



# Dylan Thomas Newsletter June and July 2023

Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

The year has flown by, again! Our first 'normal' school year has been a real success and it has been nice to get back into good routines without Covid affecting much of the work and life of the school as it has in the past. We end the term with another Year 11 cohort leaving us! This is a particularly emotional moment for me since this year group were my first as Head so we have spent the last 5 years watching and seeing them grow into the lovely young people they are today. We wish them all the very best of luck for the future.

There is something very special going on at our school at the moment and I can honestly say that in my 22 years of educational experience that allows me to tell you this with confidence....Dylan Thomas Community School is a very special place to be. I am asking all of you to help me continue this exciting journey we are on, trust in us and support us. The one major target that I am asking all pupils, and so therefore parents/carers to support us with, is to improve the attendance and punctuality of all pupils. Have a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday BUT when we return I want all pupils to aim for 100% or as close to 100% as you can! Please ensure that you equip your child(ren) with full school uniform, they attend each and every day and engage in school as best they can and most importantly no facial piercings!!

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Kind regards, Mr P Davies, Headteacher

## **Attendance and Rewards**

We also want to celebrate the excellent behaviour of the pupils at Dylan Thomas who go above and beyond every day. A massive well done to all of you. The top Class Charts points scorers in each year group are as follows:

### **Year 7**

1. Zachary Hawkins
2. Kian Hurlow
3. Jaden Myhill

### **Year 8**

1. Vian Saadi
2. Aleisha Davies
3. Skye-Davies Hinder

### **Year 9**

1. Arafa Ali
2. Kamila Kajak
3. Levi Thomas

### **Year 10**

1. Kalem Williams Murray
2. Chloe Davies
3. Samantha Blank



## Art Club Trip

Students who took part in the Art Club this year attended a trip to Swansea College of Art at University of Wales Trinity Saint David. We had a fantastic time with a tour around the exhibition, a photography workshop in a dark room and cyanotype. I would like to thank the University for their excellent organisation, amazing activities and the lovely staff who made us feel very welcome. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves, some quotes of the day- 'Very good, new experience, I would like to go to Art College'' I think they are really talented and I might be able to do that one day' and 'I liked the photography, it was fun to do!'. Cannot wait for next year!!

Mrs Moore  
Art Teacher



## Cricket Trip

We were lucky enough this term to have free tickets to attend a cricket game at Sophia Gardens, watching Glamorgan vs Surrey Cricket. For some pupils this was their first ever cricket game! Everyone had a great time and we already can't wait to go back again!



## BTEC and GCSE Year 10 PE Trip

Our Year 10 BTEC and GCSE Pupils were lucky enough this term to be invited to Swansea University and their Sports Science department. Pupils had the opportunity to complete a range of different activities, trying out lots of different technology.



## STEM Challenge

Some of our pupils took part in a STEM challenge this year. All pupils persevered and produced cars that could run via a battery-operated circuit board. They loved racing each other and had lots of fun. Thanks to Mrs Kinsey for organising such a fun event.



## Transition Event

This term we have had lots of different transition events taking place in school ready for our new Year 5 pupils. One of these events we saw some of our local Primary Schools join us for a football tournament and some baking. We loved having you today and can't wait to see more of you very soon. Congratulations to Portmead school who took first place in our tournament for the second year in a row!!



## End of Year – Rugby Update

A very busy term For Dylan Thomas Rugby, we had the launch of our fantastic new Boys and girls kit supplied by RCS and design chosen by the Pupils. We also ran a girls year 7 Rugby Festival, which our girls did amazingly well finishing undefeated. I qualified 9 year 9 boys as Rugby Leaders, they will now complete a number of hours helping coach and be part of the transition Rugby Festival. We had our very successful transition event, which saw different primary schools take part in a rugby festival. I look forward to another successful year in September. – Mr Newton, Rugby Coach



## Head Prefect Team

We are delighted to introduce our new Head Prefect team for the forthcoming academic year, they are:

Head Girl – Violet Simpson

Head Boy – Sebastian Wlodarczyk

Both pupils have demonstrated outstanding levels of effort and achievement throughout their time at Dylan Thomas and are most worthy of the titles they will carry next year. We are sure you will be seeing a lot more of these pupils throughout the year. Congratulations!!



## Goodbye to our Year 11 Pupils

It is time to say a big goodbye to our Year 11 pupils who have been involved in our school for 5 years. We can't believe how quickly it has gone, we remember when you all came in year 7 afraid to say hello, now we can't get you to be quiet.

We wish you all the best for your future journeys, and look forward to hearing all about them.

Best Wishes,

Mr Cannon & Miss Howarth.

## **Some Highlights From This Year:**

- Our Year 11 boys football team winning the Swansea Schools league.
- A first ever school ski trip to Austria.
- Our Year 11 pupil Harvey Townsend gaining a full sixth form scholarship to Christ College Brecon, our second ever pupil to do so!
- ANOTHER record number of pupils on roll at our school, we will now have over 700 pupil in September and are full or over subscribed in every year group which goes to show what a successful and popular school this is.
- Ricky Owen (Year 11) gaining International honours in Football,
- Ashton Kneath gaining South Wales School Boys honours in Rugby League,
- Brandon Owen playing for Swansea School boys.
- Further improvements to school facilities including 2 new state of the art Science labs and brand new boys and girls changing facilities.
- Our Cadet Force, the only school based unit of its kind in South Wales, continues to go from strength to strength.
- New Year 11 prefects have been appointed in preparation for September and we look forward to seeing them grow and develop as the year goes on!

## **Goodbye to Staff Leaving**

We will then be losing Miss Hurley who has been teaching Food & Nutrition for this recent academic year, Mr Barrow our humanities teacher and Miss Prosser who taught the Year 8 ELP class. We have loved getting to know each member of staff and we wish them all the best of luck with their new adventures.

It is with tremendous fondness that staff, governors and pupils at Dylan Thomas Community School say goodbye at the end of this term to Mr Rob Phillips who has been the Headteacher here since 2006. Dylan Thomas Community School has changed enormously since Mr Phillips started setting the solid foundations in place on which the school continues to build. Above all, over 17 years of leadership, Mr Phillips has demonstrated a determination and dedication to improve the life and work of Dylan Thomas Community School and provide pupils with enhanced learning experiences. Those who have worked with him over the years will all have benefitted in some ways from his experience and knowledge that will have improved their own professional practice. Mr Phillips will not be leaving education altogether, as he is taking up a new position as Strategic Lead for Leadership Pathways for the Partneriaeth consortium.

We wish him the best of luck and every success in his new role.

**For information on pupils returning to school in September 2023, please check your Parents/Carers ClassCharts announcements for all the information you will require.**

**Newsletter created by Sebastian Wlodarczyk (Head Boy 2023 - 2024)**