



Academi Genedlaethol ar gyfer  
Arweinyddiaeth Addysgol Cymru  
National Academy for  
Educational Leadership Wales

## “Try Everything” Our Virtual Assembly



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When all of the focus is on risk assessments, staggered timetables and “bubbling” cohorts of children, it can be difficult to maintain the family, community feel to school life.

At Cadoxton, we often refer to ourselves as a family, and our biggest act of being together as one body, celebrating the week with news, singing and dancing has traditionally always happened on a Friday morning. So, with this school year beginning so differently, the challenge was to think around (yet again!) how we could achieve that feeling of community and celebration.

The solution was to use Teams through Hwb, with each class logging in to see every other class with their teacher, and myself and Rhian Milton (Head of School) leading the online “assembly”.

Each class waved hello and Rhian and I spoke of the successes of the week and the Year 6 children reflected on their learning. We also talked about our school motto, “Learning and Growing Together, Being our Best Forever”, in the same way as we would have done at this time of year in a “normal” celebration assembly.

As always, we could see the younger children’s concentration wandering and were able to recognize that it was time to round off with a collective song, Try Everything by Shakira! It did feel quite surreal for Rhian and I, singing and dancing alone in our office to Shakira at 9.30am on a Friday morning but the echo of the song could be firmly heard around the school coming from each classroom! Throughout the day, children kept saying “I saw you on the telly this morning!”. Teacher’s noted that the children had enjoyed the assembly and that nobody had missed the routine of 420 children trooping in and out of the hall.

It felt as if we had created a piece of history as well as ensuring that the Cadoxton Family had a thread still joining us all together. We will continue to celebrate in this way each and every Friday!

Full guidance and application forms can be found at  
[www.nael.cymru](http://www.nael.cymru)