

Governors Report – Summer 2024

A time to celebrate the success of our wonderful pupils at Cefn Saeson. Four of our pupils: Zjackaria Meah, Sienna Hutton, Yusaf Ali and Dexi Cope have been successful in applying for an opportunity to become a member the NPT Youth Council Advisory Panel. We wish them every success and hope that they will enjoy their time participating in this exciting opportunity and will find the experience interesting and rewarding.

On Monday 17th June Mr Cole & Mrs Anderson had the pleasure of attending the Rotary Club of Neath Young People in the Community Awards. It is with much pride to share with you that Cefn Saeson had 3 remarkable young pupils to receive an award: George Wood, Ruby Helling and Oliver Bowen.

Ruby had 14 inches cut off her hair to donate to the Little Princess Trust and also raised £1500. George Wood raised £554 for the British Heart Foundation and Oliver Bowen raised money so that the community in his village had a Christmas Tree.

I am sure that you agree that they are all worthy recipients.

Amy Murphy has been incredibly busy enthusing our budding young scientists at Cefn Saeson:

STEM Days - Two STEM days have been organised this year for year 7 & 8.

- Year 7 - 5x workshops for 6 sets of pupils, there was a choice from - DNA in a strawberry, Crime Scene Analysis, Bit Pit Explosives Workshop (Ran by Museum Wales), Microbot coding (Ran by Techno camps), Marble-run engineering and design (ran by Swansea University), Colour chemistry (Run by See Science)
- Year 8 - 4X workshops for 7 sets of pupils, there was a choice from - Bit Pit Industrial waste into Art workshop (Ran by Museum Wales), Microbot coding (Ran by Techno camps), Lego robots design (ran by Swansea University), Colour chemistry (Run by See Science), Stop the block workshop (ran by Welsh Water), Oriel Science Workshop, VR experience. End session is a careers assembly from previous pupils of Cefn Saeson coming in an discussing their successful careers in STEM.
- Year 7 & 8 Nurture group have a day out in Amelia's Trust farm. A charity organisation that employs those with learning disabilities to train as animal handlers and farmers. Pupils had an animal handling and husbandry workshop.

Girls in STEM Programme

Miss Murphy has organised three separate "Girls in STEM" days, and an additional Chemistry day was ran by Leanne Evans.

- Pylons to Power - Energy workshops in the Big Pit, a history tour, a pylon building workshop ran by big pit. Then a turbine building workshop ran by National Grid.
- Engineering - Swansea Bay campus engineering department ran lectures on careers in engineering, tour of facilities including a flight simulator experience and a design of the wind tunnel, finished the day with a design challenge.
- Forensics - Girls were to have a workshop in forensics in which they visited a working crime house, went to the labs to look at how we can test for different chemicals and completed a workshop on perfumes, finally looked at ways in which scientists are solving crimes against endangered animals and has a go at using a drone and tracking equipment.
- Chemistry - Swansea lectures in chemistry careers, Tour of the labs and different uses for chemistry, lab workshop synthesising aspirin.



Geography Field studies with Kate Penquet

Cimla

The year started with Year 7 pupils carrying out land use studies in Cimla, the information from these visits was then used back in the classroom.

Cadbury Factory

In February this year the Geography department took two trips (totalling 100 pupils) from year 8 to Cadbury World, Bournville. This was to support their learning about industry and after a talk from their education department, pupils found out about how Chocolate was made – mostly by eating it!

Dan Yr Ogof

In May, 50 year 7 pupils visited the Dan Yr Ogof Caves, Here they spent the day in the three main caves, and went to see the water fall as well as the dinosaur park. This marked the start of River studies in Geography.

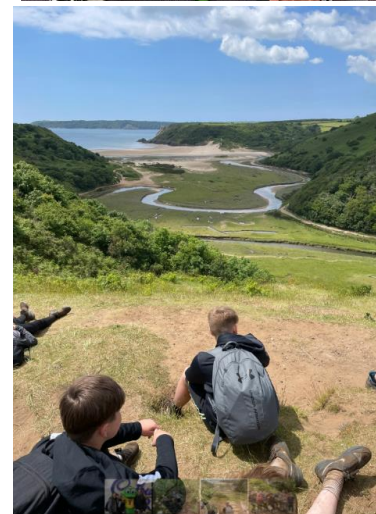
River Ilston

Early in June, two visits to the River Ilston took place. Pupils searched Fairwood Common for the source of the river, before following its course through the village of Ilston and then to Pennard Castle to see its mouth at Three Cliffs Beach. Along the way pupils identified river features and wet and muddy!

D of E

Last week was the practise expedition for both our Bronze and Silver expeditions this year. On the Friday pupils followed routes around Margam park before braving the torrential rain and camping overnight. An orienteering challenge was held on the Saturday morning, although all pupils were really only looking to get warm and dry!

Next week our Bronze and Silver final expeditions will take place on Gower – This year we have 52 pupils across the two awards looking to complete these final sections and gain their awards. Please keep your fingers crossed for better weather!



More Able and Talented –Cynefin Project

This year we have been fortunate to receive funding from the Arts Council of Wales and Welsh Government to undertake a 'More Able and Talented' project in Year 7 with Mrs B Markes taking the lead. The project is based on the key Curriculum for Wales theme, Cynefin, which focusses on the importance of pupil identities within a culturally and ethnically diverse Wales. At the heart of the project is co-construction, co-delivery and learner voice. Pupils have had the opportunity to work with renowned practitioners from across Wales to enhance their learning, such as film makers and arts practitioners who have supported pupils to explore themes, issues and challenges that learners face on a day to day basis. The outcome of the project will be shared across the school and pupils will play a key role in leading this.

During the project, pupils have had the opportunity to:

- explore identity in relation to growing up in contemporary Wales
- gain awareness of the people, cultures and communities that make up contemporary Wales
- understand the history and development of Wales as a culturally and ethnically diverse society
- explore the experiences and contributions of culturally and ethnically diverse people in Wales, past and present

At the end of the project we will invite parents, governors and staff in to the school to celebrate the pupil's work and give them an insight into the process of the project.

Siarter Iaith Senedd

The main goal of the Siarter Iaith Senedd is to increase the use of Welsh across the whole school community. Pupils have come together and discussed the importance of incidental Welsh both within and beyond the classroom. This has been achieved by introducing the 'Welsh phrase of the fortnight', which has been monitored by Senedd members and the Welsh Department. At the end of the academic year, the Senedd would like to reward staff and pupils for their efforts of speaking Welsh, and have designed certificates specifically for this. Furthermore, Senedd members have also contributed to this year's Eisteddfod, which again, was very successful and enjoyed by all. Moving forward, the Siarter Iaith Senedd will continue to work towards promoting and encouraging a Welsh ethos here at Cefn Saeson.

Eco Senedd & School Community Senedd

We have been proactive in discussing and resolving eco and community issues in the school.

- Pupils discussed with Louise (canteen) how to improve the packaging and reduce plastic and food waste, due to this we now have fully recyclable water cartoons and no longer sell single use plastic.
- Discussions with Estates (Anthea Powis and John Byrnes) led to more recycling and waste facilities in school. Further discussions over waste and litter picking duties for next year will likely be in place.
- The Eco Senedd was a part of a film project that was screened at the NPT Biodiversity Conference, from that conference we are in discussions with local charities and organisations e.g. Butterfly association, Friends of Knoll Park, Wales Biodiversity Partnership.
- The Wales Biodiversity Partnership are visiting the school Tuesday 25th June, and will have a tour of the green spaces on Cefn Saeson, these spaces will be assessed for appropriate conservation areas e.g. ponds, grassland, mosaic grassland, forestry. We are hoping to secure funding from the LNP Grant Fund that will enable us to create an interactive conservation area in which children can learn about conservation, growing crops, food security. This will also give opportunities to develop our Forest schools programme, to have more resources on site.
- Going forward, community Senedd is in support of the changes to one break and lunchtime, so that there is a coherent and developed school community. The option to be able to run extra-curricular clubs at lunchtime has seen a huge interest, for example, chess club, drama club, football and rugby.
- Additionally, we are in talks with local charities for the supply of outdoor seating and flowerbeds. I think that's pretty good for only running 8 weeks!

Learning & Teaching

The Learning and Teaching poster that was designed is now all around the school and before exams was discussed in assembly by Mrs Reed.

Zjackaria Meah came in to the Senedd recently to share what he had been working on in the Young People's Senedd in Cardiff. He shared about what they had been working on regarding human rights and the effect of the economy on young people. He shared the presentation / video that he had been working on with others in the Senedd in Cardiff.

The Learning and Teaching have recently paired up with the Siarter Iaith Senedd. It was requested that there wasn't enough Welsh being spoken around the school so to help to improve this the Learning and Teaching Senedd offered to help with ideas. It was discussed about bringing in the Welsh word. Also, that certificates would be given to staff who contribute the most Welsh in lessons nominated by pupils.

Attendance & Pastoral Care Senedd

The attendance Senedd has focused on the attendance boards this term. The boards outside Caredig have been updated and the information has been printed in colour and a larger font. The attendance for pupils falling below target has also been included - this was at the request of the Senedd as they felt it was important that pupils know how close they are to their target and to being able to attend school trips/prom etc.

They have also been discussing what they would like to see on their form boards. Each form tutor has been asked to have a form board in their room with information about attendance, form activities etc displayed. Below is an example of how some form tutors have designed their boards with not only attendance data but also achievement points, star of the week and birthday countdown.



Well Being Senedd

The Well Being Senedd have designed a Power Point presentation regarding Racism, LGBTQIA and Sexual Harassment and have presented this to the Year 8 and Year 9 pupils at Cefn Saeson.

A few of the members have attended the Junior Safeguarding Board which is attended by all the Comprehensives in Neath and Port Talbot. The aim of this is to educate pupils on the topic of Sexual Harassment as from a survey the data was very concerning that Sexual Harassment is happening in our schools at a shocking percentage and young people were complacent saying "it is what it is" and were accepting it.

The group is focusing on creating a PSE morning solely for the purpose of tackling the issue of Sexual Harassment - there will be activities, posters, cakes etc. They are preparing to present their idea to SLT for permission to go ahead with their campaign with collapsing the timetable so they are able to educate pupils that Sexual Harassment is wrong and unacceptable.