

# the PHOENIX



the newsletter of TREORCHY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL  
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December 2019

## Christmas @Treorchy!

### Christmas Fayre



Senior Choir entertaining the community at the Christmas Fayre

Treorchy Comprehensive School began our Christmas celebrations with a bang as we celebrated with a Christmas Fayre in the Main Hall on Saturday 7th December. There was fun for all the family as a variety of stalls drew the community together. Many departments, year groups and the wider family of the school contributed to this exciting day.

The festive atmosphere was enhanced by performances from the Year 9 Dance group and the Senior Choir. Many people joined in with the choir, singing carols and Christmas songs.

There were refreshments on offer, including mince pies and warm drinks.

One of the highlights of the fayre was the fantastic raffle which filled three large tables with prizes galore! We would like to thank all the contributors for making it a special day.

### Christmas Concert

On the evening of Monday 9th December, the school held its annual Christmas Concert in the Parc and Dare, our community theatre.

Our talented vocalists and musicians treated the audience of family and friends to a festive feast of music and song. There was so much talent on show it was difficult to choose some highlights, but it was great to see such an array of performances from the youngest pupils in our junior choir, orchestra and brass band to the older pupils.

There was traditional Christmas music such as the beautiful 'Carol of the Bells', played by the Senior Orchestra, interspersed with the classical as played by the Junior Orchestra and more modern music such as the Senior Choir performing 'No One But You' and even a Junior Orchestra version of 'Rockin' Robin'!

The dedication of the Music pupils and staff is second to none – diolch yn fawr am noson Nadoligaidd a hyfryd!



## 'Health and Well-being Day' – 10th October



Year 9 pupils taking part in a mindfulness activity

In October we held our first Health & Well-being day of the year. These special days give pupils and staff the opportunity to experience workshops which develop our understanding of a range of topics which can impact our general health, our well-being or our community.

Each year group participated enthusiastically in a bespoke programme whilst we all joined together as a school to raise awareness of youth mental health. The day coincided with the Young Minds Hello Yellow campaign which we embraced by turning our classrooms yellow and leaving messages of positivity and support for each other. Year 9 pupils developed coping strategies through mindfulness and physical activity and a committed group of Year 10 pupils independently led assemblies, organised themed stalls and raised valuable funds for Young Minds.

Other workshops developed our respect for others through work on friendships, citizenship and racism. We highlighted our responsibility to our community in sessions highlighting the effects of anti-social behaviour and online trolling.

We look forward to our further two dates in 2020. If there are any members of the community who would like to become involved in the events then please contact the school. We would welcome new partnerships and expertise to benefit our learners.

## Our Historians Explore Italy



Year 12 and 13 pupils at the Vatican City

Over half term, 34 Year 12 and 13 Historians ventured to Italy to continue their studies into Mussolini's Italy and broaden their historical understanding of ancient Rome.

The group began their trip in Sorrento where they climbed Mount Vesuvius, taking in the stunning views of the Amalfi coastline. Here they learnt about how this volcanic mountain erupted in 79AD and changed the landscape of the surrounding plateau.

Pupils then ventured to the ancient ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii, where they were educated about daily life in these ancient harbour towns.

The pupils were then taken to Italy's capital city and embarked on a fascinating journey around Rome, taking in the sites of the EUR district,

where Benito Mussolini aimed to hold a world's fair that celebrated fascism in 1942.

There was time to enjoy some Italian culture and several of Rome's most famous sites, such as the Colosseum, the Vatican City and St Paul's Basilica before the long journey back to Treorchy.

All pupils represented the school with pride and were a credit to themselves throughout the visit.

## Year 7 RE Visit



Ieuan Jones  
Year 7 at  
St David's  
Cathedral

In their RE lessons this term, Year 7 have been looking at how religious people express their identity, including the importance of various places of worship. On November 5th, a group of Year 7 students went to the Shree Swaminarayan Hindu Temple and St. David's Cathedral in Cardiff to experience what these places of worship are like first-hand and to investigate the different artefacts and religious symbols.

At the temple, the students were given the opportunity to explore the shrines, try the musical instruments used for worship and ask lots of questions about the different Hindu gods that are worshipped there. In the cathedral, the students were given the task of

finding special features during a treasure hunt and had to research what each feature was and why it was special.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and gained valuable knowledge about how these buildings are used to express Hindu and Christian identity.



Shree Swaminarayan Hindu Temple

## Art Visit to Coleg Y Cymoedd, Nantgarw



Year 12 and 13 Art pupils developing new drawing techniques

On Thursday 28th October, a group of Year 11, 12 and 13 Art students took part in a practical mixed media workshop, where they had the opportunity to develop new drawing techniques that challenged the way they usually work. They also got to experience the structure of the Art

Foundation course.

All pupils enjoyed the workshops and were impeccably behaved throughout. We hope this provided support for those aspiring to study Art courses in the future.

## Diwrnod Shwmae!



Celebrating Diwrnod Shwmae day in Treorchy

On Tuesday 15th October, Welsh AS and A level students along with Year 9 Fast Track students went into Treorchy town to celebrate Diwrnod Shwmae day. The pupils gave out stickers to the local residents and businesses with the aim of promoting how important it is to keep the Welsh language alive and that everyone can help to contribute to this cause by using any Welsh words which they may know - even if it's only by saying Shwmae. Every words helps! As part of the celebration, they made a promotional video to further spread their message and the video was shared by the Welsh Language

Commissioner on Twitter who praised them for their part in the campaign. The Sixth Formers also had a lesson on Welsh in Society in Flo's Tea Rooms. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part in celebrating a day which is so important to the survival of our language, and one thing was clear to see - the Welsh Language is still strong in Treorchy and has a very promising future there! We would like to say a huge thank you to our local community for being so supportive of us and to Lili Wen for helping us to make our promotional video.

## Spooky Scribes



Winners of the Halloween Creative Writing Competition  
Jamie-Lee Taylor Year 9  
and Louis Jones Year 7

There was an outstanding response to the English Department's Halloween creative writing competition! Bubbling cauldrons, potent potions and spine tingling tales of terror, ensured that the judges were simultaneously entertained and petrified. Pupils from Years 7 to 9, produced pieces that were imaginative, detailed and original.

After much deliberation, the winners were announced as Jamie-Lee Taylor (Year 9) and Louis Jones (Year 7). Both were worthy recipients of Halloween themed books and treats.

Another writing competition will be announced very soon!

## Introducing Y Senedd Ysgol!

The School Council has entered into a very exciting transformational phase of development since the start of this academic year.

With the aim of making pupil voice more representative of our diverse school community and to make the process more pupil led, the School Council has been renamed, restructured and relaunched.

The council is now to be known as Senedd Ysgol, with members elected from each year group. The Senedd will be led by the Head Boy and Girl, Jac Roberts and Mia Edwards, and working alongside this group will be 6 sub-committees; Health and Well-being Committee, ECO Group, Additional Learning Needs Committee, Extra-Curricular Committee, Teaching and Learning Group and the Community Group. All groups will be led by members of the 6th Form, and are comprised of volunteers from every year group who have applied to, and been chosen by the pupils in the Senedd.

Meetings will be held every half term, and pupils across the school will have opportunities to voice their ideas through Learning Coach group meetings and by visiting drop-in clinics held in the Senedd's dedicated office in block 9!

In the last Senedd meeting the pupils re-wrote the School Council Constitution, now to be known as the Pupil Voice Constitution, to encompass all of the newly formed pupil voice groups and the new structure. This constitution makes the aims and expectations of each group clear, while ensuring that it is consistent with our school values of RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and ASPIRATION.

Now that this new structure is in place, look out for further updates on the work of our newly formed pupil voice groups as we move through the Spring and Summer terms!



Our new Senedd Ysgol members for 2019-20

## Football News



Year 8 at the RCT Cup tournament

This year, all teams were entered into the RCT Cup and the Welsh Cup respectively. We have had some great success, in particular with the boy's Year 9 football team.

They have played five games and have managed to win all five, beating very strong teams in the process. They are into the second round of the RCT Cup and into the last 16 in the Welsh Cup which is a huge achievement.

The boy's Year 10 team have also performed well reaching the fourth round of the Welsh Cup where they will play Brecon. After winning the Welsh Cup last year we have high expectations for the boys!

The Year 7 and 8 teams have also done well! The Year 7 boys' team have reached the semi-final of the RCT cup where they will hopefully give another great



Year 7 and 8 team at the Welsh Schools Football Association National Fives tournament

performance to reach the final. The Year 8 boys have been unlucky with the draws in the RCT Cup and Welsh Cup coming up against very strong sides early on in the competitions, they did however win the Urdd National Five-a-Side tournament in Cardiff, which is a major achievement!

The girls U13 team took part in the WSFA National five-a-side tournament where they were crowned plate winners! Another great achievement for a fantastic group of players who showed resilience and determination when coming back from a loss in the group stages.

The U15 girls' team have performed well this year showing great effort levels in every fixture they have played, similar to the Year 8 team they have also been very unlucky with the draw coming up against a very strong side in both competitions.

## Rugby News

Our senior rugby team finished fourth out of twelve teams in the WSRU Premier East Schools league. Having taken a few games to get going this season we won eight in a row to finish strongly but couldn't make up for the couple of losses earlier in the campaign. We look forward now to the Welsh Cup starting after Christmas.

In Years 7 and 8 we won the Rhondda Schools 15 aside competitions and we were very competitive in the Year 9 tournament. Year 8 now qualify for the Welsh Cup at that age group which again starts for us after

Christmas. Our Year 10 Rhondda Schools players have been enjoying their first games at representative level for the Rhondda Schools in the Dewar Shield. The competition this year is tight with nothing but wins required to progress to the latter stages. We wish them well.

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