

Christmas Newsletter

The River centre 3-16 Learning community



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www.trc3-16.co.uk



@Rivercentre316



In this Newsletter:

What has each campus been doing this term



Primary Campus

Dukestown Rd,
Sirhowy,
Tredegar NP22 3DT

Secondary/Ty Afon

River Centre 3-16 Learning Community
Pontygof
Ebbw Vale
NP23 5AZ

Primary Campus:

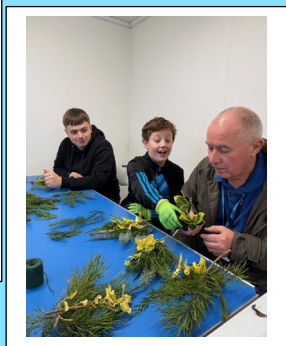
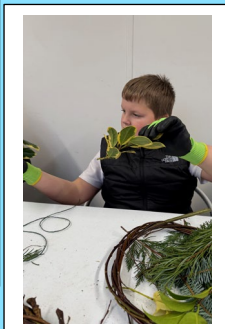
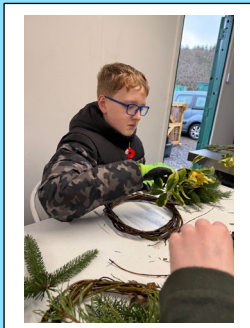
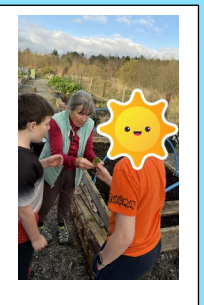
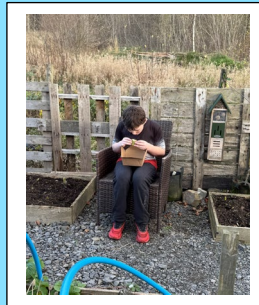
Outdoor Education:

From plant to plate

During our lesson, pupils were provided with an opportunity for a 'taste test'. After learning about the different herbs and vegetables growing in the planters, the pupils sampled some, including kale and curly kale, chives and leeks. Some they liked, and some they didn't!

In the photographs you will see the children preparing for a cooking lesson at the woodlands.

First job was to pick a leek from the planters, then after thoroughly washing hands, the pupils learned to cook savoury muffins



Wreath making

Making Christmas wreaths at the Woodlands with various evergreen cuttings.

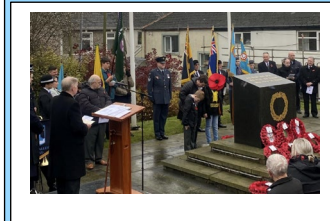
Remembrance Day

Photos show two pupils who respectfully represented TRC in the parade and the laying of a wreath.

During the afternoon, the young boys met and chatted with the Padre, the local councillor and two veterans, asking questions and showing great interest in the stories they were told.

Further photos show the boys respectfully participating in the service, the two minute silence and awaiting their call to lay the wreath. Also shown the moment of the wreath laying.

Another shows the march back up the hill to end the parade.



Grand School Council

Two pupils from Dosbarth Coch and Dosbarth Porffor represented TRC at the Grand School Council at the General Offices in Ebbw Vale. Throughout the day they joined with representatives from primary schools across Blaenau Gwent

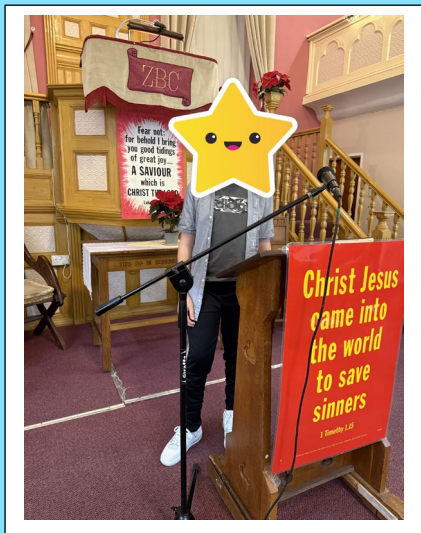
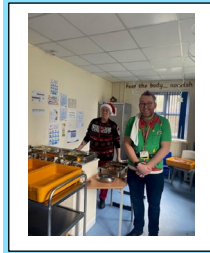
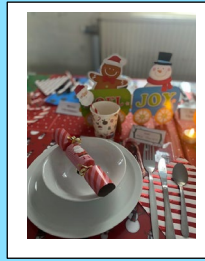
Christmas Dinner

Pupils and Staff at Primary enjoyed an amazing Christmas Dinner together.

Huge thanks to all the staff that helped organise this special event (Mr Osmond and Miss Middleton even more so)

What Christmas dinner is complete without crackers with bad jokes!

Fantastic to see the whole campus enjoying a meal together



Community Carol Service

Community Carol Service in Brynmawr. A TRC pupil represented the school and read a Christmas poem. He was praised by all who attended, who thoroughly enjoyed meeting with him, chatting with him and hearing his reading. Following the service, he had the opportunity to speak with Alun Davies MS and the mayor of Brynmawr, Councillor Wayne Hodgins, along with the leaders of the church.

Christmas Enterprise Fayre

Our first Christmas Enterprise Fayre was a great success!! We had a complete sell out! The atmosphere was amazing and so lovely to see so many smiling faces. Thank you so much to our school community for the support and the staff for all of the hard work.

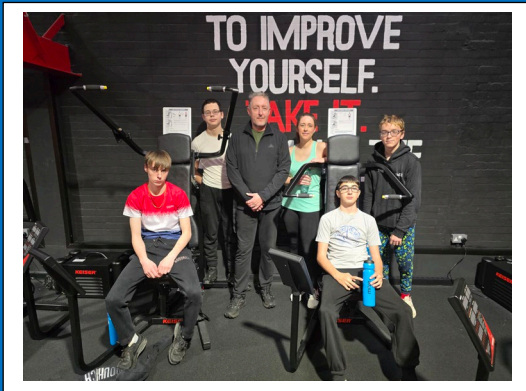
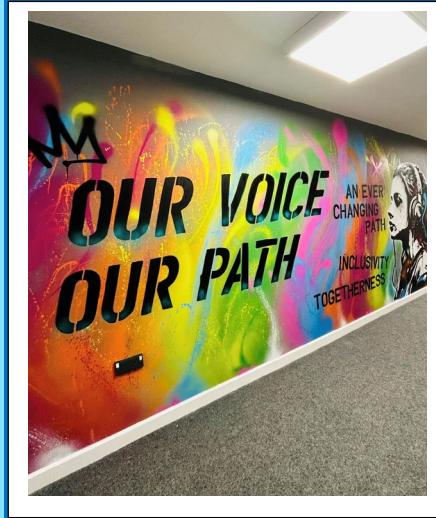
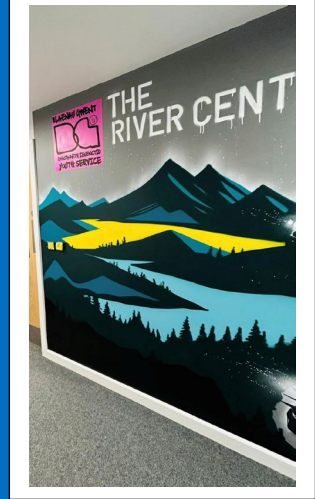


Christmas Concert

What a fabulous performance the primary learners put on for their parents today. It was amazing to feel so much excitement in the building and the singing was amazing!! Thanks to the staff and parents for making this possible.

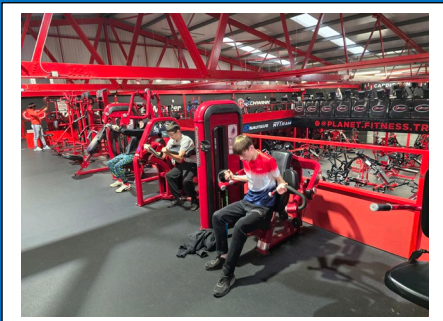
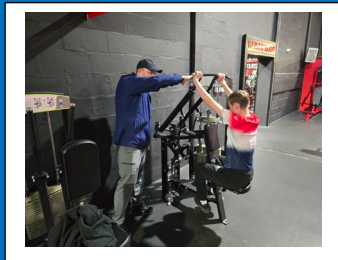
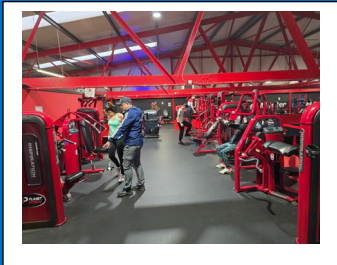
Secondary

Huge thanks to Antony James Smith and the Youth Service for the amazing Mural and getting our pupils involved with its creation.



DofE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh pupils first visit to Planet Fitness in Tredegar. The pupils enjoyed a good, varied workout with smiles on their faces. Well done boys!



School Football Team

This year we created a school football team, and have been playing against many other schools

A Massive thank you to the Aneurin Leisure Community Kit Room for providing our Schools Football team with new kit



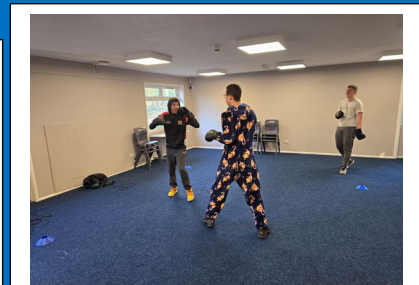
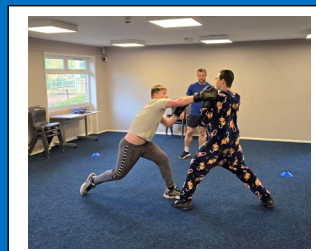
Children In need

A pupil baked a wonderful cake, as a raffle prize for staff.

Some other pupils also make cupcakes that staff bought.

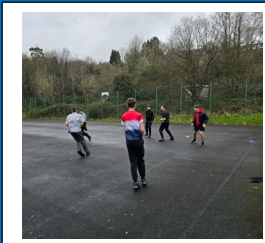
The pupils raised over £80

Some pupils also took part in boxing in Onesies



Dragons Rugby

Dragons Rugby came to the school and delivered a taster session. The pupils really enjoyed the session, and look forward to further rugby adventures

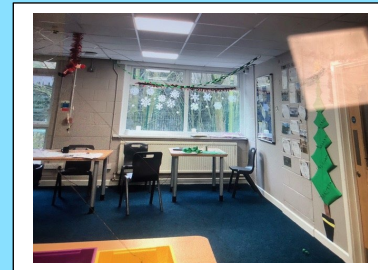
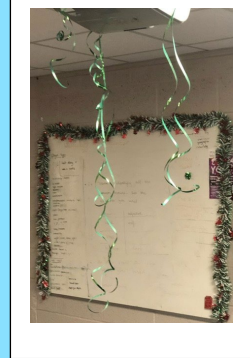
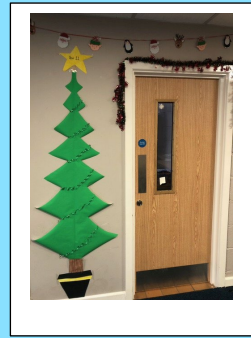
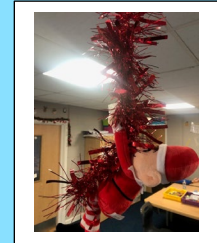
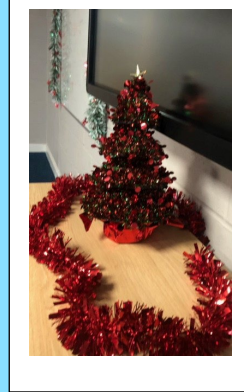
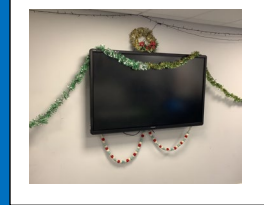
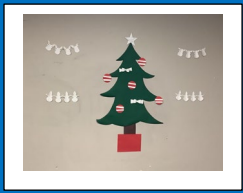
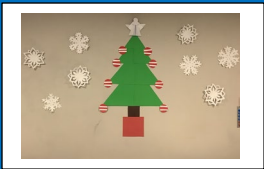


Halloween

Great well-being afternoon pumpkin carving in preparation for Halloween!

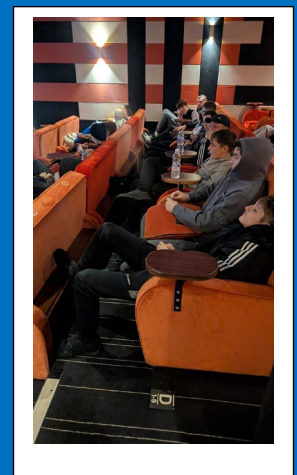
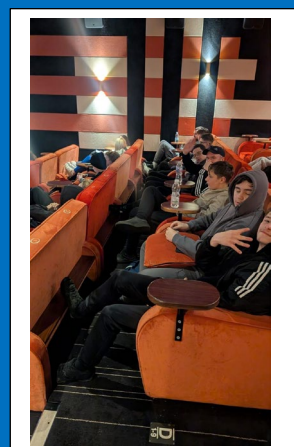
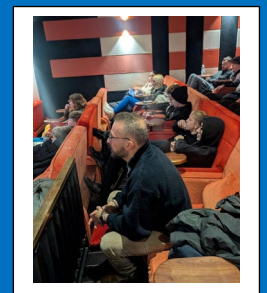
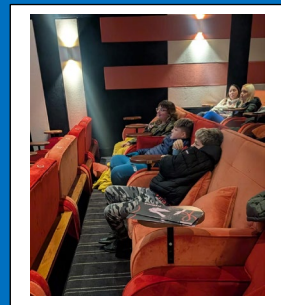


Christmas Decorations



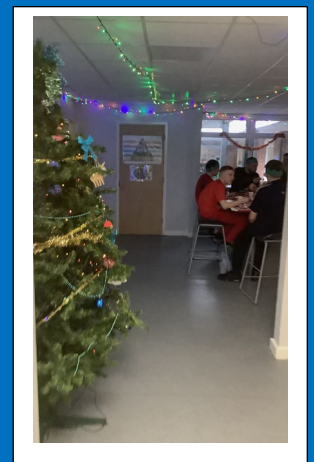
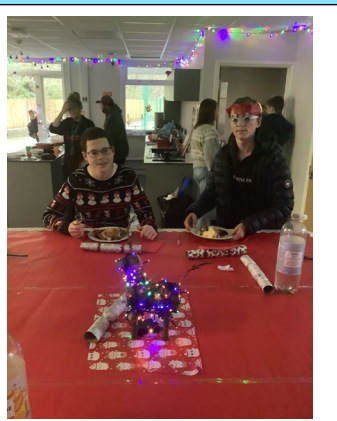
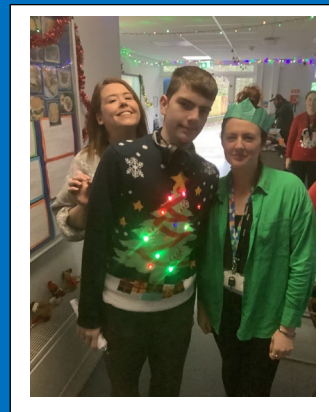
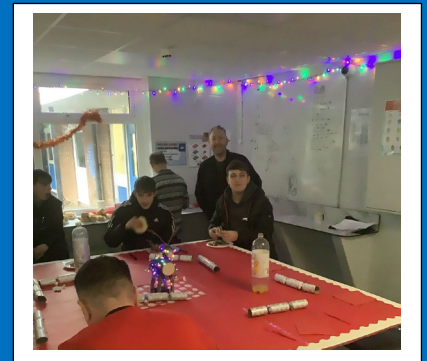
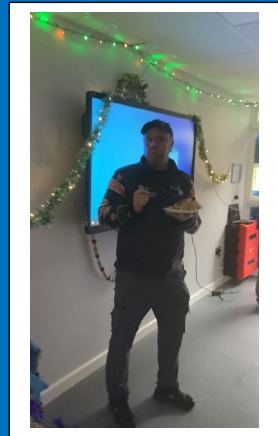
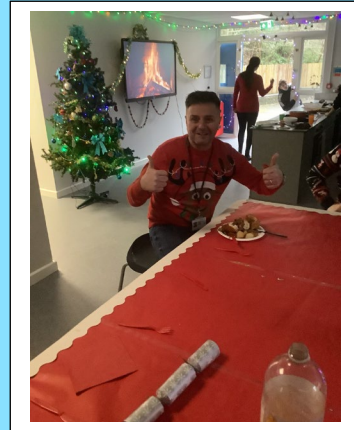
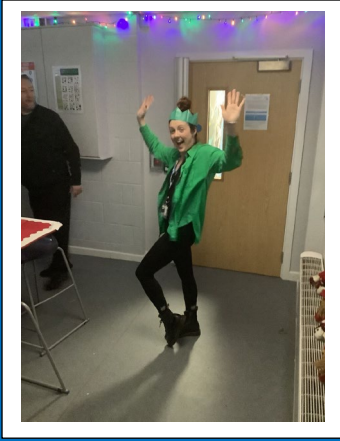
Cinema Trip

Pupils and staff enjoying a visit to a local Cinema to see "Wicked"



Christmas Dinner

Staff and Pupils enjoying Christmas dinner Together



Music Therapy Sessions

The music therapy sessions led by the talented Susannah Flack from Gwent Music were a delightful and enriching experience for all involved. Students had the chance to explore their creativity and connect deeply with music by playing guitars, drums, and keyboards, as well as expressing themselves through singing. The sessions fostered a meaningful engagement with music, allowing participants to discover its therapeutic and unifying power. Each student thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity, leaving the sessions inspired and uplifted.

Our students have recently had the opportunity to explore the local areas of Abergavenny and Cardiff through educational trips, allowing them to engage with their surroundings in meaningful ways. These outings were not only educational but also have provided numerous wellbeing benefits, giving students a chance to connect with the local community and broaden their horizons. By visiting these areas, students gained a greater awareness of the history, culture, and landmarks that make up the rich fabric of their local environment.

The trips to Abergavenny and Cardiff have helped build a sense of belonging and pride in the local area while offering fresh perspectives on the world around them. These experiences play a vital role in personal growth, offering students a chance to reflect on the value of their own community and the opportunities it holds.

Letters from the Trenches – A Special Project for Remembrance Sunday

Another remarkable activity this term was our "Letters from the Trenches" project. Students wrote heartfelt letters as if they were soldiers in World War 1, describing life in the trenches and the emotional turmoil they faced. These letters were carefully crafted to reflect the harsh conditions, the hope for peace, and the powerful connections soldiers had with their families and friends during such a challenging time.

The letters were then taken to the Cenotaph as part of our Remembrance Sunday activities. Local residents who visited the Cenotaph were deeply moved by the heartfelt messages, and we received wonderful feedback from those who read the letters. This project not only allowed students to connect with history in a personal and meaningful way but also helped them understand the importance of remembrance and the sacrifices made by soldiers during the war.

*Ypres
Belgium
15th August 1915*

Dear John Butlins,

I've decided to write to you, in my somber state although I know it has only been a short period of time since I was forced into this abode of the dead, although I am already missing the cacophony of your scratched up records and even your "horrendous" musical taste that mother has been longing for you to resolve. I'm missing father even more, his words still echoing through my shell-shocked mind. My fellow soldiers have made acquaintances with me, they had conspired a plan, a coward's plan. When the commander wasn't looking, they were shot before they left this very trench being carried with shovels. I would rather be carried on a pile of shovels as well, as I have had trench foot a solid handful of times.

Sorrowful souls such as myself want this barbaric and ill-fated war to come to a conclusion. Once I was longing for a position in the army but this type of position is a tactical position, which is not what I had intended as my words described a position in the military. My friends have died before me from disease and starvation, rats are hungrier than ever, even eating the deceased casualties of war. We have to eat the rats and steal the food from those very dead bodies we had once been fighting beside.

If you had pondered my whereabouts, I am in Belgium, fighting alongside the French army. We had once set aside our differences for war and violence resolution to be achieved for once. I am ecstatic of the peace between our long rivalled counterparts but I would rather it not be in such a context as it is and how it will be for the foreseeable future as the political views on countries have changed and I must keep fighting for this "no man's land" as they call it.

I will reach peace soon and hopefully this war will be over in the near future, and I can return home to you all very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Thomas

-----Ypres - - Belgium-----