



Headteacher

Robert
Newsome
OBE



Top character
qualities developed

- Empathy
- Confidence
- Conscientiousness, curiosity and focus
- Hope and optimism
- Selflessness

Ysgol Dyffryn Taf

REGION West Wales
TYPE Secondary School
STUDENTS 900 pupils aged 11-18

Youth social action establishes a strong foundation for future attitudes toward altruism.

Opportunities are available for all our students and the school has invested heavily in ensuring that all students are able to take part. We use DofE as an umbrella organisation to encourage volunteering; almost a third of our pupils are involved and have stacked up a brilliant 4412 hours of community service.

Calculating with minimum wage, that's the equivalent of £29,500 pumped back into the local economy. 41% do their volunteering within the school (anti-bullying and anti-drug campaigns, sport leadership, reading 'buddies'), while 59% volunteer locally at the hospitals and with community initiatives such as painting the local train station and bus shelters. We have a charity committee that allows the students to gain experience of business meetings and democratic decision-making.

This work takes place outside of curriculum hours because we encourage the students to give up their own time to help others. But there is positive impact on academic progress and a strong correlation between the two.

Moreover, our young people gain a sense of well-being,

confidence and understand that they can be an agent for change – the rewards are intrinsic. We are looking to engage our staff more thoroughly next year and develop a young leadership program through a DofE course. Sustainability and strategy is key to best practice.



Ysgol Dyffryn Taf

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I never thought I would be able to master the world of computers. However, after engaging with young mentors from Dyffryn Taf's 'Silver Surfers' programme teaching pensioners to engage with emails, Facebook and Facetime, I can now have regular contact with my grandchildren in Australia. I am indebted to them.

One of the Silver Surfers