

Fairwater High School News

'If we believe we can achieve'

The final edition



Jamie Baulch Inspires Pupils at Annual Awards Evening



Healthy News

We are pleased to announce that thanks to Ms Black and the SNAG group, Fairwater has been awarded the level 4 healthy schools award. To celebrate the opening of the new canteen in September pupils have the opportunity to enter a competition to produce a healthy meal and the winner will be lucky enough to have their culinary skills enjoyed by all. The winning meal will be offered on sale and feature on the new menu.

Our last ever Fairwater High School Awards Evening on Wednesday 24th June 2015 at The Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran, was an emotional and fitting ceremony to celebrate the academic and sporting achievements of our pupils.

A special thank you to our Guest Speaker / Guest of Honour, Jamie Baulch, who gave a truly inspirational and good humoured talk, that had us all bursting with pride and filled with aspiration to achieve our dreams.

To see a video courtesy of Ben Black of Cwmbran Life, who is an ex pupil of the school please use the link below (this can be found on our school website)

<http://www.cwmbranlife.co.uk/jamie-baulch/>



Mrs Coulson with Jamie

Carys Jordan set for Success

Carys recently competed for Cwmbran Harriers/South East Wales in the South Wales regional athletics championships on Saturday 23rd May.

Carys won the gold medal for under 15's in the hammer. Silver medal for under 15's in the Discus and Bronze medal for under 15's in the shot put.

Carys will go on to represent South East Wales in the Welsh Championships in August.

Active Young People Transition Festival

The AYP Transition Festival Friday 3rd July 2015. 115 participants took part with Coed Eva, Woodlands and Greenmeadow attending.

The schools engaged in Trampolining, Badminton, Basketball, Hockey, Street Dance, Athletics and Cricket.

We had around 8 pupils involved in the day helping assist the schools and some older pupils running the sessions sports volunteers under supervision. A great day was had by all and the event



An AYP volunteer coaching basketball sessions was covered by Torfaen Talks, we had very good feedback on Twitter and Facebook.

Report courtesy of Jacob Guy.



Young Playwrights Competition 2015

This term in English, Mrs Lawrence organised a script writing competition. Pupils studied the play 'Teachers', which focuses on three students' experiences in their high school. They then wrote their own scripts and entered them in to the competition. There were a number of entries between both years selecting the winners was an extremely decision. After a weekend to read them all, two winners were chosen.



Mrs Lawrence said: Abbie Cooper from Year 7 and Kasey Clayton from Year 8 had their scripts selected for performance. A group of pupils from Year 7 and 8 took on the roles and performed the plays. Amy Payne, Lacey-May Howell-Jones, Harrison Dowling, Georgia Sheehan, Jasmine Stubbs, Abbie Cooper, Kasey Clayton, Anna Edmunds played a range of characters. Mason Evans, Jada Morgan, Harry Jarvis, Dylan Odelet, Aimee Rance, Carys Gallivan and Ben Wright all took on the role of teachers. Although I was assured, I was not convinced that they were not based on current members of staff!

Pupils involved attended lunch time and after school rehearsals for a number of weeks, with both Abbie and Kasey directing the process to ensure that the actors were able to get the characters just right. A final technical rehearsal, with the addition of Danielle Morgan to play the sound cues, meant that they were ready to perform to year 7.

All of the rehearsal time paid off and the performance went extremely well with the pupils showing off their acting skills. They also managed to raise some serious issues, such as bullying and show just how much upset it can cause.

I was very proud of the hard work put in everybody. Well done to all pupils involved and a special well done to Abbie and Kasey for creating the scripts. Watch out Broadway!

Report courtesy of Mrs R Lawrence, English Department.

Lexi the dog completes her year.

Twelve months ago when it was announced Fairwater was having its first school dog it was met with some scepticism; 'how is a dog going to help teach pupils?' many questioned.

Studies have shown that animals can have a very calming effect on people and specifically, dogs tend to build up strong, unconditional bonds with people around them.

Lexi has helped pupils who sometimes struggle to form relationships, suffer from anxiety and anger management. By allowing pupils to interact with her, Lexi has helped develop several pupils' behaviour, she had even been used to help improve reading skills by getting pupils to read out loud to her as they feel they won't be judged if they make



a mistake. Jay Knowles who has Autism (pictured with Lexi above) often visits Lexi to help him avoid angry outbursts, who says this helps him remain focussed and progress in his lessons.

Fairwater Pupils go Supersonic



From left to right: Evan Williams, Tyler Powell, Alex Gage, Oliver Fields and Ashley Tucker.

The Bloodhound SUPER SONIC CAR is a British engineered super sonic car currently in development. Its goal is to reach or exceed 1,000mph. Which is faster than the speed of sound! The run will be conducted in South Africa in the Hakskeen Pan desert which is 12 miles long. The sheer speed that this vehicle can achieve requires such a wide open space so it can fulfil its maximum speed and potential.



From left to right: Jaymee Cummings, Catrin Arnold, Kyle McCarthy, Danielle Morgan, Carys Jordan, and Tom Edwards

The project consisted of multiple schools competing against each other, adjusting parameters to try and reach the highest simulation speed. We had to take into account factors that impacted the cars speed such as down force and aerodynamics. Then we had to produce a poster including evidence on how we got to and reached the highest speed that we could. Including elements such as graphs and pressure diagrams. We then travelled to Swansea University to present the posters and see who won!

Report courtesy of Tyler Powell Year 9.

Frozen in Time



Fairwater pupils have decided to bury a time capsule to celebrate the closing of Fairwater High School this summer.

The school council worked together with their peers and came up with a list of items to be included. Here are some of the items pupils have suggested to bury:

- A school uniform.
- Photographs of each form.
- A Planner.
- A school book.

There were some more humorous suggestions from pupils that were rejected such as all the teachers keys!

Proms 2015 celebrate success



Shame Summers Year 11 looking sharp

Pupils in years 11 and 13 have celebrated this month in style. Year 11 attended Bryn Meadow Golf Club for their end of year Prom and year 13 visited the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff. Pupils arrived in luxury cars to their events and were dressed in outfits that would put celebrities to shame.

Both events were thoroughly enjoyed by staff and pupils alike



Demolition Simulator Visits Fairwater

Fairwater pupils and staff have been treated to experiencing what it is actually like to knock down buildings, crush concrete and be in control of a 70 metre pneumatic drill.

I caught up with the instructor before I took a group of Year 6 pupils who were visiting on a transition day to ask him some questions about what they are used for.

'The problem with demolition is you only get one chance to get it right, this doesn't leave much opportunity for on the job training!'



Scott Coslett getting to grips with controls



'There are thousands of job vacancies in the demolition industry that need filling and the reason is lack of training facilities. This piece of kit which costs over forty thousand pounds allows us to train people in only two weeks. We are currently touring the country visiting schools for free to try and promote and encourage pupils to consider a career in this field.'

Intrigued and willing to learn I donned my high visibility jacket and had a go at crushing a concrete lintel and recycling the steel, the experience was very realistic with life like sounds and movement. Needless to say the pupils absolutely loved it - apparently its even better than an X Box!

Pupils enter Hoarding Board Competition to celebrate merger



Students from both Fairwater, Llantarnam and the ASD base at Fairwater were picked to take part in the 'Hoarding Board Competition' initiative run by the contractors Wilmot Dixon. The one off piece completed by the Art Department was design to symbolise the merging of the two schools into Cwmbran High School and the entry from Fairwater came runner up. Overseen by Art teachers Mr Darmanin and Mrs Evans who explained to me the painting uses a tree that branches out to form words that depict the values of our school. Inset are symbols chosen by pupils to represent every subject taught at the school.

Mr Darmanin said 'it's very different to what we normally do in class working on an 8' x 4' board is a lot bigger than pupil are used to!'

'It has helped pupils develop their skills and work as part of a team, it is also the first time most have painted upside down!'

The ASD base also had a very impressive entry coordinated by Base Manager Esther Nicolaou who said . 'The pupils each included a jigsaw piece that features on the National Autism Awareness logo. On each piece pupils expressed their own feelings about what autism means to them. Wilmot Dixon now plan to use the photographs on their publicity information to help spread the awareness of autism.'



Building Work on track for Completion

The joint student council of Fairwater and Llantarnam Schools have been given the opportunity to inspect the progress of building works for Cwmbran High School.

The new school, due to open next September, will see Fairwater School and Llantarnam School close, and the current Fairwater School site revamped.

Nine students were invited to look around the inside of the lower school building where major work is underway and to ask questions of head teacher Helen Coulson.

The students were accompanied on their visit by contractors from Willmott Dixon Construction.

Mrs Coulson said that the senior leadership team at the school is



“extremely pleased with the progress that is being made” in the lower school; where a significant amount of the £6 million budget is being spent.

There will be 19 new classrooms, a computer science area, a new sixth form facility, a supportive learning area and a brand new canteen.

There will also be a specialist hearing impaired base, an autistic spectrum disorder base and a number of offices and meeting rooms.

Most of the work on the upper school building will happen during the summer holidays, but work will begin at the end of June.

Plans for the upper school building include refurbishment of the current sixth form area into classrooms, a large performance hall, a new reception area, modern classrooms, additional fencing around the school and a new drop off area for children to be dropped off or picked up from the site.

Mrs Coulson said: “We now have a full compliment of staff; the curriculum has been agreed and a series of transition days and events to bring the pupils from their current schools together is underway.

“I have no doubt that Cwmbran High School will be a high performing, academic school where all pupils will succeed.”

She reassured that works to the classrooms will be completed by September ready for the new school year, with the performance hall on schedule to be complete before Christmas.

Year Nine Fairwater School pupil, Tyler Powell, said: “When we were first told about the plans to close the school we were a bit worried but now that we can actually see the changes happening we are really excited.”

The closure of the schools is part of the 21st Century Schools Programme that aims to reduce surplus places.

In April, a petition of more than 4,000 signatures was handed to Torfaen council calling for Llantarnam school to be saved.

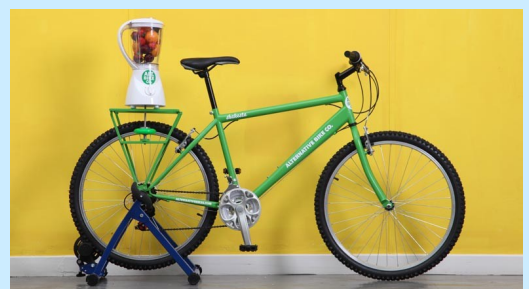
But the authority maintained that Fairwater School was the best location for the new school.

Report courtesy of the South Wales Argus.



Health and Well being day

Pupils took part recently in the Health and Wellbeing day at Fairwater. Sessions are designed to raise awareness of Healthy lifestyles and demonstrate to pupils ways to keep fit and eat healthy. Run by Ms I Black with assistance of the Technology and PE departments, activities included making a smoothie using a smoothie bike, an interactive food quiz, a practical demonstration showing how to make a health wrap and P.E. activities.



The Arrival Writers Workshop



On 1st July, Year 7 were invited to take part in a writer's workshop with author Jon Gower. The purpose was to inspire pupils to engage in creative writing activities and develop skills in empathy writing.

The workshop was based on Shaun Tan's illustrated novel 'The Arrival' and pupils had the opportunity to work in groups and present their work to their peers. Pupils focused on



the journey of the main character and considered his thoughts and feelings as well as exploring his possessions and the clues these gave them to his identity.

As the workshop developed Year 7 put themselves in the position of another character from the story and undertook a journey imagining their experiences. The success of the day ended with postcards home which were transformed into origami boats to allow the journey to continue.

The event was a lovely and valuable experience for all pupils involved. We will be continuing to build links with authors in the near future to encourage creative writing for our budding authors.

Report Courtesy of Mrs Bartley

Message from the Head and Senior Leadership



We just wanted to say a massive thank you to all pupils and staff for your hard work and dedication and to all parents/carers for your patience and support throughout a very challenging year! Together we have made major improvements in all areas, which have led to FHS becoming one of the highest achieving schools, not only in Torfaen, but in Wales.

It is indeed the "end of an era" as we say a heartfelt goodbye to FHS, but we also welcome the start of a new era, with excitement and expectation of the opening of Cwmbran High School.

We hope you all have a restful holiday.

Pupils celebrate St David's day - in France!

Around forty pupils and staff were lucky enough to visit France this March to celebrate St David's day in style - at Disneyland Paris!

The park runs the Welsh festival annually to raise awareness of our celebration and to encourage pupils to learn about each others cultures.

The trip run by Mr Lloyd in the Welsh department, included two days entry to Disneyland, a trip to the Eiffel Tower and a guided tour of Paris.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip which offered pupils a first hand experience of French culture, food and 'driving on the wrong side of the road' as many put it!



Thank you!

I would like to thank all the people who have provided me with stories and photographs for final edition of the Fairwater Newsletter.

Mr D Baribeault - Editor.