

SCHOOL MAGAZINE



SUMMER
EDITION



Respect. Communicate. Enjoy.



Welcome



A Term of Progress and Possibility

As we wrap up another busy term at Ysgol Ty Coch, I'm delighted to share some of the exciting developments taking place across our school community. This summer edition of our newsletter reflects not only the achievements of the past few months but also the momentum we're building as we look ahead to September and beyond.

We are currently working hard on our Post Inspection Action Plan, using the feedback we received to strengthen our provision and ensure we continue to place our learners at the centre of everything we do. This process is a valuable opportunity for reflection and growth, and I'm proud of the commitment shown by our staff team this term.

At our Buarth y Capel site, we are taking a big step towards sustainability with the installation of solar panels, a fantastic addition that supports our commitment to environmental responsibility and long-term energy efficiency and we hope will reduce our energy costs!

We're also launching a new Communication Group to help us improve how we connect with families. We know that consistent, clear communication is vital, and we'd love your input. Please take a moment to complete the survey using the QR code below. In September, we'll bring together a group of staff and parents to review the feedback and co-create a plan to move forwards.

In even more exciting news, we're thrilled to announce the Knox & Wells has been awarded the contract for the extension at Buarth y Capel. We will update you once we have more information on this exciting project. This major investment will significantly enhance our facilities and create even more opportunities for our learners to thrive.

Meanwhile, over at our Tonteg site, the garage has now gone out to tender and will be transformed into a new community café, a space we hope will become a welcoming hub for pupils, families, and the wider community. We're also pleased to share that both Aderyn and Afon classes will be fully refurbished over the summer holidays, ensuring our learning environments remain modern, inclusive, and inspiring.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our recent Sports Days and the Summer Fetes this year. These events are such a joyful part of school life, and your involvement helps make them truly special for our pupils.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our journey. We look forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting chapter.

Kindest Regards
Gimon Wilson
Headteacher





Governors



As we come to the end of another academic year, we thought it would be an opportunity to share with you a round-up of the things the Governing Body has been involved in.

During his first year, Mr. Wilson had been tasked by the Governing Body to review the needs of the school and to match them with appropriate staffing. This review involved the staff and their Trades Unions. Following on from this staff worked together to develop a plan to move forward. Last September staff that Governors appointed this time last year started their new jobs. There were quite a few changes as I'm sure you noticed.

From the school review, along with the staff changes came some new methods of working to further enhance the provision being made for the children. I'm please to say that these are proving to be beneficial for the pupils and staff.

Change is not something that everyone likes or is comfortable with but, there are times when it is needed. A year on and more changes are on the way as some staff move to new jobs and others have reached retirement. So, Governors have once again been interviewing over the last few weeks to appoint more new staff. New pupils also come along at the start of the new academic year and the leavers go on to other things at the end of the Summer term.

In meetings of the School Senedd, which I'm lucky enough to attend, pupils have also been talking about changes and been involved in making them. The Senedd members have been involved in the interview process for new staff. Their feedback is always helpful. The Senedd has also helped governors with the review of the school uniform. They have looked at different colours and logos and, just last week, given their final decision. Details in due course, no changes just yet though. They also looked at the school rules and felt that some of those now need to be changed. I'm sure will let us know their thoughts in the new term.

Parents have helpfully completed questionnaires to give the school an overview of how they feel about a variety of things that Governors have been considering and these have been used to help make decisions on changes. Thank you all for your participation it is really helpful and much appreciated.

Governors have been talking to the Local Authority, over a long period, about the limited space at the school. Over the Summer there will be work done at the Tonteg site to make better use of some of the areas and to create more storage space which is much needed. A café and a shop will also be opened as part of the enterprise provision for pupils giving them real life learning experiences. In time there will be additional classes at the Buarth y Capel site.

I think that about covers what has been done, alongside the meetings and administrative side of things, over this past year. As always, it has flown by.

Best wishes for whatever comes next for the Leavers, the staff who are retiring and those who will be starting new jobs in September.

A big thank you to all the staff across the school for all your hard work over the last year, it does not go unnoticed.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable Summer,

Best Wishes,

Janice

Friends of Ty Coch



The Friends of Ysgol Ty Coch hosted a spectacular Summer Fête that brought sunshine, smiles, and a strong sense of community to our school grounds. With a fantastic mix of stalls, games, delicious treats, and entertainment, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Families, staff, and pupils came together to celebrate in true summer style, and the atmosphere was filled with laughter and joy from start to finish. The event was a brilliant success thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the Friends of the school, along with the incredible support from our wider school community. It was heart-warming to see so many people enjoying themselves while raising funds for such a great cause. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise, volunteered, or simply came along to join in the fun – you made it a truly memorable day!



Respect. Communicate. Enjoy.

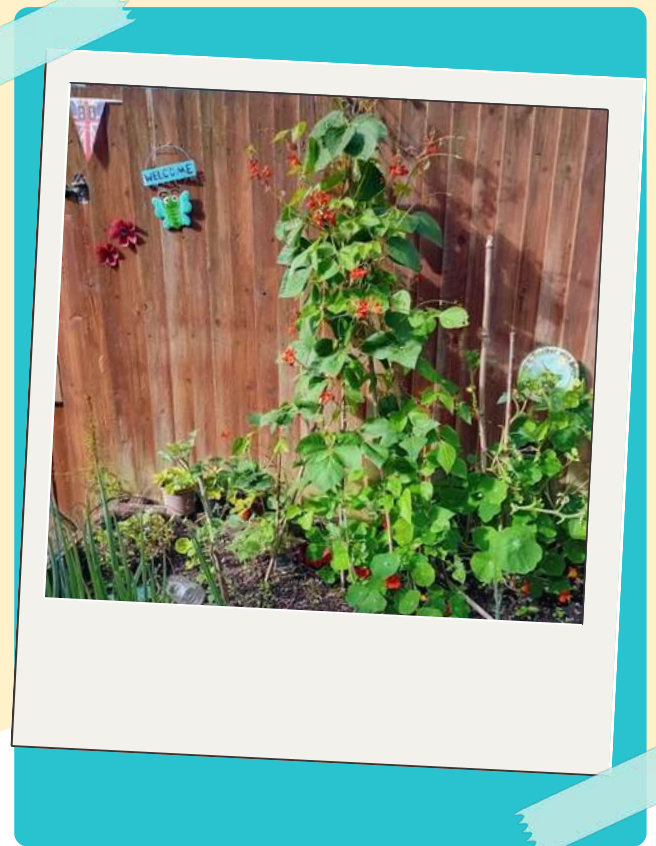
Highlights from The Explorers



Learners from Seren Fach thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the sensory sports day, which offered a fantastic opportunity to explore their senses and develop functional movement skills in a fun and supportive environment. The activities were thoughtfully designed to engage a range of sensory experiences, encouraging participation, curiosity, and confidence. It was a joyful and inclusive event that celebrated every learner's unique abilities and achievements.



Broga have worked hard to create their very own garden, planting seeds and carefully nurturing the plants as they grew. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and tasting the fruits of their labour through exploratory play. They are now looking forward to planting more seasonal vegetables, which they hope to use in cooking activities and to share with their friends.

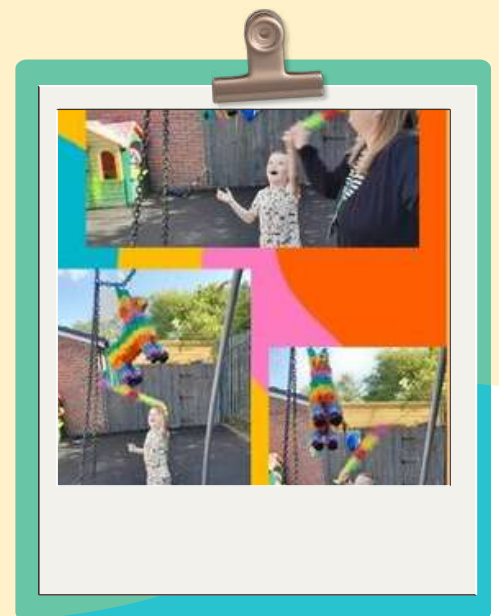


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Highlights from The Explorers

What an incredible year it's been in Glan yr Afon! From energetic Sports Day fun and MOVE Week activities to magical moments like our Teddy Bears' Picnic and festive Christmas concert, we've packed the year with joy, learning, and laughter. Our weekly community trips to the local park and Tiny Tumblers sparked curiosity and adventure, while Wellbeing Wednesdays gave us the chance to relax with foot spas and reflexology. Discos, film days, and creative projects kept spirits high, and our learners have shone in every moment.

We've explored a wide range of learning environments, including the hydrotherapy pool, sensory garden, and Café, all supporting our sensory needs and transitions. Life skills were a big focus too, from hoovering and washing up to toothbrushing and turn-taking. Through cooking, music, and cultural experiences, we brought the world to life using tools such as sensology and atmospherics. Every learner has made fantastic progress, and we couldn't be prouder. A huge thank you to our amazing staff, parents, carers, and of course, our wonderful learners for making this year so special. Have a relaxing and well-deserved summer!



Respect. Communicate. Enjoy.

Highlights from The Explorers

During the Summer Term Aderyn and Ty Hywl began to work together to care for the tadpoles that were ready to go into outdoor environment. The learners Aderyn and Ty Hywl have been brilliant at caring for the growing tadpoles, who very quickly turned into froglets in their outdoor space and their new food. The learners saw the life cycle of a frog in full swing growing from tadpoles, to froglets and finally to our very own frogs. Learners cleaned out the water each week and used rain water to refill so that there were bugs and nutrients in the water. They then fed the froglets a new meat eating diet of meal worms and fish food. The pupils in both classes loved to see the changes in the tadpoles and froglets and were able to use nets to place them in a viewing box. Some Learners even held them in their hands to get a good look We are able to share with you that we had around 8 healthy froglets and by the end of term we have successfully cared for little frogs, who have now hopped off.



Respect. Communicate. Enjoy.

Highlights from The Explorers



Celebrating Pride Month in Dosbarth Heulwen!



We've had a great month, embracing rainbow colours in all of our activities, and showing increased tolerance of each other. We've reinforced positive boundaries and practised sharing resources and spaces. We've celebrated our differences and our uniqueness. What a wonderful bunch of little humans we are!



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Highlights from The Explorers



This term in Dosbarth Carw, we have been working really hard on our communication skills as well as our play skills. We have been learning to make choices about what foods we would like to try. We have also loved exploring lots of textures through sensory and messy play and working alongside our friends.



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Highlights from The Adventurers



Learners from Dosbarth Lindysyn had a fantastic time taking part in MOVE Week, engaging in a variety of activities designed to promote movement, independence, and fun. The week was filled with energy and enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see pupils exploring different ways to move and interact with their environment.



A particular highlight was the interactive movement sensory story held in the sensory garden. This immersive experience allowed pupils to engage with the story through movement, touch, sound, and visual stimuli, creating a truly magical atmosphere. The sensory garden provided the perfect setting for exploration and creativity, and it was heart-warming to see the learners so engaged and delighted throughout.



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Highlights from The Adventurers

respect
each
other



As part of a collaborative project between English and Welsh schools aimed at enhancing Welsh oracy skills, a group of pupils from Dosbarth Lindysyn have been visiting Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Castellau alongside Mrs. Maguire.

Over the course of the school term, the children have taken part in a wide range of engaging activities. In this moment, they're enjoying parachute games while actively listening and responding to simple Welsh instructions.



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Highlights from The Adventurers



Learners from Pili Pala had a fantastic time at Sports Day this term. Here is a lovely picture of the class during the event – they all transitioned brilliantly and took part in every race with enthusiasm and confidence. They did incredibly well, and we are so proud of their efforts.



This half term, the class also thoroughly enjoyed a live music session in the hall. The learners were fully engaged, joining in with clapping, dancing, and exploring different sounds.



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Highlights from The Adventurers



Learners from Dosbarth Cadno had a fabulous Sports Day filled with teamwork and fun.



It was also truly special to celebrate the achievements of our Year 6 learners during Monday's assembly. A heartfelt well done to everyone involved, with a particular mention to the singing, it was absolutely fantastic and brought such joy to the occasion.



Respect. Communicate. Enjoy.

Highlights from The Adventurers

Dosbarth Dreigiau – Pack Your Bags!

This term, Dosbarth Dreigiau have been on a 'global adventure'! As part of our exciting theme, 'Pack Your Bags', we've explored a variety of countries, cultures, cuisines, and languages.

Our learners have created magnificent crafts inspired by different parts of the world and have enjoyed learning simple phrases in both French and Italian. We've also brought science to life with a range of fun and fascinating themed experiments that sparked curiosity and creativity.

Alongside our globe-trotting adventures, we've been getting active and preparing for Sports Day. The hard work and enthusiasm shown by our learners have been truly inspiring!



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Highlights from The Navigators



Learners in Dosbarth Cwningen have been busy exploring The Wizard of Oz and channelling their creativity into designing some brilliant bucket hats to be worn in support of the Welsh team at the UEFA Women's Euros.



Their designs are full of colour, imagination, and team spirit, combining elements with a strong sense of national pride. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and artistic flair shine through in this exciting project!



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Highlights from The Navigators

Dosbarth Draenog have had a great summer term. We have enjoyed our topic Home and Away, where we have compared seaside holidays from the past and present. We have also explored Aboriginal art and are working on completing our own Aboriginal dot painting. We have also enjoyed the Live Music Now concerts. We have also been busy designing and making our own sock puppets to feature in our own puppet shows.



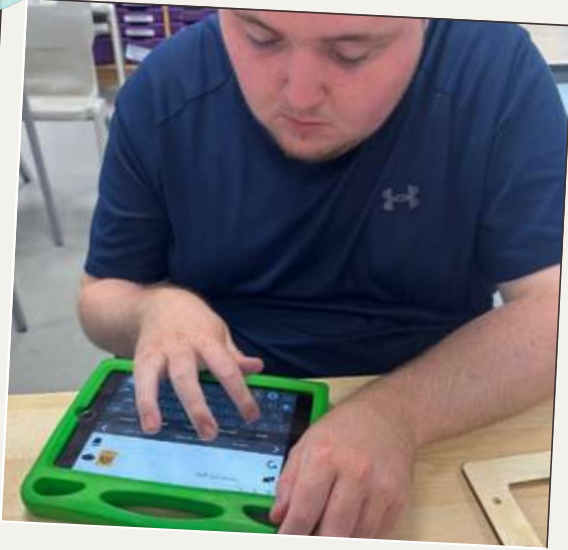
The Minecraft crew have been hard at work, honing their building skills and letting their imaginations run wild to create some truly fantastic adventure lands.



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Highlights from The Pathfinders



Pupils at Graig Ddu have been actively developing both their career and creative skills through a variety of engaging activities. As part of this initiative, they have been practicing their communication skills by confidently requesting specific materials they need to decorate vibrant summer themed picture frames, which they are preparing for sale as part of a school enterprise project.



All pupils in the Pathfinders department participated enthusiastically in the BYC Sports Day. Their positive attitude, teamwork, and sportsmanship were evident throughout the event, making it a truly enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone involved.



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Highlights from The Pathfinders

Graig Ddu have been picking their crops in horticulture that they have been growing through the year.



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Prom 2025

Pupils from Ysgol Ty Coch and Buarth Y Capel came together with their friends from Ysgol Hen Felin for a truly magical evening at the Summer Prom, held at the beautiful Canada Lakes venue. The setting was perfect, with stunning views, elegant décor, and a warm summer breeze adding to the excitement and glamour of the night. Everyone arrived dressed to impress, and the smiles, laughter, and joy were a testament to how much the evening meant to all who attended.

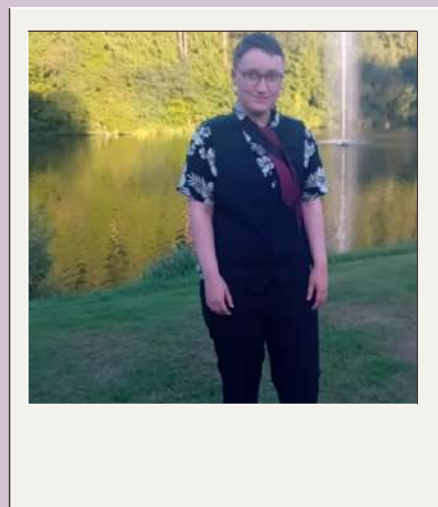
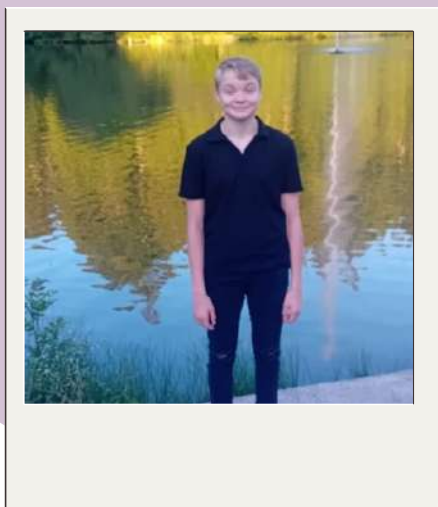
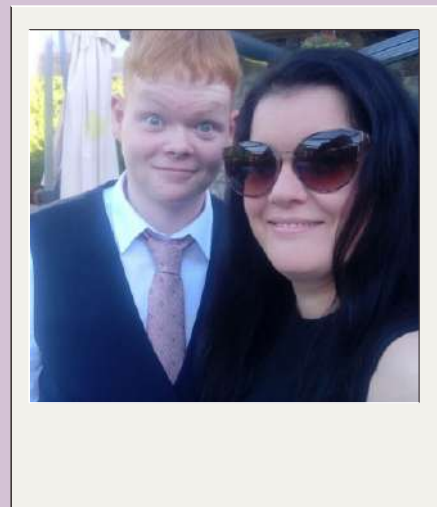
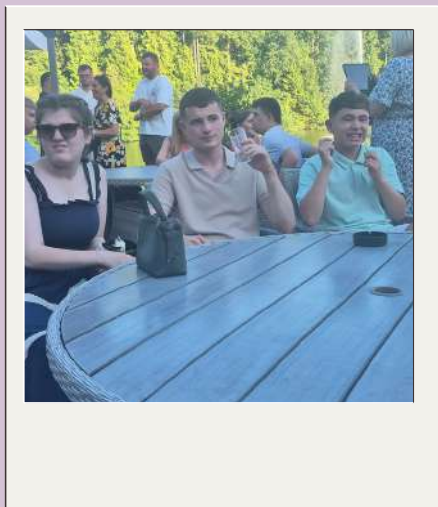
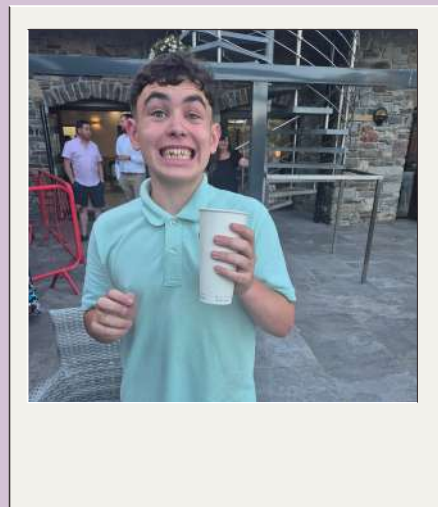
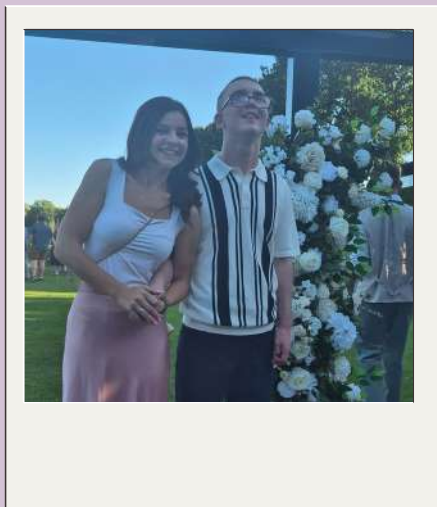
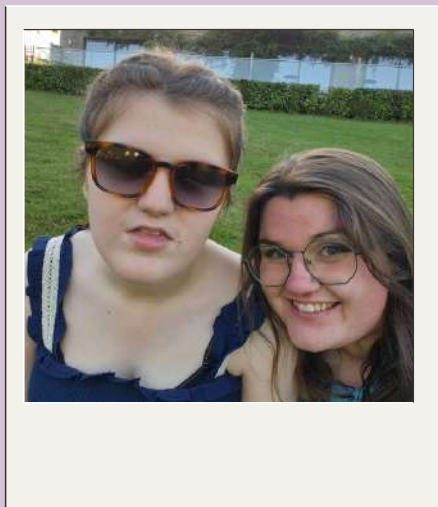
The prom was filled with dancing, delicious food, and unforgettable moments shared among friends and staff. It was a celebration of achievements, friendships, and the journey these incredible young people have taken together. The atmosphere was electric, and it was heart-warming to see so many happy faces enjoying every moment of this special occasion.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the vendors and supporters who generously donated their time and services to help make the evening such a success. Your kindness and support helped create a truly memorable experience for our pupils, and we are incredibly grateful. It was a night full of joy, pride, and celebration – one that will be remembered for years to come.



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Prom 2025



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Prom 2025

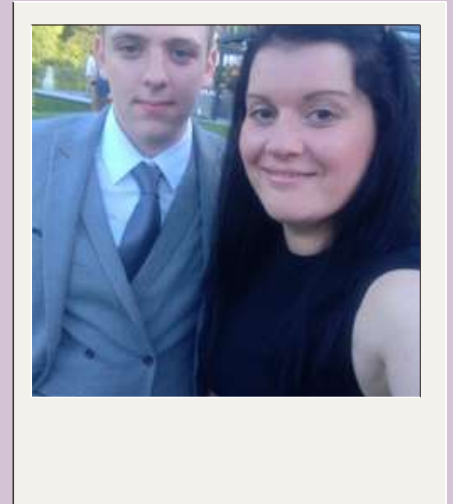
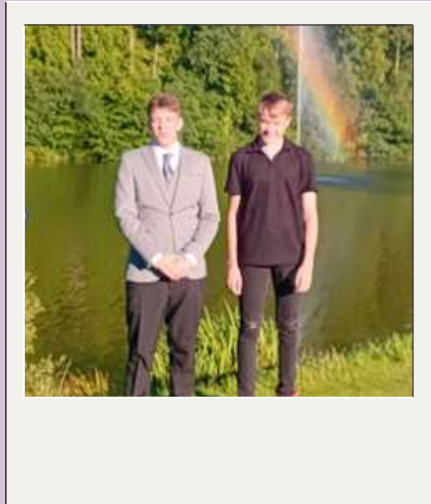


Respect. Communicate. Enjoy.

Reflections



My reflection on my time in Ysgol Ty Coch by Harrison Barcello



When I first started in Ysgol Ty Coch, I didn't like coming to school, over the past 6 years I have had support from staff who have made me feel safe, respected and made me feel like I belonged.

I have enjoyed learning how to play chess; I like playing with Mr G because I can beat him and Lyndsay won't let me win! I have made a really good friendship in Kae and I hope that we are friends when I leave school.

I would like to thank Lyndsay, Mr G, Ann-Marie, Chloe and Gemma for everything and I look forward to my future adventures.



Respect. Communicate. Enjoy.

Goodbye

As we approach the end of the summer term, we prepare to say goodbye to several cherished members of our school community. After an incredible 41 years of dedicated service each, both Karen Murphy and Sara Nuthall will be retiring. Their unwavering commitment, kindness, and passion have left a lasting impact on generations of pupils and colleagues alike. We will miss them immensely, but we are also filled with gratitude for everything they have given to the school. We wish them both a joyful and well-deserved retirement as they begin this exciting new chapter.



We also bid a fond farewell to Lyndsay Moulden, who is leaving us after 23 years to take on a promoted role at Craig y Parc School. Lyndsay's energy, care, and dedication have been a huge part of school life, and while we'll miss her greatly, we're so proud of her achievement and wish her every success in her new role.



Tanya Evans will also be moving on to pastures new, taking up a position at another school in Bridgend. We thank her for all her contributions and wish her the very best in her new adventure.



Lastly, we said goodbye earlier this term to Gemma Frelford, who has moved on to a promoted position. Gemma brought warmth and compassion to her role, and her presence will be missed by both staff and pupils.

To all our departing colleagues – thank you for everything. You leave behind a legacy of care, dedication, and inspiration, and you will always be part of the Ysgol Ty Coch family.

The Gallery



Summer Vibes by Seren Fach

Mendi Patterns by Afon



Eiffel Tower by Dregiau



Respect. Communicate. Enjoy.



School term times 2025/2026

Inset Days

Monday 1 st September 2025	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	Friday October 24 th 2025
Monday 23 rd February 2026	Monday 20 th July 2026	

All schools will be closed on Monday 4th May 2026 for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Term Dates

Term	From	To
Autumn 2025	Monday September 1 st 2025	Friday, October 24 th 2025
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Monday, October 27th 2025</i>	<i>Friday, October 31st 2025</i>
Autumn 2025	Monday, November 3 rd 2025	Friday, December 19 th 2025
<i>Christmas Holidays</i>	<i>Monday December 22nd 2025</i>	<i>Friday, January 2nd 2026</i>
Spring 2026	Monday, January 5 th 2026	Friday, February 13 th 2026
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Monday, February 16th 2026</i>	<i>Friday, February 20th 2026</i>
Spring 2026	Monday, February 23 rd 2026	Friday, March 27 th 2026
<i>Easter Holidays</i>	<i>Monday, March 30th 2026</i>	<i>Friday, April 10th 2026</i>
Summer 2026	Monday, April 13 th 2026	Friday, May 22 nd 2026
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Monday, May 25th 2026</i>	<i>Friday, May 29th 2026</i>
Summer 2026	Monday, June 1 st 2026	Monday, July 20 th 2026



Calling All Parents!

We're putting together the next edition of our magazine and would love to include a parental perspective! If you're interested in contributing your thoughts, experiences, or ideas, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please email Leigh Wharton at Leigh.Wharton@ysgoltycoch.rctcbc.cymru to get involved.



As we are all passionate about your child's education and well-being, we're inviting you to join our upcoming Parent Focus Group to share your ideas, feedback, and suggestions—especially around how we can strengthen communication between school and home.

Whether it's a suggestion, a question, or something you'd like to see improved, your voice matters. Your input will help us better support our learners and families.

We're also excited to announce the relaunch of the Friends of the Community (FOTC) — a group of parents and carers working together to support our school through events, fundraising, and community-building.

If you're interested in being part of this exciting initiative, please email Alison Tovey on toveya9@hwbcymru.net



Charity GALA

in aid of Ysgol Ty Coch Special School

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THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2025

CASTLE SUITE | THE VALE HOTEL

Hensol Rd, Hensol, Pontyclun CF72 8JY

WELCOME DRINKS & 3 COURSE MEAL

RAFFLE & AUCTION HOSTED BY SCOTT QUINNELL

MUSIC FROM THE JUKEBOX COVERS BAND

COMEDY FROM ROD WOODWARD

Dress to impress - Black tie / cocktail dresses

Arrive from 6pm and expect to finish 1am

£1500 for a table of 10

To book your tickets RSVP Mr Sean Gilbertson on:
gilbertsonS4@hwbcymru.net or 01443 203471



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