



Ysgol Gymunedol Llangatwg Llangatwg Community School

Main Road | Cadoxton | Neath | SA10 8DB

Friday, 4th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well and that you have had an enjoyable summer break.

It has been a wonderful first week back here at Llangatwg. Alongside welcoming pupils back to school, we have also been celebrating the achievements of our former Year 11 pupils following this summer's GCSE results. Seeing so many young people achieve their goals and move on to exciting opportunities in sixth form, college, apprenticeships and employment made us incredibly proud.

We were delighted with the determination, resilience and hard work demonstrated by last year's Year 11 cohort. Their success reflects not only their own efforts but also the support provided by their families and the dedication of our staff. I would like to congratulate all of our pupils on their achievements and wish them every success as they begin the next chapter of their journeys:



We have also loved seeing all of our pupils back in school this week and welcoming our new Year 7 pupils to our school community. So far, we have been really impressed

with the positive attitude our pupils have shown and the excellent start they have made to the new academic year. Our new Year 7 pupils have been incredibly brave, polite and respectful as they navigate their way around a new school environment, while our older pupils have shown kindness and maturity in helping them settle in. Our pupils really are a credit to you as parents and carers. Here are just some photographs of our new pupils around the school:



Uniform standards so far have been good in nearly all cases. There have been a small number of instances of incorrect uniform and, where this has been the case, parents and carers have been contacted to provide the correct items. As a reminder, our uniform expectations are as follows:



If you need to purchase branded uniform, this can be obtained from Sportec (opposite Dŵr-y-Felin School) or online at:

👉 <https://www.sportec.co.uk/products/school-uniform-shop/secondary-schools>

We really appreciate your support with this as we work to maintain the highest standards across our school.

Similarly, attendance during the first few days of term has been particularly pleasing. This is something we want to maintain throughout the year. We know there is a direct link between strong attendance and positive outcomes, particularly at GCSE level. Put simply, **good attendance at school is essential to achieving well at school.**

Please continue to support us by ensuring your child attends school every day unless there is a genuine reason for absence. If your child is unable to attend school, please contact us before 8:30am on 01639 634700 or report their absence via the ClassCharts app by selecting the '**Report Absence**' tab.

Throughout this week we have spent time reinforcing our school values of **Ready, Respectful and Safe**. These values help us create the positive, supportive learning environment that our pupils deserve. We would be grateful if you could reinforce these messages at home so that we continue to work together in supporting our young people.

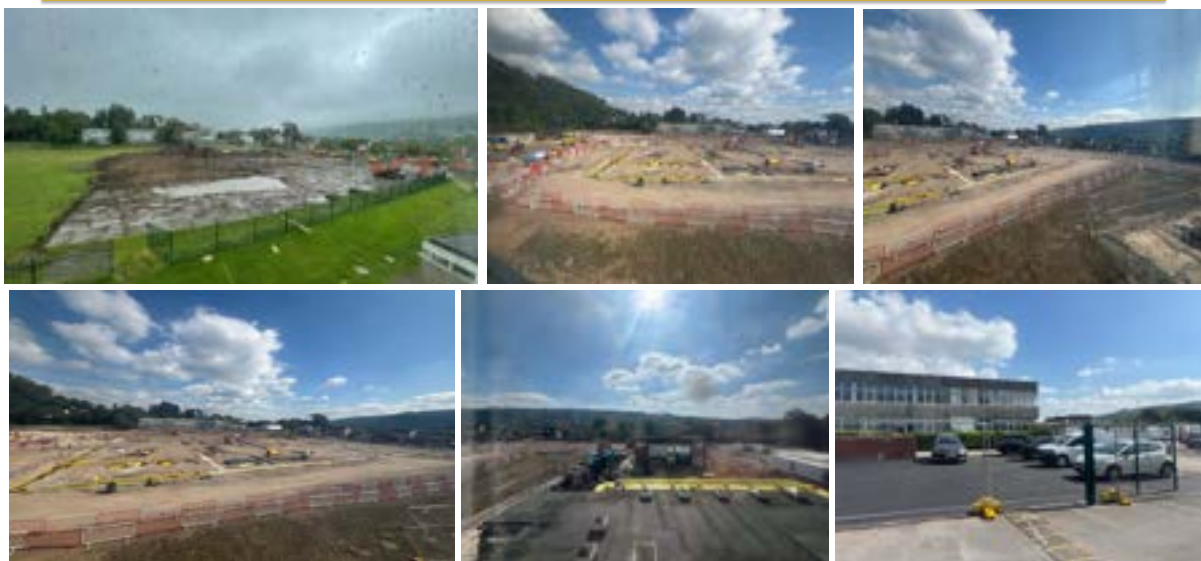


To ensure pupils are fully prepared for learning each day, they should bring a suitable bag or rucksack to school that is large enough to carry their books, pencil case and PE kit. Please can you ensure that your son or daughter brings a bag to school every day. If you require any support with purchasing a school bag or equipment, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are committed to ensuring that every pupil has what they need to be successful and will be more than happy to help.

We understand that the start of a new school year can bring additional financial pressures for some families. With this in mind, I would like to make parents and carers aware of the excellent work being carried out by YMCA Neath's Community Shop. The community shop offers a range of affordable items, including clothing, bags, books, toys and household goods, with all items priced at just 50p. In addition, school uniform and baby clothes are available free of charge, helping to support families while also reducing waste and promoting sustainability. I would encourage any families who may benefit from this support to take a look.

I would also like to share a brief update regarding our new school build. Many of you will have seen the progress being made over recent months and it has been exciting to watch the development take shape. The new building will provide modern learning spaces and facilities that will enhance the educational experience for our pupils and support the wider community for many years to come. While there is still work to be completed, we are extremely pleased with the progress being made and look forward to sharing further updates as the project continues throughout the year:

A Changing Site: Phase 1



Below are some key dates for the term ahead:

Key Dates for Term 1

15th September: Year 7 and Year 9 School Photographs

30th September: Year 6 Transition Day and Open Evening

2nd October: Year 11 Interim Reports

9th October: Staff INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

13th October: Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening

22nd October: Presentation Evening (last year's Year 11 pupils)

23rd October: Break up for half term

2nd November: School reopens after half term

3rd - 11th November: GCSE English and Maths examinations

9th November: Year 7 Form Tutor Review Meetings with parents/carers

23rd - 27th November: Year 11 English Paired Discussion NEA

30th November – 4th December: Year 10 Mock Examinations

30th November - 3rd December: Year 11 Welsh Speaking and Listening Examination

4th - 11th December: Year 11 Mock Examinations

10th December: Llangatwg Carol Service at St. Catwg Church (6:30pm)

18th December: School closes for Christmas

Of course, there will be many other events and activities taking place throughout the term, and we will write to you with further details as appropriate.

Making appointments with staff at school

To help us respond to enquiries as effectively as possible, we kindly ask that parents and carers do not attend school expecting to meet with a member of staff without a pre-arranged appointment.

As our teaching staff are engaged in lessons throughout the school day, and members of the Senior Leadership Team also have teaching commitments, it may not always be possible for someone to meet with you immediately.

If you would like to speak with or meet a member of staff, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange for the appropriate colleague to get in touch and organise a mutually convenient time to meet.

School contact details:

T: 01639 634700

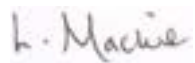
E: office@llangatwg.npt.school

Thank you for your continued support.

To all of our new Year 7 parents and carers, a very warm welcome to the Llangatwg community. I feel incredibly privileged to be Headteacher of this wonderful school and I look forward to working with you throughout the year ahead to ensure that every pupil has the very best opportunities to succeed.

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes,



Lauren Mackie

Headteacher

Llangatwg Community School

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