

Skills Challenge Certificate

The **Skills Challenge Certificate**, alongside **Supporting Qualifications** is part of the overarching **Welsh Baccalaureate**. In order to achieve the overarching Welsh Baccalaureate, pupils must pass:

- GCSE English Language,
- GCSE Maths(or numeracy)
- Skills Challenge Certificate
- 3 further GCSEs (two of these might be equivalent qualifications) in addition

Embed video here:



<https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/qualifications/welsh-baccalaureate/>

The Skills Challenge Certificate and Welsh Baccalaureate are separate qualifications. However, you need the Skills Challenge Certificate to achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate.



The Welsh Baccalaureate has taught me many different skills over the past 2 years. I have learnt how to manage money in a business, read many different sources to form an accurate opinion and in my opinion the most important - the ability to write a research paper.

Pupil Testimonials

The most beautiful thing about Welsh Baccalaureate is having the option to direct your learning to the things that interest you the most. For my 'Community Challenge' I used my volunteering with my local Brownie Unit - allowing me to become a positive member of society. Previous to starting the challenge I had already began working towards my Young Leadership Qualification but the SCC pushed me to finish the qualification; now in fact I have started working towards my Adult Leadership Qualification meaning that I will be a qualified leader at 18.

In addition, while completing the 'Individual Project' I made a definitive decision about what I would like to studying at A level and University. My research paper was titled 'How successful is the European Captive Breeding Programme?' and now I have decided that I would like a job within the field of Zoology. The SCC has not only helped me to decide what job I would like in the future but has also taught me the necessary skills needed to write a research paper which will be extremely valuable to me when I go to University.

In my opinion, gaining the SCC and hopefully the Welsh Baccalaureate is invaluable - you will learn many new skills that prepare you for later life no matter what field of work you choose. The teachers are always there to help you out and are more than willing to do so. My advice would be to try your best because you will always reap the reward.

Gabriella Lockwood, Year 11 pupil, Senior Prefect

Challenge Champions



Challenge Champions is a KS3 Programme that incorporates literacy, numeracy and digital competency. The termly challenges will build their ability to learn new skills and apply their subject knowledge more positively and creatively. As the world changes, they will be more able to adapt positively. Each challenge focuses on a particular skill:

- Planning & Organisation
- Critical thinking & Problem Solving
- Personal Effectiveness
- Creativity & Innovation

We understand that young people need to be adaptable to change, capable of learning new skills throughout life and equipped to cope with new life scenarios.

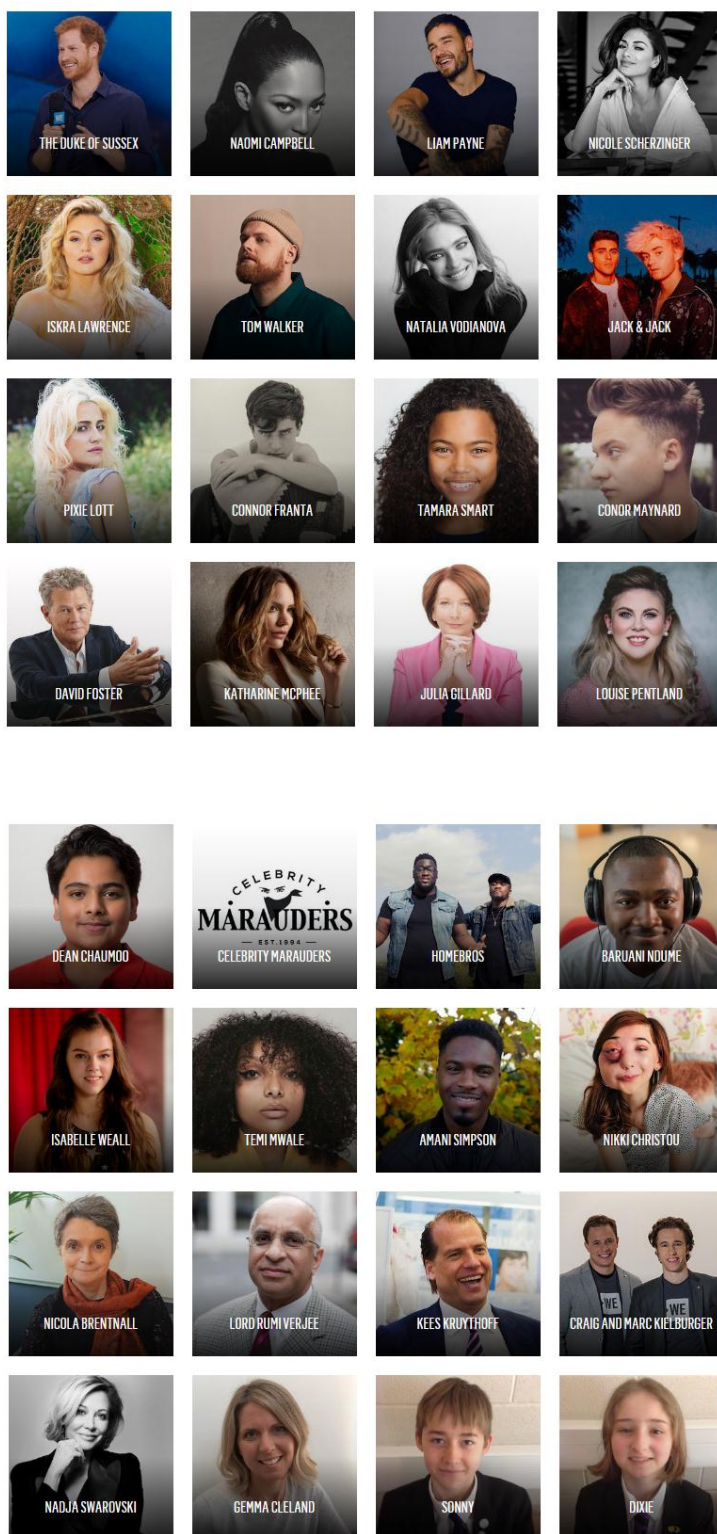


Islwyn High School are proud to be part of the WE Schools movement. The programme challenges young people to identify the local and global issues that spark their passion and empowers them with the tools to take action. Pupils gain an understanding of the root causes of pressing issues like hunger, poverty and access to education, as they explore how they can make positive impacts. They also plan and carry out at least one local and one global action to improve their communities and the world. This programme is part of our new curriculum to enable pupils to become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

WE Day

A highlight in our school calendar is the trip to WE Day at Wembley Stadium, brings together world-renowned speakers and award-winning performers with millions of young people and families to celebrate and inspire another year of incredible change.

Here are some of the fantastic speakers our pupils saw live this year:



Other WE calendar events:

WE Won't Rest

Pupils collect blankets and coats for the homeless

WE: Trick or Treat

Pupils collect tins for our local food bank



WE Bake

WE Walk for Water

WE Read



Islwyn High has developed a partnership with First Give to inspire and equip young people to take action to tackle social issues. We are focused on providing pupils with the skills to become healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Year 9 pupils work collaboratively to identify social issues in their communities. Once they have decided on a class charity as a focus, they meet with the charity and begin planning a pitch to win £1000 for that charity.

The result is an exciting final award ceremony where a panel of judges decide who should win the big cheque!

Along the way, classes carry out social action, raising awareness and money for their charities.





This academic year we celebrated a fantastic win for Dreams & Wishes. After the final, the

First Give Programme Manager was so impressed with the standard of presentations; two pupils were invited to host the First Give Annual Awards at the Senydd Cardiff. The event was a huge success and the pupils did the school proud.

Photo to go here



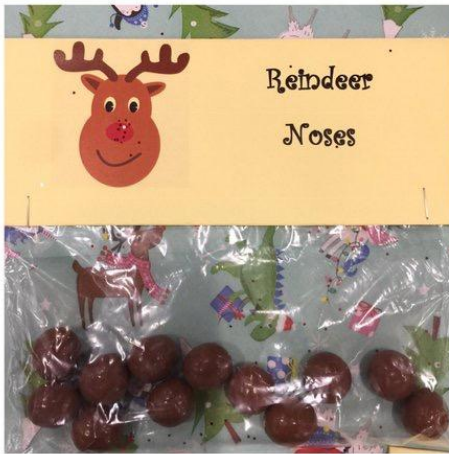
Big Ideas Wales role models are business owners who want to pass on their passion to young people. As part of the Skills Challenge Certificate, we invite local business to share their expertise and inspire young people to follow their example. We are committed to nurturing enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work



Bath Trip

Our annual trip to Bath Christmas market is the perfect opportunity for pupils to sample first hand local business producing seasonal goods. Lots of ideas on how to present their stalls at the Christmas Fayre and a chance to talk to stall holders about their business.





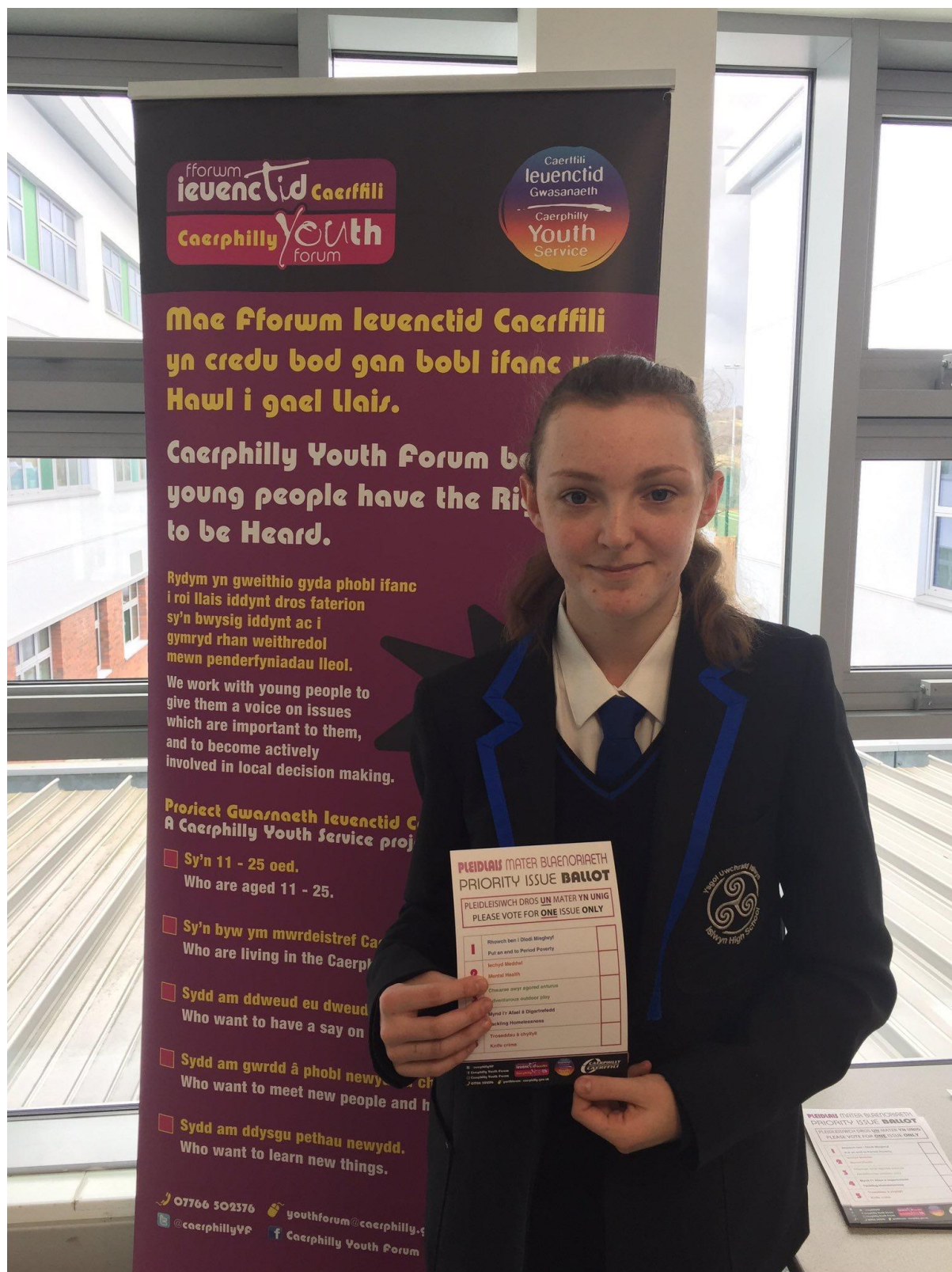


Caerphilly Youth Forum



We have four representatives across all Year groups who regularly attend meetings in the borough and feed back to our School Council.

- Dan Greenway
- Grace Hector
- Nikki Jones
- Joseph Jones



We also hold lunchtime sessions in collaboration with Caerphilly Youth Forum for pupils to vote on issues that mean the most of them.