



Dan Y Coed Newsletter

Term 1 October 2023

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2023/2024 and what a fantastic start here at Dan y Coed!

This term we have been exploring Cultures where classes have approached the topic in their own unique ways and tailoring further to pupils' personalised curriculums, learning about Welsh language and heritage, exploring African art and identifying differences between ourselves.

In September the school enjoyed a visit to St Fagan's where they strengthened their social skills, explored Welsh Rural History and Culture whilst engaging in active learning about individual buildings. Dan y Coed has been collaborating with the Museum staff by supporting them to develop their communication resources for additional needs and have shared visual learning cards with the museum.



It has been an incredibly busy and successful term so far at Dan y Coed with pupils continuing with their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, ASDAN qualifications and BTECs through the Sweet programme as well as exploring further Careers and Work-Related Experiences (CWRE).

We have held our first Governor's Meeting with Anthony Quinn-Flipping holding the position as our Parent Governor.

Already we have had our annual visit from Estyn who gave us such positive feedback so watch out for the published report on the 11th December!

In addition, we have two winners of our Orbis Passion awards: Claire Williams won the Innovation Award and Emma Thomas won the Head Teacher Award.

We are also really proud to announce that we have been awarded Gold status for our Learning Outside the Classroom provision! An award that we hold for two years from the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.



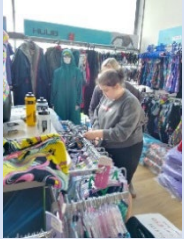
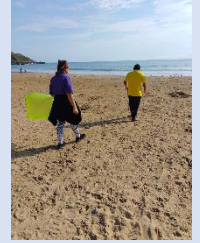
And finally, following on from our Regional win as South Wales' Independent School of the Year in June we have made it through to the National Finals in December in London!

Achievements and developments

Class 1:

We are so proud of all our pupils' achievements so far this term in Class 1!

GP continues to settle well into life at DYC and has now used the bus for the first time with his own bus pass. He has really taken to our Keep Wales Tidy initiative by regularly going out litter picking in the local community as well as along our stunning beaches of Gower.



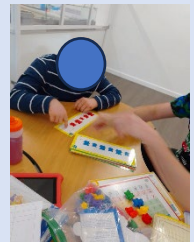
MGr began exploring Careers and Work-Related opportunities and helped out at Sharks Swim Shop for a few weeks where she engaged in hanging up stock and tidying up in the shop with the support from her staff. Next term she will trial helping out at the local Food Bank at St Thomas' Church.

FB has used his pupil voice stating that he wants to help others including the elderly, sad children and the homeless by raising money by doing a Sponsored Walk. This is fantastic of FB demonstrating his empathy for others and wanting to find a way to help them.

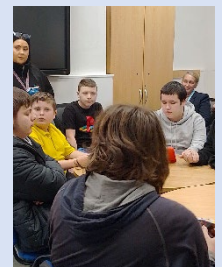


Class 2:

Class 2 have welcomed CC into class where he has now begun to extend his school days as a result of the success of his engagement at DYC and the use of LOtC as he struggles to access the classroom environment. Well done to both the class team and CC for such a successful start at DYC!



Class 2 have been working hard on developing their social skills between each other in class as well with the wider school community through whole school events such as Pirate Day and our visit to St Fagan's, class trips Pumpkin Picking as well as LQF working with peers in the DYC Bank.



Class 3:



In addition to his mindblowing IT skills HB has now amazed staff by accessing the Life Skills kitchen most mornings to make his own scrambled egg on toast for breakfast with only some physical help to keep safe around the hot hob. Amazing HB!



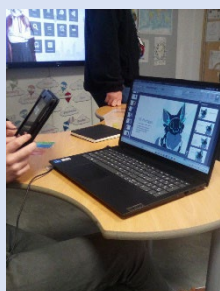
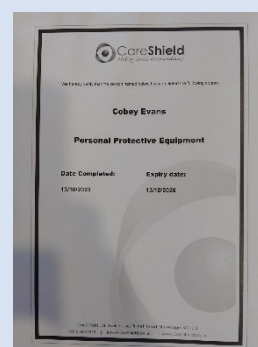
JM has continued to access Bramble and Nettle for his Duke of Edinburgh and Work Experience, helping them harvest vegetables for their veg box scheme and even getting his hands dirty!!! Well done JM!

This term TH has been trained up as Front of House welcoming customers to our brand new NYC MAC (Making A Change) Bank, held on a Monday morning. Here he greets his customers and directs them to complete their Paying in Slips before putting their money into their personal accounts. Well done TH!



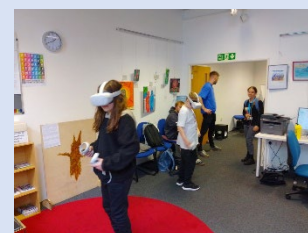
Class 4:

Class 4 are so proud of CE this term who is storming through a huge range of modules on our new Pupil Online Platform, learning about topics such as Autism Awareness, Fire Safety and Nutrition and Hydration. Well done CE!



BC has continued to develop his IT skills, making the most out of our new ICT suite, creating an animated PowerPoint for Progress Week showcasing some of his artistic talents. In addition he has been furthering his musical talent by bringing the skills learnt in MAD back to NYC using our new equipment as well as now starting 1:1 music sessions through the YMCA. Yet BC has still found time to complete his Skills for Social Success book for his Sweet Qualification! Well done BC!

LP has been developing his transition skills and travelling to MAD where he has been exploring their VR devices, showing great confidence in making requests for new software! Amazing LP!



KP has been researching and completing his Social Skills for Success book towards his Sweet qualification. In between, KP continues to impress staff and peers with his remarkable creations of models and hysterical "Random PowerPoint, Just a Random PowerPoint". KP has also been developing his descriptive language through Bibliographies which he showcased in our Progress Week and has the important job for the NYC Bank by scanning all the relevant document to our Celtic Credit Union representative. Well done KP!

Class 5:

LW has been improving his guitar skills and has now progressed to have 1:1 lessons through the YMCA once each week. Through his journey of learning how to play LW has accepted that it is okay to make mistakes and this is how we learn and improve.



LE has been confidently sharing his YouTube channel with his peers in class and asking for their constructive feedback to inform his video content to continue to capture the imagination and creativity of his subscribers. This has led to him developing his descriptive language and critical thinking in the process.

TS is a shining star as an Eco warrior in school and is now a member of our Eco Committee. He takes his Litter Picking very seriously and likes to log his litter picking events onto Epicollect5 as part of Keep Wales Tidy Litter Free Zone Project. In addition he enjoys helping at the allotments of Bramble and Nettle where he harvests vegetables that he uses in his cooking later in the week and is conscious of ensuring there is zero waste.



RS has made it onto our company website with the amazing progress that he has made through his Learning Outside the Classroom. Please follow the link below to read the full story.

<https://www.orbis-group.co.uk/success-stories/rss-story>

As a result of this we have been invited to speak at the AGM for the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC) regarding our success across the whole school as well as RS's individual accomplishment.



AD had a trip to Hollywood with Yr Egin, S4C, when he visited Careers Wales', What Next? event in Camarthan where he went down a storm with the staff and organisers, meeting new people, asking questions about the options for his future as an animator.

Huge congratulations to all of Class 5!

Charity work and community participation



This term we have taken our Litter Picking further by joining up with Keep Wales Tidy through their Litter Free Zone Project where pupils record the location and number of bags collected each time.

We are now registered as an Eco School, also through Keep Wales Tidy, so have formed an Eco Committee and will be meeting on the 10th November to perform an initial audit of our school before developing an action plan to make our school even greener and more sustainable.

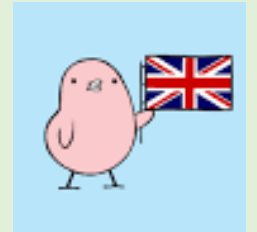
DYC are Making A Change with the introduction of our very own bank through Celtic Credit Union, called MAC Bank, run by pupils every Monday morning at 10am.

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. We have now expanded on this and are now taking items 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.

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. We have donated all we had last term so our stocks are looking low at present

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.



AD runs his Charity Shop every Friday morning in Class 5 and is now 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!

Key dates:

Half Term Break – 30th October – 3rd November

First Eco Committee Meeting – 10th November

Interfaith Week – 13th – 17th November

MAC Bank – Every Monday morning at 10 am in the ICT Hub.

Children in Need – 17th November

School Council Meetings – 24th November & 22nd December

Christmas Jumper Day – 8th December

Estyn Report Published – 11th December

Christmas Dinner - TBC

End of term – 22nd December



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

Deputy safeguarding officer: Mrs Kimberley Matthews 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>

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