



# Dan Y Coed Newsletter

Term 1 December 2023



## Welcome to the Christmas Edition of the Dan y Coed Newsletter 2023



This term we have continued to explore Cultures and classes have all explored a wide range of aspects from cultural celebrations including Bonfire Night, Children in Need and Diwali to exploring different cultural identities within class teams and colonialism around the world.

In November we all took part in a massive fundraising effort for Children in Need where pupils kickstarted the event with a Live Joe Wicks 20 minute workout and quiz followed by a Dance-athon. There was fancy dress with pupils and staff dressing up in their best spotty attire and they were able to record positive comments about their peers and staff on our Positive Pudsey Board. We had some winners from the day! CC won the prize for biggest fundraiser, a whopping £35! TH won the best dressed Pudsey Bear! And TS won the Master Baker award for baking 35 cupcakes for our cake sale which he set up and ran independently! Thank you to everyone who donated and contributed to the day and the **£132** that we raised for this phenomenal cause!



We have had further successes with our recent Estyn Inspection Report now having been published. You can take a read by following the link [here](#). In addition, our LOTC success has been shared on the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom website which you can read [here](#).

A huge congratulations to David and the Residential Team for a fantastic CIW Inspection this week with Good Outcomes across the board and close to Excellent in Environment! Well done everyone!

And finally, On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> some staff from DYC attended the National Education Awards in London where we were Highly Commended in our category!!! We would like to thank all our stakeholders who support our school and helped us achieve this incredible award!



# Achievements and developments

## Class 1:

Class 1 have had another successful term!

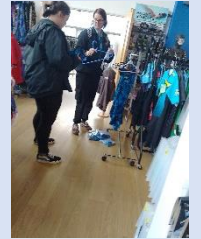
AS has accepted transitioning to school once a week increasing his attendance from 0% to 20% which is a phenomenal achievement!



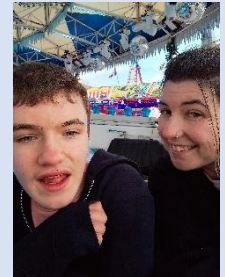
MGr has continued to engage with her work experience at Sharks Swim Shop and has been really enjoying accessing gymnastics on a Wednesday morning where she takes part in different activities.



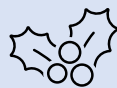
She threw herself into all activities for Children in Need and showed off her moves on the dance floor!



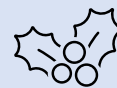
FB had a positive experience enjoying Winter Wonderland with peers where he enjoyed the rides and festivities!



GP has begun to join in with group activities throughout the term with growing confidence!



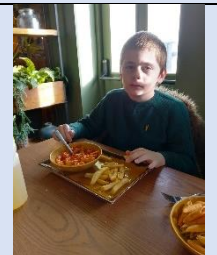
Well done everyone in Class 1!



## Class 2:

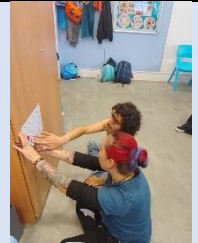


Class 2 have welcomed RB into the class where he has settled in well with his new routines and peers and positively engages in both on-site and off-site activities.





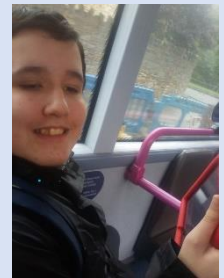
BG has been engaging with his morning folder, Essential Skills, Cooking and Group Bucket sessions.



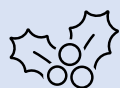
CC has had a really successful half term, entering the classroom on a more frequent basis and positively engaging with a range of activities!



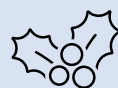
LQF has developed his social and work skills by becoming a valued member of our school bank, using his literacy skills to locate peers' passbooks and complete the individual entries. He has been taking part in additional whole school activities including gymnastics.



PS has been a huge help for the whole school by supporting with shopping for the main kitchen each week as well as taking part in on site activities such as recycling and developing his literacy and Essential Skills.



Well done to all in Class 2!



### Class 3:



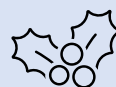
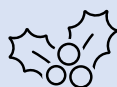
JM enjoyed a trip to Winter Wonderland with staff where he toasted marshmallows and showed his bravery on all the rides. He has been engaging in Reading Eggs to develop his literacy skills as well as other fun interactive learning activities whilst developing his ICT skills. He continues to enjoy engaging in a range of sensory learning sessions for science as well as exploratory play as well as developing his balance skills through our whole school gymnastics sessions.



HB has been actively engaging in a range of physical activities and games in class supporting his Health and Wellbeing, huge progress since the previous half term. He has been thriving with interactive educational resources developing his literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.



This half term TH has begun volunteering at Many Tears for his DoF and work experience which he has begun to develop skills in understanding animal care and road safety. He looks forward to going to gymnastics each week where he shows off his trampolining skills with his peers from DYC as well as our sister school, Ty Trafle. Another new experience for TH this half term is accessing our new ICT suite where he takes part in some independent learning through the Reading Eggs programme to develop his literacy skills.

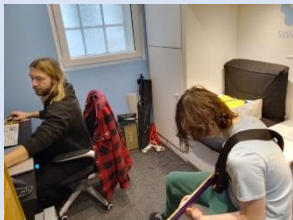


Amazing work Class 3!

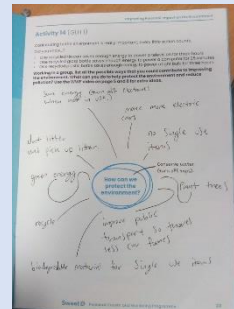
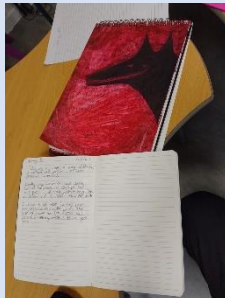
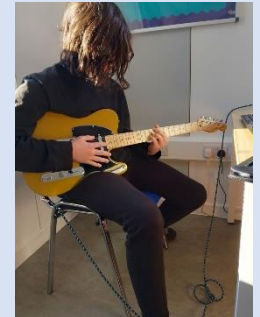
## Class 4:



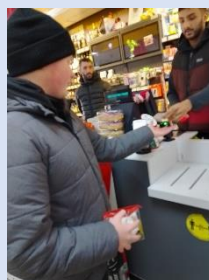
LP continues to do well with his transitioning to off-site activities including MAD where he enjoys exploring the VR equipment as well as weekly gymnastics sessions where he has been developing his social interaction with peers from Ty Trawle. He recently amazed staff by agreeing to go to his LC2 swimming session on the bus which he thoroughly enjoyed!



BC continues to impress everyone with his musical talents that he is improving on weekly through his sessions at the YMCA, which he then transfers this back to DYC to continue to practise further. He has completed an artistic journal, implementing his artistic and imaginative talents further. He has works hard on making progress with his Sweet qualifications completing two books and is currently working towards Unit 8 – Personal Impact on the Environment.

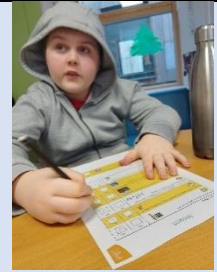


CE has been going out daily to buy his lunch in a variety of different shops which has been great progress and has been engaging in some Christmas activities. He has also supported with the school bank by taking money to be paid into the Post Office.

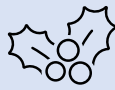




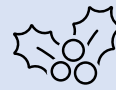
KP has been working hard on his creative writing skills and extending his vocabulary which he transfers to his free time activities when he creates his Random PowerPoints. He has contributed to the school bank by scanning the paperwork through to Celtic Credit Union which he completes weekly for his work experience.



DM has settled well into life at DYC, getting to know staff around the school and is learning more names. He has been thriving when attending Common Meeple, a local board game café where he has been developing his social interaction skills and learning new games.



Great work Class 4!



### Class 5:



LW has continued to enjoy his 1:1 guitar lessons at the YMCA where he is developing not only his musical skills but there has been an increase in his self-confidence and social interactions with others. He has been self-challenging to overcome his fixed mindset to be able to enhance his learning experiences.



JL continues to settle well into life in Class 5 and in DYC and school routines, looking forward to coming to school. He has recently accepted going out in a car for the first time with the aim to enjoy Winter Wonderland.

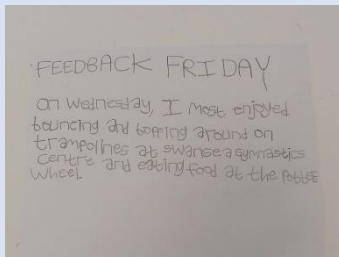




LE has been enjoying building on his social relationships and friendships through shared interests with peers from our sister school, Ty Trafle where they have been peer reviewing each others' work and sharing resources. In addition he has been a valuable member of our Mac Bank Team where he checks the paying in slips and counts out the money, supporting his peer on the Transaction Summary Sheet.



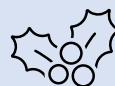
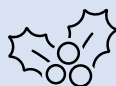
TS continues to develop his learning skills across the curriculum, in science he has been tried different approaches when certain methods don't produce any results. He has learnt to overcome his distresses when he makes mistakes which is fantastic progress. He has been very keen to practise his literacy skills at home resulting in him now being able to write in full sentences. In addition TS is one of our Eco-Warriors, a role he takes incredibly seriously, taking part in school litter picks, being a part of our Eco-Committee and researching into different ways we can become a greener school.



AD is currently preparing to transition into mainstream Gower College for next academic year which is incredible and all due to the hard work that both he and his class team have put in! In October he enjoyed a visit to the What Next ...? Careers fair in Camarthan having his eyes opened to new possibilities for his exciting future!



As well as making top news on our Orbis website as an incredible success story RS story has been shared through the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC) and he has continued to make great progress by accepting different staff into his room and for longer periods. He has also been communicating well with his staff and been wanting to come into school more regularly.



Excellent Class 5!

## Charity work and community participation



We continue to Keep Wales Tidy through the Litter Free Zone Project. We have completed another whole school Litter Picking event as well as individual pupils carrying out their own litter picks for their DofE volunteering section.

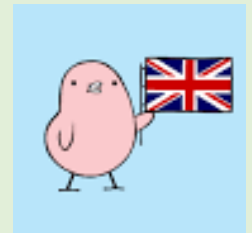
The Eco Committee have completed five sections of an initial Environmental Review of the school this half term ready to develop an action plan in the New Year to transform our school to become Greener and even better!



We have some prudent pupils here at DYC who are saving their pennies with MAC Bank (Making A Change), which is run by our own banking team. This is a fantastic opportunity for both pupils and staff to save some pennies whilst providing amazing careers and work-related experiences for our young people whilst supporting them develop their budgeting skills. Pocket money can be sent in weekly for pupils to pay in each week.



The food bank continues to be a great success along with our donations to support Swansea Baby Basics who provide clothing, toiletries and other essentials to families in need. The donation station is in DYC School pupil foyer and staff and pupils can donate. St Thomas' Church has sent their gratitude to our pupils by sending an email of thanks for all our support.



Pupils have been dropping the items to the food bank and Swansea Baby Basics at St Thomas' Church, enabling meaningful work

experience and community engagement.

Items to donate are:

**Cereal, Soup, Pasta, Rice, Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce, Lentils, beans and pulses, Tinned meat, Tinned vegetables, Tea/coffee, Tinned fruit, Biscuits, UHT milk, Fruit juice**

**Unused Women's deodorant, shampoo, shower gel, toothbrush, toothpaste.**

**Unused Baby shampoo, wash, lotion, nappy cream**

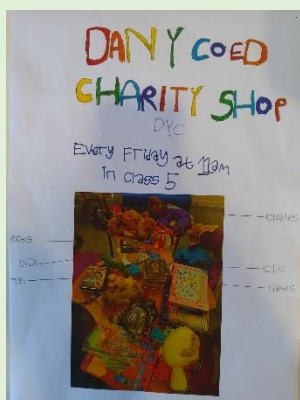
**Nappies size 0-2**



**All donations are greatly received and much appreciated by St Thomas' Food Bank who shared their appreciation to the school via email.**



We continue to donate clothing to the Dragon Bag recycling scheme. Please bring in any unwanted clothes and accessories. A flyer has been sent out on Seesaw for wanted and unwanted items. These will be collected and weighed, and all proceeds will be given to charity that the school council will decide on. If you need anymore, please contact us in school.



DYC Charity Shop is still going strong led and organised by AD every Friday morning in Class 5 assisted by TS for an additional set of hands to help set up, price up and provide excellent customer service to all who walk through the doors! Well done boys!

This year Orbis have collected 1000s of bags of toys and clothes for children at the Noah's Ark, Children's Hospital for Wales and staff at DYC all took part and have sent off dozens of bags! Many thanks to all donations!



### Key dates:

**Christmas Holiday** – 25<sup>th</sup> December – 5<sup>th</sup> January

**MAC Bank** – Every Monday morning at 10 am in the ICT Hub. Open for all staff and pupils to come and save!

**Eco-Committee Action Planning Meeting** – 12<sup>th</sup> January

**Yr 8 HPV Vaccinations** – 22<sup>nd</sup> January

**Governors Meeting** – 25<sup>th</sup> January

**Emma attending the Sennedd representing DYC for Estyn's launch of the new framework** – 31<sup>st</sup> January

**School Council Meetings** – 26<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**Half term break** – 12<sup>th</sup> February – 16<sup>th</sup> February

**End of term** - 22<sup>nd</sup> March

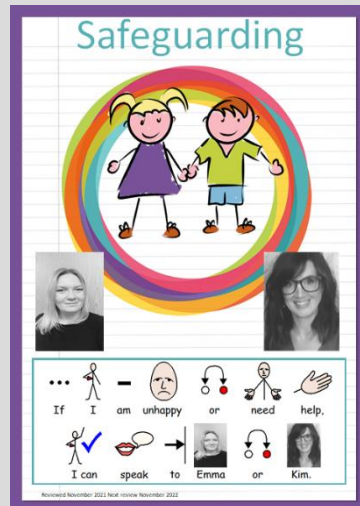
**Inset Day** – 7<sup>th</sup> May

## Safeguarding in Dan Y Coed

Safeguarding in Dan Y Coed is a continuous feature across the school. Emma Thomas and Kim Matthews are the safeguarding officers. If you need to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to contact them:

Head of Education and safeguarding officer: Mrs Emma Thomas [emma.thomas@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:emma.thomas@orbis-group.co.uk)

Deputy safeguarding officer: Mrs Kimberley Matthews [Kimberley.Matthews@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:Kimberley.Matthews@orbis-group.co.uk)



The link for the updated version of keeping learners safe from the Welsh government can be found below:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/keeping-learners-safe.pdf>

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Champion



We are proud to present Amy Bool as our new Mental Health and Wellbeing Champion! We are excited for Amy to fulfill her new role in providing further support

for our pupils!

## Contact details

Class 1 Shauna Pridmore [shauna.pridmore@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:shauna.pridmore@orbis-group.co.uk)

Class 2 Sarah Gates [Sarah.gates@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:Sarah.gates@orbis-group.co.uk)

Class 3 Laurie Burgess [laurie.burgess@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:laurie.burgess@orbis-group.co.uk)

Class 4 Matthew Pudner [Matthew.Pudner@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:Matthew.Pudner@orbis-group.co.uk)

Class 5 Anna Griffiths [Anna.griffiths@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:Anna.griffiths@orbis-group.co.uk)

Emma Thomas (Regional Manager – Education Services) [emma.thomas@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:emma.thomas@orbis-group.co.uk)

Melanie Wright (Deputy head of Education, Pastoral, Mon-Thurs) [melanie.wright@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:melanie.wright@orbis-group.co.uk)

Claire Williams (Deputy Head of Education, Curriculum and Qualifications) [Claire.williams@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:Claire.williams@orbis-group.co.uk)

Kimberley Matthews (Assistant Head of Education) [Kimberley.matthews@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:Kimberley.matthews@orbis-group.co.uk)

David Harding (Principal Manager) [david.harding@orbis-group.co.uk](mailto:david.harding@orbis-group.co.uk)

**Dan y Coed School, Huntington Close, West Cross, Swansea SA3 5AL**

**01792 343139**

**Is there anything you would like to see in the newsletter? If  
so let me know and we can add this in....**