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Our vision for the Cwm Rhondda Cluster

We shall make the Rhondda valley proud of Wales,
and Wales proud of the Rhondda valley.

The roots of yesterday stretch through the land,
stretching and feeding our long history,
creating a vibrant school community
belonging today, inclusive of us all.

We have the power in all of our hands today,
to create a better tomorrow



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An introduction to Cwricwlwm Cwm Rhondda

- During the past 4 years staff, learners, governors and parents have been working together to turn the vision of “Cwricwlwm Cwm Rhondda” into a reality.
- This presentation provides a brief insight into some of the learning experiences our pupils in Year 7 will have during the Autumn term in Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda.
- Each area of learning has developed their curriculum with the skills that are integral to developing the four purposes, whilst developing cross-curricular skills in literacy, numeracy, digital competence, relationships and sexuality education, human rights education, diversity and work-related experiences.
- By the summer of 2024, the school's assessment and reporting procedures will allow a clear understanding of pupil progression.



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Year 8 Curriculum Model

Cwricwlwm Cwm Rhondda is built on the 6 Area's of Learning:

- Maths and Numeracy
- Language and Communication
- Science and Technology
- Humanities
- Creative Arts
- Health and Wellbeing



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Year 8 experiences in Numeracy and Maths

This term's work has been developed on the theme of '**Number and Algebra**'.

During the term pupils will experience:

- Solving problems related to Place Value, Fractions, Percentages and Decimals, The Four Operations and Money.
- Solving problems related to Algebraic Sequences, Symbols and Procedures and Solving Equations.
- Exploring the history of famous Mathematicians, careers that depend on Mathematics and use Mathematics in a real-world context.



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Year 8 experiences in Language and Communication (Cymraeg)

This term's work has been developed on the theme of **Y Byd Mewn Perygl (World in Danger)**.

During the term, the pupils will focus on the environmental challenges facing our world today. During the term, pupils will have opportunities to respond to oracy, reading and writing tasks. Pupils will develop their oracy skills by presenting information and expressing their opinions as part of a group. Pupils will develop their reading skills by reading a variety of reading pieces. They will learn how to analyse reading pieces and will be given opportunities to write creatively.



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Year 8 experiences in Language and Communication (English)

The first term's work is developed around the theme of “**The Natural World**”.

During the term, pupils will have opportunities to respond to oracy, reading and writing tasks. The subject's skills are developed through experiences of collaborative talk and individual and group presentations; personal, analytical and creative writing; and reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction material. Pupils will learn to analyse what they have read, including writing about how writers create and convey meaning.

During the term pupils will have the opportunity to:

- Develop their collaborative talking
- Use their presentational talk skills
- Read for understanding
- Read for analysis
- Present transactional and analytical writing
- Develop creative writing
- Enhance their knowledge of spelling, punctuation and grammar.



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Year 8 experiences in Language and Communication (English)

In term 1, there will be specific opportunities to:

- Talk about the natural world, including environmental concerns and issues
- Discuss how to improve the environment on local, national and global levels
- Develop their understanding of how to craft letters, including language tone and content
- Discuss, compare and contrast different environments that they have experienced
- Discuss how writers convey the mood and atmosphere of environments in non-fiction texts
- Analyse writers' use of language techniques to create and convey meaning
- Write in a range of forms, including a letter and analytical responses
- Continue to develop their understanding of word choices to create effect
- Structure their writing appropriately to meet the demands of various tasks
- Use mind-mapping development strategies for vocabulary and ideas
- Develop planning skills
- Read a range of texts connected to environments and the natural world
- Analyse how words create meaning and effect



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Year 8 experiences in Language and Communication (German)

This term's work has been developed on the theme of **'My Time at School'**.

During the first term, pupils will continue to develop their confidence in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, with the overall aim of expressing and understanding direct and indirect meaning. Pupils will begin to use subordinating conjunctions to express their opinions of subjects and extracurricular activities.

During the term pupils will experience:

- Comparing similarities and differences of the German and Welsh school systems.
- Debating the advantages of learning German in school to enhance career prospects in the future.
- Reading and listening to infer meaning.
- Expanding their knowledge of the present tense to express opinions.
- Developing numeracy skills in German to tell the time.



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Year 8 experiences in Science and Technology (Science)

This terms work has been developed on the theme of **'The body'**.

During the term pupils will experience:

Pupils in this unit will study the seven life processes, animal and plant cells, the bodies organs and systems. In detail, pupils will study the cardiovascular system, puberty and reproduction. There will be two end of unit tests, pupils will get a percentage and a target against the success criteria. They will practise extra questions following feedback on the test. Pupils will investigate the effects of exercise on heart rate and body temperature. Pupils will design a fair test for the experiment and after collecting data will write a detailed conclusion and analyses. Pupils will receive a success criterion and will be assessed against this criterion. They will be given targets and time to improve on their work.

In this unit they will focus on:

- Explaining the role of different organs and systems that enable plants and animals to live and grow.
- Describing the levels of cellular organisation and how cells perform biological processes that ensure the development and survival of organisms.
- Describing the changes in growth and development caused by hormones.



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Year 8 experiences in Science and Technology (Science)

In the second half term the theme studied are the “**body and health**”.

Pupils will study the effects of obesity and alcohol on the main body systems. Pupils will study the different types of microbes and pathogens that are a threat to our health.

Pupils will study:

- How to protect themselves from pathogens
- How to body attack and protect us from pathogens.
- identify the threats to the development and health of organisms and recognise some natural defences, preventions and treatments.



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Year 8 experiences in Science and Technology (Digital Technology)

This term's work has been developed on the theme of '**Collection, Analysis and Communication of eSafety Data**'.

During the term pupils will experience:

Create an eSafety questionnaire, analyse the responses, then present the results by:

1. Planning, creating and distributing a Google Forms questionnaire to fellow pupils to gain insight into modern eSafety issues.
2. Using spreadsheet software such as Microsoft Excel to analyse responses and present data in a way that is suitable for the target audience.
3. Using the information gained throughout the unit to create a comprehensive pamphlet using Desktop Publishing Software, such as Microsoft Publisher. This will use the data gained from the responses to the questionnaire, analysis of the data, and further research tasks throughout the term.



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Year 8 experiences in Science and Technology (Technology)

This term's work has been developed on the theme of **Sustainability at home**. Where students will research and design a cushion using upcycled materials.

During the term pupils will:

- work independently and within a team to problem solve.
- collect primary and secondary research which will lead to design ideas.
- develop 2D design ideas into 3D final drawings, incorporating isometric skills.
- proceed to create their final design through prototyping.
- learn practical skills, from sewing machines to hand embroidery and tie-dye. The result being a completed, upcycled cushion with embellishment.



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Year 8 experiences in the Humanities

This term's work has been developed on the theme of **'The extreme world'**.

During the term:

- Pupils will have opportunities to learn about how weather patterns are created in Wales; responding to oral, written reading and tasks.
- Pupils will also be taught about the different extreme weather events happening around the world and why they happen. They develop verbal skills by responding to information and expressing opinions.
- Pupils will analyse weather data and read weather maps to understand what type of weather is affecting different areas. They would develop their reading skills by reading about different extreme weather events and analysing the impact the weather risk has had on an area, identifying related economic, social and environmental impacts.



Year 8 experiences in the Humanities

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During the term pupils will experience:

- Identify different types of weather and the right equipment to use to measure different weather conditions.
- Develop skills to read and analyse synoptic weather maps and identify the type of weather on different weather maps.
- Have the ability to label anticyclone and depression weather maps.
- Create diagrams to explain relief rainfall across Wales.
- Identify various extreme weather events around the world.
- Create a rainfall graph and analyse it.
- Identify different flood strategies and their successes
- Distinguish social, environmental and economic impacts for anticyclone and extreme weather depressants.
- Recognize long- and short-term strategies for anticyclone and extreme weather depression.



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Year 8 experiences in the Humanities

This term's work has been developed on the theme of **'The World Around Us'**.

We have decided on the theme **'The World Around Us'** to ensure that the pupils of Cwm Rhondda develop the skills and knowledge necessary to understand the context of their world - from a local point of view here in the Rhondda, to a national level in terms of Wales, and their position as global citizens. These units of work offer them an opportunity to understand how the world they live in today has been shaped by significant events of the past. As part of the theme, pupils will study a variety of topics, but with particular focus on the influence of the Romans on Britain and the change to the status and roles of women since 1918.

During the term, pupils will receive opportunities to:

- Develop their chronological skills and study a range of reading materials.
- Complete extended written tasks.
- Participate in group and whole class discussions.
- Gather information and produce a summary of their findings.
- Express their opinion on significant developments.



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Year 8 experiences in the creative arts (Art)

This term's work has been developed on the theme of **'PORTRAITS'**.

During the term pupils will experience:

- Begin to draw key facial features using correct outlines and measurements.
- Complete observational drawings using scale effectively (grid method from photographs).
- Introduce methods of using tone when shading.
- Complete a series of observational studies using continuous line.
- Respond and review relevant contextual artists (Lucian Freud and Alexander Calder).



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Year 8 experiences in the creative arts (Music)

The terms work has been developed on the theme of “**The Blues**”.

During the first half-term pupils will:

- Research the history of African-Americans and listening to a variety of Blues music.
- Pupils will get the opportunity to develop their performing skills by performing in a class ensemble and smaller ensembles.

During the second half-term pupils will experience:

- How to improvise and compose Blues music.



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Year 8 experiences in the creative arts (Drama)

This term's work has been developed on the theme of **“the Theatre”**

The learners will create a short piece of theatre to perform in front of the class. The project uses a script to drive the work. We will develop performance skills demonstrating control and accuracy when creating. The emphasis is on inclusiveness and group work. We wish to encourage a curiosity about being creative and develop skills through progressive refinement.



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Year 8 experiences in Health and Wellbeing

During the term pupils will experience:

Wellbeing lessons

- *On the harms of substances* misuse (vaping / caffeine)
- *Self care:* healthy eating / Sleep
- *Self checks:* How - why - what to look out for · Symptoms of serious illness
- *Respect:* what does respect mean to individuals - "respect" around the world - How do you earn respect - How do you show respect?
- *Bullying:* types of bullying- -Cyber, -verbal -Physical -Social · Why people bully · Effects of bullying · What can we do?

Physical education / fitness

- A variety of competitive activities - Hockey, Netball, Football, Rugby.
- Short term changes from exercise, physical and mental adaptations.

How can you support your child's learning?

- Ask your child describe some of their learnt experiences during the day.
- Encourage your child to read regularly. The reading sources could be anything from novels to websites and apps.
- If your child has an interest in the news, take advantage of this to discuss local and national current affairs to further develop their knowledge and interest.
- When looking at household bills, discuss with them what the bill shows and the various options of how to pay. This is a valuable life skill.
- Try to relate some of the family's weekend activities to what they are learning at school at the time. It will help make learning more fun.
- Encourage your child to do the best they can with their homework and to complete it on time.