



# Morrison Comprehensive School

## Ysgol Gyfun Treforys

inspire • engage • achieve



### Christmas Newsletter 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we reach the end of a very busy and long term, I wanted to share our Christmas newsletter with you to give an insight into the many and varied opportunities we provide and the achievements of our learners.

This term we had our Estyn inspection; the report recognised the significant progress we have made in supporting our children following the pandemic, along with identifying important areas we need to improve moving forward. Estyn identified that;

*'Morrison Comprehensive school fosters a strong sense of community. Staff are committed to supporting pupils and their families to improve their well-being and progress in learning. This is underpinned by the headteacher's clear vision for creating an inclusive ethos that values the contribution that the whole community make towards school life. This has helped to place the school at the centre of its community and to provide high levels of care, support and guidance for their pupils and their families.'*

Over the last couple of weeks we have been involved in a range of events including our Carol concert, visits to Aela-Bryn residential home, our pensioners party and delivering presents to Morrison children's ward. It was particularly pleasing to see pupils involved from across all ages and abilities again reflecting our ethos of being an inclusive school.

On behalf of all of us Morrison can I thank you for your continued support and wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

M Franklin Headteacher.



We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Dymunwn Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi

# Mathematics @ MCS

Congratulations to Taran Williams (year 7), Corey-Leigh Dinham (year 8), Justin Abayomi (year 9) and Maisie Harris (year 10) who have earned the most XP Sparx points over the last four weeks. Pupils earn additional point from completing Sparx independent learning, timetable games and more!

Congratulations to all pupils who complete their weekly Sparx homework, we can see your numeracy skills and confidence improving, well done!

Y7

Student	Total XP earned
Taran Williams	5947
Maisie Williams	4839
Oliver Gamble	4647



Y8

Student	Total XP earned
Corey-Leigh Dinham	6406
Thanushree Krishna	5093
Ryley Morris	4839



Y9

Student	Total XP earned
Justin Abayomi	5617
Hope Masuka	5063
Ffion Williams-Andrejevic	4302



Y10

Student	Total XP earned
Maisie Harris	4716
Maddie Reid	3754
Kiera Watkins	2511



In the Summer all our Cluster Primary school pupils were invited to take part in a competition: The Record Breakers Summer Reading Challenge. The aim was to read at least 6 books during the summer holidays and write a small review.

In September, all new pupils who had joined us from outside the catchment area, were also given the chance to take part in this exciting opportunity.

The 7 winners received their certificates and the promised chocolate treats, in assembly 2 weeks ago and they were also allowed to choose 3 free books each, from World Book Day as a reward. In addition, last week, they were invited to choose an extra gift from the Scholastic Book Fayre in the Library.

Please congratulate our winners and take a look at the display half way along the Library wall, celebrating these fabulous achievers who all rose to the challenge set:

Faith Stretch-Jones, SLR, reading a fabulous 9 books

Kiera Mills LJP Catrin V Davies NJO

Marley Johns ELR Halle Grigg ELR

Sophie Davies LJP Ini Adekunbi NJO

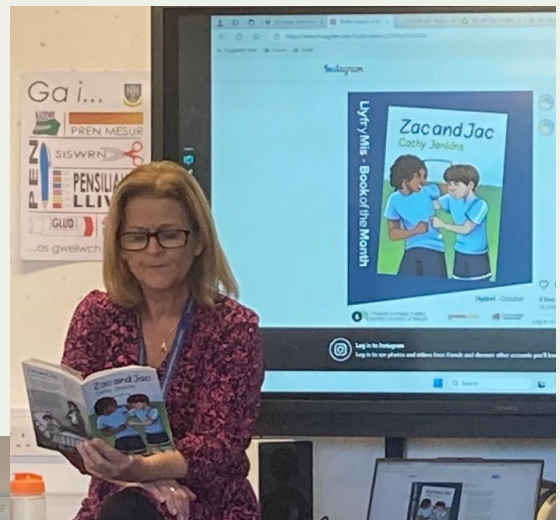
We are also VERY PROUD of all our Year 7 and 8 pupils who are enrolled onto the Renaissance Accelerated Reader scheme. This supports their reading progress and skill acquisition, enabling all to become more proficient readers.

This term, in just 3 months, they have read a MAGNIFICENT total of fiction books, borrowed from our excellent Library provision: Year 7 have read an AMAZING 628 books and Year 8, a FANTASTIC 605 so far. WELL DONE ALL!



## Our very own visiting author!

This November we hosted a transition event in the library to celebrate the release of the book '**Zac and Jack**', by our very own author Cathy Jenkins. The pupils took part in some fun activities and all thoroughly enjoyed. We will be hosting another event for the remaining primaries in January.



## Our brilliant young carers

We are still going strong supporting our Young Carers. We now have 24 identified Young Carers in school who are supported either solely in school or in conjunction with the YMCA. We have the YMCA attend our lunchtime Umbrella Club each week - alternating weeks between the Young Carer representative, Kyle and the LGBTQ+ representative Toni. This is a big hit with our students who love decorating the cakes and cookies they bring, playing their games etc and utilising the advice and support they offer.

We've recently had the YMCA in to do YC awareness sessions during health and wellbeing lessons for our new year 7's. They all participated strongly and were very knowledgeable on the issues surrounding being a young carer. Bravo year 7!



## Year 13 Business

Year 13 attended a workshop on Exam preparation for their upcoming BTEC level 3 Business examination in Personal and Business Finance. The workshop was held at the Vue Cinema in Birmingham. The students were part of a group of around 200 students who worked through different sessions focusing on the paper itself and types of questions expected in the actual exam. They took part in workshop style learning and felt that, overall, the day left them much more aware and prepared for their exam in January. We hope to run the trip again to help our next group of Business students with their studies.

Business is a useful and practical subject suitable for students who are interested in the world of business, entrepreneurship and marketing. At both levels in KS4 and 5, students have the opportunity to work on course-based topics such as marketing, business planning, recruitment and personal and business finance. It is an ideal option for those wishing to go into any aspect of business such as HR, marketing, entrepreneurship or finance. Students who wish to know more should speak to Mrs France or Ms Dabrowska in the first instance.



## Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Morriston has had a number of excellent speakers this year including talks on jobs in the NHS, jobs in Public Services and opportunities in the RAF. A number of our Media Studies students had the opportunity to attend a film making course with the British Film Industry over half-term which they thoroughly enjoyed. Some of our history students had the chance to speak to Lord Burrows live from London via a Zoom link. They were able to ask the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court questions about their aspirations to study law in the future. Two of our students have also gained the opportunity to travel to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Educational Trust. We have also started the Seren Programme where our gifted and talented academics can attend super curricular lectures in Swansea University. Our students are also attending a trip to the national History Museum in London and after Christmas they will have the opportunity to visit the Imperial War Museum. Two of our students also work with our local Senedd member Mike Hedges in preparation for university. They did fantastically well and their research has since been published and can be found on the Internet.



On the charity front the students have taken an active role in raising money for Children in Need and are currently preparing for our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party which will be held on Wednesday 18th December. This year the students have been joined by others in year 10 and 11 who are keen to contribute to the community of Morriston. We will also be delivering selection boxes to the Oakwood Ward in Morriston Hospital. On Thursday 19th December we will be delivering over 50 parcels to Senior Citizens in the Morriston area. I am very proud of the academic achievements of all the students at Morriston and even prouder of their commitment and dedication to our local community



## YEAR 7 Mrs Green and Mrs Winkett

I would like to take this time as we approach the end of the calendar year to praise and thank Year 11 for their determination this term. I am proud of the mature and positive attitude they have shown during a very busy time. The pupils have been working hard towards their futures as they have been involved in mock examinations, careers meetings and events, additional qualification completion and revision sessions. Students have taken part in extra-curricular activities too including numerous sporting matches, Pupil Leadership Team meetings, Performing Arts events and much more. I have been impressed with the amount of pupils nominated for 'Pupil of the Week' and have enjoyed giving assembly to inform the pupils of their nominations and in turn telling parents too. Positive points are regularly given to our pupils and it is wonderful to see so many gain these points regularly throughout the day in a wide number of different lessons.

I would like to thank the pupils for their positive attitude this term and I am excited to see this continue into the next year. A big thank you to the tutor and pastoral team for their support this year. Lastly, I would like to mention how we are all looking forward to the return of Mrs Green. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

## YEAR 8 Miss Hopkins and Mrs K Davies



As we come to the end of the calendar year, I would like to thank Year 8 for continuing to make excellent progress. They have impressed me and all their teachers with their maturity, work ethic and resilience. It has been a pleasure for me and Mrs Davies to make so many of you getting positive ClassCharts points and being learner of the lesson, and then celebrating that in our assemblies. It is clear from the recent Progress reports that virtually everyone in the year group is working as hard as they can to fulfil their potential which is even more impressive considering how well they have recovered from the disruption to their schooling.

There are too many individuals to mention here, but I would like to pay special attention to the Form Captains and Pupil Leadership Team representatives who go out of their way to help their peers and teachers alike.

To end, I would also like to thank the tutor team along with Mrs Davies who all do such a great job of supporting the pupils so that they feel happy and ready to learn. I wish all the pupils a very Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in 2025!

## YEAR 9 Mr Britton and Mrs L Williams



As we approach the holiday season, I am thrilled to look back on the outstanding achievements of our Year 9 students. This year has been an exciting one, full of challenges, growth, and impressive accomplishments, both in and outside the classroom.

Year 9 students have shown incredible resilience and dedication as they continue their journey through secondary school. Their ability to adapt and rise to the challenges of this year has been truly inspiring. It's been a year of academic progress, with many students excelling across a wide range of subjects. The commitment to their learning and the determination they've shown in their studies is evident, and we're proud of the growth they've made.

Beyond academics, Year 9 has also thrived in a variety of extra-curricular activities. Whether it's competing in sports, taking part in the arts, or joining other school clubs, our students have demonstrated their diverse talents and passions. A special mention goes to Lily Stabler, who has excelled in her sporting pursuits. Lily has shown exceptional skill and dedication in Football has led to her representing Wales in the Welsh Schools FAW under 14's squad, one of 18 girls in Wales to do so. Her commitment to training and her achievements on the pitch have made us all incredibly proud.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Williams and the pastoral team for their continued support. Your dedication to providing a caring and supportive environment for our students has been invaluable, helping them navigate their academic and personal growth.

A huge thank you is also due to our amazing form tutor team. Your dedication to guiding and mentoring Year 9, fostering positive relationships, and supporting students through their challenges has made a significant difference to their experience at Morriston.

As we celebrate the festive season, let us take a moment to reflect on the many achievements of our Year 9 students and appreciate the hard work and effort they've put into making this year a success. I wish you all a joyful Christmas, filled with rest, happiness, and well-deserved time with family and friends.



## YEAR 10 Mr Greenway and Mrs Hughes

It has been a very busy and positive first term for year 10.

Students starting their option courses and growing into key stage 4 with lots of our pupils involved in a variety of activities both inside and outside of the school environment.

Year 10 have been making good progress this academic year as they are now working towards their GCSE's which has been a significant step up in challenge and expectation for them all. I am always proud to hear positive reports about how well pupils are doing within the year group.

Students matured over the summer break and they all seem to have a positive attitude to their learning and want to take responsibility for their own learning which is vital if they want to succeed.

This maturity will help students to get the most out of the courses they are following and achieve positive outcomes over the next few months.

There has been a number of pupils who have been actively involved in the wider school community, representing the school in sporting fixtures, taking part in school productions, being part of the school ECO club and taking active roles with the Pupil Leadership Team. Well done to you all. I would encourage you all to get involved with as many extra curricula clubs as you can.

I would like to thank the year 10 form tutors, they do a fantastic job in preparing you every morning for the day ahead, this is a vital time of day for you to regulate and get ready for the challenges of the day.

I would like to congratulate Mrs Cheley on the birth of her first child, little baby Dafydd. Hope Mrs Cheley and family have a wonderful first Christmas together.

A special thankyou to Mrs Hughes who has stepped in to cover for Mrs Cheley, big shoes to fill but Mrs Hughes has done an amazing job so far as all the students would agree.

I look forward to seeing you all make further progress in all aspects of your school life in the new year. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year rest up and be safe.



## YEAR 11 Miss Annandale and Ms Howells

This has been a demanding but rewarding term for Year 11. All pupils have been completing mock and GCSE exams. I am proud of how the year group has risen to these challenges, supported one another and are driven to achieve their full potential. They have been showing real maturity and focus since beginning their last academic year. I know that the PE Department will be sharing excellent sporting achievements, but I would like to applaud all pupils who are participating in extracurricular activities of all kinds. This includes Pupil Parliament, Performing Arts events and everyone who contributed to our inspection this term.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the year group on their most recent progress reports; there is such a high number of pupils who are highly motivated and engaged in all lessons with excellent progress being made, putting the year group in a fantastic place ready for their GCSE examinations this summer.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Year 11 tutors and Mrs Howells, who have worked tirelessly supporting our year group. I hope all of Year 11 have a well-deserved break over Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

## Cross Country and Track & field @ MCS

This academic year the fixture list was changed and mid October took us to Cwmtawe school up the link road for the County Schools XC Relay champs.

As the cold weather kicks in this race allows our new pupils to wear the blue and yellow vest for the first time and older students the chance to sharpen up for the season along with scoring GCSE PE points.

We have a strong tradition in this event and always pick up a few team medals. The races consist of 3 x 1000-meter legs. This year was no different as our Senior boys secured a fantastic victory to beat local rivals Bishop Vaughan and reverse the result of 2023. There was a great team effort throughout the afternoon as we finished teams in all age groups in the top 10 out of 25 county schools competing.



Mid November took us to the Elba, Gowerton for Individual races for yrs 7-14.

Run of the day came from year 10 pupil Charlie Stevens in the Senior Boys race with a fantastic 8<sup>th</sup> place racing against boys up to 3 years older than him.

Many of our pupils who train with local clubs Swansea, Neath Harriers and Celtic Tri have represented these clubs in indoor competitions in Swansea and Cardiff and this will continue in the New year.

The Pupil/Staff run club continues to operate on a Wednesday night and on a warmer afternoon will have up to 15 members trotting an easy 4k discussing the days activities at MCS.

The Pe Dept would like to thank all pupils who have represented the MCS over the last few months and we go again in the middle of January with County selection on the line at the County Schools Champs at Margam park.

Have a lovely break and only train once on Xmas day!





## Christmas at Morriston!



To Morriston  
Comprehensive School

Thank you very much  
for coming to our unit  
at Christmas time with  
your generous donation  
of Selection boxes.  
For every year your school  
has supported us and we  
thank you again.

From all the children and  
Staff on Oakwood Ward  
Ward M, PAU and Playteam  
at Morriston Hospital x x x



**Shout  
out to  
Riley!**

Congratulations and thank you to Ryley Morris 8RXG who designed this year's Christmas Shout Out postcard. Every pupil gets a postcard and can give it to a particular member of staff who they want to give a special thanks to.

**Important information**

**We all return to school on Monday 6th January.**