



Dan Y Coed Newsletter

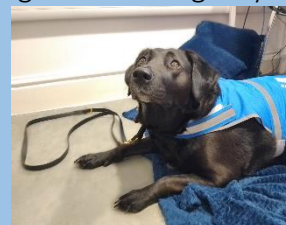
Summer 2024

Welcome to the End of Year Newsletter 2024!

What an incredible year we have had here at Dan y Coed!! Becoming a Highly Recommended Independent School in the National Awards and the first school in Wales to achieve the Gold LOTC Mark in the Autumn Term. The year has been filled with lots of new experiences for all pupils both in school and out in the community providing opportunities to foster and develop new skills whilst consolidating others.

Over the year we have welcomed new pupils, DM, EP, RD and SAMF into Dan y Coed who have all settled into daily life exceptionally well whilst pupils JM and GP have had positive transitions into new classes. More recently NM has joined us in the residential home and has been exploring the school, becoming familiar with routines and new friends before starting afresh in September. Pupils continue to work together to run the DYC MAC Bank each week as well as the snack bar daily as part of our Careers and Work Experience opportunities on site. We have been broadening our offsite CWRE opportunities with pupils being trained up by Smyth's Toy Store and continue to volunteer weekly at Many Tears Dog Rescue. Next year we have the exciting opportunity to be working closer with MAD Swansea who are supporting us in developing our ICT curriculum to further develop pupils' ICT skills.

We have also welcomed a number of new Learning Support Assistants to support our growing number of pupils into the Dan y Coed family, in addition, Conor Lloyd our Wellbeing Lead across Orbis Schools and Jodie Payne who will be the new teacher in Class 2 from September, already working in class as agency to develop relationships with the pupils and prepare for a new year ahead! A very special staff member who began her working life in DYC is Tuxie the reading dog who visits every Thursday along with her owner Sarah and listens to some of our pupils read. This is a fantastic scheme through Burn's By Your Side which trains dogs to be able to listen to pupils who lack the confidence to develop their fluency and self-esteem as readers.



There are changes to the Leadership Team structure for September where Emma Thomas will be the Executive Head of Education across Orbis, whilst Claire Williams will be the Head of School, with Mel Wright as Deputy Head and Kim Matthews as Assistant Head.

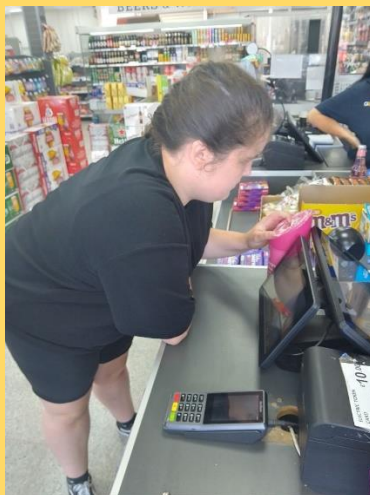


Unfortunately, we are saying goodbye to two larger-than-life characters who have come to the end of their journeys here at DYC. AD is flying the nest to attend Gower College where he has been accepted onto Pathway 2! A phenomenal achievement and we are all so immensely proud of him! TH will remain with his care home, Ty Richards, where they are planning on continuing with some of the fantastic things that TH does in DYC including his work experience at Smyth's Toy Store where he will be able to work alongside his ex-peers. TH will also join us again in the future to complete both his Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards by participating in the expeditions planned for 2024/25!

Well done and thank you to everyone for your hard work resulting in a successful year and we are looking forward to further successes in 2024-2025!

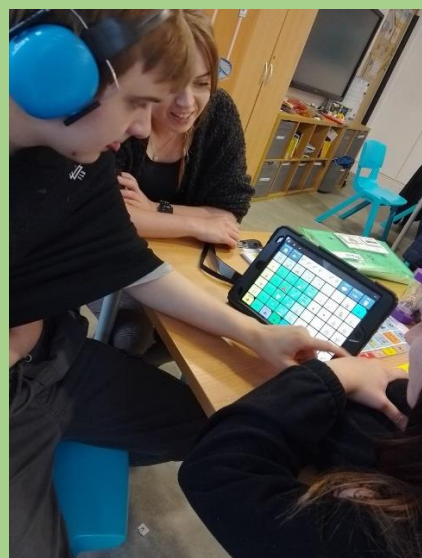
Achievements in Pictures

Class 1:





Class 2:



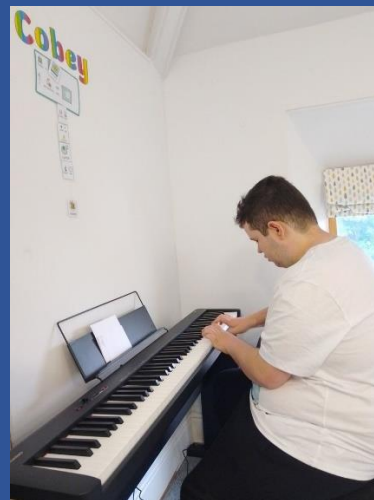


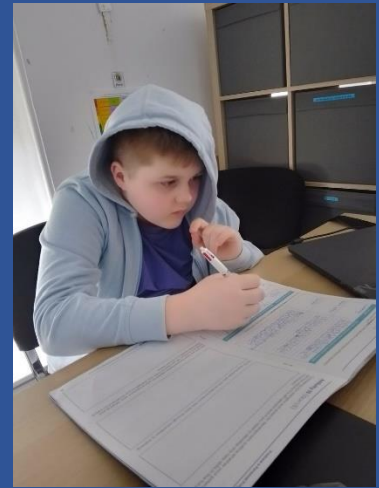
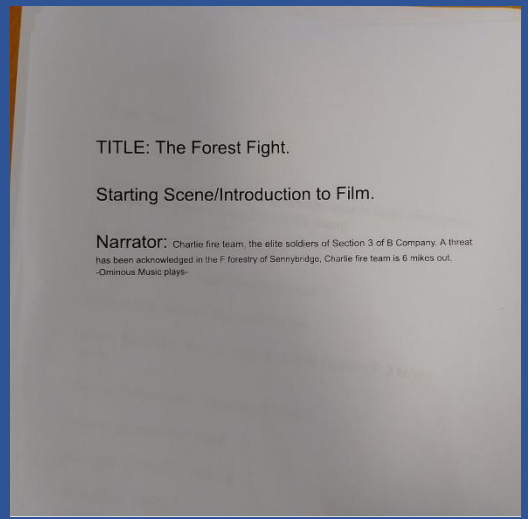
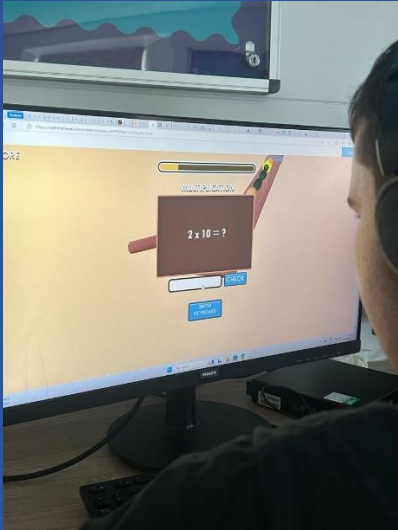
Class 3:



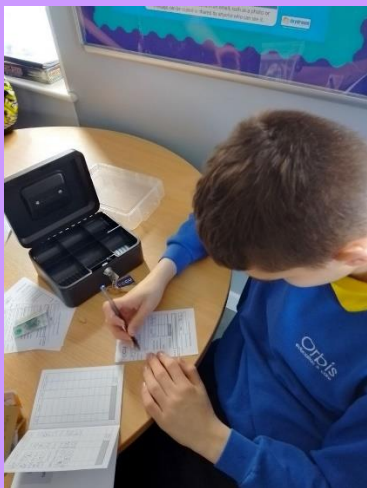
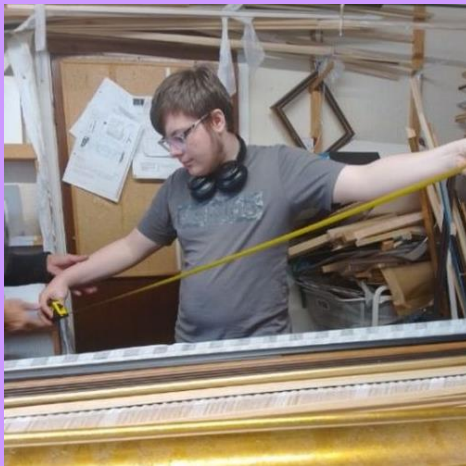


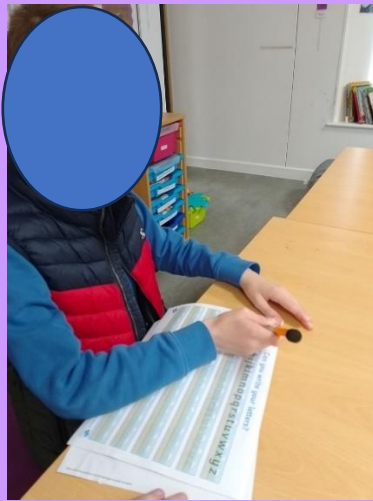
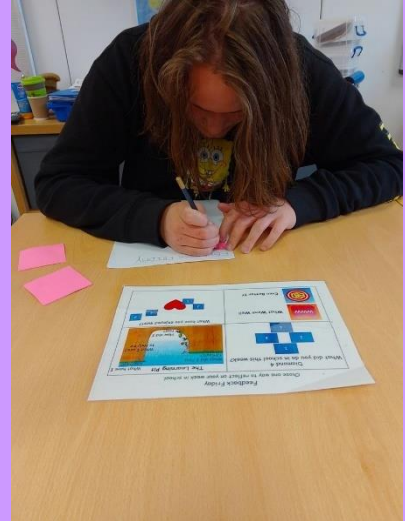
Class 4:





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.



We are excited to launch our Eco-School Campaign in the new academic year to help improve our environment and local community further so watch this space!

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 money 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.

Key dates:

Summer Holiday – 22nd July – 30th August

Inset days – Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September
Monday 4th November

Educational Engagement Day – 30th September (More details will be sent on our return in September)

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

Half term break – 28th October – 1st November

Christmas Jumper Day – 12th December

End of term – 20th December

Safeguarding in Dan Y Coed

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

Head of School and safeguarding officer: Miss Claire Williams claire.williams@orbis-group.co.uk

Deputy safeguarding officer: Mrs Kimberly Matthews Kimberly.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>

Contact details

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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....