of subjects as part of the challenge and will encourage others to take part.

Catrin: Completing the Foundation Star award was a great opportunity for me to learn and read about subjects that I am very interested in. I studied everything from child psychology to understanding economic inequality. Completing this challenge also helped me decide which subjects I am interested in when choosing A level subjects and beyond. Getting access to courses of this quality was a fun challenge for me after completing my GCSE exams especially as I had a long Summer break to complete it. This was an interesting and valuable experience, full of new information outside the usual school curriculum.



We would also like to congratulate Catrin on being accepted on the Lucy Cavendish College (Cambridge) Academic Enrichment Programme 2022/23. This is a new experience for a Garth Olwg pupil and Catrin is a true trailblazer!

Transition Evening Year 5 & 6

We had a lovely evening welcoming year 6 to the school and their parents during our first transition evening of the year. The pupils enjoyed getting a taste of lessons and an opportunity in the evening to see part of the school's musical and also visit the Physical Education and Science Departments. It was nice to start the transition journey!



Head Pupils

Congratulations to Abigail Protheroe, Beca Roberts, Ffion Fairclough and Gethin Rosie-Jones for being successful in the contest for Head Pupils for 2022-2023.





Senedd Ysgol Garth Olwg

Meeting with local councillors from RCT

We had the pleasure of welcoming the Director of Education and Inclusion Gaynor Davies and Councillor Rhys Lewis to attend a Senedd meeting in November. It was an excellent opportunity for pupils to meet with key individuals in the educational sector of RCT and to hear of all the invaluable experiences that are available for young people in the local community. We discussed many ideas about how we could improve school life for pupils of all ages. We would like to thank Gaynor Davies and Rhys Lewis tremendously for their company.



A visit to the Welsh Parliament in Cardiff Bay

Visiting the Welsh Parliament in Cardiff Bay was a valuable experience for our school Senedd. We had the opportunity to talk with Heledd Fychan, an Assembly Member representing Plaid Cymru and Pontypridd. It was an educational experience where we learnt about the history of Cardiff Bay, information about the Welsh Parliament and how Wales is governed. We had the experience of discussing and voting in the Tŷ Hywel chamber where we voted on an important school matter at the end. As pupils, this has inspired and influenced our future. We look forward to using this experience to develop the success of Senedd Garth Olwg.



Children In Need



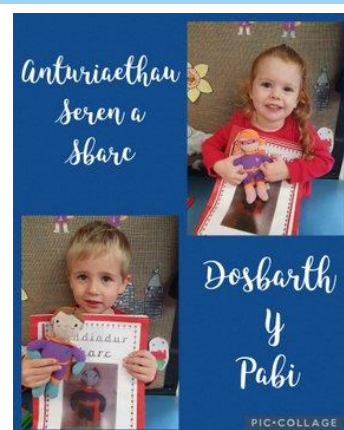
This was our first opportunity as Senedd Garth Olwg to organise activities from the Lower to the Senior School to raise money for charity. We had so much fun organising and taking part in these activities and having the opportunity to work as one school. On the day, we wore our own clothes and had a variety of stands with the opportunity to win many prizes! The total amount raised was £1872.42! Thank you to everyone in the school that contributed to this important cause.



Ysgol Garth Olwg Forums

In October, we visited St Davids to plan what we could do to encourage the Welsh language across the school. Additionally, for Shwmau Sumae we held a number of thrilling activities such as a Kahoot quiz, disco, whole school challenges and an idiom competition. Also, to celebrate Wales' success in reaching the World Cup, we organised a number of activities to further encourage the use of the Welsh language. A few weeks ago, we held a Welsh disco for pupils in the Lower School. Pupils were thrilled to be dancing with their friends to Welsh music. It was certainly an evening to remember! Follow this link to watch the [video](#).





The Equality Forum has been busy over the last half term raising the profile of many important issues. The Forum used Wales' World Cup game against Iran as an opportunity to celebrate pride in the LGBTQ+ community in the school and to raise money for Stonewall. We sold badges, bands and face paint to showcase our support for the cause. The Forum has also held a day celebrating cultures by tasting delicious food from every part of the world.



As a forum, we have voted for our chosen charities to support. These include Road Safety Week, Children's Mental Health Week, Random Acts of Kindness, Healthy Eating Week and National Walking Month. We have also collaborated with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board on their Children's Charter. We supported them with their marketing strategies and voted on what makes us happy both physically and mentally.



The Eco Forum has been busy planning for the year ahead. As a Forum, we would like to have more water fountains and promote the use of reusable bottles. We have also been busy collecting rubbish on the school grounds and improving the school garden. We would also like to promote the recycling of school uniform in order to help with the cost of living crisis.



Black History Month

During November there was an opportunity to celebrate Black History Month by giving focus to the contributions of many black people across the curriculum. The Welsh Government's commitment to act on an Anti-Racist scheme in schools and society is essential to trigger important and valuable discussions. An opportunity was given to reinforce messages and discussions that take place in lessons during November and to raise awareness towards some progressive and dynamic celebrities in the different subjects we study. As well as celebrating positive contributions, there was the opportunity to discuss injustice when looking at the stories of the 'Cardiff Five' and Mahmood Mattan as part of the school's Llais 21 efforts. This was reinforced with Marcelle Dos Santos' workshop with the Middle School discussing the Demerara Rebellion and the Equality Committee benefited enormously from sharing and discussing plans for the rest of the year with Marcelle to ensure that the conversation continues. We are very grateful for Marcelle's contribution and input to the school and for sharing her experiences. We look forward to welcoming Marcelle back in January to focus on Welsh Slavery Abolitionists in the Upper School to conclude the unit of work with year 9!



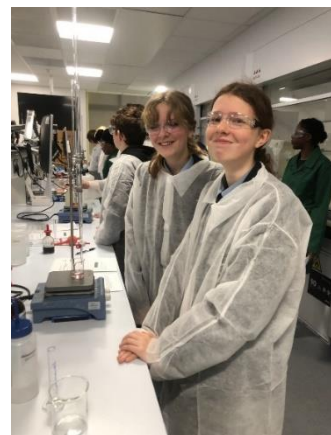
Lapio'r Nadolig in Salem

One fine morning in November, Year 2 pupils went for a walk to Salem Chapel where a feast awaited them. Some of the pupils took part in the nativity show and everyone had the opportunity to decorate festive biscuits and create colorful cards to take home. The children had a wonderful morning in the company of Adam Coleman and the chapel volunteers. Thank you very much.



Chemistry Trip

The Chemistry trip to Swansea University was fun. I really liked the practical work and I learned quite a bit about the official laboratory equipment. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to represent the school in a subject I enjoy. Next time I would like to win! I would like more trips like this as it is fun and informative. By Alice Hanks Doyle, Year 10.



It will be week 1 when we return in January!



Elen Benfelen Show

At the beginning of the term, a group of Lower School pupils went to see the Elen Benfelen show at the Lifelong Learning Centre Theatre. Everyone really enjoyed the show and loved retelling the story to us in class.



Urdd Jamboree

The school hall was packed one morning when all Lower School pupils had the opportunity to take part in the Urdd Jamboree to wish the Welsh team well in the World Cup.



Blood Brothers Show

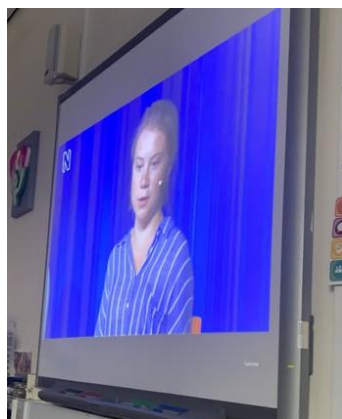
Year 13 English and Drama students travelled to the Millennium Centre on the first of December to see Blood Brothers. The production was amazing with memorable songs and an incredible set. It was a pleasure to see Jay Worley, a former pupil, on the stage as Eddie. The trip was full of fun and has really helped our understanding of staging and characterisation, which will prepare us for our A level studies.

Thank you also to Jay Worley for coming in to the school to discuss his role with the pupils. They loved hearing about his experiences.



Greta Thunberg Seminar

Senior School pupils studying Biology and Geography had the opportunity to listen to a seminar by Greta Thunberg about the disaster of biodiversity loss. It was a very interesting conversation. Thanks to @speakrs4schools for the opportunity.



Work experience at the Park and Dare Theatre

On a dark and frosty morning at the beginning of December, instead of following my usual journey to Ysgol Garth Olwg I had the opportunity to spend a day in the world of panto at Park and Dare Theatre in Treorchy. I had a unique experience in the company of the cast of Jack and the Beanstalk and shadowed the director Richard Tunley as he led the enthusiastic cast in the last week of rehearsals before the show opened to the public. I must admit I was quite nervous stepping into the theatre, but thanks to the warm welcome of many of the former pupils who were part of the cast, I was able to relax and get a taste of some of the differences between directing lively theatre shows and panto. Many thanks to Mrs Jackson for arranging this wonderful opportunity for me. By Tom Hall Williams, Year 12.

Celebrating Wales at the World Cup

There was a week full of activities to celebrate Wales' success in reaching the World Cup. There were various competitions such as penalty kicks, keepie uppies, quizzes and a staff football game against Year 13. It was a disappointment to see Wales lose to Iran in the Sports Hall but it was a worthwhile experience for the pupils to see Wales on a global stage. The pupils also had the opportunity to speak to Rhodri Llywelyn from Newyddion Cymru who was in Qatar for the World Cup. The pupils asked very mature questions. Watch a video of all the fun [here](#).



Cogurdd

Congratulations to three Ysgol Garth pupils who are through to the next round of Cogurdd. Well done to Sophie Church Year 7, Emily Jones, Year 10 and Darcy Hidditch Year 6. Good luck at the Eisteddfod during Whitsun.

Dinomania

This month the Lower School was extremely lucky to have a very special visit from the Dinomania company as an inspiration for our theme on dinosaurs this term. The pupils were delighted and learned a number of interesting facts about them as well as having a lot of fun. Thank you very much Dinomania!



Dosbarth Y Pabi



2022-2023

Welcome to the Meithrin

By now the pupils of the Dobsarth Meithrin have settled in well and are enjoying in the Ysgol Isaf. We are proud to welcome you to the Garth Olwg family!

Ioga Pili Pala

This term Dosbarth Derbyn pupils have been very fortunate to take part in yoga for children. The pupils loved the sessions!



Pontypridd Trip

The Humanities and Welsh department took Year 7 to Pontypridd to follow the heritage trail to learn about their local area. Fun was had completing the treasure hunt and playing at Parc Ynys Angharad.



INSET Days

Monday 5th September 2022

Friday 30th September 2022

Friday 9th December 2022

Friday 23rd December 2022

Friday 23rd June 2023 (To be confirmed)

Monday 24th July 2023



Llangrannog Trip

Excitement was in the air on Wednesday the 21st of September as year 7 pupils travelled to the Urdd campsite in Llangrannog. There was even more excitement than usual as this was the first time the school has been to Llangrannog since 2019! This was also the first time many of the pupils had gone away without family.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities. The jumping bag proved very popular as the pupils jumped from a high platform and landed into an air bag. The zip wire also required a lot of bravery but the pupils were beaming as they flew through the air.



There was some rain on the second day so the pupils enjoyed the indoor activities. Everybody was entertained on the high ropes and it was great to see some pupils persevering despite their fear of heights – well done! Swimming in the heated swimming pool was also a nice treat in the cold weather.

In the evenings, the pupils had an opportunity to try some different activities. On the first evening, we walked over the hill to Llangrannog beach. Then, we had a whale of time taking part in sport activities led by the swogs before doing some folk dancing. On the second evening, many pupils enjoyed jiving in the disco while others watched the Wales v Belgium game – it was an exciting match!

The food was certainly a highlight with many delicious meals including lasagne, chicken goujons, pasta and, of course, chips! It was also lovely to have squash and crisps before going to bed.



By the time we arrived back at school on Friday afternoon, we were all very tired but everybody had had an amazing time in the campsite by the sea. We would like to thank the teachers and swogs for looking after the pupils and a special thanks goes to Mrs. Llwyd, Mrs. Bradberry, Miss. Jones and Miss. Hart for organising.



Music Workshops

Thanks to Mr Mark Hibbert for giving two samba workshops to our year 9 pupils as part of our World Music theme. The pupils enjoyed learning and performing various new rhythms.



On November 23, three year 9 pupils, Elliw Porter, Mari Roberts and Anya Edwards attended a harp workshop arranged by the RCT Music Service where they performed and improved their ensemble skills along with pupils from Ysgol Rhydywaun.

Christmas Service

On December 21st our Christmas service was held in the sports hall where, for the first time in three years, parents and friends were invited back to enjoy musical and recitation performances, dance routines and readings by pupils from across the school. It was a lovely evening and a great way to bring a busy term to an end.



Celebrating success

We had a wonderful time celebrating and handing out certificates with tea and mince pies with former 6th form pupils that had left in 2019 and 2020. They did not have an awards ceremony due to Covid-19. It was lovely to hear about their careers and time at university.



Sporting Success

Congratulations to the Year 9 and 10 girls for winning the 3x3 National Urdd Basketball Tournament. Well done girls – a fantastic feat!



Congratulations to Finely Davies, Yr 8 and Lani Jones, Yr 9 on their success in the Welsh Trampolining Competition.



Well done to Year 7 and 8 for winning 2nd place in the Urdd Plate Netball Competition – Fantastic!

Three of our Year 10 pupils have managed to win player of the game whilst playing for Ponty School Under 15. Congratulations to Ioan Leyshon, Rhys Wyatt and Ryan Jones.



Ioan Minton, Year 12, has been chosen to play for the Under 17 Basketball Welsh team. Good luck with the training!

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 @GarthOlwg_AwyrA | @SaesnegGO @OlwgPontio
 @adranYGymraegGO | @DaearGO | @DramaOlwg |
 @CelfyddydauYGO | @IRhGarth | @GwyddGarth | @CelfGarth
 |@PwyllgorEcoGO
 @DyniaethauGO | @GarthOlwg_DaTh |@CerddoriaethGO



The netball, rugby, cross country and football teams have been extremely successful and busy this season as well with the school's 1st rugby team reaching the semi-final round in the Welsh vase competition, the Year 11 football team reached the quarter final round of the Welsh Cup and the school's 1st Girls team won their last football match 14-3!

