

Western Learning Federation

Together we learn, grow and achieve



Riverbank SCHOOL

Tŷ Gwyn SCHOOL

Woodlands SCHOOL

The Western Learning Federation MAGAZINE

Autumn Edition

Edition 5.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS OUR SCHOOLS

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MEET OUR NEW GOVERNORS

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FEATURE

Delighted to share our school Development Plan Summary

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page 2



Welcome

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Western Learning Federation magazine.

I hope you're well.

I'm delighted to welcome you to the festive edition of the Western Learning Federation magazine. I'm sure you'll all agree, it's a wonderful time of year with lots of special memories made.

I've been very proud of everyone's efforts and hard work this term and to see our pupils' achievement each day has been incredible. I've enjoyed chatting to you all over the last few weeks at our Christmas events, a huge thank you for attending and supporting everything that we do within our schools. I'd also like to thank all of our staff across the Federation who have worked so hard to ensure that all our events are successful - a huge well done on what's been achieved.

I'd also like to welcome our new pupils who have settled into their new schools and classes well and are enjoying their new learning environments. The feedback I've had from our leaders and staff across the Federation has been hugely positive with lots of achievements already, well done!

School Development Plans

We've worked hard developing our School Development Plans for this academic year as we set our priorities. We're all very excited to develop these this year to ensure an outstanding learning offer for our pupils. To access these School Development Plans, please visit the Federation website, with the link provided below:

www.westernlearningfederation.co.uk/school-development-plans/



Wayne Murphy -
Western Learning Federation,
Executive Headteacher



Rachel Faulkner - Western
Learning Federation, Deputy
Executive Headteacher

Please see term dates for 2024-2025 below:

Spring Term 2025

Starts: Monday 6th January 2025

Half Term: Monday 24th February 2025 to Friday 28th February 2025

Ends: Friday 11th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Starts: Monday 28th April 2025

Half term: Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025

Ends: Monday 21st July 2025

Please see below the remaining Inset Days for the 2024-2025 academic year

Riverbank	Ty Gwyn	Woodlands
21 st February 2025	10 th April 2025	11 th April 2025
11 th April 2025	11 th April 2025	27 th June 2025
21 st July 2025	21 st July 2025	21 st July 2025

I'd like to wish you a happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and we'll see you in the new term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Wayne Murphy

Executive Headteacher,
Western Learning Federation



Fairwater Campus Building

Project



Interim Principal Contractor appointed to restart Fairwater Community Campus construction project

Please see below the press release from Cardiff Council in relation to the Fairwater Campus:

Cardiff Council has appointed an interim principal contractor for the Fairwater Community Campus, safeguarding the £108m project following ISG Construction Ltd going into administration, and in doing so making payments of over £7m to the existing supply chain.

Wales-based construction company Borley Engineering Services Ltd (BESL) has been selected as the emergency interim principal contractor to ensure that work on site can restart as quickly as possible. This decision comes while a tender exercise gets underway to select a replacement principal contractor to see the project through to its conclusion.

As part of the arrangements with ISG's administrator, the Council will appoint BESL on an emergency basis and will save jobs and protect the works completed so far by making payments in excess of £7m to the existing subcontractors and suppliers for works already completed. It is believed that the Fairwater Community Campus is one of the largest projects ISG had on site across the UK and this arrangement has not been replicated elsewhere. The local authority has actively engaged with the subcontractors throughout the process, of which many are based within 20 miles of the Fairwater Community Campus site.

Funded by Cardiff Council and Welsh Government, the project is Cardiff's largest education development funded under the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme to date.

The scheme includes the construction of three new build schools for Cantonian High School, Riverbank School and Woodlands High School, all situated on the single site in Fairwater.

A spokesperson for Cardiff Council said, "We are fully committed to ensuring the progress of the Fairwater Community Campus project and have put in place an arrangement that saves the supply chain. By selecting

BESL as the interim emergency principal contractor, we will get workers back on site as soon as possible, ensure workers are paid for work done, minimise delays, keep costs down, protect jobs, and safeguard the supply chain while protecting the public investment that has already taken place in what is one of the UK's largest education projects.

"This project is vital for the current and future generations of pupils in the three schools, and to the wider community, that will be utilising the new facilities on the campus, and we are dedicated to seeing it through to completion."

Time line for Fairwater Campus Project:

- 1. Delivery of works through BESL (November 2024 - April 2025)**
 - Works start on site in November following mobilisation.
 - Orders placed for remaining subcontractors and suppliers.
 - Scale of project to increase to the peak of 300 workers on site.
- 2. Tender Process for Remaining Works (November 2024 - April 2025)**
 - Commence the tender exercise for the remaining works
 - Evaluate bids and select a new main contractor.
- 3. Recommencement of Remaining Works (April 2025)**
 - New main contractor takes over the project.
 - Project continues in line with programme.
- 4. Completion of Key Milestones (2025 - 2027)**
 - Early 2027 full occupation, including final Inspections and handover.

This time line aims to ensure that the project progresses smoothly and is completed with minimal disruption, safeguarding jobs, and maintaining the quality of the educational facilities.

Highlights of *Riverbank*



Amie Lucas
Riverbank,
Head of School

This Autumn term at Riverbank School has been filled with remarkable achievements and community spirit. Our Harvest initiative was a heartwarming success, with generous donations collected for the local food bank, making a meaningful impact on the community. We also raised an impressive £200 for Children in Need through a delightful cake and coffee event, highlighting the generosity of our school family. A key milestone this term was the training session for our drivers and escorts, ensuring the continued safety and care of our pupils. We're thrilled that our Parent Café is now up and running, providing a wonderful space for connection and support. To finish off the term, our Christmas Fayre and the

spectacular concert, Santa's Christmas Flight Around the World, were both resounding successes, spreading festive cheer and showcasing the creativity and talent of our pupils.

We are incredibly thankful for the ongoing support from parents and carers, whose encouragement makes all of this possible. A huge thank you also goes to our dedicated staff, who have worked tirelessly to support and inspire our pupils every day. Wishing everyone a joyful and restful Christmas and a Happy New Year—we look forward to seeing you all in the Spring term!

Amie & Lauren

Harvest Celebrations

Thank you to all who donated, all items were sent to a local food bank. We also had a fantastic Harvest celebration assembly where classes shared songs, artwork and all the fun harvest activities that they did!





Children in need

Riverbank School held a cake sale to raise money to support Children in Need and with the support of staff and parents we raised £200! It was great to see so many parents and carers attending our coffee and cake session.



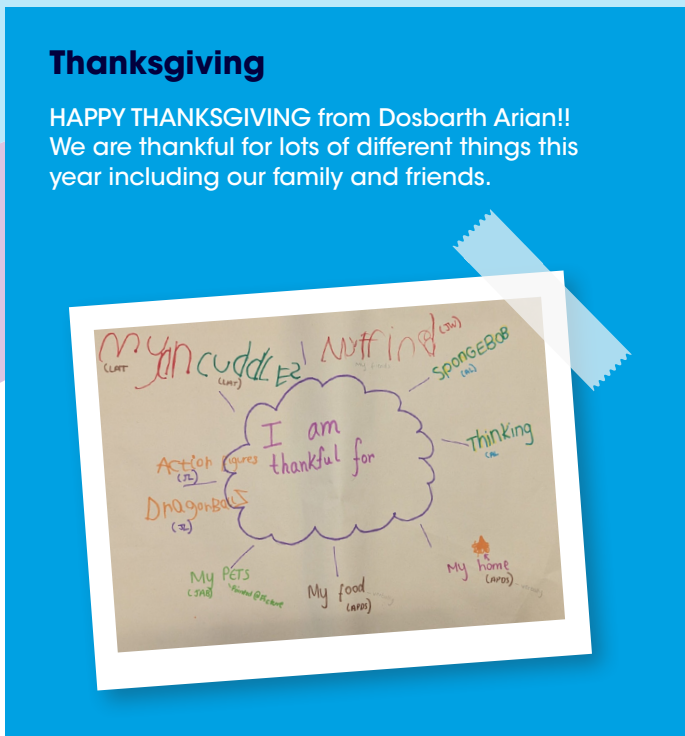
Driver and Escort training

We had a great training session with our drivers and escorts. The start and end to our pupils' school day is key to having a successful transition to and from school. It is great to be working as a team!



Parent Café

Parent Café is now up and running and it is great to be able to share ideas and experiences with our wonderful parents and carers. We look forward to our future sessions!



Thanksgiving

HAPPY THANKSGIVING from Dosbarth Arian!! We are thankful for lots of different things this year including our family and friends.



Learning together to be the best we can

Highlights of

Ty Gwyn



Jamie Brotherton
Ty Gwyn,
Head of School

This term we have been very fortunate to have been supported by a number of people and organisations. We very much appreciate this support and it enables us to enhance further the activities we offer.

We have been extremely grateful to the teams of volunteers who have supported the school over the last few months. During the summer break GTC Engineers sent a team of staff for the day. They did a fantastic job, transforming the forest school area so that our pupils can access it more easily. In the October half term sky send a team of volunteers to tidy up the planters and to cut back the plants on the playground.

Both teams of volunteers did an incredible job. Our pupils have enjoyed making use of the newly improved areas as part of their outdoor learning provision. We hope to work with both businesses again in the future.

The Friends of Ty Gwyn are a group of parents and staff who fund raise for the benefit of the pupils at Ty Gwyn School. They meet regularly to come up with ideas for fundraising and are always looking for new ideas from new faces. Monies raised by their fundraising activities have purchased Christmas gifts for the pupils, the Christmas donkey visit, Easter gifts, Leavers lunch and gifts as well as a big amount for our annual summer Mandy Wyatt Funday! A huge thank you also to the families and staff who came together to form a committee to organise such a fantastic leavers prom in July.

The Friends of Ty Gwyn have been working really hard this year fundraising for a new minibus and are really grateful for all the support. The Ride event organised by Team Huskies contributed significantly to this and we are very grateful to all the riders and supporters!

14-19 Curriculum Activities

Coffee Shop is enjoyed every week by both staff and pupils alike! It is a wonderful chance to meet up with friends and also learn valuable skills. Not to mention, we have held several charity events since the start of the year - benefiting charities such as Children in Need and MacMillian, raising over £600! A big thank you to the 14-19 enterprise department for hosting a charity coffee morning for the Tourettes community, our 'Tea for Tourettes' coffee morning managed to raise £117! Thank you to everyone who donated.

The school enterprise is an amazing chance for pupils from across the 14 to 19 department to interact

with each other, develop skills and generate income which goes towards leavers events including the Leavers Prom. It continues to provide pupils the opportunity to immerse themselves in authentic learning focused on various topics of study. The pupils have engaged with numerous real-world problem-solving activities, participation in the manufacture of enterprise items and sharing their ideas in a supportive community.



Lead creative schools project

This term our post 16 pupils have been working with 2 practitioners as part of Lead creative schools project. These practitioners were Clary Saddler who specialises in inclusive technology and Dean Yhnell professional beat boxer. Our learners have loved working with them creating music developing a podcast and exploring different technology to create rhythms and songs.

Our pupils have amazed us with how much they have engaged with the project and the incredible music they have developed. They look forward to showing you all this in their Christmas concert showcase!



Autumn Events

We had a fun filled day for Children in Need. Pupils and staff all dressed up and took part in activities like splat the teacher, name the teddy and a danceathon! There were lots of giggles and some amazing dance moves that day! We managed to raise £222.41 for Children in Need, thank you everyone!

We all celebrated Diwali, the Festival of lights with a special whole school assembly. We all made our own salt dough Diya lamps, classes had special Diwali themed exploration trays and activities and there were some fantastic Diwali displays around the school. Well done everyone!

Mental health is something we are really passionate about in Ty Gwyn. We took part in 'Hello Yellow' World mental health day to highlight the importance. Across the UK everyone was invited to wear yellow to show young people that they are not alone and to make world mental health day that little bit brighter.



Supporting Christmas Events

A great big thank you to all the parents who have made donations to the raffle and especially those who were involved in the organisation and running of the raffle. Thank you also to those who supported us with our Christmas decorations including the Christmas trees in the foyers.

Thanks also for all those involved in a wide variety of fundraising activities with many parents and people with connections with to school contributing significantly to sales of items and to organising raffles to support us, this is much appreciated.

More Autumn Events!

Dosbarth Enfys lead our Harvest Assembly this year and what a brilliant assembly it was! This year we asked parents and carers for donations for the Cardiff food bank, thanks to everyone's generosity we managed to provide 22 local people with a 3 day emergency food parcel. We are really grateful for all the donations made.



For Remembrance day we turned the sensory garden into an area of reflection. Pupils had the opportunity to drop in throughout the week and spend some time thinking of all those who fought or helped us to be safe. Classes made poppies and poppy biscuits. Dosbarth Snowdon and Dosbarth Ely went to St Mary's Parish Church in Whitchurch and made a wreath on behalf of Ty Gwyn with Father John Davis. On Sallyann (one of our teachers and middle leaders) had Ty Gwyn's wreath placed at the cenotaph war memorial. Thank you everyone!

Image Musical Theatre made a special visit to Ty Gwyn to perform 'The Selfish Giant' for us. Pupils absolutely loved it, they were so engaged and some pupils even got up on stage to be involved in the performance. Well done!

To celebrate Black History Month, we invited all classes to take part in a poster competition. We based our posters on influential figures who have made a fundamental contribution to society and history, these included Maya Angelou, Nelson Mandela, Michelle Obama, Betty Campbell, Mo Farah, Usain Bolt and lots more! It was very hard to pick a winner, but Da lawn to Dosbarth Eden for their Jimi Hendrix poster, Dosbarth Gwyrdd for their Trevor Macdonald poster, Dosbarth Gwyn for their Simone Biles poster and Dosbarth Oren for their Wangari Maathi poster!

The theme for our Christmas concert this year is 'Christmas movies'. Classes performed parts of their favourite Christmas movies, we've had Home Alone, The Polar Express, The Grinch and lots more! Everyone's performance was so amazing, we just couldn't pick a favourite!

Christmas Donkeys visit

We had two visitors at Ty Gwyn School, Christmas donkeys, they brought lots of smiles to our faces. A big thank you to The Friends of Ty Gwyn for organising and paying for them to visit.



Highlights of Woodlands



Matt Thomas
Woodlands,
Deputy Head of School

This term has seen Woodlands continue to work with partners to develop and deliver a broad and meaningful curriculum with a variety of learning opportunities afforded to staff and pupils.

The number of pupils able to access the Storey Arms provision has grown, and pupils who had previously lacked engagement with their academic studies and or had lower attendance levels were now showing higher levels of engagement, improved attendance and improved self-esteem.

Pupils have enjoyed activities such as caving, rock climbing, bush craft and other outdoor adventurous activities.

The PET & Haven provision continues to work with our learners to develop positive behaviour support strategies and improve quality of life.

Ocean Park provision continues to develop pupils independence and it was wonderful to invite the families of our students to visit the off-site provision recently.

Woodlands opened its doors to the wider school community for its first Christmas concert in some years. Parents, friends, family members, governors and federation leaders were in for a real Christmas treat. The pupils took our visitors on a journey around the world exploring and sharing what Christmas looks like in other countries, culminating in the school choir reminding everyone that there is no place like home and that this Christmas Woodlands wishes to connect with families and friends and the wider school community and wish everyone a peaceful and safe Christmas.

In our final week of the term we will be celebrating pupils achievements with pupil of the term awards, nominations have been coming in thick and fast.

Storey Arms

This year we have had the opportunity to work with the Storey Arms Outreach team, taking part in bouldering, mountaineering, caving and surfing sessions. The pupils have gained an abundance of life skills, and their day-to-day confidence has grown as a result. Watching pupils lead sessions underground and support one another through very challenging scenarios was wonderful to see. Being placed in situations outside their comfort zones has challenged pupils to find resources in themselves they didn't know they had. This is significant in moving forward into adult life, where they will be able to draw on these moments and realise they *are* able, and they *can* do it.



Dallaglio Rugby Works Awards

This year we had a fantastic opportunity to work with Dallaglio Rugby Works to complete a qualification in Sports Leadership. The group have really enjoyed the sessions and have had the chance to plan and deliver coaching sessions. They worked really hard and impressed the coaches so much that they wanted to submit the group for an award for their end of year awards ceremony.

This led to our group being short-listed for the 'Cohort of the Year' award and us being invited to the ceremony in London. We accepted the invitation and began planning our trip to London, which was very exciting. It was a fabulous trip and the learners really enjoyed going to London and seeing the sights. It was also a proud moment when the group were presented with the 'Highly Commendable Award' for Cohort of the Year. To see how happy they were going up to collect their award was amazing.



Christmas around the World

This year in Woodlands, students put on a spectacular performance to showcase how different countries celebrate Christmas. Every class performed by singing, dancing or sharing stories and facts. Some highlights included tango dancing, solo singing, Madagascan animal dancers and Makaton Christmas carols. Students were involved with the whole performance by organising and making props, set design, lighting, music, putting flags on the world map, changing scenes and narrators. The choir, 'Woodlands Stars', made their debut performance wowing the audience with their beautiful voices. Staff worked so hard to make this such a magical performance and students amazed us with enthusiasm and talent. We look forward to sharing more performances in the future.



Calzaghe Boxing

This year we have had the chance to work with the Calzaghe Academy to learn the fundamentals of boxing, with a focus being on the FUN. The learners have really enjoyed learning new skills and the coaches have been amazing. The best part of the year has to be when we had the honour of visiting the Newbridge Boxing Club, which has created four world champions, including Joe Calzaghe himself. It was an experience in itself just for the learners to step into the gym and see all of Joe Calzaghe's memorabilia. When they actually got to meet him and to complete their boxing session in front of him, it was a truly special moment. The learners loved showing off all the skills they had learnt and then having photos with Joe and getting posters signed.



Woodlands

SCHOOL

Learning for Living



Introducing *our* Governors

*Andy
Kreppel*

Type of Governor: Local Authority Governor
Organisation: Western Learning Federation

I started as a Local Authority Governor across Western Learning Federation in December 2023 and I sit on the Resources Committee.

I've worked in education for over 20 years and have a background in project management, risk management, procurement and education technology. When not working you're likely to find me at a sporting event or a beach.



*Rhian
Gregory*

Type of Governor: Parent Governor
Organisation: Western Learning Federation

I am a Mum to three children, one of which attends Woodlands. I am known as 'mum on wheels' as I use a wheelchair.

I feel it's important to listen and support our parents, guardians and the community. To do our best for the children at the Western Learning Federation, to deliver a safe and happy environment and for each individual to reach their potential.

Parent Governor Vacancies

We're pleased to inform you we have two Parent Governor vacancies, one for Riverbank School and one for Ty Gwyn School and nominations packs will be invited for these positions in January 2025.

These are exciting and unique opportunities for you to be involved in the development of The Western Learning Federation. Please take time to read the information below and consider putting your name forward once we issue these in January.

www.westernlearningfederation.co.uk/new-governor-induction-booklet/

If you'd like to chat about the Parent Governor opportunities, please ring any of the schools and ask for Stacey Owen or e-mail Stacey.owen3@cardiff.gov.uk and we will be in touch.





School Development Plan



I'm delighted to share with you the School Development Plan Summary Documents which will provide you with an overview of the targets for each school for this academic year, with each of our three priorities below

Riverbank School

Priority 1

All staff are clear of their roles and responsibilities in working across the WLF and in Riverbank to ensure all pupils make progress and are kept safe.

Priority 2

I am able to access key areas of the curriculum which helps me to make progress in all areas of my learning.

Priority 3

I am able to attend school, keep myself safe and ensure that I am ready to learn.

Please visit the Federation website to access the full document www.westernlearningfederation.co.uk/school-development-plans/

Ty Gwyn School

Priority 1

All staff and partners at Ty Gwyn understand their roles and how they contribute to make my school better so that I am safe, happy and make progress.

Priority 2

Our curriculum helps me develop key skills and is underpinned by enabling adults, effective environments and engaging experiences.

Priority 3

School helps me to enhance my quality of life by working together with an individualised approach that ensures I am safe and ready to develop new skills.

Please visit the Federation website to access the full document www.westernlearningfederation.co.uk/school-development-plans/

Woodlands School

Priority 1

I understand what my roles and responsibilities are in Woodlands and the WLF so that pupils are able to make progress.

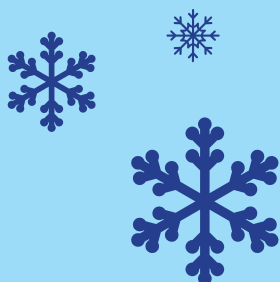
Priority 2

I can use the curriculum which helps me develop my key skills.

Priority 3

I am ready to learn. I engage in my learning, attend school and keep myself safe.

Please visit the Federation website to access the full document www.westernlearningfederation.co.uk/school-development-plans/





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