

Cowbridge Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun Y Bont Faen
Parentmail Bulletin

09/12/16

Diary Dates

DECEMBER

15 Term Ends for Pupils

16 STAFF INSET DAY - School Closed

JANUARY

2 New Year Bank Holiday - School Closed

3 Spring Term Begins

3 - 6 Year 12 Mock Exams

5 Year 10 Parents' Evening Start: 4pm End: 6.30pm

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we near the end of the Autumn Term and Christmas draws closer, I wish to thank all staff and governors at Cowbridge Comprehensive School for their continued superb hard work and commitment to the pupils of the school during the year.

Christmas is a time to remind ourselves, whatever our beliefs, of the importance of supporting others less privileged than us. This is one time of year when it is commonplace to find the spirit of human kindness alive and well. Thinking of others and raising money for others has been a real strength again this year and raising money for charity is something that our children and staff do readily and willingly. During the past few weeks we have hosted a great range of activities to reach out to the immediate and wider community and we have raised record amounts of funds for charity. Thank you all for your endeavours and support!

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as we work together to offer the very best learning opportunities and experiences for your child. On behalf of all at the School, we wish you, your family and the pupils a peaceful and happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Mrs Thomas
Headteacher

Dear Parent/Guardian,

May we take this opportunity to inform you hundreds of our pupils across Years 7-13 have been awarded certificates and prizes over the past few days for achieving excellence in the following areas;

100% attendance

0/1 behaviour point

Overall attitude to learning average of below 1.75

Congratulations and well done to all of the students to receive these awards and we would like to encourage those who did not receive awards at this time that there is another opportunity at Easter for a similar reward programme.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Achievement Team

Senior Maths Challenge Success 2016

Eighteen pupils in our school achieved certificates in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge (2 golds, 5 silvers and 11 bronze awards).

A special congratulations to Callum Marlor and Iestyn Thomas who achieved gold certificates. Iestyn Thomas was in the top 6%, and was invited to take part in the follow-on competition, the Senior Kangaroo. We await his results!

Over 82,000 pupils from across the UK entered the Senior Maths Challenge with the top 10% receiving a gold certificate, the next 20% silver and the next 30% bronze. The competition is run by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and is aimed at pupils with an interest and an aptitude in mathematics from Years 11, 12 and 13.

SPORTS NEWS

Benetton Lewis represents Wales at Water Polo

Benetton Lewis, a Year 7 pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, has represented Wales this weekend at water polo. The tournament was the 14 and Under National Championships, held at Walsall Gala Baths. The competition attracted the best regional sides from the whole of the UK, the majority of which had trained together and played at this level for the past three seasons. Wales were the youngest side by far and the squad had only been put together two months ago with a view to developing over time through this age band. Despite their inexperience they played gallantly and improved with every game, their battling spirit and never say die attitude might not have won them the matches, but it won the hearts of the capacity crowd. Upon leaving the pool after the last match they received a rapturous standing ovation from the whole crowd that lasted several minutes and delayed the start of the next game. Many of the top GB coaches commented that it was only the physical size of the opposition that counted against the Welsh team and they should be proud of their performances. Benetton played in all five of the matches Wales were involved with.

Well done!



Ensuring Pupils Achieve - The Importance of Excellent Attendance

Cowbridge Comprehensive School is committed to achieving a positive and supportive ethos where children and parents understand the importance of excellent attendance and its correlation with achievement. We recognise that excellent attendance and punctuality are key factors in ensuring that children meet their potential. Research has consistently demonstrated that missing school for even short periods of time can impact upon a pupil's chances of reaching their true academic and wider potential.

The below table outlines our overall categorisation and strategies for ensuring excellent attendance at School and also highlights the equivalence of lessons (hours) missed of education when attendance becomes irregular.

Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Achievement Assistant if your are concerned about your child's attendance, so that we can work in partnership with you to achieve and maintain excellence.

Attendance Level	Judgement in Terms of Potential Impact on Reaching Potential	Examples of Actions by the School
Attendance at 96% +	Excellent	Attendance monitored. Pupils with 100% attendance awarded recognition certificates
91% - 95%	Needs monitoring and improvement 50 – 85 equivalent hours of education missed	Communication with pupils and parents via text/phone call home/Letter of concern to parents. Possible investigation and intervention depending upon reasons
90 – 84%	Unacceptable. Cause for concern Equivalent of 95 – 130 hours of lessons missed	School Intervention – Formal School Action - Letters home to parents Investigate patterns and trends Consider an attendance report and support plan Consider involvement of external agencies Consider issuing Fixed Penalty Notices
85% and under	Major cause for concern - in excess of 140 hours of education missed	Formal School Action Plus Investigation, exploration and intervention by school in liaison with external agencies Consider strategies and sanctions to improve examples include referral to CAMHS , Educational Psychologist , FACT Referral, consideration of Fixed Penalty Notice and/or prosecution

Chart to illustrate the equivalent lessons missed based upon 3 school terms (190 days of School days per year)

Pupils are required to attend School for 190 days. this means a total of 950 hours of formal lessons. This means that there are already 175 days of available family and recreational time. Please ensure that all leisure and family trips and holidays take place outside of term time.

100%	0 lessons missed	76%	230 lessons missed
99%	10 lessons missed	75%	235 lessons missed
98%	20 lessons missed	74%	245 lessons missed
97%	30 lessons missed	73%	255 lessons missed
96%	40 lessons missed	72%	265 lessons missed
95%	50 lessons missed	71%	275 lessons missed
94%	60 lessons missed	70%	285 Lessons missed
93%	70 lessons missed	69%	295 Lessons missed
92%	80 lessons missed	68%	305 lessons missed
91%	85 lessons missed	67%	315 lessons missed
90%	95 lessons missed	66%	325 lessons missed
89%	105 lessons missed	65%	330 lessons missed
88%	115 lessons missed	64%	340 lessons missed
87%	125 lessons missed	63%	350 lessons missed
86%	130 lessons missed	62%	360 lessons missed
85%	140 lessons missed	61%	370 lessons missed
84%	150 lessons missed	60%	380 lessons missed
83%	160 lessons missed	50%	475 lessons missed
82%	170 lessons missed	40%	570 lessons missed
81%	180 lessons missed	30%	665 lessons missed
80%	190 lessons missed	20%	760 lessons missed
79%	200 lessons missed	10%	855 lessons missed
78%	210 lessons missed	5%	900 lessons missed
77%	220 lessons missed	0%	950 lessons missed

Lost Property

There is already a staggering amount of lost property in the school. Items which are marked with a name are returned to the students. Lost property without a label/name is placed in the Lost Property. Once 4 weeks has elapsed, this is either given to charity or thrown away. Please could you encourage your child to visit the lost property area in the Old Reception Area, next week to collect any missing items. Many students left property in lockers over the holiday despite being repeatedly asked to collect the property, to enable lockers to be cleaned and reallocated. We have repeatedly asked students to collect this and we urge parents to encourage children to collect lost items.

LOST PROPERTY will also be available to collect during assigned parents' evenings.

LATE ATTENDANCE

Students arriving at school after 8:30 am should be dropped off by the new Reception to ensure they are signed in. This ensures the school is aware of their presence in case of emergency.

Parents' Evening Appointments

Please note, that last appointments will be no later than 6.20pm to enable the evening to conclude at 6.30pm or as soon as possible thereafter.

2015/2016 GCSE and A Level Certificates

GCSE and A Level certificates for pupils who left school in 2015 or 2016 will be made available for collection from reception between 10:00am and 2:00pm on the following days:

Wednesday 4th January

Thursday 5th January

For those pupils who returned to the 6th form, their GCSE certificates will be given out shortly after the mock exams in January.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT - SEATBELTS

Please be reminded that all school transport vehicles are fitted with seatbelts and ALL pupils must wear a seatbelt when being transported.

The webpage below has facts on why seatbelts should be worn at all times.

<http://think.direct.gov.uk/seat-belts.html>

Transportation Unit
The Vale of Glamorgan Council