



# Autumn Term 2025

# Newsletter

## Key dates:

- Last date of Autumn Term – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- INSET Day – 05/01/26
- INSET Day – 06/01/26
- INSET Day – 13/04/26
- INSET DAY – 20/07/26

## Staffing updates:

Mr. Aron Bradley has started his role as the Executive Headteacher of Ysgol Hen Felin and the new ALN school in Clydach Vale, whilst Mr. Nigel Hendy has been successful in achieving the temporary role of Head of School at Ysgol Hen Felin and Mr. Robert Hemming has been successful in achieving the temporary role of Assistant Headteacher.

We say farewell to three members of staff this term: Nisha Hutchings, Vicki Roderick and Sarah Morgan who we wish all the best and will be missed across the school.

## Spring Term Topics:

- **Foundation Phase** – 'Do Dragons Exist?'
- **Key Stage 2** – 'Dragon Tales'
- **Key Stage 3** – 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets'
- **14-19 Department** – 'Myths & Legends'

## Safeguarding:

We all have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. If you have any concerns about the health or safety of a child at school—or feel something may be troubling them—you should share this information with a member of staff straight away. Our safeguarding officers are Mr. Aron Bradley, Mr Nigel Hendy, Mrs Nicola Clark & Mrs Rhiannon Mellor.



## Christmas concerts

This year, we were thrilled to welcome families and friends to Ysgol Hen Felin for our Christmas Concerts. Each department brought the festive spirit to life with fantastic performances: TEYC held their first Christmas Concert – A Wiggly Nativity, the Foundation Phase delighted us with Knock, Knock – The Nativity, Key Stage 2 entertained with The Greatest Snowman, and the Secondary Department wowed everyone with their stunning production of Moana – Finding The Way. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported our learners—your presence made these celebrations truly memorable!

## Pupil Wellbeing Team

Meet our Pupil Wellbeing Team for the 2025-2026 academic year. Throughout the year our Pupil Wellbeing Team will be busy meeting with staff across the school to discuss ways to further develop our wellbeing provision and offer for our pupils. The Pupil Wellbeing Team will play a key role in developing pupil voice across the school and will represent all learners to ensure that pupil wellbeing is at the heart of all that we do. Check out what we have been doing using the school's twitter/X page.



## Parental Engagement

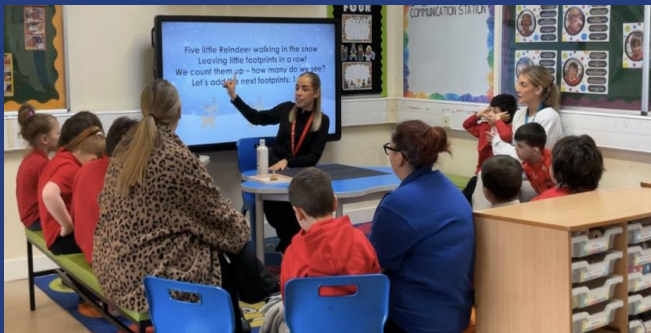
This term, the Wellbeing Centre has continued to develop our family engagement through activities such as weekly Coffee Mornings, offering parents a space to connect and feel supported. We've partnered with *Lean on Me* for counselling services and introduced *Therapeutic Tuesdays* for relaxation and self-care. Our Dads' Group continues to provide a safe space for fathers/carers to share and support one another.

Follow us on 'X' [formerly Twitter]: @YsgolHenFelin



# Winter Wonderland

We finished the term in style with our very own Winter Wonderland here at school. The grounds were transformed into a festive experience of fun and excitement for our pupils. There was something for everyone to enjoy—from fairground rides and Santa's grotto to chocolate fountain treats, Christmas crafts, and inflatable games. Our Tonyrefail Early Years pupils joined us at the main site for the celebrations and had a fantastic time getting involved in all the activities. To round off the celebrations, we welcomed families for our Winter Wonderland afternoon session and donated 40 vegetable packs to our families. Parents, carers, and relatives joined us for an afternoon of festive fun, complete with hot chocolate, turkey rolls, and plenty of seasonal activities which even the rain didn't stop! It was a great way to celebrate the end of term and spend time together as a school community and we can't wait to do it all again next Christmas!



# Curriculum Update

This term has been exciting and productive, with plenty of learning opportunities and curriculum development. Our team refined roles for Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) and created development plans with regular reviews. Highlights included Roald Dahl Day, Expressive Arts Focus Week where we welcomed 25 newly qualified teachers. We also had a Mathematics & Numeracy Focus Week with a learning walk and collaboration with Tonyrefail Early Years Centre. The Curriculum Development Team worked on the Progression Step 3 document and shared best practices through Central South Consortium networks. Our Maths and Numeracy group launched successfully, making great use of our dedicated cabin, and Massy Maths was trialed in the Foundation Phase. Governors received a full curriculum update, and Foundation Phase parents enjoyed our festive "Sign With Me" event. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the best learning experiences for our pupils!





**MORGAN  
SINDALL**  
CONSTRUCTION

## New Developments

We're thrilled to be improving our learning environments with a brand-new cabin that will provide a dedicated space for THRIVE sessions and house an innovative immersion room, generously sponsored by Morgan Sindall Construction and money raised in memory of Deacon Owen. This state-of-the-art, multi-sensory space will offer calming and engaging experiences through high-quality visuals, sound, and tactile features. It's designed to help pupils regulate emotions, build confidence, and develop communication and social skills, while also supporting motor and cognitive development in an inclusive setting. We look forward to opening this exciting new learning provision in the New Year.

## Collaborating with SENSE

Sense have provided coffee mornings and sensory exploration sessions in Tonyrefail Early Years Centre, providing play opportunities for children and support for parents. These sessions have been a huge success and will be continuing in the New Year. The staff and parents of pupils in Dosbarth Enfys have enjoyed participating in TACPAC sessions which supports the emotional and social development of children. SENSE also provide supportive and inclusive play sessions, family events and trips for children 0-8 years. If you're interested in finding out more about the charity, contact Lucy Jenkins via email: [lucy.jenkins@sense.org.uk](mailto:lucy.jenkins@sense.org.uk)



  
**sense**  
connecting sight, sound and life

## Communication:

As usual, we shall continue to contact you by telephone, school text service, school website and through 'X' [formerly Twitter] with any updates. So, we kindly ask you to ensure that we have your up-to-date contact telephone number and follow the school on 'X'. Also, let your friends know when there has been some form of communication and that way, nobody should miss anything!





## Special School Sports

Ysgol Hen Felin's Special School Sports Network has had an outstanding first term, successfully hosting two major inclusive sporting events. The Swimming Gala brought together six special schools, providing pupils with an opportunity to showcase their skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. Later in the term, the Football Tournament welcomed twelve schools, creating a vibrant atmosphere of teamwork, sportsmanship, and fun. Both events were highly praised by staff and families for promoting confidence, physical activity, and social interaction among pupils. Building on this success, next term we are excited to host two new events—a Basketball tournament and a Golf festival—further expanding opportunities for pupils to engage in diverse and inclusive sports.



## Upcoming Dates for Your Diary at the Wellbeing Centre:

### Monday Mornings (9:00–10:30am):

- Jan 19: First Aid Training
- Feb 2: Behaviour Hwb workshop
- Feb 9: Food Safety workshop

### Thursday Mornings (9:00–10:30am):

- Toilet Training with Julie Miles (Health Visitor):
- Jan 15 – Primary
- Jan 22 – Secondary

•**Therapeutic Thursday:** Activities for parents and pupils to support wellbeing and emotional regulation

### Additional:

Our '**Little Rainbows**' Pre-diagnosis Toddler Group continues **every Thursday** from **1:30pm – 2:50pm**.

To book a session or to find out more, please contact **Laura Deans**.

Further workshops and parental engagement sessions will be confirmed soon.





# The Wellbeing Team at YHF



Liam Hale  
Assistant Headteacher



Laura Deans  
Wellbeing Officer



Rhian Griffiths  
Behaviour Support



Julie 'G'  
THRIVE Practitioner



Marie Harris  
THRIVE Practitioner

*'Working and learning together to  
promote excellence and enrich lives'*

