

GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS ON THE PAST SCHOOL YEAR: 2015-16

INTRODUCTION

The Governing Body is required to provide a report to parents each year and we are pleased to do so. Some of the material is included to meet statutory reporting requirements but there is additional information about the school, including changes in staff and curriculum and a record of achievements, both individual and collective. We are very grateful to the acting Headteacher and members of staff who have helped to produce this comprehensive report.

The last two years have been turbulent ones for the school as we have battled to manage cuts of approximately £500k out of a budget of £6m, while still maintaining standards. The fact that we have been able to do so is testament to the dedication of our staff and governors and to the commitment of our pupils and their families.

I would like to say that the coming year will be free of financial concerns but I cannot. We continue to face a very testing time from a financial point of view and this has prompted us to streamline the organisation of our school structure and the curriculum. Thus, we have organised our departments into groupings or faculties and this report gives details of these. We have also reorganised our senior leadership team to provide a new focus for the running of the school and we welcome newcomers Elen Jones and Andy Barlow to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to help with this.

This year is also a year of change. After 14 years at Penglais, as Teacher, Deputy Head, and Headteacher, Matthew Brown has left to take up a post at Ceredigion County as Head of Learning Services and Jack Evershed has stood down as Chair of Governors after 7 years' sterling service. Were it not for their astute guidance and leadership, the last two years in particular would have been even more testing. We are very pleased that Jack has agreed to continue as a Governor and also that we can rely on the new Head of Learning Services to be a friend of the school!

We are very grateful to Hayley Griffiths for agreeing to take on the role of acting Headteacher for the current academic year.

She has already made her mark in this new phase of life at Penglais School and is proving to be a popular Head. We will be advertising for a new permanent Headteacher in December with a view to the new Head taking up their post at the beginning of the new academic year.

The children are at the heart of our school and are the reason we exist. Despite the cuts and the changes, the school has continued to achieve very good exam results and our children have continued to thrive both academically and 'extra-curricularly'. This is a huge tribute to the dedication and hard work of staff and pupils.

Whether last summer's results are strong enough to take us out of the current Estyn monitoring period remains to be seen. Our boys' results have not improved as much as we had hoped and part of the focus of our new SLT will be directed to addressing this.

On a personal note I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of the Governing Body for their support since my appointment at the beginning of the year. They have been very patient and understanding during a time of almost unrelenting pressure. In so doing, they have continued - as unpaid volunteers - to put in hours of work to help guide and direct this wonderful school.

Richard John

INTRODUCING THE GOVERNORS

	Expiry Date of Term of Office
Chair	
Mr R John	15/11/16
Vice Chair	
Dr. J Moorby	15/11/16
Acting Headteacher	
Mrs H G Griffiths	N/A
Clerk to the Governors	
Mrs D M Owen	
Teacher Governors	
Mrs K S Porter	1/09/20
Mr D R Payne	1/11/16

Staff Governor

Mrs H Clements 01/11/20

Parent Governors

Mr J Griffiths 01/11/16

Dr. J Moorby 01/11/16

Ms S Harper 01/11/19

Mr C Turner 01/11/19

Mr P Williams 01/11/19

Dr. R Stevenson 01/11/19

Community Governors

Mr R Bennett 01/11/18

Mr R John 01/11/18

Mr K Jones 19/10/16

Ms S Cavandoli 01/11/19

Dr. A Williams 01/11/19

LEA Governors

Cllr. C Davies 01/05/17

Mr J Evershed 16/12/16

Cllr. P James 23/05/17

Any enquiries to the governors can be sent via Donna Owen, Clerk to the Governing Body [Tel:01970-621163](tel:01970-621163) or email: dmo@penglais.org.uk

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The School Development Plan follows a 3-year cycle and is updated annually. The plan sets out the aims and priorities for the school development over three years and provides a crucial framework for effective management and enables us to evaluate progress against annual targets. The School Development Plan is available for parents to view in school. Parents wishing to receive a personal copy are invited to request one from Mrs Donna Owen, Clerk to the Governing Body at Penglais School, Waunfawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3AW.

The main priorities identified for 2016-17 were the recommendations made by Estyn in their Core Inspection of January 2016:

R1: Improve the achievement of boys and pupils entitled to free school meals

R2: Improve attendance rates

R3: Improve the co-ordination for the development of pupils' literacy and numeracy skills to help them make suitable progress in all subjects

R4: Improve the quality of teaching and assessment

R5: Address the health and safety concerns raised during the inspection

R6: Ensure that the senior leaders hold middle leaders to account for raising standards

R7: Improve the rigour and effectiveness of self-evaluation and improvement planning at all levels

The school has made very good progress in addressing each of the recommendations. A summary report of the impact of the school's actions will be sent to Estyn in November 2016.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The school continues to manage its budget under very difficult circumstances with the school budget being cut. It was agreed with the Local Authority that the school would go into deficit in April 2015 (-£290,000) and then implement a three year plan to move the budget back into balance by 2017. With current projections there will be a small deficit in the Spring of 2017.

Over the spring and summer terms the school's governing body has had to implement a number of strategies in order to reduce spending in line with our reduced budget whilst enabling the school to raise standards of achievement. The key priority of the Governing Body has been to protect the teaching budget where possible but the governors have had to make some very difficult decisions. These have included changes to the curriculum and teaching groups, the pastoral team structure and support staff structure. With vigilant monitoring of expenditure, reducing the deficit by April 2017. The school continues to offer a full range of options at Key Stages 4 and 5 that meet the Welsh Government requirements. Additional classes / groups for basic tuition in literacy and numeracy continue to be supported.

SETTING AND MEETING TARGETS

The main indicators for school performance are explained below:

L1 Indicator Attainment of at least 5 GCSEs at A*-G

L2 Indicator Attainment of at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C

L2+ Indicator Attainment of at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C

	(including English or Welsh 1st Lang and Maths)
Capped points score GCSE L3 Indicator	Average of the 8 best GCSE grades per pupil Attainment of 2 or more A Level passes
Core Subject Indicator (CSI)	Attainment of at least Level 5 in KS3 assessments in all the core subjects

The Welsh Government compares schools' performance across Wales for each of the indicators above. One important benchmark is the comparison of our school performance with that of schools with a similar percentage of pupils claiming free school meals.

At post-16 the average A Level grades, including the Welsh Baccalaureate, were AAB: a third of all grades were A* or A with 85% A*-C. The school attained 99% on the Level 3 indicator (those entered for and attaining, two or more A Level passes). This success comes after several years of outstanding A level results that show our students make significantly better progress during their Sixth Form studies than would have been expected from their GCSE results. This is a testament to the high quality teaching and learning support on offer at Penglais School.

We also have much to celebrate again at Key Stage 4.

Performance in English in 2016 dipped slightly to 76% but this is still a considerable achievement placing the school in the top 50% of similar schools.

Performance in Maths in 2016 was higher than in 2015 by around 3.6%. Much intervention work is being carried out this year with the aim to improve the 2017 performance such that it is higher than the average for similar schools. Current predictions look very promising and we should meet our targets in the summer.

In Science, 93.8% of pupils achieved a Level 2 qualification (GCSE A*-C or BTEC), placing the school in the top 50% of similar schools, thus maintaining the significant improvement of the last three years.

Our Level 1 Indicator improved to 99.5%. This data is measured as the percentage of pupils in Year 11 achieving 5 GCSEs at grade A*-G. In 2016 we again had a very small number of pupils who were either educated off site (at home or at the Pupil Referral Unit). This meant that these pupils were unable to achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs.

At KS3, our Year 9 group last year achieved very well compared to previous years. The Core Subject Indicator which is the percentage of pupils obtaining Level 5 in all three of English or Welsh First Language, Maths and Science was 94.7% and will place the school in the top 25% of similar schools.

As a school we are very proud of our pupils' achievements. The school is most grateful to the unrelenting hard work of our staff, the efforts of our pupils and the tremendous support of parents and governors. We are pleased that there has been a sustained improvement in achievement in recent years as compared to 2010-12 but we are not complacent and it remains our aim that our pupils' achievements place the school in the top 25% when compared to similar schools.

STAFFING

Mr Brown

Mr Brown started working for Penglais School 14 years ago and has since worked in a variety of roles within the school including Head of Sixth Form, Teacher of Science and Physics, Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and most recently Headteacher. Mr Brown leaves to take up the post of Head of Learning Services with the Ceredigion Education Department and we wish him every success in his new role.

Miss Nia Williams

Miss Williams was appointed as a teacher in Geography in 2012 and due to her impressive successes in the role was made Head of Geography one year later. She is leaving us to become Head of Geography in a Welsh medium school nearer to her family home in South West Wales.

Mr Owain Jones

Mr Jones started working as a PE teacher at Penglais in 2002 and was appointed as Head of PE in 2010. Mr Jones is now moving to Santiago with his family to become Head of a

Senior School, we wish him well in his exciting new venture.

Ms Liz Ball

Ms Ball started working at Penglais as a temporary teacher of humanities in 1990. During her time at the school she has taught English, History, Geography, RE, Spanish and Special Needs. In September 2008 she took on the role of SENCO. Ms Ball has been a true stalwart of Penglais and will be missed by all, we wish her well in her retirement.

Ms Jane Jones

Ms Jones started working in Penglais in 2005 as a Teaching Assistant and in 2008 was appointed as Cover Assistant, soon after she took on the role of DT technician. Ms Jones will be missed by all who worked with her and by the pupils.

Mrs Sally Bennett

Mrs Bennett began working for Penglais in 2003 as a Teaching Assistant in the Special Needs department and in 2006 she was appointed as a Cover Assistant on a part time basis combining this with her TA role, 2 years later Mrs Bennett was appointed as a Senior Teaching Assistant and was very well respected by pupils and staff. She is moving to be closer to her family and we wish her well for the future.

Ms Eirwen Benjamin

Miss Benjamin was appointed to Penglais on a part-time basis as a temporary teacher of Health and Social care, Psychology and Science in 2011. She is leaving to pursue other interests outside of the classroom.

Dr Cathryn Warren

Dr Warren started at Penglais as a teacher of Science and Chemistry in 2005 and was appointed as Head of Science in 2014. Her commitment and passion to her job was clear to see and she leaves us to move to Papua New Guinea where her husband has secured a new post. We wish her well with her exciting new ventures.

Mrs Melanie Goodwin

Mrs Goodwin started at Penglais in 1992 as a part time TVEI Clerk and in 1995 was given the post of Headteacher's Secretary and was in this role right up to her leaving at the end of the last term. Mrs Goodwin provided invaluable support to the Headteacher as well

as other members of staff and pupils. Mrs Goodwin has also worked as Clerk of the Governing Body and Exams Administration and Exams Officer. Everyone at Penglais is very sad to see her go and wishes her well in the future.

Mr Martin Jones

Mr Jones was appointed as Assistant Site Manager at Penglais in 1995 and took on the role of Cleaning Supervisor in addition to this in 2003. Mr Jones has always shown the utmost commitment, hard work and loyalty over the years and was extremely popular with both pupils and colleagues alike.

Mrs Julie Thomas

Mrs Thomas was appointed as a Learning Support Assistant in 2000 and provided excellent support for her pupils throughout her time working at Penglais. Mrs Thomas also worked in roles such as Cover Assistant, PSHE admin support and she was most recently made Cover Manager, a position in which she thrived. We wish her well for the future.

Mr Huw Bonsall

Mr Bonsall worked as Head of Biology at Penglais up until his retirement in 2010, since then his has provided invaluable support and assistance as a Learning Coach. Mr Bonsall was popular with both pupils and staff and we wish him well in his retirement.

Mr Mike Gallagher

Mr Gallagher first worked at the school as a volunteer within the Maths department in 2014. His passion and drive for the subject soon meant he progressed to a temporary teaching role in 2015 after he completed his trainee teacher placement. Mike leaves us to fulfil a lifelong ambition to teach in Africa, we wish him well in his new exciting venture.

CURRICULUM CHANGES

In Key Stage 3 English and Maths have increased time allowing for the development of skills in both areas. Pupils have access to a very broad and balanced curriculum.

Throughout the curriculum, improvement of basic literacy and numeracy is fundamental. Many pupils have timetabled lessons where basic numeracy and literacy are the main focus. Other pupils are withdrawn from lessons in order to improve a specific need

such as spelling. All schemes of work in Key Stage 3 are focussing more on literacy and numeracy following the statutory National Literacy and Numeracy Framework. We have been providing a narrative report to parents regarding literacy and numeracy within subject areas to ensure a greater understanding of pupil progress for parents.

In Key Stage 4, pupils could choose from three option boxes with a wide variety of subjects, including vocational, practical and academic. All pupils now study the Welsh Baccalaureate giving all the chance to obtain a GCSE equivalent qualification.

In the Sixth Form we have again managed to maintain a wide range of subjects and have attracted many pupils to the school who wish to study a broad and interesting range of options. Sciences continue to be a popular choice alongside humanities and social sciences.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS / SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The department provides support for pupils with a variety of additional needs. It comprises the Learning Support Centre (LSC), Dyslexia and Skills Centre, Numeracy Support Centre, Hearing Resource Centre [HRC] for Deaf and Hearing Impaired pupils and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Centre.

The HRC has been built up over the last couple of years; due to more pupils with hearing impairment joining the school. This unit currently has four members of staff.

The team of Teaching Assistants [TAs] continues to work effectively as a committed group to give invaluable in-class support to pupils and staff. Some of the TAs are based in the LSC, the majority are based in mainstream groups. The team join the INSET training on offer to teaching staff when appropriate and have also had training on literacy and numeracy support. The local authority SEN team also offers training for pupils' specific needs.

All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 undertake statutory testing in May each year and the data is analysed to ensure all pupils receive any additional support necessary. The data is also utilised to check progress for individuals receiving additional

basic skills provision. These results are recorded and shared with mainstream teachers and support staff on an annual basis.

Peer support is provided for pupils in Year 7 who need a boost with reading in the form of Year 12 intervention. The SENCO trains the Year 12 volunteers who will meet with Year 7 pupils to improve confidence and try to ignite a joy of reading and support them with their numeracy skills. All students involved in the Reading Boost scheme gain from this pairing of older and younger pupils.

Pupils in the smaller supported class have ten timetabled Skills lessons in Year 7. They are seen by specialist staff and a range of programmes are used to address any literacy needs. Other pupils who are struggling with aspects of literacy are seen for intervention by being withdrawn from lessons.

Additional Numeracy Support continues to be highly effective. The 12-7 'catch-up' programme uses Year 12 trained volunteers to work with Year 7 pupils to boost their mathematical skills. This has been very successful with both Year 12 and Year 7 pupils benefiting from the scheme.

The EAL centre has a teacher and a member of support staff. Pupils with English as an Additional Language (who often arrive in Penglais with very limited command of the language) continue to be given support by the EAL team. This may be in the form of an intense language programme or in-class support as necessary. Many of these pupils go on to do extremely well in their external examinations.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AND SCHOOL SECURITY

A health and safety audit is carried out annually by Mr P J Jones, Health and Safety Co-ordinator at the school and Mr C Turner, governor with responsibility for health and safety. No major problems were found during the last audit. A new Induction Pack for teaching staff has been compiled and is now in use; health and safety in the school is a large part of the booklet. The school is also working closely with Ceredigion County Council to improve access on the ground floor. If funding is secured this will include access ramps and more hand rails in the quad area.

Mr Jones will work closely with the site staff throughout the year and he will also meet during the school year with department Health and Safety representatives.

Since September 2013 it is a requirement that the school reports on its toilet facilities. At Penglais they are as follows:

D Block Corridor:

Boys 7 cubicles, 2 rows of urinals
 Girls 11 cubicles
 1 disabled cubicle

Learning Support Centre:

1 male cubicle
 1 female cubicle
 1 disabled cubicle

PE changing rooms (outside):

Boys 2 urinals, 1 cubicle
 Girls 2 cubicles
 2 disabled cubicles

PE changing rooms (inside):

Boys 1 cubicle
 Girls 2 cubicles

Sixth Form Centre:

Boys 4 cubicles, 2 urinals
 Girls 6 cubicles
 1 disabled cubicle

The boys' toilets in D block are flushed 6 times a day and freshened up 2-3 times a day. They are also fully cleaned at the end of every day. All other toilets are cleaned at the end of the day.

PROMOTING HEALTHY SCHOOLS

National Quality Awards 2014-2016

The NQA is ongoing from our last assessment in 2015, with the aim of completing in December 2016.

The following areas have been covered while working through from Phase 1 to Phase 5 in the Ceredigion Healthy Schools Scheme. The scheme encourages schools to promote health through work with pupils and staff and to raise awareness with parents, governors and the wider community.

Phase 1	2006 & 2008	Nutrition and Safety
Phase 2	2010	Environment and Physical Activity
Phase 3	2013	Personal Development and Relationships, Mental,

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Phase 4	2014	Hygiene
Phase 5	2015	Substance Use and Misuse Education

Evidence is being collated under seven health topics for the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Schemes National Quality Award (NQA).

- Mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- Food and fitness
- Personal development and relationships
- Substance Use and Misuse
- Environment
- Safety
- Hygiene

LIBRARY REPORT

The library remained in budget for 2015-16 and this current year's budget is set at £3000. £500 of this has already been allocated to the setup of eBooks. This will be the first year ePlatform is in operation and its use will be monitored to determine whether additional titles should be purchased. The main area of spending on print resources was AS Level RE, History titles for the new taught unit on World War I and Health and Social Studies texts. A selection of popular fiction titles were added throughout the year to keep up reader interest. Overall loan statistics are higher than last year. More staff made use of the library and borrowed library resources. For pupils, girls' borrowing was 62% of all library loans but boys' book borrowing was only 34%.



Use of Library Facilities

2016 was the busiest year ever in terms of timetabled classes and study periods. Sixth Form registered study periods were accommodated alongside timetabled teaching classes and problems arose with the double use in terms of lack of space and amount of PCs available. One library period per day was

allocated solely to the Sixth Form. From Autumn term 2016, the Sixth Form will no longer be using this system. All study sessions will take place in the Sixth Form Centre. Students may still use the library in their free periods when study space permits.

Lunchtime Behaviour

The library is always full to capacity during lunches and breaks. Unfortunately, it was almost necessary to close the facility owing to the unacceptable behaviour of students. Following meetings with Mr Brown a system of extra lunch supervision was agreed. It was considered damaging to the pupils who do use the library sensibly to have access to the facility removed. It is hoped lunchtimes can continue running smoothly with new school systems in place to monitor behaviour effectively. There has been an improvement since the start of the Autumn term.

Year 7 Inductions

Year 7 pupils now visit the library in their first Welsh Baccalaureate lesson for a library induction. The loss of timetabled ICT lessons across Year 7 has meant that computer access passwords and email information must be delivered in this lesson. It is important that pupils have this essential information as early as possible in the Autumn term. All Year 7 Inductions have been completed by 23rd Sept this academic year.

BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

In the last academic year the attendance figure for Years 7-11 was 94.3%. This figure was the first time in 3 years where the attendance rate had dropped. At 94.3% this was lower than the target set by the local authority and lower than the 'family of schools'. Our current target set by the authority has been raised from 94.7% to 95% and in order to achieve this target we will continue to reinforce current good practice within Penglais as well as introduce a number of initiatives to reach our challenging target.

Despite the drop in attendance, the school has continued to raise the profile and importance of attendance. Regular league tables are published by form and placed on year group noticeboards, along with lists of those pupils with 100% attendance. Those pupils with 100% attendance were awarded certificates at our evening for Celebrating Achievement. Heads of Year stress the

importance of attendance regularly in assemblies. School reports to all pupils include a figure, a comment and information of the level of appropriate attendance.

The Assistant Headteacher met once each week with the Education Inclusion Officer (EIO). At these meetings pupils with poor attendance are discussed and those who meet the criteria are referred to the LEA. The EIO will ask the parents to a meeting in school. If appropriate, referrals will be made to the school medical service and/or the county legal department. When attendance does not improve, this will lead to further meetings with the involvement of appropriate outside agencies together with the county solicitor.

An early intervention approach has been used in the last four years very successfully with the EIO. When attendance remains poor but does not meet the criteria for a formal referral, the EIO will come into school to meet parents. In nearly all cases attendance improved significantly and with immediate effect which has been sustained. This system is now supported by the EIO attending Pastoral Committee meetings.

The vast majority of the work on attendance is carried out by the pastoral team. This includes first day response, collation of absence notes and chasing missing notes as well as sending out standard letters regarding attendance. Following consultation with the LEA it has been agreed that the school may authorise absences via logged telephone call or e-mail. A letter is sent every September for the previous academic year to all those pupils who achieve under 93% for their attendance. On two further set dates in January and April all pupils below 93% are sent a letter. The calendar also has dates every 6-8 weeks when attendance figures are printed out for the Heads of Year and there is an option to send a letter or invite a parent to come into school.

The work of the Inclusion Unit in school continues to expand. The main purpose of the unit being set up in school originally was to prevent exclusion. In the last academic year Encil was again used as an alternative to exclusion and, as the table below demonstrates, last year it prevented the loss of 364 days to exclusion.

Hafan continues to support pupils with behavioural and emotional problems and prevents incidents which may lead to disciplinary sanctions being imposed. The aim last year and this academic year is to increase the services in Hafan to support pupils. This has been done in a number of ways:

Placing senior staff on duty in Encil to release extra support into Hafan. This has allowed more pupils to be seen for anger management and to give staff further opportunity to support pupils in lessons. This has been hugely successful, when pupils with behaviour problems are supported in lessons this leads to less disruption and fewer use of sanctions.

This academic year pupils using the services of Hafan or those identified as being at risk due to behaviour problems are being supported academically. One teacher plus an additional support worker have been placed in Hafan to provide suitable courses for pupils. The aim is to ensure that these pupils are able to attain qualifications, particularly at the end of KS4. Last academic year Hafan, again, achieved this aim.

WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY AND WELSH ETHOS

The school continues to implement the County Language Policy. The school's agreed policy is as follows:

The school takes pride in continuing to develop a distinctive Welsh ethos and in affirming its commitment to bilingualism. Linguistic continuation and progression between key stages is recognised.

- Welsh first language groups will continue to be staffed generously to ensure appropriate differentiation and progression.
- For the second year running, pupils entering Year 7 can opt to study Geography, RE, Music and Art through the medium of Welsh. This option is to allow these pupils to better develop their reading, writing and speaking skills in Welsh. All staff are encouraged to use Welsh with pupils through classroom interaction or comments in books.
- Pupils in Welsh medium registration groups will have their form period time and regular Welsh assemblies support pastoral development.

- All pupils are either taught Welsh first language or Welsh second language depending on their programme of study in Key Stage 2.

As a result of these measures between 20-30% of the curriculum will be delivered either through the medium of Welsh or bilingually. However, the teaching and learning experience will be predominantly through the medium of English and the school believes this is in keeping with the majority of parents' and pupils' wishes. Examination courses in Key Stage Four and in the Sixth Form will, with the exception of Welsh, be conducted through the medium of English

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Elections for the form representatives for Years 8-13 were held in the Main Hall in September, using voting booths and ballot boxes. Members of last year's School Council provided invaluable support on the day but also advice on how to improve the elections and to ensure that the nomination process was carried out consistently across all form groups. We were then able to welcome our Year 7 representatives to our first meeting in December.

The School Council for 2015 met for the first time in early October. They elected officials and received support in defining the role of the Year Representatives. They organised the creation of a School Council email, notice board and began to discuss their priorities for the coming year. The committee then began work by drawing up its own list of priorities, which included; continuing to raise the profile of the Council, looking at ways of gathering more pupil voice, looking at toilet facilities and focusing on getting involved more in local politics.

During the year, pupils have met with representatives from the Welsh Assembly to discuss a range of proposed new legislation and other issues for consultation. They attended an event in Cardiff where all the leaders of the main parties were present. They also met a representative of the UN. The pupils also took part in the local Hastings event and were able to put questions to the local representatives. They managed to get all the representatives to give a commitment to sign up to a local political pledge.

They have worked on developing a toilet questionnaire to see if there is sufficient demand for new developments. They have also gathered some feedback on uniform changes. This was fed back to the new Head teacher in a session looking at views of the School council.

The School Council helped with the Year 6 transition days and supported the school open evening. Several members of the group speaking to parents and pupils on the night regarding the role of the school council.

The School Council has been consulted on a range of school policies including the Substance Misuse Policy, teaching and learning, the Young Carer's protocol and the pastoral team structure. Their input was greatly valued and their feedback was used to shape the development of the policies and the return to the Year system. The pupils played a part in the interview process for the new Assistant Head, Head teacher and Deputy Head teacher and were able to ask searching questions.

The work of the School Council is supporting Penglais in working towards the National Award and if successful, will be the first secondary school in Ceredigion to achieve this award.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

'Sports Crew'

The 'Sports Crew' is in its 2nd year and has 20 members from Years 7 and 8. They continue to help the 5x60 Officer and PE Department in promoting, organising and running sports clubs in Penglais school. The crew were invited down to Cardiff (the only Welsh representative school) to deliver a Sports festival in a National Sky Sports event for 200 children. They also won Sky Sports 'Project of the Year' for Wales, with Tom Davis (Commonwealth Judo champion) presenting them with their medals in assembly.

5x60 Dance Competition

The Penglais 5x60 dance squad competed in the 5x60 Ceredigion Dance Competition held in Theatr Felinfach in December 2015. In total 23 girls took part in two junior groups and a senior group. The girls had spent months learning and practising their routines with the help of choreographer Charlotte Warwick.

They attended the weekly 5x60 Hip-hop club and also put in extra hours during break times and at weekends, demonstrating their dedication

Young Ambassadors

Three Year 12 students were promoted to Gold Ambassador status in September. Jac Horwood, Lowri Walker and Jess Kennaugh attended a National Ambassador Conference in Cardiff in October. They have worked tirelessly to increase participation in physical activity and promote wellbeing, both in school and in local primary schools. Jac and Lowri also gained a work placement in Torino FC, Italy for two weeks in April, only 2 out of 4 students selected from Wales.

Sky Sports Project Visit

Last year we continued to run projects through the Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' initiative. We were assigned an athlete mentor to come in and work with the group and also spend time with other groups who may benefit. Tom Haffield (Commonwealth swimmer) addressed the Year 10 assembly, worked with the project group and also ran a taster swimming session after school. The Sky Sports project is continuing to have a real impact on a wide range of our students.

Aber Cyclefest

Penglais pupils took 28 pupils to participate in the school mountain bike and road bike races organised by the Aber Cyclefest team in May. The pupils raced along the roads that the pro riders were competing on later in the evening. As a school we had 12 podium finishes.

School Sport Council 2016

Following the results of the School Sport Survey (National Sport Wales Survey), we decided to set up a School Sports Council to allow pupils to voice their opinions, concerns and suggestions on issues related to school sport, PE and extra-curricular clubs. The Council will address the topic of PE kit in the autumn term.

Netball

Both U18 and U16 teams achieved success in the Ceredigion Championships held in Lampeter last October. The U16 team won all their matches in their pool but lost by one goal in the final against Aberaeron. In the U18

category, the team got to the final, winning the competition and got through to the West Wales competition that was held in January against the Southern Counties. Despite some of the team members not being able to compete, they came a respectable 4th place.

Football Welsh Cup Competition

A total of 5 teams were entered from Penglais (3 boys teams and 2 girls teams).

The U12 boys achieved some very pleasing results gaining a place in the Semi Final against Bryn Hyfryd school in North Wales, but lost the match 2-1 away. In the U14's, the team reached the quarter final stages losing at home to Bro Myrddin 3-0. At U16 level, having won the Ceredigion tournament they sadly lost in the third round against Coedcae school in Llanelli.

Both girls teams at U13 and U15 level won some of their matches in their pool at the county tournament but didn't get through in either age groups.

Ceredigion Athletics

Kuba Borzyn, a pupil in year 8, who recently competed in the high jump event at the Ceredigion County sports beat the record by 3cm, jumping an outstanding height of 1.57m. Being one of eight competitors, Kuba went on to represent Ceredigion at the Dyfed Championships, continuing his magnificent performance coming in 1st place with another record breaking jump of 1.60m. He will now represent Dyfed in the next round and we wish him every success.

The school is very proud of the many pupils from Penglais who represented the school and were selected to take part at the Dyfed Championships on Saturday June 11th at Johnstown Athletic Track in Carmarthen. The pupils were selected having come within the first three places in their individual events.

Congratulations to:

Year 7

Harbi Cooper - 800m 3rd
Katelyn Carton - Hurdles 3rd
Josh Hathaway - 100m 1st
Alastair Donnison - 1500m 2nd
Yves Brown - javelin 3rd; high jump – 3rd
Daniel Clemas – Long jump 1st

Year 8

Ffion Duckett – 100m 1st
Ceris Richards – 300m 2nd
Lucy Gaul – 1500m 1st
Siwan Richards – Hurdles 2nd
Emma Bucknor – Javelin 2nd
Victoria Talco – Long jump 3rd
Ben Stevens – 300m 3rd
Deri Cairns-Howarth – 800m 1st
George Thurston – Long jump 1st
Kuba Borzyn – High Jump 1st (New County record)

Year 9

Kiera Ellis – 1500m 1st
Sonnie Paluch-Ward – 100m 2nd; 200m 1st
Rhodri Thomas – 800m 3rd
Ryan Gilmore – Shot 3rd
Aaron Worrall – Discus 2nd

Year 10

Lily Pitcher – 1500m 2nd
Cameron Thomas – 800m 2nd
Isaac Ayres – 1500m 2nd; 3000m – 2nd

Dyfed Schools Championships

Kuba Borzyn – High jump 1st
George Thurston – Long jump 1st
Deri Cairns-Howarth – 800m 3rd
Ben Stevens – 300m 5th
Harbi Cooper - 800m 5th
Kiera Ellis – 1500m 4th
Josh Hathaway - 100m 4th
Daniel Clemas – Long jump 4th
Siwan Richards – Hurdles 7th
Lucy Gaul – 1500m 5th
Sonnie Paluch-Ward – 100m and 200m 6th
Isaac Ayres – 3000m 4th

Welsh Representatives:

Basketball

U18 – Jess Wall
U15 - George Kornel
U16 – Sophie Griffiths
U12 – Henry Lewis

Gymnastics

Kiera Sayer

Orienteering

Emily Thomas
William Thomas
Dafydd Thomas

Hockey

Duncan Langston

COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP

Throughout 2015-16 our Sixth Form students have continued to support our school and wider community through extra-curricular activities and fundraising events. All students complete a minimum of 30 hours of Community Participation as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate and many choose to exceed the requirement. We are very proud of the contribution and achievements of our students. These extra-curricular activities foster an awareness of the needs of others, a collaborative approach and create a very positive ethos within the Sixth Form and indeed the whole school.

Students have contributed to our community through:

School assemblies – feedback from both staff and pupils remains positive on the assemblies that members of our Sixth Form have delivered on a broad range of topics. Some have been linked to fund-raising activities in order to increase participation throughout the school and to raise awareness of the charities being supported, others have been to promote extra-curricular initiatives such as the debate clubs. Other assemblies have followed the theme of the week.

Student support in the classroom – Sixth Form students have successfully contributed to the support of pupils in Art, French and Maths lessons and within the Learning Support Centre. The students played a key role in the Year 6 induction process in the summer term, acting as both form buddies and leading induction lessons. Furthermore a team of year 12 students were really helpful in supporting a group of year 10 pupils with their level 2 Key Skills work. We are looking to develop this supportive role further in the future.

Students support others to prepare re-sit GCSE and AS examinations. Some of our gifted and talented students have offered to support their peers experiencing difficulties. They have supported those students being mentored or those with re-sits during free periods. This is done under the guidance of the Head of Year.

Charity fund raising activities are initiated and organised by members of our Sixth Form. These have included own clothes days, cake

stalls, quiz shows, talent competitions, a coffee morning and sports competitions. In total, students have raised over £4000 to date which has gone to support national, local and international charities. Many charities have benefited including RNLI, MacMillan Coffee Morning, Volunteering, Urdd, Children in Need and Sports Relief, to name but a few. This Year, Penglais Community Services were proud to make a donation towards the successful Penglais School Production of West Side Story. The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification requires that students be involved in Enterprise projects. Many of these projects have also raised a considerable amount of money for charity.

Voluntary work is something that many of our students are involved with. They volunteer at Hafan Y Waun, in the town's charity shops, Ceredigion Museum, help to run local sports, Cub, Beaver and Scout groups, and they help to improve Welsh language skills on residential courses held at Llangrannog. They are involved in fund-raising events at local primary schools.

Sports Sessions. The Sixth Form help with the running of sporting activities through 5x60.

The School's Activity Days in July. Students organise and lead a range of activities for the whole school during activities week. These included quizzes, films, sports sessions and game shows. The students also helped to run events organised by departments within the school.

Continued links with external organisations which have provided training opportunities for our students. The British Red Cross has provided training through their Young Carers' project for students to become 'befrienders' to lower school pupils. Each of these training opportunities has led to the students leading activities within or outside school such as LTF, a lunchtime drop in club for pupils who need someone to talk to. Amnesty International and Fair Trade Groups are thriving at Penglais. These Groups are under the control of the Sixth Form.

Supporting the work of the PTA through organising and running stalls for the Autumn Fair and selling raffle tickets. They have also participated in the popular Curry and Quiz Night.

Supporting the fund-raising activities of local groups, for example, by bag-packing at Morrisons.

Supporting events within school. The Sixth Form students have been excellent ambassadors for the school, not only at its Open Evening but also at Careers Fairs, information evenings and of course the celebrating achievement event.

Enrichment activities. The Sixth Form run two weekly debate groups. One is a Science Debate Group and the other on Current Affairs. Both groups are very well attended and run completely by the sixth form.

WORK RELATED AND ENTERPRISE EDUCATION

Year 7 took part in the Crucial Crew event where several public services explained their roles in the community. The focus of the day is on how to stay safe and highlighting the importance of public sector job roles. They also evaluated their personal skills through PSHE lessons. This event gives pupils a chance to not only develop their skills such as team work and problem solving but also gives them an opportunity to ask questions about careers in the public services.

Year 9 took part in group workshops with Careers Wales and were given access to the Careers officer at parents' evenings. Year 9 also had the opportunity to take part in the Prospectus Workshop. Entrepreneurs provided talks and interactive sessions to the Year 9 pupils regarding setting up a new business. The entrepreneurs discussed the importance of creating ideas and explained the benefits and pitfalls of starting up and running a new business. As part of the PSE suspended days, pupils have taken part in an introductory session for Careers Wales online. They have also taken part in a workshop with Careers Wales staff looking at how to access the archives on the Careers Wales website. Year 9 pupils have also taken part in career focused lessons as part of the PSE days.

Year 9 also took part in an Employability day. Several workshops were run, including workshops by a range of entrepreneurs who were invited in to school to share their success stories. Sessions were also run on employment sectors, trends in employment and skills needed for employment.

Some year 9 pupils had the opportunity to take part in the Phoenix Fire Course to learn more about the Fire and Rescue Service.

Year 10 vocational students have taken part in an induction workshop for their work placement. Students interested in apprenticeships when they leave school also attended a workshop on how to apply for apprenticeships and spent time looking at how the Welsh Assembly Government can support learners when they leave school. Year 10 Work Skills pupils have all attended a week long work experience placement with a range of employers.

All the Year 11 business pupils had the opportunity to produce a comprehensive business plan which allowed the pupils a chance to explore the benefits and pitfalls of working for yourself and becoming an employer. The year 11 Work Skills group attended their work experience placement for a week. Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have also taken part in Career / Work related focused lessons as part of the PSE suspended days. Every pupil in Year 11 who has been identified as potentially NEET, has also been offered a one to one interview with the Careers adviser. Some Year 11 have also taken part in 'preparing for university' workshop. Yr 11 catering students also have had the experience of running a mini restaurant as part of their GCSE coursework.

A mix of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils took part in the Sky Sports event where they met a sports personality and discussed skills for employment, setting goals and achieving targets.

Year 12 pupils have taken part in the enterprise unit for the Welsh Bac where they are required to set up and run a business as a social enterprise. Year 12 students have also had the opportunity to take part in the NHS work experience programme. The pupils have worked in a wide range of departments in the hospital including Physiotherapy, Accident and Emergency and Cardio therapy. Visits have also been undertaken to university open days for Years 12 and 13 pupils.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

During the academic year 2015-2016 the Music Department has maintained and

extended the extra-curricular music opportunities offered to all students at Penglais.

The Music Department runs a variety of ensembles: School Choir, Main Wind Band, the newly formed Jazz Band, School Brass Band, School String Group, and a String Trio. All these participate in many community events annually and also compete in competitions such as the Urdd Eisteddfod and Music for Youth. The whole music department participated in the Christmas service, which was held in Llanbadarn Church in December and contributed to many other performances with the Celebration Assembly and the Prize Giving and Caroling in Llanbadarn community. The highlight of the year by far was the School production of West Side Story where we performed to a sell out audience in every performance. During the Summer term the whole music department took the Junior Brass on a tour of Germany.

Highlights of the year:

- Christmas Concert at Llanbadarn Church National Urdd Eisteddfod in Caerphilly with the Wind Band and the Barriga Trio.
- Cai reaching the final of the Dyfed young composer, many others managing to get their work performed with the Red Priest ensemble as part of the Dyfed young composer.
- Ana Barriga being a finalist in the Dyfed Young performer.
- Success by some students in the National Youth Groups.
- West Side Story.
- Germany trip with the Junior Brass.
- Numerous performances at Borth for the senior Citizens.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

September 2015

A composition workshop for GCSE and 'A' level students was held at Aberaeron in preparation for the Dyfed Young Composer competition and the resident ensemble the Riverside Brass ensemble.

November 2015

Lynne Plowman, a leading contemporary composer, visited the school to work with GCSE and A-Level students.

December 2015

Lynne Plowman, returned to work with some more pupils who wish to submit compositions for the Dyfed Young Composer Competition.

Penglais Brass provided musical items for the turning-on of the Llanbadarn Christmas lights.

The annual "Candles and Carols" service was held at Llanbadarn Church.

Musical items were provided for the prize giving event at the Great Hall and school colours were handed out to Year 11 pupils.

February 2016

West side story.

March 2016

Lynne Plowman, returned for individual tutorials with more pupils who wish to submit compositions for the Dyfed Young Composer Competition.

April 2016

The Brass Quintet, Penglas Windband and the Brass Band competed in the first round of the Music for Youth competition held in Haverford West.

July 2016

The Junior Brass Ensemble and some singers went to Germany.

Richard John

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Penglais School Examination Officer's Report 2016 at 10 Oct

GCE EXAMINATION STATISTICS

There were 142 pupils aged 17 on 31st August 2015 and who were on roll in the school on 12th January 2016.

Table 1: Penglais School A2 Level performance in 2016

Subject	Total entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U/X
Art	24	-	4	12	5	1	1	1
Biology	35	3	7	7	6	6	4	2
Chemistry	31	8	2	8	5	3	2	3
Design and Technology	19	-	-	4	7	4	3	1
Drama	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
English Literature	10	1	3	4	1	1	-	-
French	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Geography	36	7	9	9	4	-	5	2
Geology	9	-	1	3	4	1	-	-
Health and Social Care	16	1	2	7	4	2	-	-
Health & Social Care Double	8	-	1	2	3	2	-	-
History	52	4	18	18	10	1	1	-
Information Technology	6	-	-	1	2	2	1	-
Mathematics	17	6	2	1	4	1	-	3
Mathematics Further	6	-	-	2	1	1	1	1
Media Studies	21	-	-	7	6	7	1	-
Music	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Photography	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
PE	8	-	-	4	3	1	-	-
Physics	14	1	3	2	4	3	1	-
Psychology	16	-	2	3	4	-	4	3

RE	7	-	1	-	3	2	1	-
Sociology	19	1	7	4	4	1	1	1
Spanish	5	1	-	-	1	3	-	-
WBQ	131		122					9
Number of grades*	496	33	185	100	82	44	26	26
% of Total*		6.6	37	20.2	16.4	9.2	5.4	5.2

Table 2: Classical Civilisation – This is an A2 Level qualification Year 11 pupils have opted to study in their own time.

Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Classical Civilisation	4	-	-	1	-	2	1	-

Table 3: Sixth Form BTEC results by subject. (Only Level 3 subjects count towards Level 3 threshold: Certificate = 1 AS grade, sub diploma = 1 A2 grade, diploma = 2 A2 grades)

	Pass	Merit	Distinction	Distinction*
Business Level 3 Certificate	1	-	-	-
Business Level 3 Sub Diploma	3	-	-	3
Travel and Tourism Level 3 Certificate	2	-	1	-
Travel and Tourism Level 3 sub diploma	-	1	-	3
Vehicle technology Level 3 Sub Diploma	6	1	-	-

Level 3 threshold (number of pupils aged 17 August 31st 2015, on roll in January 2016 and entered for 2 or more A Levels/ equivalent and passing 2 or more A Levels/ equivalent): **98%** (99% 2015)

GCSE EXAMINATION STATISTICS

Table 4: Examination results at GCSE by subject

There were 194 pupils on roll in Year 11 in January 2016.

Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Arabic	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Art	78	15	3	6	18	6	6	10	5	9
Biology	58	15	17	13	8	3	2	-	-	-
Chemistry	59	17	12	13	12	2	2	1	-	-
Catering	12	-	-	1	6	2	2	1	-	-
Child Dev	17	-	-	-	3	11	2	1	-	-
Chinese	10	2	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Classical Civ	13	1	3	3	-	4	1	-	1	-
DT Graphics	17	3	3	1	6	1	1	2	-	-
DT Resistant	35	2	2	9	13	6	2	-	1	-
Drama	17	-	3	3	5	6	-	-	-	-
Electronics	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
English Lang	194	15	26	47	56	26	20	2	1	1
English Lit	171	17	17	19	54	41	17	4	2	-
French	24	5	13	1	2	3	-	-	-	-
Geography	73	16	14	14	19	7	3	-	-	-
Health & Social	15	-	4	7	-	4	-	-	-	-
History	94	9	18	14	18	16	11	3	4	1
IT	42	2	7	17	10	4	1	1	-	-
Japanese	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mathematics	194	17	15	23	83	21	25	5	3	2
Music	15	4	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
PE Full course	30	3	4	8	8	6	1	-	-	-
Physics	59	16	14	12	15	1	-	1	-	-

RE	47	8	5	17	8	4	2	3	-	-
Science (additional)	89	-	5	8	32	24	15	2	2	1
Spanish	15	7	1	-	4	2	1	-	-	-
Welsh 2nd Language (full)	99	19	12	24	27	11	4	1	-	1
Welsh First Language	53	1	2	10	7	16	15	2	-	-
Total	1533	195	210	279	416	224	132	41	21	15
% of Total		12.7 2	13.7	18.2	27.1 4	14.6 1	8.61	2.6 7	1.37	0.98

Table 5: Short course entries and grades (equivalent to half a GCSE)

Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Welsh 2 nd Lang short course	28	-	-	-	2	11	5	4	6	-
PE Short course	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
RE Short course	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Table 6: FSMQ (Additional Mathematics) – This is an AS Level qualification Year 11 pupils have opted to study in their own time.

Subject	Entry	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Maths Additional	12	5	1	2	1	1	-	-	2

Table 7: Year 11 Vocational Course results by subject

Subject	Entry	Units /Nothing	Level 1	Level 2
Engineering EAL	16	-	1	15
Level 2 Diploma in Hair Services	12	-	-	12

Level 1 Introduction to Hair & Beauty	2	-	2	-
Level 2 Customer Services	11	-	-	11
Level 2 NVQ in French	11	-	-	11
Level 2 NVQ in Spanish	6	-	-	6

Table8: Year 11 BTEC results (Certificate = 1 GCSE, Extended certificate = 2 GCSEs)

Subject	Distinction *	Distinction	Merit	Pass
Applied Science – Level 2	-	-	-	75
Business – Level 2 Certificate	-	-	-	4
Business – Level 2 Extended	1	-	7	-
Sport - Level 2 extended	-	-	-	11
Countryside and Environment Level 2 Extended certificate	-	-	-	9
Level 1 Extended certificate in Vocational Studies	-	-	-	4
Level 1 Diploma in Vocational Studies	-	-	-	2
Level 1 Award in Land-Based Studies	-	-	-	1
Level 2 Award in Work Skills	-	-	-	17

Table 9: Year 11 Examination results at Entry Level by subject

Subject	Entry	3	2	1	Absent
Mathematics	2	1			1

Table 10: Examination statistics at GCSE by subject for Year 11 in 2016

For Summer 2016 The WAG data is NOT now age related i.e. it only includes the pupils who were on roll in Year 11 in January 2016.

	Number	%
Number of pupils on roll in Y11	194	
Number and percentage entered for GCSE/Entry Level Certificate	194	100
Number and percentage entered for at least one GCSE	194	100
Number and percentage entered for Entry Level only	0	0
Number and percentage without a GCSE or Entry Level Certificate	0	0
Number and percentage leaving school without a GCSE or Entry Level Certificate	0	0
Number and percentage passing the Level 2 threshold	178	92%
Number and percentage passing the Level 2 threshold including Mathematics and English Language	127	65.5%
Number and percentage gaining Level 1 threshold	192	99%
Number and percentage achieving A - G in at least one GCSE subject	194	100%

In August 2016 90% passed the Level 2 threshold, and 65.5% passed the Level 2 plus threshold i.e. including English, Cymraeg and Maths.

In August 2015 91 % passed Level 2 threshold and 64.5% passed the Level 2+ threshold.

In August 2016 there were 19 pupils entitled to Free School Meals. Of these 19 a total of 9 achieved Level 2+ giving a L2+ pass rate of 47.4%. In 2014/15 this was 6 out of 20 (30%).

**SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS
ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-17**

AUTUMN TERM

Monday 5th September 2016 to Friday 16th December 2016 70 days
(Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September 2016 – INSET Day)

SPRING TERM

Tuesday 3rd January 2017 to Friday 7th April 2017 64 days
(Monday 24th April 2017 – INSET Day)

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 25th April 2017 to Friday 21st July 2017 58 days

Directed days +3 days

TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS 195 days

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2016-2017

Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September 2016 (INSET DAY) pupils only 2 days

Monday 24th October 2016 to Friday 28th October 2016 5 days

Monday 19th December 2016 to Monday 2nd January 2017 11 days

Monday 20th February 2017 to Friday 24th February 2017 5 days

Monday 10th April 2017 to Friday 21st April 2017 11 days

Monday 24th April 2017 (INSET DAY) pupils only 1 day

Monday 1st May 2017 1 day

Monday 29th May 2017 to Friday 2nd June 2017 5 days

Monday 24th July 2017 to Friday 1st September 2017 30 days

TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS 71 days

Please note that this calendar is subject to any changes which may arise as a result of government policy decisions. Ceredigion County Council does not accept liability for any losses incurred in respect of altered holiday arrangements following such changes.