



# Dylan Thomas Newsletter

## Winter Term 2023



Dear parent/carer and pupils,



I am writing to wish you all a very happy and enjoyable Christmas as well as thank you for all of your support over what has been a very successful first half term of the 2023/24 academic year. The school continues to work tirelessly to ensure that pupils get the best standard of education, opportunities and facilities we can possibly offer and the success of the school is demonstrated by the fact that we are now oversubscribed in every year group! This goes to show the amazing support we are having from you our community and is something I am very grateful for.

One matter I am still looking to be addressed is attendance at school and how important it is. Now more than ever, it is imperative that you send your child(ren) to school each and every day. Each day missed is a day further that your child(ren) will fall behind and it becomes increasingly difficult to close the gap in their learning. Please do help us to help your children by ensuring you reiterate this message and ensure all pupils attend school everyday.

May I take this opportunity to wish all members of our school community a very Happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you and the children in 2024!

Mr P Davies  
Headteacher

### **Stand out memories from this year:**

- The school maintained a strong position in the annual School Challenge Advisor visit managed by the Welsh Government. The school was praised on several aspects of the school's work and was seen as sector leading and worthy of praise.
- Another record intake of Year 7 pupils in September!
- The opening of our 'Big Box Bwyd' food give as you go service.
- Macmillan Coffee Morning and Children in Need charity events raising well over £250 for worthy and good causes.
- The annual school Remembrance Service.
- Celebrating National Christmas Jumper Day which saw staff and pupils donate dozens of boxes/crates of food to a local food bank. This showed the true community spirit that exists in our school and will hopefully ensure that many not as well off as us will have an enjoyable Christmas.
- A record number of Hot Choc Friday winners!
- And many more!!

## Year 7 & 8 Halloween Disco

This year, the Year 7 and 8 pupils had an amazing Halloween Disco! From musical chairs and party games to an amazing variety of food and drinks.

All Year 11 prefects and Year 11 Workskills pupils came together with Mrs Waters and Mrs Edwards to work on this amazing event and what a great success it was!



## Debate Club Trip

Our newly formed debate team brought the thunder and won their first interschool debate at the first Swansea Seren Regional Debate bootcamp on Friday 10th November 2023 and Dylan Thomas Community School won!

Massive congratulations and well done to: Abby, Skye, Jensen, Mike, Ryan, Rhys, Vian and Emelia!

The next round is in January, and we have every confidence that our pupils will carry themselves with similar dignity, perseverance and courage. A notable mention should be given to Abby who overcame her nerves and closed out our final motion for the win!



## Children In Need

This year as a school we celebrated Children In Need. From a variety of activities that were held at the school! One activity that the whole school participated in was to create a Pudsey bear out of pennies! As a school we raised an amazing £100 - well done all involved!



## Sporting Fixtures

This term we have seen some brilliant team work and resilience take place within all of our school sports teams, from football to basketball. We are proud of our pupils who give up time to train and progress as a team. This has shown from the many wins we have had this term. Keep up the good work.





## Rugby – Our Year 8 Rugby Team Shines at Morriston Festival

We are incredibly proud of our Year 8 Rugby team for their outstanding performance at the Morriston Rugby Festival this term. Despite facing teams with a strong club Rugby background, our boys displayed exceptional teamwork, skill, and determination throughout the tournament. With an overall 4 wins against other schools across Swansea! The team's success is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and unwavering support for one another. Our more experienced players demonstrated exceptional leadership and encouragement, guiding their teammates to victory. We look forward to seeing what they will achieve in 2024.



## Big Bocs Bwyd Grand Opening

A huge thank you to our incredible community for making our grand opening a resounding success! We were overwhelmed by your warm welcome and support as we opened our doors to Big Bocs Bwyd. Your enthusiasm for our mission to provide healthy, affordable food to all has been truly inspiring.

A special thank you to His Worshipful, the Mayor of Swansea, and his consort for taking the time to join us for our grand opening. We were honoured by your presence and your support for our community.

We are also deeply appreciative of the contributions of Blue Rock Construction and Bowen Hopkins, who played a pivotal role in making our dream a reality. We couldn't have done it without you! Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of our community members.

The Big Bocs Bwyd is open every Thursday 3:30 to use for a minimum donation of £3.50, we look forward to seeing more of our community coming to use this brilliant service.



## Annual Christmas Carol Service

On Tuesday 12th December 2023 we held our annual school's Christmas Carol Service at St. Peters Church, Cockett.

We would like to give a massive thank you to Mrs Edwards for organising this event and a massive well done to everyone who participated!



## Christmas Jumper Day

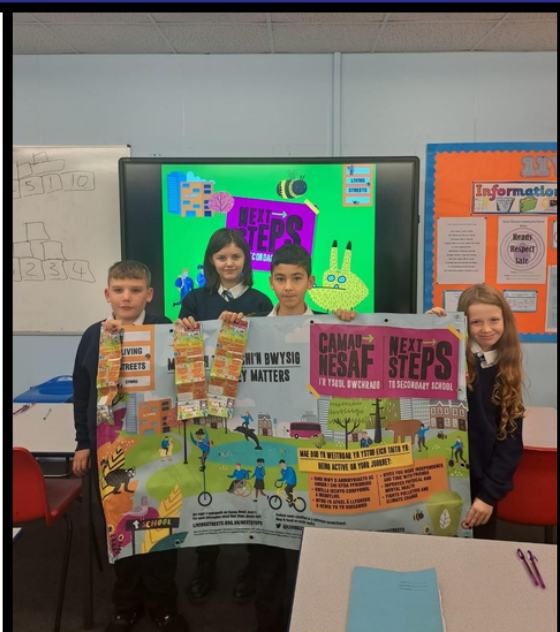
This year, the school held Save the Children's annual 'Christmas Jumper Day' on Thursday 7th December 2023, where pupils had an option of bringing in their festive jumper! Pupils who wore Christmas jumpers all brought some items of food to donate to a local food bank we were overwhelmed by the generosity.

## Road Safety Week

As a community we understand the importance of road safety around our community. This year we took part in the "Next Steps Walking Challenge".

Each student received a challenge card to complete on their journey to and from school.

The winning pupil in each form class has won a £10 Love2Shop voucher. The winning pupils are Abdulhamid Ziedan, Leo Anderson, Ella Parry, Eleri Smythe and Cerys Ralphs.



## Announcements

Thursday 21st December 2023 - Last day of term

Tuesday 9th January 2024 - Pupils are back in school

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