

Ferndale Community School

NEWSLETTER

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Inside...



Choir



V Factor



Healthy Schools

Message from the Acting Head

The last 6 months have been very busy for all the members of the School Community! Our Year 7 have settled well and already made their mark in the sporting and musical fields. Year 10 pupils have settled into new courses such as BTEC and NOCN 'Step Up' and enjoying new ways of learning, whilst all pupils have had various opportunities to give their views on the school through different surveys.

The school was inspected by ESTYN last November and praised many aspects of the work of the school, as well as confirming areas for development which had been recognised by Governors and Staff. Copies of the report are available on the school website www.ferndalecommunityschool.com
<http://www.ferndalecommunityschool.com>

The school has seen many new members of staff join the school this year. New teachers have been joined by support staff, some in posts funded by RCT to support the progress of young people in the Rhondda Fach.

This edition of 'Ferndale News' celebrates the successes of last year. Whilst exam success is our core purpose, we are delighted to support and recognise the successes of young people in Performing Arts, Sport and the Community. We also celebrate the contribution of Head of Year / Careers / Technology Teacher Mrs Liz Palmer, who retired last summer having worked at Ferndale since 1973.

Finally a warm Rhondda Fach welcome to Mrs Heather Nicholas who starts as the new Headteacher of the school in May. Currently at Radyr CS, Mrs Nicholas has already met many pupils, staff, Governors and members of the community.

Thank you to all in the community who support your school.

Diolch yn fawr

John Williams

Acting Headteacher



Good Bye and Farewell to Mrs. Palmer

At the end of the Summer Term we had to say goodbye to Mrs Liz Palmer as she took early retirement. Mrs Palmer has spent all of teaching career in Ferndale. She first began her teaching career in 1973 in Ferndale Comprehensive School where she was appointed as a Home Economics teacher, based in the lower school in Darren Park. Later, she moved to the upper school site where she was a Head of Year for many years and also

Head of Careers. Always a committed, caring and dedicated teacher, she provided help and support to a generation of pupils as a Head of Year. She also coached many teams in the very successful "Young Consumer Competitions" and assisted with the "Young Enterprise" programme as well as being involved in many school educational visits.

She has been an invaluable member of the HE/Technology department who will be lost without her, but we all wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.



Retirement after 37 years service

Mr John Hatch the School Site Manager will also be retiring this term after 37 years of service. Mr Hatch has been a long serving member of the team and has also worked as a Technology Technician. We would to take this opportunity to thank Mr Hatch for his dedication and commitment to the school and wish him and long, happy and healthy retirement.



Good bye and good luck!!

We'd like to thank Ugo and Steph from Sporting Marvels for everything they've done in FCS and wish them all the best for the future!



V FACTOR 2010

Earlier in the year 4 girls from Ferndale Community School took to the stage at the Parc & Dare Theatre and put on a performance that blew everyone away. The girls, who are all self taught and have had no dance lessons, put on a show that wowed the judges at the 'V Factor'.

Shannon, Laura, Lauren and Shauna were up against tough competition from Brandon Sherwood from Rhyd Y Waun with his amazing body popping and break dancing routine and Divas from Treorchy Comprehensive School with a top notch Bollywood performance.

UNFACED, however, pulled it out of the bag and stepped onto the stage with an extraordinary dance performance, with so much energy the audience couldn't help but cheer them on. UNFACED were the 2010 V Factor best Dance Act winners.

Many, many congratulations to Shannon, Laura, Lauren and Shauna on their well deserved win. Everyone at the school is proud of you. Good luck in all of your future performances!



Maths Department News

Prisoner of Polygonia

The maths department took year 7 to see the Prisoner of Polygonia. Students thoroughly enjoyed this maths based play and the interactive way in which it was delivered.

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge 2010

Year 11 set 1 students recently took part in the United Kingdom Maths Trust Maths Challenge aims to stretch gifted and talented students and provide students with an opportunity to take part in a national competition. Two of our students, Evan Baker and Daniel White received BRONZE certificates with Evan being awarded Best in School.

Ferndale Arrows

This very popular lunchtime club had been running across the year and students aim has improved considerably! This club will be running again next year, so sign up in September.

A quick reminder from the department that all students in the school has a subscription to www.mymaths.co.uk, students access this with an individual login and password. You can use this log in to check your child progress. If

you would like further information please speak to a member of the Maths department.



MyMaths.co.uk

World Maths Day

Another successful world Maths Day, all of the Key Stage 3 students took part in this world wide competition based around mental maths.

Maths in London

In December the maths department took over 40 students to London for an educational visit. The itinerary included , workshops on Maths in Event Planning and Maths in the Running of a Hotel, a visit to see the Musical



Wicked, a trip on the London Eye and Christmas Shopping Time!!!!!!

Mrs Bevan

The Department would like to congratulate Mrs Bevan on the safe arrival of her first baby in October. .

I wonder if the new addition will follow in mothers footsteps and become an Olympic Judo champion?! Back in the day Mrs. Bevan - it's all nappies and early morning calls from now!!



You done us proud...

Congratulations to the School Choir and Mrs. Kear for their hard work and valiant effort in "The Last Choir Standing". Keep up the good work.



Lessons from Auschwitz

Back last March two VI form pupils, Annalese Maz and Nia Williams were chosen to participate in the Lessons from Auschwitz project which is organised by the Holocaust Education Trust. The aim of the project is to learn the lessons from history with regard to the Jewish Holocaust or Shoah as it is called in Hebrew.

The project consists of four distinct stages. The second stage was a visit to Auschwitz/Birkenau along with Mrs Codd (Head of RS) and approximately 250 other 6th formers from all over Wales.

The visit was both memorable and exceptionally moving (prior to our visit we had met a survivor of the atrocities and heard his amazing testimony of survival). The impact on all individuals involved, was great.

The next stage of the project was to attend a follow up seminar and to plan for the presentation which all students who were involved in the project are required to create.

Nia and Annalese have now become ambassadors for the Trust and are pledged to stand up and speak out against Prejudice, Discrimination and Hatred in all its forms.

The girls have produced a very powerful presentation which they will deliver to different areas of our school community in the Autumn Term. They would also be delighted to present to any community groups, organisations or institutions who would like to invite them to do so.

Both girls agree that the Project, even though it was very traumatic, really was the experience of a lifetime and they are very much looking forward to delivering their presentation.

Mrs Lisa Codd has recently been appointed as a Freelance Educator for the Holocaust Education Trust and as a school community we look forward to further strengthening our links with HET.



Nia



Annalese

Education Business Partnership

EBP has proven again this year to be a valued part of the school calendar. From year 7 where pupils are reminded about compact goals through to year 11 where mock interviews take place. Every year group experience a world of work day where either employers come into school to share their roles with the pupils or the pupils go out to their work place. A very enjoyable and interesting day for all pupils.

Awaiting employer...



Interviews in progress



Mid Glamorgan
Education Business Partnership



Partneriaeth Addysg Busnes
Morgannwg Ganol





Healthy Schools

The Phase 4 accreditation took place back last July and the two year P.S.E Audit passed with flying colours.

This achievement could not have been possible without the fantastic efforts of all Heads of Department and the phenomenal input from the I.C.T Department.

The assessors were in attendance from 9.30am until 3.00pm and the assessment was extremely intense. To quote: "It has been a privilege and an honour to be part of this assessment." (Assessors) was icing on the cake.

Mrs Williams would like to unreservedly thank EVERYONE for their contribution to this fantastic success.

P.S.E at Ferndale Community School continues to go from strength to strength.

Lifelong Learners Celebrate Exam Success

Mrs June L'Homme one of our longest serving school dinner ladies (27 years!) and Mr James Piper, a past pupil of Ferndale Community School and one of our E3 providers (James is an award winning magician!) have both achieved exam success in GCSE and A Level Religious Studies.

June achieved an outstanding A* in her GCSE Religious Studies and James achieved an excellent B grade in his A Level Religious Studies course.

Many congratulations to both June and James who have re-discovered a love of learning later in life.

Some of June's classmates from Mrs Codd's GCSE Religious Studies class paid the following tributes to her:

"June encourages us to make the most of every opportunity we have at Ferndale Community School and to really appreciate our excellent learning environment I have really enjoyed learning alongside June"

(Rachel Henley Year 11)

"June has become a local treasure in the Religious Studies Department and has brought a sense of maturity and life experience to our lessons."

(Liam Noyce Year 11)

"We have really enjoyed having June in our class as she is a good role model for us and always encourages us to be the best that we can be"

(Jackson Griffiths and Patrick Rees Year 11)



Rhondda Fach Community Open Day

Thank you to everyone who supported the Open Day at Ferndale Community School on Saturday 29th January. Over 200 people attended the event focusing on Healthy & Wellbeing, Alcohol and

Sport. We were over the moon to be joined by Bradley Davies and Will Griff John who reinforced the message of keeping safe during the 6 Nations Tournament. Well Done to Kidz R Us

volunteers who provided the refreshments and raised over £100 for Play in Maerdy.

As the saying goes... Out With the Old and in with **The New!!**

May we take this opportunity to unreservedly thank the following staff for their hard work, effort and determination and for being a part of our successful school team. We wish you all the very best and good luck in the future and YOU WILL BE MISSED.

Mrs R Sheriff (Science) Mrs. E Palmer (Home Economics) and Mrs. Liz Inseal (IT)

As one door closes another door opens. The staff and pupils at Ferndale would like to welcome the following staff to our school:

Teaching staff

Lucy Thomas – Head of Art
Shafalee Varma – Science
Carl Gale – RE & English
Emma Davies – French
Owen Williams – Maths

Support Staff

Leah Roberts – Receptionist
Claire Jones – Admin & Finance Assistant

We look forward to embracing our new staff and hope they enjoy working with the pupils and dedicated staff of Ferndale Community school.


Ferndale Community School
presents
THE WIZARD OF OZ


15th - 17th March 2011
7pm FERNDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL HALL
Tickets: £5 Adults £3 Concessions
 Tickets available from School Reception & Music Dept.

	Ms. L. Thomas (Head of Art) 	Mr. C. Gale (RE & English) 	Ms. E. Davies (French) 	Mr. O. Williams (Maths) 	Mrs L Roberts (Reception) 	Mrs C Jones (Finance) 
Favourite Things						
Favourite Drink	Tea!	Tea!	Creamsicle & ice cream blend with vanilla syrup	Tea	Water (sadly)	Thai
Favourite Film	Top Gun	American Beauty	The Blindside	Me Myself & Irene	L.A. Confidential	The Hangover
Favourite Food	Chinese	Sunday Roast	Chocolate	Chocolate fudge cake	Anything high in saturated fat!!	Tai
Favourite Actor/Actress	Angelina Jolie	Kate Winslet	Meryl Streep	Jessica Biel	Jennifer Aniston	Cameron Diaz
Favourite Actor	Jason Staham	James McAvoy	Matt Damon	Denzel Washington	Russell Crowe	Will Smith
Who would you rather be stranded on an island with?	Ryan Giggs!	Dawn French	Alan Carr	Jessica Biel	Richie McCann and many more!	Rav Wilding
Best moment in your life	Getting this job!	Getting my degree	Getting a job At FCS :O)	Teaching I I Set I	Having my 3 beautiful babies	Getting married and having my children

Swimming Pool

OPENING TIMES - WEEK ONE			
MONDAY	GYM OPEN 9.45AM – 8.45PM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 3.00PM – 4.30PM	CANOE CLUBS 4.45PM – 7.45PM
TUESDAY	GYM OPEN 9.45AM – 7.45PM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 3.00PM – 4.30PM	SWIMMING CLUB 5.45PM – 7.45PM
WEDNESDAY	GYM OPEN 11.30AM – 6.45PM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 3.00PM – 6.30PM	
THURSDAY	GYM OPEN 4.00PM – 7.45PM		
FRIDAY	GYM OPEN 4.00PM – 7.45PM		
SATURDAY	GYM ONLY OPEN 9.15AM – 4.30PM	LEARN TO SWIM 9.30AM – 11.00AM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 11.15AM – 4.15PM
SUNDAY	GYM ONLY OPEN 9.15AM – 3.30PM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 9.30AM – 3.30PM	
OPENING TIMES - WEEK TWO			
MONDAY	GYM OPEN 9.45AM – 8.45PM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 3.00PM – 4.30PM	CANOE CLUBS 4.45PM – 7.45PM
TUESDAY	GYM OPEN 9.45AM – 7.45PM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 3.00PM – 4.30PM	SWIMMING CLUB 5.45PM – 7.45PM
WEDNESDAY	GYM OPEN 11.30AM – 6.45PM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 3.00PM – 6.30PM	
THURSDAY	GYM OPEN 9.45AM – 7.45PM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 3.00PM – 4.30PM	
FRIDAY	GYM OPEN 10.15AM – 6.45PM	PUBLIC SWIMMING 3.00PM – 6.00PM	
SATURDAY	LEARN TO SWIM 9.30AM – 11.00AM	GYM ONLY OPEN 9.30AM – 11.30AM	
SUNDAY CLOSED			

Please ring **755412** or **755337** to find out if it is week 1 or 2

Monthly gym, swim & sauna pass: Adult: £20.10, Junior: £14.55

Adult Swim: £2.00, Junior Swim: £1.30 • Adult Gym: £2.80, Junior Gym: £1.70 • Sauna & steam room: £2.80 • Gym & sauna: £4.00

Tel: 01443 755412

Pool Party for 2 hours, Water Walkers & Inflatables

Pool will be closed to public during pool party. Please ring the pool for availability.

Call Ferndale Community School on
01443 755337
for further information or to book a sitting

FERN
PHOTOGRAPHY

Digital Photography classes are also available via E3+ at the school



'The shoot was fab! Nice photographer, we laughed for the whole session. Kids were fab and loved every minute'
Leanne Stanton