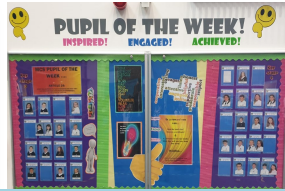




Morriston Comprehensive School

Ysgol Gyfun Treforys

inspire • engage • achieve



Easter Newsletter 2022

Welcome from the Headteacher

It is a great pleasure to send you our Easter newsletter. I hope it gives you a brief insight into the varied activities and events that have occurred this term, demonstrates the kindness and compassion of our children and provide details of the important improvements we are making across the school.

This is an exciting time for Morriston Comprehensive school. Our recent Estyn revisit highlighted the significant progress the school has made since the inspection and provides confidence for pupils, parents and staff moving forward.

We, like all other schools have faced challenges this term with staff and pupil absences due to Covid, but we are proud that we have been able to keep all pupils in school and not had to resort to year groups having to be taught remotely. Our GCSE and A level children will be the first year groups to sit external examinations since 2019. We appreciate the stress and pressure many of them feel and we have worked hard to build confidence and offer support throughout this year.

This week we were delighted to welcome Year 6 children from our cluster primary schools to Morriston. This is the first time we have been able to do this since the pandemic and it was fantastic to see so many happy faces!

Thank you again for your continued support as parents and carers, I hope everyone enjoys their Easter break.

M Franklin



LOWRI
NORKETT

Member of Staff makes the Welsh squad for the 6 Nations

Huge congratulations to Miss Norkett, who has been selected for the Wales 6 Nations squad. The team have got off to a fantastic start, beating Ireland and Scotland in their first two games.

This is a great achievement for Lowri and the School, and she joins former Morriston pupils Gwen Crabb and Ross Moriarty in their respective Wales squads.

Lowri's inspirational back story has recently been covered on Wales Online and on the BBC Sports App.

Good Luck Lowri—all at Morriston are very proud of you!

Morriston Pupil of the Week!

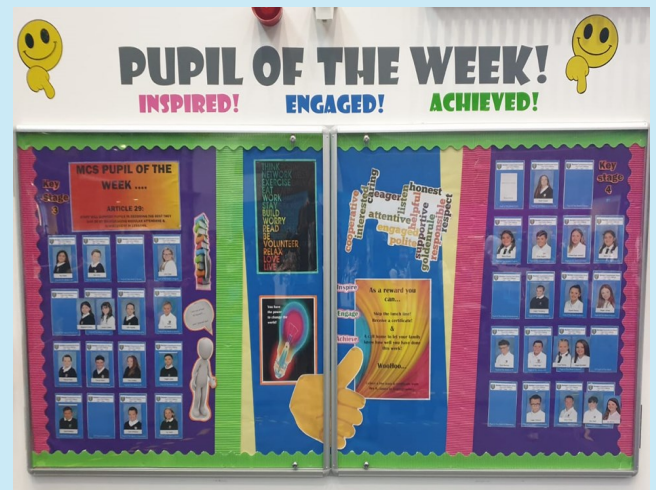
Every Friday all departments in the school nominate their 'Pupil of the Week' for key stage 3 and Key stage 4.

On a Monday morning Mr Franklin and Mrs Altman have the great pleasure to meet with the children nominated in our boardroom and share a hot chocolate and a cookie and say well done!

It is important to remember for instance that we have well over 500 children in years 7, 8 and 9, and to be selected is a great achievement!

In years 10 and 11 it shows us the children who are doing particularly well in their GCSE subjects as we get near important summer exams.

Pupils of the Week get a pass to go to the front of the queue at lunch and break, along with a phone call home from their Progress Leader or Mrs Altman.



At the end of the year we will be identifying the children who have been Pupil of the week the most times and we are planning to reward and recognise this in the Summer!





YEAR 7 Mr Greenway and Mrs Cheley

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you and well done to all of year 7 for what has been a very productive and successful spring term.

The high standards you set for yourselves is a real credit to you all and will need to be maintained moving forward into the summer term. The hard work you all have put in so far, this academic year in relation to uniform, equipment and the positive attitude to your learning again is a credit to you all.

This is having been reflected in the fantastic interim reports that went out to parents.

Well done to all year 7 pupils who have represented the school in several sports and various other activities. Well done also to all year 7 pupils who are currently involved with the school production. I would strongly encourage any pupil to join a club and be an active member of the wider school community.

A big thank you must go to the form tutors for all the hard work you do daily with your form groups, it is an invaluable part of the school day, and the pupils really benefit from the support you all provide.

A big thank you Mrs Cheley for the amazing work you do, you provide pupils with support and encouragement daily which they are all thankful for.

I would once again like to thank you as parents for your continued support, the communication between school and yourselves is excellent something we need to maintain as by working together, we can ensure your child has the best possible experience at Morriston Comprehensive school.



YEAR 8 Mrs Isaac, Miss Zupic and Ms Howells

As we come to the end of the Spring term I would like to thank Year 8 for continuing to make such excellent progress. It is testament to their hard work and dedication that myself and Ms Zupic get to make so many Pupil of the Week calls every Friday. It is great to see many positive SIMS entries attached to year 8.

There are too many individuals to mention here and as I know many Departments will be sharing their own success stories I will keep it brief, but I would like to pay special attention a few members of the year group who have really gone over and above this term. Amelia Mitchell and Wiktoria Raczowska have both excelled themselves by becoming Word Millionaires as part of our Accelerated Reader programme. Well done girls!

Top attenders this term are Kaedon Comley, Rebecca and Stephanie Evans and Teilo Jones with many more currently achieving over 95%.



YEAR 9 Miss Jones and Mrs Winkett

We have had a busy term in Year 9 with pupils preparing for and choosing their options for GCSE. There have been a few events this term and year 9 have conducted themselves wonderfully well. 30 girls in year 9 had the opportunity to participate in the Tata Steel and The Wave Radio event Women of Steel, receiving inspiring talks from a number of very inspiring women including Claire Scott and Anna Ryder-Richardson, the girls took a lot away from this event and many have been to see me following this.

I have also been thrilled to hear about many achievements of our pupils outside of school, and congratulate them all it is wonderful to hear about success in a whole range of activities. There is however one pupil who I must mention for her fantastic news - Ellie Haste has recently achieved her Junior (Adult) black belt in Kick boxing - in July she will take on another grading to attempt her full Adult Black belt!! Those who know Ellie will know she is a very quiet pupil who would not boast about her achievement - therefore we must congratulate her and wish her all the best for her next grading!!

Next term will continue to be busy as we prepare for Year 10 and the start of their GCSE courses.



YEAR 10 Miss Hopkins and Mrs K Davies

This has been a challenging term for Year 10. They have completed their mock exams, Welsh Oral exams and are making good progress with their non-examination assessments. I am proud of how the year group rose to the challenges, supported one another and were driven to achieve their full potential. They showed maturity and are now hopefully better practiced ready for their real exams next year.

Again, I have been impressed with the high number of Year 10 'Pupil of the Week' nominations, it has been a real pleasure making the positive phone calls home every Friday. 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, we have lots of sporting success in the year group in particular. 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 and excellent progress is being made, putting the year group in a great place ready for next year. I want to thank our Pupil Leadership Team representatives, pupils who have been involved in interviews, and form captains of Year 10, who make sure Year 10 pupil voice is listened to.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Year 10 tutors and Mrs Davies who have worked tirelessly supporting our year group. I hope all of Year 10 have a well-deserved break over the Easter Holidays and I look forward to welcoming you back for the Summer Term.



YEAR 11 Mr Whitehead and Mrs L Williams

Year 11 are finally coming towards the end of their school careers at Morriston Comp with the finishing end in sight. I am so proud of the commitment, focus and resilience they have shown over the last couple of months and years. The pupils have a final few weeks to prepare for their GCSE exams and will need to have a positive mindset and work hard to achieve the result they deserve.

They will need to revise everyday including accessing the extra revision sessions that the teachers are putting on after school and in the Easter break. If the right preparation has been completed and then when August comes and they pick up their results there can be no regrets!

Support for the people of Ukraine

In Morriston staff and pupils have come together to support the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. As a school we joined with other schools across Swansea to hold a Ukrainian day, when everyone wore something blue and yellow and donated generously to the Ukraine appeal

Special mention to Mikey Hill, who is walking a marathon next week during the Easter holidays in Bristol to raise funds for the Ukraine effort as well as 2 other charities. - a fantastic achievement!

Support for the people of Ukraine

Many thanks to all the pupils and staff who so generously donated to a collection of supplies for Ukrainian refugees and made posters with messages of hope. The items were very gratefully received by a local charity who organised transport to Poland.

Also... big shout out to Morriston Comprehensive who collected these medical supplies for us this week...DIOLCH YN FAWR!!
Dai Mitchell



Teaching and Learning News

What's the point of school?

At Morriston Comprehensive School, nothing matters more to us than our pupils and their successful futures. It is our moral purpose to make a positive difference to the outcomes and lives of the children and young people in our care. In our school, we provide a place of learning and formation where areas of strength are nurtured to become areas of excellence, and all are encouraged to realise their potential.

Here, success is the expectation *and* the norm!



What's new in learning and teaching at MCS?



In September 2021, Dr Williams joined the school as our Assistant Headteacher in charge of Teaching and Learning. His role, amongst others, is to lead curriculum development, teaching and learning reform and skills provision across the school.

Alongside Dr Williams, Mr Edmunds (Science) and Mrs Sierra (English) have been seconded for two days a week as Lead Practitioners of Curriculum for Wales.



The role of the curriculum team is to ensure our school provides an engaging, rewarding and challenging experience for all learners. To achieve a deeper understanding of what this might look like, we consulted pupils, teachers, parents and members of the local community. The feedback enabled us to identify the skills, values and attributes our school curriculum needed to deliver and helped us focus on what our pupils needed to become Brilliant Learners.

This consultation also helped us to refine our teaching and learning priorities, and establish **Morriston** Comprehensive School as a community of learning and formation which:

Inspires a love of learning, meaning that all children and young people are empowered and invested, active participants in life-long learning.

Engages equitably, meaning that all children and young people are assured of an equality of opportunity and nurtured as individuals.

Achieves excellence, meaning that all children and young people are supported to secure the highest possible standards and outcomes in all of their work.



As we move towards our Morriston Comprehensive School launch of the Curriculum for Wales, our vision will ensure that we work hard to help every pupil in our school to become a Brilliant Learner!

Teaching and Learning News

What makes a Brilliant Learner?

The most important message for our learners is that we all have truly amazing brains- being a 'Brilliant Learner' grows our brains – and the harder we work, the smarter we become!

At Morriston Comprehensive we recognise our inherent responsibility to give children the opportunity to be excellent! By talking to our staff, pupils, parents and community leaders we know that in order to achieve excellence, individual pupils must work hard and be prepared to face and overcome setbacks.



After Easter we will be doing some exciting work with our pupils to recognise the effort so many of our learners invest in their work. Teachers will be making explicit reference to the qualities, attributes and behaviors for learning they expect to see from pupils every lesson. We believe celebrating the accomplishment of Morriston Comprehensive School pupils in all the different areas of the curriculum is important and recognising our most **Brilliant Learners** - *every lesson, every day!* - will help all of our children and young people to foster a strong sense of determination and think more explicitly about their strengths and areas for development as effective learners. Brilliant Learners at Morriston Comprehensive School are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zesty, they get stuck in and show enthusiasm• In control, they remain focused and allow others to learn uninterrupted• Emotionally intelligent, they show sensitivity towards other's feeling, show humility• Prepared, they follow instructions straight away and avoid distractions• Gracious, they help each other and set an example others need not hesitate to follow | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courageous, they keep an open mind, think deeply and purposefully• Curious, they explore new things, ask questions and imagine• Perceptive, they examine evidence critically and make sensible decisions• Gritty, they keep going even when the going gets tough and finish the things they start• Grateful, they make the most of every opportunity• Optimistic, they believe in themselves! |
|--|--|

A summary from some of our pupil leadership team!

"A Brilliant Learner achieves their fullest potential!" – Ben Thomas

"Being a Brilliant Learner means being the best we can be!" – Seren Tidy

"Brilliant Learners are always ready to learn!" – Evie Dowling

"Teachers help me to be a Brilliant Learner by encouraging me to think for myself!" – Phoebe Vincent

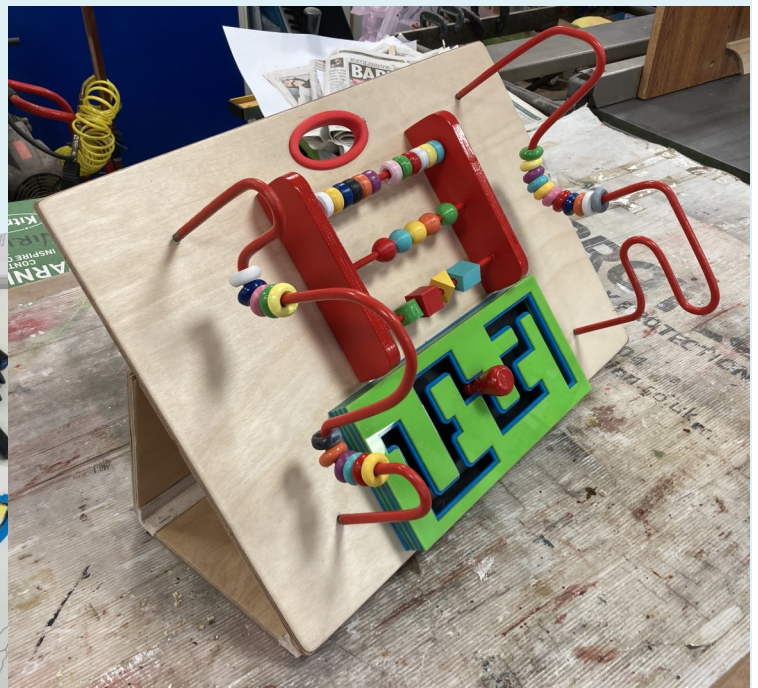
Technology goes from strength to strength In Morriston

Pupils across KS4 and 5 have been busy manufacturing concepts and ideas that have been developed over the last year. They have worked closely with a client to produce a solution to their everyday problems. Pupils have used a range of skills ranging from use of CAD/CAM, workshop machinery and hand tools.

Pupils in year 10 construction have been developing skills in tiling as well as preparing for their theory exam in the Summer term.



Product Design students across year 10 through to 13 had a taster day in Cardiff Met developing skills in marker rendering, sketching and modelling of ideas. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and has given many inspirations to pursue the subject or similar subjects further when they leave school.





Maths in Morriston

Since January the Maths department have set up our own team for Puzzle of the Week

which our pupils have been participating in.

Puzzle of the Week is a worldwide competition for pupils and adults in which our pupils have done an excellent job in applying their problem solving skills to solve some pretty tricky puzzles!

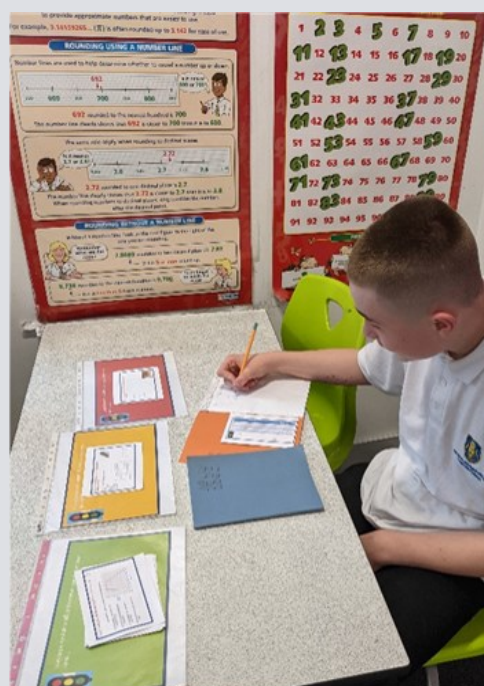
Our Year 7s did a fantastic job in getting us up to 10th position on the leader board out of all the schools participating. It is not too late to join our team if you haven't done so yet! The puzzles are published on www.puzzleoftheweek.com every Monday and you need to submit your answer to the puzzle by the following Sunday evening. It would be fantastic to get as many people involved as possible and strengthen our Morriston Team!



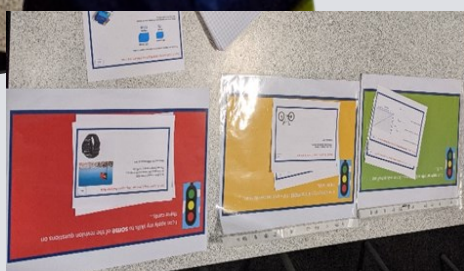
Maths pupils are working very well on improving their independence and responsive revision techniques.

At Morriston we recognise effective responsive revision is the key to improving Mathematics and Numeracy Skills.

Mrs Ayres' 8AMA1 Mathematics class are currently using a range of assessment activities to help them become independent, more reflective and responsive.



Pupils are learning to how to revise effectively by using revision flash cards, frequently organising their topic cards appropriately and marking tasks with common misconceptions.

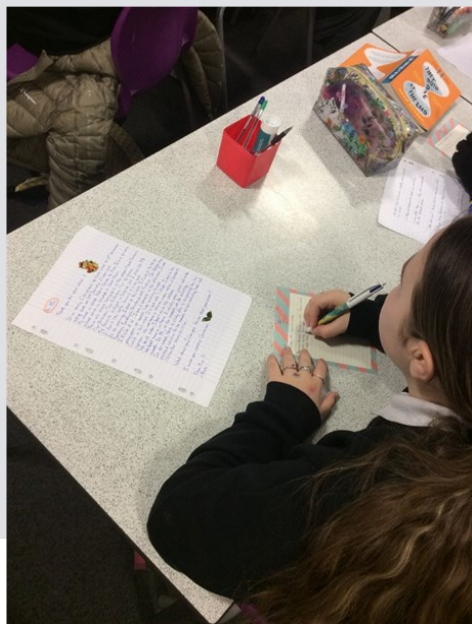


International Languages

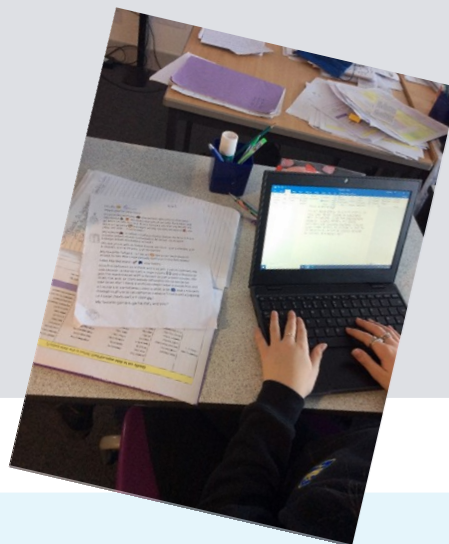


In the International Languages department, some year 8 and 9 classes have been receiving and writing *pen pal* letters to our link school in St Omer, in the north of France.

They are thoroughly enjoying this real-life experience and learning about how different school life is in France. We have also been learning about culture differences, namely how April Fool's Day and Easter are celebrated in France.



In year 7, pupils have now been studying Spanish for a term and will get to vote later this week on whether they wish to continue learning French or Spanish. It has been great to see them using their knowledge of one language (French) to help them with their new language (Spanish). ¡Muy bien, year 7!



Pedal powered disco in Y7 Geography



more sustainable lifestyle.

Y7 Geography pupils participated in a pedal powered disco as part of their scheme of work on carbon footprints and energy. Pupils took turns to pedal five bicycles which generated electricity to power lighting and a sound system. Pupils had choice over the music played with some Welsh songs included too. The event proved to pupils the potential of renewable energy sources and, along with their learning in class, how to adopt a

Transition with our primary cluster schools

During March, Mrs John was delighted to visit year 6 pupils in our feeder primaries as part of the transition process. All pupils participated in a lesson about Hinduism. They were keen, engaged and enthusiastic throughout. We are very much looking forward to them joining Morriston in September.

This week we have been delighted to welcome Year 6 pupils from each of our primary cluster schools to school. Due to Covid this is the first time they have been able to visit and all the children enjoyed their time with us and behaved impeccably.

We are planning a series of transition events next term.



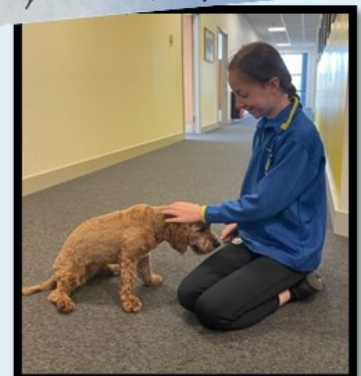
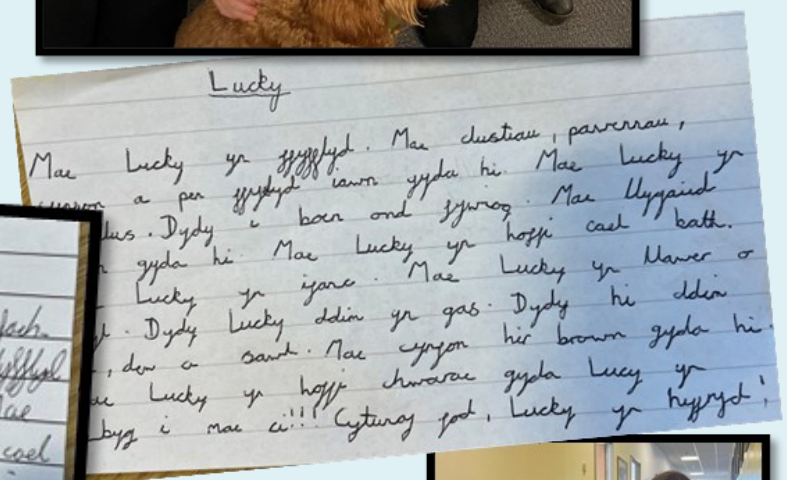
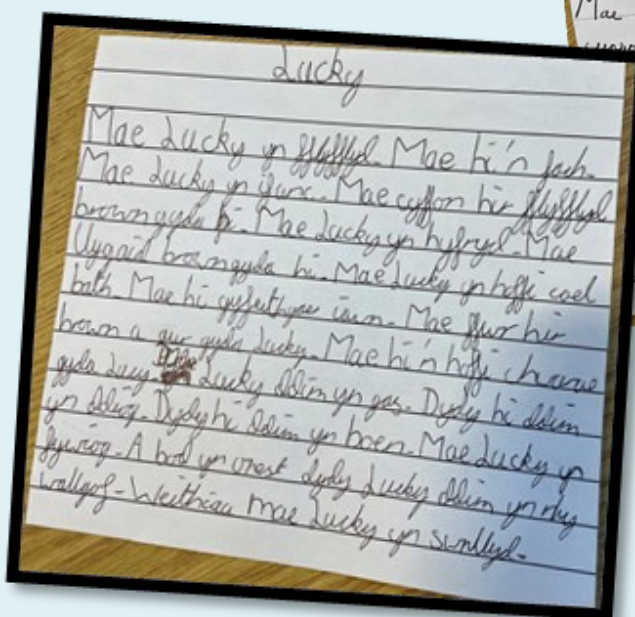
Lucky supports learning!

Lucky, our school dog, visited some Welsh lessons earlier this term to support Year 7 learners with their descriptive writing.

Pupils were able to play with Lucky and feel her *clustiau fflyfflyd* (fluffy ears) which sparked lots of ideas for their writing.



Mrs Tomlinson, PA to the Headteacher, told us about Lucky's likes and dislikes and pupils were particularly interested to know how much Lucky enjoys to *cael/bath*! Pupils wrote about Lucky's appearance, personality, character, likes and dislikes and Dr Williams was impressed with how Lucky helped to bring learning to life.



Hand-written extracts by Isabelle Taylor and Lilly Long Y7.

Morryston Comprehensive Athletics Club

The Athletics club finished the Cross-country season with great success at the County Schools Cross Country Champs at the Beautiful Margam park In January.



The current year 7 Boys team also secured a fantastic Team bronze medal with good packing and will hope to build on this next year.

There was a great individual run by Charlie Richards in 4th place.

The Year 8/9 boys retained the County Team title they won in 2020 beating over 25 Schools on the way.

The Individual run of the day was by Sam Morgan in year 9 coming in a fantastic second.



We were proud to take over 50 girls and boys to this event and many have kept this up by joining our Pupil / Staff run club on a Thursday after School. Athletics club also runs on a Friday after School.

We look forward now to a change in weather and the track and field season after the Easter Hols.

STF Football tournament a huge success!



The STF organised a football tournament in Play Football with Birchgrove, Bishop Gore, Dylan Thomas and Ysgol Gyfn Gwr . We also kindly had a Sponsor From Peter Lyn and partners who donated £150 towards medals and a trophy for each school .

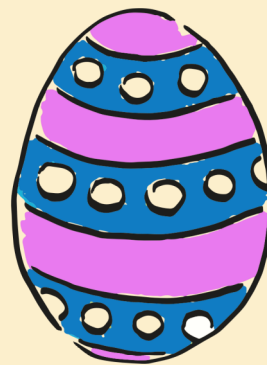
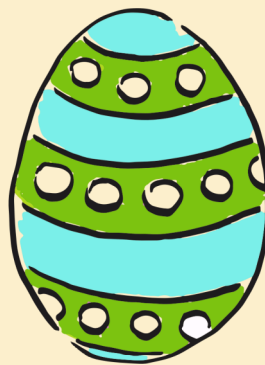


We had a group of Yr. 10 boys from Morryston football team, / PE department who were absolutely amazing and did training sessions with all the STF pupils along with Mr Jenkins .

The day was full of fun and everyone enjoyed, which we hope to repeat every year .

Sixth form News

The Sixth Form at Morriston have been involved in a number of events this term. They organised a day for Ukraine and raised £636.83 during a non-school uniform day where students were asked to wear blue or yellow to school. They also raised £231.24 for



Red Nose Day by carrying out a range of activities including "soak a Sixth- Former", crossbar challenge and various other events. We are currently collecting to buy Easter Eggs for the Children's Wards at Morriston Hospital and have been supported by the staff who have been donating eggs. We will deliver the eggs during the last week of term.

The Sixth Form have also had talks on applying for university and various job opportunities within the National Health Service. Finally, a number of students had the opportunity to speak to two junior doctors about applying for careers in Medicine. Other students had the fantastic opportunity to talk to Lord Chief Justice Lord Lloyd Jones about a career in Law.

Staff leaving this Easter



This Easter we say a sad farewell to Mrs Holly Dix-Lawrence. Holly has been a member of staff in Morriston for 16 years, during which time she has been in charge of Welsh Baccalaureate and for the last four years as Department Leader for History. During her time here she has proved herself as an excellent teacher, not only achieving excellent results but also promoting a real love and passion for history with our pupils.

Holly leaves Morriston to move to Italy, and we wish her all the very best for the future and thank her for her fantastic contribution to Morriston Comprehensive school.

Addio e buona fortuna Holly!!!

Important reminder dates for your diary

- We all return to school on **Monday 25th April**
- School is **closed Friday 29th April** for the Queen's diamond jubilee
- School is **closed Monday 2nd May** for the May day bank holiday

Headteacher's surgery Every Tuesday 3pm to 5pm

Reminder to all parents that Mr Franklin and Mrs Altman (Assistant Headteacher for pupil wellbeing) hold a surgery every Tuesday for any parent who wants to discuss any issue regarding their child or the school. Please phone the school reception to make an appointment.