Dear Parents / Guardians,

Every half term in schools has its own pace and rhythm and this short half term before Whitsun has its own particular feel. The year 11 to 13 students start the half term with revision well under way yet the anticipation of the exams to come understandably causing anxious moments for them and parents! Now that we are halfway through the exams season, the students are getting into the swing of exams and ticking off the subjects as they finish. The students in Years 11, 12 and 13 have conducted themselves extremely well during the first three weeks and will be looking forward to the half term break to recoup and prepare for the last couple of weeks of exams. Well done to all of them and we wish them the very best in the last exams.

This year we are trying a different system for our Year 9 students. They have already chosen their option subjects and when they return in June, they will be starting their GCSE courses. The students received their new timetables this week and there was a mix of excitement and realisation that they will be starting their real GCSE courses. We look forward to hearing about the first half term of their courses.

The summer term is also about forward planning. It is a time to reflect on where we are as a school; identifying strengths and areas that we want to continue developing. The Governing Body, senior leadership team and senior middle leaders have been working together to identify the strategic areas for priorities that will enable Ysgol Penglais to move forward to become the ‘happy, ambitious and high achieving school’ of its vision. We look forward to sharing these with you over the coming months.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. Again, it is packed with successes and experiences of Penglais students, present and past! It really is an inspiring read.

Ms M. Hughes
Headteacher
Year 7 Science Trip

Did you know that sharks have oil in their livers to help them float, or that there can be between 200 and 500 earthworms in just one square metre of soil? These are just two of the fascinating facts that Year 7 students found out when exploring the stalls at the British Science Week exhibition at Aberystwyth University. This year’s theme was “Journeys” and researchers from over thirty departments and organisations were on hand to guide us through activities, practicals, demonstrations and quizzes.

Amongst other things, Penglais students had the opportunity to make slime, paint and pH indicators and to have a go at controlling robots. This is what one student in Year 7 said about their experience:

“I really enjoyed the science fair for many reasons. The first reason is that you got the freedom to try whatever you wanted there and you are not told what you have to do and what you can’t do. Another reason is that you got to learn whilst also having fun and doing practical experiments. All the people at the stands were very nice and helpful if we were confused or had a question about their subject. In the science fair you got to go around with friends so that made it more fun but if you got tired or needed a break, there was a relaxing tent where you and your friends could relax and chat about what you’d learnt. At the very beginning we each got handed a booklet with questions on them and each stall had the answer to a question so that made you want to go to more stalls and get the answer because whoever got the most correct would win a prize. Each stand had something new to teach you about but they were all to do with different types of science. So overall the science fair was a fun experience and I would definitely recommend it to others.”

Many thanks to the Centre for Widening Participation for organising the event and to all the university staff who ran the stands. Also, congratulations to Elan Jones and Ella Thomas who won prizes from the university for coming first and second in the Science Week Quiz.

Pencils donated to the school

Once again, Pam Barker has very kindly donated a whole Bag for Life full of pencils to the school. Thank you, Pam for the donation; they are always very useful and will be distributed across the school. Many thanks again!
Japan Geography Project

Year 7 were recently given a Geography Project focusing on Japan. In preparation, they created draft versions of their projects – either a model or poster – before going ahead with the final piece. Eva Shepherd is pictured here with her draft model. We look forward to seeing the final piece! Here’s what Eva had to say about the project so far:

“I designed and created this model for my Year 7 Geography Japan Project. We were allowed to pick any subject related to Japan and as I am interested in theatre and dance I decided to pick that as my topic. Mr Jones gave us the option to create a model or a poster and as I prefer to create models over painting and drawing I created a model of a stage. Each dancer on the stage holds different pieces of information about dance in Japan and I used different patterned papers to create a Japanese fan. It took me two days from start to finish as I had to wait for the glue to dry before adding more elements. As this was the draft model I might focus more on theatre and dance in Japan in the final project.”

TTROCKSTARS

The tables below shows students who have the most correct answers to date and their correct answers in April! An award will be given to the first student to reach 100,000 correct answers!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Correct Answers to date</th>
<th>Correct Answers in April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winnie Chen</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>61051</td>
<td>7858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glyn Clift</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>46184</td>
<td>4968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moss Evans</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>36507</td>
<td>2545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeamus Sayles</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>15624</td>
<td>2289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivan Rukov</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>54454</td>
<td>2085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Davies</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>33631</td>
<td>2054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Meredith-Hughes</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>7605</td>
<td>1823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Lloyd</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>18615</td>
<td>1704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connor Holmes</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>7811</td>
<td>1551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Webster</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>26151</td>
<td>1494</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Correct Answers to date</th>
<th>Correct Answers in April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cai Roberts</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>20003</td>
<td>3122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Hopson</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>24733</td>
<td>2186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libby Wilkins</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>31427</td>
<td>2135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martyna Kunz</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>14651</td>
<td>1663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Graison</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>21779</td>
<td>1537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connor Pierson</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>11532</td>
<td>1445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paige Daniel</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>68395</td>
<td>1359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Nijo</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>26377</td>
<td>1332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anushka Khan</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>33710</td>
<td>1324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connor Robinson</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>16484</td>
<td>1307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Correct Answers to date</th>
<th>Correct Answers in April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selma Mohamed</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>8479</td>
<td>1209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kechi Nwaefulu</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>32628</td>
<td>1132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabrina Barnes</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>24584</td>
<td>1096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleena Shaju</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>7766</td>
<td>1014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Formston-Jones</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>23015</td>
<td>914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elia Price</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>26221</td>
<td>767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sohai Syed Zubair</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>7307</td>
<td>765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chailey Gamzatova</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>5563</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freya Young</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>14971</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tili Duggan</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>10957</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students to compete at the National Urdd Eisteddfod

Some of Penglais’ students will be off to the national Urdd Eisteddfod over half term to compete. Phoebe Williams, Year 10, will go through after she won the County Eisteddfod in the Second Language Llefaru for Yr. 10-13. The Year 9 ensemble (pictured) won 2nd place in the County Eisteddfod and were lucky enough to get put through to the National Urdd Eisteddfod in Cardiff this half term. Tanya Morgan, Tili Duggan, Ella Clements, and Yoyo Baron (all in Year 9) will be competing on the Thursday and if they go through they’ll get to perform on the stage of the Donald Gordon Theatre in the Millennium Centre! We wish them all the best of luck.

Year 11 Leavers Fundraising

On Friday 12th of April Year 11 held fundraising activities around the school to raise money for their Leavers event. Year 11 would like to thank everyone who contributed on the day, including those who took part in activities such as a bake sale, car wash, piñata and much more. Mr Fisher, Head of Year 11, also helped out by taking part in the sponge throwing which we’re sure he enjoyed very much! We wish Year 11 the best of luck with their exams and hope they enjoy the Leavers’ event in June.
Wearing Purple for Epilepsy Awareness Day

It was National Epilepsy Day on March 26th so staff were encouraged to “Wear something purple”. The Cube in reception was also filled with purple balloons to raise awareness of the day. Staff sold purple flower brooches, with all proceeds going to Epilepsy UK.

Big Thank you to the PTA from LSC

All students and staff would like to say a big thank you to the PTA for their donation of two iPads to the LSC. They really will make a difference to us. Thank you!

Can you find the mathematical words hidden in the grid?

- ANGLE
- RANDOM
- CURVE
- MINIMUM
- LINE
- CENTURY
- FACTOR
- TENTH
- OCTAGON
- CYLINDER
Penglais students play for Wales

Aodhán O’Regan has recently returned from a 3-day International test series playing for Wales against Scotland in the U16s squad in Cardiff. His brother, Conor O’Regan, has also received a call up to play for Wales at U18 level in a 3-day series against England, the Armed Forces and the British Colleges teams in May. Both boys attend training camps during the school holidays and so have to juggle studying and training.

Hockey Championships

Conor and Aodhán O’Regan were joined by two more Penglais students, Robert Glasser and Owen Keyworth, playing for Dysynni Hockey Club when they were runners up in the U18s North Wales Club Championships in March. Not bad for a young team that only had two players in the U18s age group!

Welsh Dragons

Two younger players, Ruadhán O’Regan and Josh Gwynne, have also been selected to play for the Welsh Dragons at U13s level in a prestigious 3-day tournament in England in June. They will face tough competition from academy teams across the UK who compete in this tournament each year, making it one of the toughest and most successful tournaments at this age group. Both boys recently played for their Club, Dysynni, and won the North Wales Club Championships at U13s level in April, leading them to represent North Wales at the All Wales Hockey Final event in Newtown, where their team came fourth overall.

Staff and Students take part in Race for Life

On Sunday 12th of May, a number of Penglais staff and students took part in the Aberystwyth Race for Life. Here’s a staff group photo from before the race.
Meet the Faculty: Welsh Baccalaureate

The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification is taught from Year 10 to Year 13 at Penglais, and in this feature we’ll be finding out more about how the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification is taught at KS4.

The Welsh Baccalaureate Faculty is made up of three main staff: Miss. K Davis (Faculty leader); Miss. S. Griffiths (Leader of KS4 WBQ), currently on Maternity leave; and Mrs. R. Bentley. However there are many other teachers from other faculties who also teach the subject at Penglais:

- Mrs C. Smith
- Mr P. Jones
- Mr O. Daniel
- Miss K. Thomas
- Mrs S. Johnson
- Mrs J. Jacques Butterworth
- Mr A. Barlow
- Mrs G. Evans
- Miss H. Parr
- Mrs J. Elgood
- Mr O. Harpwood
- Mr M. Hughes

The Welsh Baccalaureate at KS4

The central focus of the Welsh Baccalaureate (WBQ) at Key Stage 4 is to provide a vehicle for 14-16 year olds to consolidate and develop essential and employability skills. The qualification will help learners to prepare for their future by developing skills, attributes and behaviours valued by post-16 educators and potential employers. The emphasis in the Welsh Baccalaureate is on applied learning i.e. acquiring and applying a range of transferable skills. There are no exams in the WBQ. Assessment is 100% coursework.

Did you know?

Only half of the Welsh Baccalaureate is delivered in WBQ lessons. We cover the Skills Challenge Certificate in these lessons. The Skills Challenge Certificate can be achieved at National level (equivalent to GCSE A*-C) or Foundation level (equivalent to a 6 GCSE D-G).

The rest of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification comes from your other GCSE subjects.
Global Citizenship Challenge

Students have been working on the Global Challenge since January where the topic of Sustainability has been explored. This challenge counts for 15% of the final grade. Students have investigated expert opinions on either transportation or food production before forming their own standpoint on the issue. This challenge is highly effective in developing Critical Thinking and Problem Solving and introduces techniques to critically evaluate the credibility of information sources.

From here, a Raising Awareness Pack is developed to generate support for their idea to tackle the issue. Ideas have ranged from leaflets and posters, to billboards and hoodies. Here’s one example by Emily Bearman in Year 10.

“I think the skills I have learnt in WBQ will help me in the future when it comes to interviews. I also think it will help me in Product Design when I have to tell the class my ideas and developing them. I enjoyed creating my poster in the global citizenship challenge the most as it allowed me to use my IT and creativity skills”

Celyn Edwards Year 10

Community Challenge

The last challenge of Year 10 is the Community Challenge and contributes 15% to the final grade. Learners will be able to recognise the contribution they can make towards improving the community in which they live, and the benefits this will have for themselves, for others and for the environment. Students are currently developing their planning by preparing for the 10 hours that must then be spent directly carrying out the activity within the local community. Students are provided with several opportunities to collect their hours in Pengiais, but are also encouraged to investigate opportunities within their extra-curricular activities and clubs.

Progressing into Year 11

Many Year 10 students are already looking forward to the Individual Project in year 11. The summer term is a great opportunity to discuss possible topics with their Welsh Baccalaureate teacher. The Individual Project counts for 50% of the Skills Challenge Certificate and overall grade.
HRC Sign up to Walkers Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme.

Penglais students from HRC and the Sixth Form have signed up to the Walkers Crisps Recycling Scheme to help tackle the important issue of recycling. Students have launched the recycling scheme in Penglais by placing green boxes around the school to collect crisp packets of all brands. Please use these green bins to help recycle unwanted crisp packets into much needed items.

https://www.walkers.co.uk/recycle

English as an Additional Language

Languages spoken at Penglais School

My name is Hamzah Al-Shakarchi. I come from Iraq and my first language is Arabic. At Penglais school many people arrive from all around the world speaking at least 21 different languages. It's good to be able to greet other people in their own language. There are many ways of saying 'hello' in different languages! Here is a translation of hello in the many different languages spoken in our school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Hello</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>مرحبا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malayam</td>
<td>halaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hausa</td>
<td>sannu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>dobry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Hallo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>geia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>namaste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>Ni hao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Hallo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>Olai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>Merhaba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>Privet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangla</td>
<td>halo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urdu</td>
<td>ann-yaong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>Zdravete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgarian</td>
<td>Bonjour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>namaskaram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telegu</td>
<td>zdravo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenian</td>
<td>Szia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It’s been a busy term, with plenty going on in the Music Department. Here’s a taster of what we’ve been up to…

Also don’t forget we post regular updates for rehearsal schedules as well as instrumental lessons on Facebook – just search Cerddoriaeth Penglais Music.

**Penglais Choir**

Miss Blair has taken on the choir this term, which has grown from strength to strength. They are due to perform at the concert on Monday 20th May, as well as at other public engagements later on this term. It is great to see such a healthy contingent of singers coming together. A huge thanks to Miss Blair for working so hard to lead the weekly rehearsals which produce excellent harmonies from the singers.

A highlight of the week is Rock Choir, which also continues to attract a regular crowd, with pop songs on the menu. We are regularly drawing over a hundred students to each rehearsal, which makes for a cosy (but electric) atmosphere. With GCSE and A Level exam on, we are now down to around ninety (!) students per week… still a fantastic level of commitment. Again, thanks are owed to Celyn Jones (Year 10) who leads the choir each week from the guitar – a very brave and exciting ensemble to lead. Well done Celyn!

**Concerts at Ceredigion Museum**

We’ve continued our series of showcase recital evenings, which are held monthly in Ceredigion County Museum. These have seen a variety of repertoire being performed, ranging from a series of Mozart clarinet quartets to brand new songs written by our students. We’ve enjoyed a healthy turnout at these concerts, with students from other schools coming along to support (and occasionally participate). It is a beautiful venue to perform in and the concerts have received many positive comments from both parents and students. The next concert is on …. in June (when we focus on our jazz students), and the final one in July (when we say ‘farewell’ to our Year 13 musicians). Entrance is free – come and join us!

**Eisteddfod Calan Mai**

We were recently approached by the organisers of Eisteddfod Calan Mai to provide a brass fanfare for the Chairing Ceremony. George Pitcher (Year 11) stepped in to play and did a fantastic job. The ceremony was at the Morlan Centre in town – we were again pleased to be approached and to serve the local community in this way. George did an excellent job and was a model of professionalism throughout the evening. Well done.

**New instruments**

The department has recently invested in a set of brand-new keyboards, to replace those in daily use. We’ve recently purchased new ‘heavy duty’ splitters for students to plug headphones into, allowing a renewed working environment for students in KS3 lessons.

Thanks are owed to Mrs Balchin and Mr Kelsey in the DT department who constructed a new ukulele rack back in late April. It really looks the part and is now in daily service. Thank you!

On the subject of storage, we’ve also invested in two brand new guitar racks. This avoids the problem of having guitars propped up on tables around the department! In addition, the instrument racking in the storage area has also had a tidy up.

Finally, we’ve received a kind donation from Jane Vince, who has given us a keyboard and two (virtually unused) acoustic guitars. This very kind donation has allowed many students to practice at lunchtimes, whilst the guitar has been used by students for song-writing. We are immensely grateful to Ms Vince for this kind donation.

**Band Pres Penglais**

Our brass band continue to develop under the leadership of Aidan Hassan (our brass peripatetic teacher). The band recently performed at a concert at the Ceredigion Museum, and are currently preparing for several engagements over the summer term. It is good to see some of the younger players ‘coming through the system’ and beginning to take larger roles in the band. A mention should be made of Alys Jones (Year 7) on tenor horn, who has enthusiastically attended every rehearsal so far this year.
Music Theory ‘Drop In’ Workshops

A recent success has been the running of several Music Theory workshops before school, starting at 0800. These sessions are open to anyone to attend, and deal with music theory from ABRSM Grades 1 to 5. We’ve recently prepared two students for their ABRSM Grade 5 theory exams as well as teaching enthusiastic students from scratch. No prior knowledge is needed – all levels are catered for. We also occasionally have croissants to share for breakfast! They are run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in D1 from 0800 until 0830 with Mr Budd… Do come and join us.

Student Run Ensembles

Following on from our Student Conductor badges, we’ve been pleased to see several student-led ensembles being set up. You may have heard the recent set-up Soul Band rehearsing on Thursday afternoons after school; this has been created by Sam Aitken and Lisa Buckor (both Y13 students). They have sourced the music, arranged the parts, liaised with the various musicians… a very professional job. Both Sam and Lisa are now dab hands at setting up the occasionally temperamental PA System each week, too!

Other student led ensembles have included various bands (often playing a mixture of covers and originals), as well as a few smaller ensembles. A popular addition to the weekly rehearsal schedule has been ‘Band Friday’, when all the facilities are available for rehearsal (PA system, amps, drumkits, etc). This has meant that we’ve had to put a booking system in place, as there are often queues to use the rooms – a good problem to have!

Penglais Wind Band

The Penglais Wind Band rehearse every Monday and Thursday morning with Mr Budd, between 1045 and 1115. They recently performed at a concert at Ceredigion Museum, presenting a medley of pieces from Les Miserables. Thanks are owed to flautist and librarian Dalia Elabbadi (Year 12), who recently undertook the task of rearranging all the music pads – a mammoth (and thankless) task. Diolch yn fawr iawn!

The band are currently taking a break due to the large number of KS4 and KS5 students who are preoccupied with exams, but will be restarting on Monday 3rd June. In the new term, the wind band will be led by a few of our older students, who are keen to study conducting. They will be mentored by Mr Budd and will direct and lead rehearsals as student conductors – look out for the Student Conductor badges coming soon. It’s great to see our older students willing to lead in this way and training to lead ensembles.

Song Writing

The role of the singer/songwriter seems to be growing at Penglais! We have a steady group of students who are now turning up at lunchtimes and after schools specifically to write songs. The acoustic guitars and cajon have proved to be particularly popular with students. It is great to see them crafting their work in their own time, and then performing it to their friends.

Hospital Radio

As a department, we love serving the local community; particularly in the ‘square mile’ around the school in Waunfawr. We’ve recently linked up with Bronglais Hospital Radio to bring a semi-regular live music slot to their radio shows. This will be an excellent opportunity for our students to experience performing live on radio, as well as seeing first-hand how a live radio broadcast is put together. Our first broadcast is scheduled to be on Wednesday 22nd May; details will be put on our Facebook page.

Hafan Y Waun

Our musicians have also been out and about in Hafan Y Waun Dementia Care Home (on the Waun, immediately next to the school). Back in March, we took a small group of instrumentalists and singers to perform an informal afternoon concert to the residents. Thanks are due to Ellie Ellis-Evans (Year 7), Heledd Davies (Year 10), Sarah Zhou and Dalia Elabbadi (Year 12) for their professionalism and musicality – they were a credit to both the department and the school. It was especially nice to see the students taking the time to talk to the residents after performing as well.

We are due to perform another afternoon concert there on Wednesday 22nd May, followed by more throughout the Summer term. If you’re interested in performing, do come and see Mr Budd.

Vale of Rheidol Railway Station Opening – Lord Dafydd Ellis Thomas

Continuing the theme of serving the local community around the school, we were thrilled to be asked recently to provide a brass band for a special event at the Vale of Rheidol Railway. Over the past six months, the narrow-gauge railway has invested over £1.6m in building a new station in Aberystwyth, just off Park Avenue. The new station will be opened by the Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport – Lord Dafydd Ellis Thomas – in June, with our brass band (Band Pres Penglais) providing the musical accompaniment to the ceremony. We are thrilled to be asked, and we are looking forward to performing.
Ceredigion County Music Service

Many of you will have seen in the local (and National) press about the recent threatened cuts to Ceredigion County Music Service. At the time of writing, the situation remains unclear. However, Geraint Evans (Head of the Music Service) has recently written to the parents of all students currently receiving instrumental lessons. If you haven’t received a copy of the letter (dated 15th May 2019), please contact Mr Budd urgently for a copy.

In the letter, Mr Evans explained that the music service is currently identifying the demand for instrumental lessons from September 2019, and therefore requests that if you wish to continue with instrumental lessons next year parents should complete a form to state their expression of interest. This is to help with planning. The form (which is available from Mr Budd in D1) should be returned to Mr Evans no later than Wednesday June 5th.

Next year’s instrumental lessons will see an annual fee of £160, with a fee for any siblings of £70 per year. Students in receipt of free school meals, or students studying music for GCSE and A Level will continue to receive tuition free of charge. In addition, there are also occasional additional charges for residential courses in Llangrannog. If you need a letter or form, please return one to Mr Budd ASAP, or directly to Mr Evans at the Ceredigion County Council Offices.

Musicfest Aber

We were pleased to hear from Joan Rowlands recently, who is on the organising committee for MusicFest Aberystwyth and are delighted to say that Penglais musicians will be involved in the annual music festival, both as participants and as helpers. Some of our students will be invited (via a bursary scheme) to attend some of the workshops which are run by internationally renowned tutors. In addition, some of our students will be acting as stewards and stagehands throughout the event; they will be helping with setting up orchestra chairs, handing out pads, and the general smooth running of the event. This is a brilliant opportunity to mingle first-hand with professional musicians, as well as to sit in on rehearsals. In return, students will be attending some of the concerts.

We are also working on several exciting workshops in connection with Musicfest Aberystwyth.

Clwb Gwerin Penglais

Recently many students have expressed a recent interest in folk music. As a result, we’re starting a new folk band after the May half term. If you’d like to be part of it, come and see Mr Budd. All welcome! Year 9 students also recently experienced a Twmpath in their music lessons. This was a brilliant way to round off the year as they prepare to move up to their GCSE courses after the May half term.

BBC National Orchestra of Wales

We’ve continued to enjoy a fruitful relationship with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. We recently took a group of over forty students to watch the orchestra perform in Aberystwyth Arts Centre (as part of their tour across Wales), when we were able to hear Joaquin Rodrigo’s beautiful concerto for guitar and orchestra: Concierto de Aranjuez. Also, on the programme was a Borodin Overture and Tchaikovsky’s 5th Symphony. The whole concert was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, which was an interesting opportunity for students to witness a live radio broadcast as well as a full symphony orchestra in action. We are looking forward to the BBC returning in the Autumn term.

National Youth Brass Band of Wales

The National Youth Brass Band of Wales are coming to Aberystwyth on Friday 26th July as part of their annual tour of Wales. We have arranged for several of our brass players to sit in on the daytime rehearsal to listen to how the music is prepared. This will be a rare opportunity to watch world-class conductor Phillip Harper at work. Phillip Harper is currently conductor of the number one brass band in the World (the Cory Band of Rhondda), and is leading the week-long residency with the brass band. In addition, our students will also enjoy the concert in the evening as well as mingling with the members of the band. An opportunity not to be missed, and one to watch for our brass players in the future!

National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain

Two of our Year 12 students (Dalia Elabbadi and Sarah Zhou) were recently invited to perform in a National Youth Orchestra Inspire day in Liverpool, run by the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Musicians from all over Britain are chosen to perform, so it is obviously a huge privilege for both girls to be invited to play. They performed an exciting programme in a concert in Liverpool. Both girls are now preparing to audition for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales in September. We are of course immensely proud of them for their achievements.

The music department continues to be a place where all are welcome... whether bringing previous experience or not. If you play an instrument or sing, we’ll welcome you. If you can’t, we can teach you! There are also lots of ways to get involved, at all levels. If you’re not already, come and get involved in making music; it could be the highlight of your week. We'd love to see you at one of our weekly ensembles as there are plenty of opportunities to come and get involved. Come and see Mr Budd in D1 to get started, or just turn up, enjoy and achieve! We hope that you can join us.
NEWS FROM THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Penglais Students take on National Theatre Connections Festival

Each year, the National Theatre commissions ten brand new plays with the aim for young people from all over the country to perform them, taking part in festivals up and down the country in a celebration of young talent and plays for young people. Aberystwyth Arts Centre’s Youth Theatre have taken part in the festival since 2016, taking on various different plays and (most recently) reprising last year’s Connections play The Ceasefire Babies for a trip down to Cardiff to perform in the Wales Millennium Centre’s Weston Studio as part of RawFfest 2019. On Friday, 12th and Saturday, 13th April 2019, however, several students from Ysgol Penglais took on this year’s National Theatre Connections Festival as they performed Tom Wells’s brand new play Stuff under the direction of our very own Mr. Stott in which Vinny is organising a surprise birthday party for his mate, Anita but it’s not going well: his choice of venue is a bit misguided, Anita’s not keen on leaving the house, and everyone else has their own stuff going on.

Visited by a director from the National during one of their performances, both cast and director were questioned about the rehearsal process and how they had overcome challenges and were given notes on how to improve and shape the piece ready for one final performance at the Connections Festival, which took place on the 4th of May. This year, the Youth Theatre performed alongside two other plays – Ysgol Aberconwy presented The Sad Club by Luke Barnes and Church Stretton School who performed Chaos by Laura Lomas – during one blockbuster evening of theatre. About the festival, Mr. Stott said that he “very much enjoys working on the National Theatre Connections plays each year as it is a chance for our young people to play characters that have never been played before. In a sense, they are creating a premiere of that work and that particular character. It becomes something that they can really call their own. It’s a very exciting prospect!”

If you’d like to get involved with the Arts Centre’s Youth Theatre, classes run on a Monday between 4.15pm and 6.15pm for Years 10-13 and on a Tuesday between 4.15pm and 6.15pm for Years 8 and 9. You can contact the Arts Centre box office on 01970 623232 to enquire about your place for September.

Sister Act!

Following our announcements back in March that we will be producing the wonderful Broadway and West End hit musical Sister Act, students have been busy learning songs and scripts in order to audition for a multitude of roles in the show. The audition panel, consisting of Mr. Stott (Drama), Miss. Davies (Welsh) and Mr. Budd (Music) were completely blown away by the multitude of talent on show during the three days of auditions, seeing well over 100 students in that time, and had to make some incredibly tough decisions! We’d like to thank each and every student who took the time to audition!

The cast list has now been decided, headshots and measurements have been taken and rehearsals are now well under way as we prepare to wow our audiences in November 2019. Angelina Burghardt (Year 11) takes on Deloris Van Cartier, ably flanked by Lucille Richards and Ilona Hoffmann (Year 11) as Mother Superior and Seren Duggan (Year 10) as Mother Superior, whilst Anirudh Krishna (Year 10) plays love interest Sweaty Eddie and Che Underwood (Year 10) and Emma Bucknor (Year 11) take on the evil Curtis. Finally, Matilda Kirk, Lucy Johns (Year 11s), Olivia Davies, Damaris Kotei-Martin and Nancy Kirk (Year 10s) are amongst our line up of nuns with Will Davies (Year 11) as Monsignor O’Hara! Backed by a stellar cast of students from across the school, this not-to-be-missed family comedy hits our main stage in November 2019 with dates to be confirmed in our next newsletter!

If you would like to sponsor or support the production in any way, please get in touch with Mr. Stott (Head of Drama) either by phoning the school reception or by emailing bas@penglais.org.uk.

LAMDA Exams

The Drama department would like to congratulate all students who sat their LAMDA Solo Acting exams at the beginning of May and wish them all the best of luck on their results!
Maxita reviews Tom Wells’s Stuff

Maxita Swain is a year 10 Drama student and an avid watcher of live theatre. She’s just been to see Aberystwyth Arts Centre’s Youth Theatre perform this year’s Connections play Stuff by Tom Wells in the Arts Centre’s Round Studio. Here’s what she had to say about it:

On Friday, 12th and Saturday, 13th April, Aberystwyth Arts Centre’s Youth Theatre performed their production of Stuff written by Tom Wells, as part of their home performances before they competed in the National Theatre Connections Festival on Saturday, 4th May. I have to say, after watching the open dress rehearsal, I was not disappointed and thoroughly enjoyed it! The play looks at friendship and loss as we meet Vinny who wants to surprise his friend Anita with a birthday party. Everybody else isn’t so sure about the idea... including Anita!

Performed in the Round Studio, the production used a realistic approach which suited the play. As soon as I walked into the studio, I knew where we were. With its garishly bright fluorescent light, rubbish scattered across the floor, an impressive collection of stuff and the staple notice board, Mr. Stott and his set designer Ella Purvis Hislop transformed the studio into a disused village hall. Purvis Hislop’s attention to detail has to be commended, with her “missing cat” posters and her certificate for “village hall of the year 2012”.

In keeping with the set, the cast also took a realistic approach to their characters. Comedy was a strong point and seemed to come naturally to the cast. Wells’s writing consists of many awkward pauses; a difficult thing to get right for any cast. However, Jack Tarrant (Matt), Marta Langdon (Magda), Niall Morgan (Vinny), Tili Duggan (Stace) and Tanya Morgan (Dani) have got it just right as they discuss the disgusting state of the hall before blowing up balloons in complete silence, desperately trying to make Vinny understand what an awful mistake this may turn out to be. I particularly liked the ability of the cast to be able to switch from moments of light-hearted comedy to those of a more serious and sensitive nature allowing tensions to keep rising just enough to keep us intrigued throughout.

I had heard that audience participation was involved and I did have my doubts about it, but it was just enough to bring the entire play together right at the end. With Anita missing from her own party, and not about to show up, Frankie (Yoyo Baron) asks the “guests” (us) to join in a rendition of Magda’s birthday song about, well, stuff which I have to say was one of my favourite moments.

This production has shown us that less is definitely more! The cast have worked hard, and it certainly has paid off! Stuff has plenty of heart warming moments, coupled with those of sheer comedy, and was an absolute pleasure to watch! All that remains for me to do is to wish cast and crew best of luck with the festival adjudication.

Meet our new Drama Ambassadors!

Over the last half term, students in year 9, 10 and 11 were given the opportunity to write to Mr. Stott to express their interests in becoming Ysgol Penglais School’s first ever Drama Ambassadors. After filling in application forms, explaining what they felt the role of our Drama Ambassadors would be and outlining the personal qualities that they would bring to the position, we are now proud to announce our first round of Drama Ambassadors for 2019:

**Year 9**
- Tili Duggan
- Yoyo Baron
- Edie Williams
- Tanya Morgan

**Year 10**
- Seren Duggan
- Che Underwood
- Andrianina Ernst
- Maxita Swain

**Year 11**
- Anirudh Krishna
- Nancy Kirk
- Lucilla Richards
- Angelina Burghardt
- Ilona Hoffmann
- Matilda Kirk
- Heledd Davies
- Lucy Johns
- Matilda Kirk

Our team of Ambassadors will be responsible for upholding the incredibly high standard of the Creative Arts in Ysgol Penglais through the running of activities, promotion of the arts to all year groups and by assisting with the organisation of whole school productions (as well as taking part!).

Extra Curricular Activities

During the final half term of the year, the Drama Department will be trialling some brand new extra curricular activities! Students from all year groups are welcome to join us as outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Year Groups</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>12.30PM – 1.00PM</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Repertoire Club&lt;br&gt; <em>Come and learn different monologues and duologues that can be used for auditions, competitions and more at the drop of a hat!</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>After school sessions may also be possible!</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>12.30PM – 1.00PM</td>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Improvisation Workshops&lt;br&gt; <em>Join some of our Drama Ambassadors as they lead you through some of our improvisation workshops! Come and have some fun and learn some new acting skills all in one go.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year 13 Fancy Dress Day

On the 3rd of May, Year 13 held a fancy dress day. There were many interesting and unique fancy dress costumes; you can see some of them here ... even the Sixth Form staff came as cowboys! They also held a Coffee Morning with coffee, cake and fruit at break-time in the Sixth Form Centre to say thank you to staff for all their hard work during the time Year 13 have been at Penglais.
My Work Experience at the BBC
By Laura Hughes, Year 12

In October last year, the BBC sent a mixture of staff and journalism apprentices to the Sixth Form to hold a “Discovery Day”. During this workshop we learnt about filming and editing news pieces, filming videos for social media, writing news articles in the correct style and much more. The day took place mainly in the sixth form centre, with an exception to filming in Cefn Llan. This workshop was successful in piquing my interest in the media, and I was desperate to find out more. When I was offered work experience at the end of the Discovery Day, I was thrilled for this incredible opportunity.

The first morning of my work experience was spent in the News Gathering department of BBC Wales. I learnt about how stories are organised and summarised by various team members. After lunch I was taken down to the studio gallery behind the set of Wales Today to watch it go on air. This was an amazing experience, since not only was I able to watch the programme live as it was happening, but I also observed how the crew behind the scenes worked.

My second day was spent in the Radio department, working with Good Evening Wales. I was set the task of arranging guests to phone in on air during different time slots to talk about various subjects, for example phoning up the press office of the National Childbirth Trust to ask for a representative to speak about sleep deprivation in parents. At four o’clock, I was taken down to the radio studios where Colette Hume was about to start the broadcast, and had the privilege of watching behind the scenes as the programme aired.

My final morning was spent in the Specialist Journalism department, where I spent my time talking to different individuals and their career pathways into journalism. This was incredibly beneficial to me, as I was given so much valuable advice from respected reporters and journalists.

Overall, I found my work experience at the BBC to be absolutely incredible. I met so many interesting and lovely people, such as Claire Summers, Behnaz Akhgar and Derek Brockway. The whole experience has been amazingly beneficial to me and I wholeheartedly recommend that anyone who has the opportunity take it; you won’t regret it!

Sixth Form take part in Beach Clean

Students from Penglais Sixth Form and a few Penglais staff have recently taken part in a number of beach cleans in and around Aberystwyth. Here are a few photos.
Maths Challenge Certificates

Sixth Formers recently won Senior Maths Challenge certificates. Here they’re pictured with Headteacher Ms Hughes. From left to right: Min Kim (Senior Maths Challenge Best in Year Certificate, Senior Kangaroo Best in School Certificate and Senior Maths Challenge Gold Certificate), Dylan Skym (Senior Maths Challenge Bronze Certificate), Thomas Cowhig (Senior Maths Challenge Bronze Certificate), Jung Tae Kim (Senior Maths Challenge Bronze Certificate), Shen Yeo (Senior Maths Challenge Best in Year Certificate, Senior Maths Challenge Best in School Certificate, Senior Kangaroo Qualification Certificate and Senior Maths Challenge Gold Certificate).

Bake Sale for Cyclone Idai

On Friday 12th of April, Sixth Formers held a bake sale to raise money for UNICEF to help children who were affected by Cyclone Idai. The cyclone was one of the worst tropical cyclones on record to affect Africa and the Southern Hemisphere. The money was raised from selling a range of sweet treats in the Sixth Form Centre.
Sixth Form EESW Engineering Project

At the beginning of the academic year seven Year 12 students signed up for the Engineering Education Scheme Wales (EESW) project. This is a scheme carried out in collaboration with a local company on an engineering problem that a solution is needed for. The aim of the project is to allow a team of students to organise, design, develop and build a device to fulfil the company’s requirement. The team gets the hands-on experience of working with a company to solve a real engineering problem.

The partner company, Aber Instruments, is a world leading business in fermentation monitoring and is based on the Cefn Llan Science Park in Aberystwyth. The team’s brief was to design and produce a piece of equipment that would improve the calibration efficiency and accuracy of cell polarisation probes. The device had to lower a probe into consecutive beakers of solution in order that the probe could be accurately calibrated.

The design used two stepper motors that were controlled by an Arduino board. The team used a variety of off-the-shelf parts as well as using computer aided design software to design and make other components. They had to master the coding of the Arduino to control the various steps the device takes and were assisted in that by the Dept of Computer Science at the university.

The final product was presented at the Big Bang Fair organised by EESW/STEMCymru at RAF St Athan last month. The team was one of 68 schools and colleges from all over South Wales. The students had a stall that they designed and manned to demonstrate their work. This work has also been entered for a Gold Crest engineering award. The project was an extremely valuable experience for all involved.

The team: Penny Lewis, Min Kim, Orin Lole Durbin, Oliver Walsh, Gregor Macmillan, Lee Herbert and Trey Moffat.
Stuart Webber is currently Sporting Director at Norwich City FC. Although he left Penglais at age 16, he started to work towards gaining football coaching badges soon after this. After his hard work, he was appointed as Assistant Head of Youth at Wrexham in 2007.

Webber then spent two years as Head of Recruitment at Wolverhampton Wanderers, following previous stints at Queens Park Rangers and Liverpool. He then moved to Huddersfield Town, where he held the position of Head of Football Operations.

In April 2017 he joined the team at Carrow Road where he holds a new post created after a restructuring process at the club. As Sporting Director, he leads all aspects of the Norwich City recruitment strategy, working with the Head Coach to identify players with the commitment and hunger to improve performances on the pitch. In the short time he’s been with the club they’ve seen a huge improvement from bottom to the top of the league.

In recent months he was also labelled a “genius” by joint majority shareholder Delia Smith for plotting a surprise Championship title win and for influencing Norwich City Football Clubs’ promotion to the Premier League.

Having been a big influence on the club’s improvement, he was recently on Football Focus on SKY talking on behalf of the club.

For those who are interested in a career in football and would like to know more, then there are plenty of up to date articles online about Stuart’s role and involvement in the club.

We wish Stuart and Norwich City FC the best of luck next season!
The canteen runs on a cashless system for many reasons. Please can you make sure that your child either puts cash on their card or brings a cheque to the canteen in advance to be put on their account. The canteen cannot guarantee that they will always have change and are therefore asking you to remind your child that they must use their card. Also when sending in money to put on students dinner cards, cheques need to be made payable to Ceredigion County Council or CCC.

In preparation for the next academic year, we are reviewing the teaching groups at Key Stage 3. As part of this review it has been decided that the Welsh medium class will come to an end at the end of Year 8.

As you know, we aimed to support Welsh language teaching by providing the class for the first couple of years at Penglais. The class has benefitted from the provision until the end of Year 8. We will be aiming to develop opportunities for students to use the Welsh language in the school community.

There will be changes to all classes while we restructure the year group. However, we can assure you that the students will be taught in appropriate sets throughout Year 9. Should you have any concerns then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully, Mrs N M Thomas

**Lost Property**
We will be clearing lost property at the end of term before school breaks up for summer.

If students need to check for lost items, they can do so at break-time or lunchtime by visiting Student Services.

The school is now operating a no mobile phone policy. In the past few weeks there’s been an increase in the usage of mobile phones from students.

All students have had notification that the school is operating a no phone policy therefore we would like to remind parents of this. Should a student need to make a call within school hours, they should speak to Student Services.

Penglais School’s Class Charts is now available for parents to access. This provides you with up to date information to track your child’s progress in school and is a valuable tool for all parents/carers. Follow the link to the Class Charts homepage to login! [https://www.classcharts.com](https://www.classcharts.com) We’ve also included a quick guide to class charts for parents which will be up on the school website.
Lottery scheme:   Thanks to those of you who have signed up already; the more participants who join the more money to be won! It’s very easy to join and it’s a great way of supporting the school via the PTA. Based on student numbers around 4% of families have signed up so far and there’s still time to sign up. You can do so by visiting www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/ and searching Penglais.

There is also a chance to win a range of tech from Amazon if you sign up before the end of term.

Upcoming events: Disco June 29th in Golf Club - with music for older folk to enjoy! Watch out for more details on our Penglais PTA Facebook page.

If you wish to be added to the email list to hear about opportunities to volunteer, or have comments and ideas for us to pursue, then please contact us on penglaisPTA@gmail.com

Do you have green fingers? If you are interested in helping with the school sensory garden project, then Mrs Karina Shaw would love to hear from you at kks@penglais.org.uk

Do you live abroad or travel regularly? We'd like to see how far around the world our newsletter Llais Penglais can travel. If you’re reading this abroad or somewhere interesting then why not send in a photo and you might be featured in our next newsletter.

Please send in your photos to a.rees2@penglais.org.uk.
Raise funds for
PENGLAIS SCHOOL
every time you shop online

Find us on easyfundraising to start:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/penglaisschool/

Shop with over 3,300 online stores

amazon.co.uk  John Lewis  ebay  M&S
Argos  Booking.com  Boden  next
DEBENHAMS  GAP  Viking  Sainsbury’s
Screw Fix  JUST EAT  moonpig  ASOS

£20 Million raised  1.2 Million users  100,000 causes