

Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School

Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have welcomed students back this week after what we hope was a restful and enjoyable half-term break. I have relished the opportunity to start getting to know students, parents/carers, staff and Governors of our school and have appreciated the warm welcome.

Year 7 students have settled incredibly well and are adjusting well to secondary school life. It has also been great to observe other Year Groups settle back in and to see their commitment to subjects and extra-curricular activities.

Home-school collaboration is key in enabling the best support for your child(ren). Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's Head of Year or our Additional Learning Needs Coordinator, if you need any further support. Parents/carers may also contact reception at any point.

Year Group	Head of Year
Year 7	Mr J Evans-Jones
Year 8	Ms S Watkins
Year 9	Ms K Dunn
Year 10	Ms D Jones
Year 11	Ms J Morgan
Additional Learning Needs Coordinator	Ms R Gibbins

School News & Updates

- Curriculum & Learning

- We are changing the way we report to parents/carers this year, following feedback, and these changes will be communicated with you via a separate letter this half-term. This will be prior to you receiving your child's interim report at Christmas.
- Year 11 mock examinations will take place during week beginning 17th November and controlled assessments/NEAs will take place throughout the year- we wish Year 11 the very best with these. The mock examination timetable has been sent out separately.
- Congratulations to our More Able and Talented students who have been identified across year groups. They were awarded their letters Ms K Evans (MAT Coordinator)

and SLT through assemblies in the last week of half-term. Reviews will take place every term, to consider how we can best support and challenge this group of learners. Every term, new learners may be identified, following periods of effort and commitment.

- Year 9 will start to be supported with their Options selection process early next term, and they are encouraged to show their best across their subjects in the interim. Separate information will be sent out which will detail the timeline and support, which will include information on our Options Evening in February.
- If your child has Additional Learning Needs, or if you believe that they may have, please contact Ms Gibbins (ALNCo). I note praise for our Teaching Assistants who display the utmost passion and support for our ALN learners, inside and outside the classroom.
- Throughout this year, we will share guidance with parents/carers on how to best support students from home with their learning and their progress.

- Attendance & Punctuality

- A new school Attendance and Punctuality Policy is being developed, following the All Wales Attendance Framework: [all-wales-attendance-framework.pdf](#). This will be shared with parents/carers in due course.
- Please remember that school attendance has a marked influence on your child's wellbeing and learning progress.
- Holidays are not to be taken in term time.
- We encourage early communication with school if your child(ren) require(s) any further support. It is important that we are proactive and work together to secure the best futures for our young people.
- Currently, 1 in every 10 students are late for school each morning. Mr Jefford (Pastoral Support) is now based on front reception each morning, to meet and greet learners and to identify support needs.
- We ask all parents/carers to support and encourage a timely arrival to school each morning. Persistent lateness may result in sanctions, where clear needs are not communicated or identified. Teaching our students the way of life and the working world is a key aspect of school education.

- Behaviour & Values

- Students' behaviour and attitudes to learning have been generally positive throughout the first half-term.
- Teachers and support staff continue to use Class Charts to record behaviour, which empowers parents/carers to have constructive home conversations about choices but also to establish home or mutual rewards.

- If you notice any changes in your child(ren)'s behaviour then please do not hesitate to reach out to us so that we can collectively review support and intervention.
- We held a brunch on the last Friday of half-term for those learners in each year group who had the most positive points for the half-term. Congratulations to all who were recognised for this, and to those who made clear improvements over the weeks. Each half-term creates a fresh platform for all learners. Pob lwc/Good luck!
- As a reminder, mobile phones and linked devices (i.e. air pods) are not permitted in school and must not be 'seen or heard'. The school policy is here and we expect compliance. Any refusal will lead to sanctions: [Mobile-Phone-Policy-2024-1.docx](#). It is in the best interest of our students to be engaged in their learning throughout the school hours.
- Extra-curricular activities and trips play a key role in school life. On such events, we place trust in students to display positive behaviour as they represent Cefn Saeson. Club/Trip Leaders will use behaviour points and attendance to select students for such experiences as it creates obvious positive incentives.

- General

- Throughout this half-term, we will run our fire and lockdown drills with students and staff. We will notify parents/carers in advance of any lockdown drill to ensure quality communications and to prevent any worry.
- Running these drills is an important part of our endeavour to always keep our school community safe and the focus is on being preventative.
- If there is a forecast of snow or adverse weather at any point throughout the winter months, the decision regarding school opening or closing will be 8am
- Free School Meals - Families may check if they meet the criteria for Free School Meals here: [Free school meals - Neath Port Talbot Council](#). If you need help completing the application then please contact your child's Head of Year.
- School Essentials Grant – Families may check if they meet the criteria for this support grant here: [Get help with school essentials - Neath Port Talbot Council](#). If you need help completing the application then please contact your child's Head of Year.
- Our extra-curricular timetable is below. Please encourage your child(ren) to engage and to make effective use of their free time.



Extra-Curricular Activities Timetable

Day	Activity	Time Lunchtime (1.05pm – 13.45pm) Afterschool (3pm – 4pm)	Location	Year group
Monday	Choir	Lunchtime	Mu1	Year 7 - 11
	Football Training	After school 2.45-3.45pm	PE Dept.	Year 7 Boys
	Football Training	After school	PE Dept.	Year 8 Boys
	Netball Training	After school	Sport Hall	Year 7 Girls
	Netball Training	After school	Sport Hall	Year 8 Girls
	Criw Cymraeg	Lunchtime	La4	Year 7 & 8
Tuesday	Bucket Brigade (Drummers)	Lunchtime	MU2	All year groups (See Mr Baldrey for details)
	Rugby Training	After school	PE Dept.	Year 7 Boys
	Rugby Training	After school	PE Dept.	Year 8 Boys
	Netball training	After school	Sport Hall	Year 9, 10 & 11
	Football training	After school	PE Dept.	All girls
	Drama Club	After school	Auditorium	All years after Christmas
	ICT Club	Lunchtime	IT2	Year 7 - 9
Wednesday	Basketball training	Lunchtime	Sport Hall	Year 10 & 11
	Debate Club	Lunchtime	Eng2	Year 9
	Creative Writing Club	Lunchtime	Eng 6	Year 7
	Dungeons and Dragons	Lunchtime	Maths 5	Year 7 - 11
Thursday	Orchestra	Lunchtime & After school	Mu1	Year 7 - 11
	5x60 Sports Ambassadors	Lunchtime	Sport Hall	Sports Ambassadors
Friday	Badminton training	Lunchtime	Sport Hall	Year 10 & 11
	Band project	Lunchtime	MU2	Rotating year groups (See Mr Baldrey for details)
	Chamber Choir	Lunchtime	MU1	Year 7 – 11 See Mrs Marks for details

School Designated Safeguarding Persons

It is important that you know who to refer concerns on about any young person in Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School. The poster attached notes our Designated Safeguarding Persons and the school procedure.

Celebrating Success

Our school social media posts are currently being used to showcase student success, as well as the rewards system within school. In future bulletins, we will spotlight specific students and groups of students.

Important Dates

Key dates are provided below. Other event dates will be shared at interim points via separate letters.

Date	Event	Notes
[03/11]	Year 11 Mock Exams Begin	All week. See schedule sent separately.
[05/11]	Young Musician Competition	See separate letter/information.
[11/11]	Year 10&11 Guidance Evening	An evening for parents/carers to receive important information on this year.
[12/11]	Ski Trip Parent/Carer Meeting	For parents/carers of those attending the Ski Trip this year.
[03/11]	Year 11 Mock Exams Begin	All week. See letter.
[25/11]	Duke of Edinburgh Presentation	Separate letter to be sent.
[02-03/12]	Flu Vaccinations	Whole School. Separate letter.
[12 - 19/12]	Ski Trip Departs	See separate letters.
[08/01]	November GCSE Exam Results	WJEC GCSE results will be issued on this date for any external exams sat Nov 2025.
[14/01]	Year 9 Parents' Evening	For parents/carers to receive subject feedback.

[16-18/01]	Year 7 Llangrannog Trip	Departing school on morning of Friday 16 th Dec. See separate letters.
[21/01]	Year 7&8 Parent Workshop – Managing Thoughts & Feelings	A collaborative evening to share strategies
[28/01]	Inset Day	School closed to students. Teacher/Staff Training.
[16/03]	Inset Day	School closed to students. Teacher/Staff Training.
[25/03]	Year 7 Parents' Evening	For parents/carers to receive subject feedback.
[29/04]	Year 8 Parents' Evening	For parents/carers to receive subject feedback.
[07/05- 16/06]	Exam Season	WJEC / External Examinations for GCSE students. See separate timetables.
[19-20/06]	Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition	Trial expedition for DofE students. See separate letters.
[23/06]	Year 10 and Year 11 (KS4) Awards' Evening	An evening to celebrate the success of selected KS4 students.
[26/06]	Inset Day	School closed to students. Teacher/Staff Training.
[29/06]	Inset Day	School closed to students. Teacher/Staff Training.
[30/06]	Year 6 Transition Evening	A guidance evening for those starting Yr 7 in Sept '26.
[02/07]	Year 7-9 (KS3) Awards Evening	An evening to celebrate the success of selected KS3 students.
[09/07]	Year 11 Prom	A night to celebrate the end of school for Year 11.
[09 - 11/07]	Duke of Edinburgh Expedition	The real expedition for DofE students.
[13-17/07]	Disney Trip	See separate letters.
[14/07]	Rewards Trips	Rewards Trips for All Years
[14/07]	Year 6 Transition Day	A day for Year 6 to join us before they begin in Sept '26.

Term Dates

Term time	3rd November – 19th December	
Christmas Break	22nd December – 2nd January	
Term time	Monday 5 th January – Friday 13 th February 2026	Inset Day – Wednesday 28th January
February Half-Term Break	Monday 16th – 20th February 2026	
Term time	Monday 23 rd February – Friday 27 th March 2026	Inset Day – Monday 16th March
Easter Break	Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	
	Monday 13 th April – Friday 22 nd May	Inset Day – Friday 26th June
Whitsun Half-Term Break	Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	
Term time	Monday 1st June – Monday 20th July	
Summer Break	Tuesday 21st July	

Quote of the Half-Term

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela

Stay Connected

-  Website: [| Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School](https://www.cefnsaesoncomprehensiveschool.net)
-  Social Media: Instagram: @cefnsaesoncomprehensive and Facebook: @cefnsaesoncomprehensiveschool
-  Contact: Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School, Afan Valley Road, Cimla, Neath.
SA11 3TA. cefnsaeson@hwbcymru.net. 01639 791300

Child Protection

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

An important notice for all staff, pupils, governors and visitors.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

What is Child Protection?

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

Our Procedures

The school is committed to safeguarding and child protection and as such has in place policies that are designed to protect pupils and staff. Copies of these policies are available on the school website or from the school office.

Staff, Governors and Volunteers at the school

Before someone new comes to work or volunteer at our school, we have in place rigorous safer recruitment processes. These include background checks such as enhanced DBS checks and references.

All staff receive regular training in safeguarding and child protection. Governors and our volunteers are also encouraged to attend.

If you have a concern

We hope you will never need to use this process, however, if you have a concern about a child please speak to someone below as soon as possible.



Ms L Morris
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs D Evans
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs J Lewis
Safeguarding Governor



Miss C Jones
Headteacher / DSL

The School Police Liaison Officer contact details are: PC K Kent

For additional help and support or to speak to someone independent of the school you can contact the Council's Education Safeguarding Officer,

Anneliese Donovan, on 01639 763363, 07855079790 or a.donovan3@npt.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can access advice, support and make referrals via the SPOC team on 01639 686802 or spoc@npt.gov.uk

C Jones

Everyone has a responsibility to keep children and young people safe

