

Cardiff West Community High School



Dear Parents,

Welcome the Summer 2022 edition of the Cardiff West CHS newsletter.

It has been an absolute pleasure to witness the return to some kind of “normality” to school life this year. The year has flown by and it seems incredible to think that we are approaching the end of the school year.

Firstly, I am very grateful for the support from all parents this year as we battled with the challenges linked to staff absence and COVID at certain times in the year. It has been difficult at times; however, we have kept any partial closures to an absolute minimum and the level of disruption has been very limited in comparison to the previous two years.

There have been many highlights to recall and this newsletter is full of excellent stories linked to life at CWCHS. We are delighted to have demonstrated Ambition, Resilience and Trust on a daily basis. It was a privilege to attend the Awards Evening recently and celebrate the achievements of so many students. As always, we work in partnership and the support from our sponsors in the local business community was exceptional.

We can reflect on a very successful year as a school and we were all delighted with the positive outcome of the recent Estyn Monitoring visit in February 2022. The school was removed from the list of schools being reviewed by Estyn and we are using the feedback to drive further improvements in line with new School Improvement Plan. The Governing Body will continue to support the Leadership Team as we look to ensure that every student realises their full potential here at Cardiff West.

Formal public examinations have returned this year and we will be distributing results on Thursday 18th August (A Level) and Thursday 25th August (GCSE). We look forward to handing out the results to our students and wish them all good luck for the future!

Finally, farewell to Mrs Richards, our Deputy Headteacher, who leaves us to take up her post as Headteacher at Croesyceiliog. We thank her for her hard work and commitment to all students at the school and wish her well in her new role. I know that she will be leaving with many good memories!

I hope that you have an enjoyable summer break.

School reopens for Year 7, 11 and Post 16 on Tuesday 6th September 2022. Years 8,9 and 10 return on Wednesday 7th September 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Hulland
Headteacher

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Debate Mate

Students from Years 7 & 9 have taken part in the Debate Mate Club which started in March.

They were instructed in how to construct arguments and take part in formal debates by university student mentors. They took part in informal debates with other schools at Cantonian in May and participated in the Wales Debate Mate Cup at the Principality Stadium on Wednesday, 22nd June.

Though we didn't win the cup, we did win an award for Highest Overall Attendance out of all the schools participating. Our Year 7 teams were the youngest competitors and bravely took on students from Years 9 and 10.

Participants have really grown in their ability to make their voices heard, engage with different points of view in debates, and to have self-confidence in expressing their ideas.

We really hope to build on the successes we've had and will be looking to continue a KS3 club and running the Graduate club for Year 10 next year.



Participants at the Principality Stadium included:

Year 7

Aaron Cummins
Nevaeh Magee
Bethan Smith
Namood-e-seher
Zaynab Sheeraz
Eszter Banacska
Tianah Hendrickson
Shane Lenahan
Jake Stapleton
Jonas Revelay
Leland Duffield
Zachary Radford

Year 9

Maddy Morgan
Lili Ostler
Ffion Corcoran
Freya Stevens
Jenna O'Sullivan
Tegan Griffiths
Annalise Payne
Ellie-Mae Francis
Gabriella Hughes-Medcalf

CARDIFF WEST AND BUSINESSES COMING TOGETHER TO SECURE SUCCESSFUL FUTURES FOR ALL



Since our opening in 2017 it has been Cardiff Wests' mission to work closely with businesses in order to inspire our young people and to make employability a 'reality' to all. This year in particular we have built on successful initiatives we have had in place and Mrs Richards has been working with Careers Wales and the Cardiff Commitment team at Cardiff Local Authority to develop a business forum; the aim of the business forum is to bring businesses into the school to work with our young people offering them a helping hand to become

more employable. This is key to our motto 'Create your world'.

Part of this work gave opportunities to year 10 recently to take part in Careers Week. This involved a week of careers focused activities from 27th June to 5th July. During this week our year 10's took part in a Careers Carousel day which saw 8 different companies come and offer 'taster' sessions to all of our year 10 cohort. This was a great success and opened up a number of doors to our pupils that they had not even considered before. Employers included Cardiff and the Vale UHB, LCB, British Transport Police, Admiral, Centregreat, Royal Navy and Rubicon Dance.

Following the careers carousel our year 10's then got suited and booted to attend mock interviews with 24 employers from across the City. This was no mean feat and the business partners dedicated a whole day to coming and supporting our learners. In addition to the companies already supporting the day, we invited Price Waterhouse Coopers, Ecoach, Ian Williams, Speakers for schools, and Cardiff and the Vale UHB for the day. Our year 10's were outstanding; they presented themselves as ambitious, resilient and trustworthy and the employers sang their praises all day. Commendation goes to Sonia Dhillon who was our top 'employee' of the day having been told by Christian Baldwin (Principality) who interviewed her, that she showed "great promise and if I could employ her now I would" – Wow! Well done Sonia!



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Congratulations!

Tomos Nelves and Ruby Price have entered a Young Writers' competition and have had their piece of creative writing selected for publication!

Well done both of you!



YEAR 9 GCSE SPORTS SUPERSTARS LEADING THE DAY!

This term, we were very proud of our Year 9 GCSE Sport students. They did a brilliant job leading and running Trelai Primary School's sports day! In total we had over 200 Trelai students at Cardiff West from years 3,4,5 and 6. It was great to see so many happy faces and our students acting as wonderful role models for the next generation of Cardiff West Pupils.



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CWCHS INAUGURAL AWARDS

On 7th July we held Cardiff West Community High School's first awards evening and it was a huge success.

Following our efforts to bring businesses to the forefront of our daily curriculum here at Cardiff West, we were fortunate to gain sponsorship from a number of companies from across Cardiff making our awards evening that extra bit special!

In attendance and keen to give back to his community was Jason Mohammad who, as well as presenting his own award for his academy 'Boundless', kicked off the evening by inspiring us to remember our roots. "There is magic in the people from Ely and Caerau that you just don't get from anywhere else – use it wisely and you will go far!". Jason also quoted the great Mohammad Ali to remind us that "Will always beats Skill", and this seemed fitting for a night in which we were celebrating young people who have demonstrated 'will' in huge amounts in order to make the best of their time here at Cardiff West.

Congratulations to all of our award winners and a huge thankyou to all of our business partners.



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CWCHS Salon

Did you know we have a modern & well equipped salon at our school?
Our enthusiastic learners strive for excellence through their outstanding clientele service. Contact the school to book your place!

Tel: 02920672704 (option 3)

Email: Karimah.murphy@cwchs.co.uk

Hair services	Level 2 stylist	Qualified stylist
Shampoo & blow dry	FREE	£10.00
Cut & blow dry	FREE	£20.00
Full head colour	£10.00	£30.00
Half head highlights	£10.00	£40.00
Full head highlights	£15.00	£50.00

Pupil Development Grant Access 2022

Learners currently eligible for free school meals can apply for the grant of £125 per learner, and £200 for those entering year 7, recognising the increased costs associated with starting secondary school. All school years are now eligible.

Families who are eligible for free school meals can submit a claim if they have a child in:

- **Primary school from reception to year 6**
- **Secondary school from year 7 to year 11**

All looked after children qualify for the grant, whether they receive free school meals or not. Families are only entitled to claim once per child, per school year.

Funding for the 2021 to 2022 scheme will close on 30th June 2022. The 2022 to 2023 scheme will open in the Summer of 2022.

To apply for this grant please contact your local authority. You can also contact our Welfare Manager Mrs K Howells at the school for further information.



Prevent Program wins the race!

In June we took some Year 9 students to indoor carting as part of the Prevent Program. The students completed 2 sessions in the carts with students from other schools as a reward for their hard work after completing the program. Well done everyone, especially Mr Rawlings who apparently was the fastest!



CAVC Aero Engineering Challenge



12 year 10 engineering students competed in the CAVC Aero Engineering Challenge at Cardiff airport on Monday.



The overall aim of the day was to showcase the career pathway available if they wish, once they have successfully completed their level 2 in engineering at Cardiff West.



The students were split into 2 groups of 6 to complete 5 activities based around aero engineering. These included programming a drone to fly around a circuit in the main hanger, landing a plane at Cardiff Airport on a flight simulator, jacking a plane off the ground for maintenance and building parachutes to drop eggs without breaking.



Both teams performed excellently across all challenges and mixed well with students from other schools. A number of our students expressed a keen interest during the day to pursue a course post 16.

MARBLE-OUS NEWS!



Students from 8T entered the RAengineering Welsh Marble Challenge and from a total of 44 entries won the top Engineers Choice prize winning a 3D printer for the DT department along side a programmable robot. The pupils chose to base the design around 'green energy' and included a wind farm, biomass power station and a hydro-electric power plant. Students, as part of STEM learning, learnt all about structures and Smart materials.



Nurture & Tuesday Club



Drop in Nurture and the Tuesday Club have been preparing for the school fayre this term, in the process they have learnt about

growing produce, recycling and how to run a business by selling ice pops in this extremely hot weather! They have also learnt about the history of Pride Month and how to support others in



the LGBTQIA community through education. All proceeds from our sales will be put to amazing projects in the school.



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DIG, DIG, DIG!

On Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 July three Year 9 students and 50 Year 7 students joined the Humanities faculty in



working with Caer Heritage, ACE and staff from Cardiff University in an archaeological dig in Trelai Field. This was a follow up to the geophysical survey visit that some Year 7 students supported in March of this year. The students were able to get an amazing hands-on experience of a real-life archaeological dig and supported the Caer Heritage team in finding and preserving



historical artefacts from the past of Caerau and Ely. Some amazing artefacts were found at the site of the dig,

including a Roman coin and a piece of pottery from the Bronze Age that is over 3000 years old. Talk about history on your doorstep!

We would like to thank the Caer Heritage group, especially Dave, Ollie and Charlotte for providing our pupils with a truly unique opportunity. The students' behaviour, attitude and focus were once again first class, and the Humanities Faculty would like to thank each and every one of them for representing the school in such a fantastic manner.



Creative Writing at CWCHS

This term, a number of students in year seven and eight took part in a six week creative writing workshop hosted by Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Within the sessions, students were inspired to write a fantastic range of poetry and short stories before completing the program with a celebratory graduation on campus.

These poems and short stories will now be published in both a University publication and in the **CWCHS' Creative Writers: Volume II**, available to purchase from Amazon in September.

Many other Cardiff West students will also be published, for the second or third time, in our fourth CWCHS anthology, **On the Shoulders of Giants**. This will also be available to purchase in September and shares student writing inspired by a whole host of authors from all over the world.

We are thrilled to be able to celebrate these monumental achievements and look forward to the fabulous writing ahead of us next year!

Well done to everyone involved.





Soapy Science

There has been an amazing effort from year 10 over the last few weeks of term.

They have been using science to make perfume, aftershave and 'take home' bathbombs!

A special thank you to Miss Davies and Mrs Richards for judging our contest, and to Mr Marsh for being brave enough to trial the scent!! Cracking results - well done year 10!



PROM 2022

The Cardiff West CHS Year 11 Prom took place for our class of '22 on Friday 8th July at The Holiday Inn, Cardiff City Centre.

Pupils and staff looked amazing, and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Thank you to Miss Prosser, Mrs Sullivan-Godfrey, Mrs Thomas and Miss Killin for their help in organising and setting up for the big night!

A big thank you also to NERDS photography for taking the photos on the evening.

We would also like to thank Mrs Morgan and her team for organising the Pop-Up PROM Shop - this will be utilised for years to come.



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PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

At the end of June, Cardiff West put on a whole-school production of "Beauty & the Beast Jr". This was the first full-scale production since the pandemic. Around 50 pupils were involved on and off stage from

Years 7 through to 13. Pupils rehearsed from October through to June to prepare. Costumes, props and set were designed and made by CWCHS staff and assisted by pupils interested in those areas. Pupils were

also involved running backstage and with technical elements such as lighting and sound. The show was a great success with a large number of parents, pupils and friends attending to watch the performance. Some pupils in Year 13 used this as part of a Level 3 Performing Arts Exam. The production was wholly positive - pupils engaged in the process and enjoyed taking part. The production helped to develop life skills such as resilience, ambition, time-management, presenting and



performance skills, organisation, collaboration and also supported pupils overcome performance related anxiety. The whole-school show is an important event as it truly embodies our core values of ambition, resilience and Trust.

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