



PTA AUTUMN FAIR AND RAFFLE

Please see the attached notice from the PTA Committee reminding all parents and pupils of the date for the Autumn Fair. The efforts of the pupils last year in selling raffle tickets was superb. It would be wonderful if we could surpass last year's achievements. Please support the school in this event as all proceeds raised go back to the school.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

As we move into the winter it might be helpful to remind you about arrangements should the school close early because of inclement weather (or indeed, any emergency). The decision to close is made by the education office, as it is the office that organises the buses. The bus companies telephone the school to let us know when the buses will be departing and we then organise the departure of pupils by bus route. It would be very helpful if all parents made sure now that their children know exactly what they are supposed to do in the event of a closure. Two years ago we had to close on one day: on that occasion the school office was overwhelmed with messages from parents to individual pupils. These were quite beyond the capacity of the secretaries to distribute to dozens of children in 60 different rooms in the short space of time before the buses arrived. The school will, of course, always ensure that no pupil is left stranded in these circumstances.

LILLIAN BALL TRUST FUND

New parents may not be aware of the existence of this trust fund which was set up in 1994. Its purpose is fourfold:

1. To recognise outstanding academic achievement;
2. To recognise outstanding achievement in other aspects of school life;
3. To support needy students in defraying costs of field visits, school visits or enabling them to take part in national competitions or to represent the school in other events;
4. To support the school in work not normally funded by the local education authority.

The fund's trustees meet twice a year to consider the expenditure of capital and income. Teachers often identify pupils in need of support in category 3 but parents are very welcome to approach me directly by letter about categories 3 and 4.

SEX EDUCATION

It is the policy of the school governors that all children follow a programme of Sex Education. The school aims to ensure that all pupils have access to sex education as an integral part of the school curriculum. The provision will take into account the age, development and beliefs of the pupils. It will form part of the structured and integrated syllabus of the Personal, Social, Health Education programme and aspects of it will be taught in the schemes of work of other subjects. Moral issues and the value of family life will be considered. The school intends to teach about HIV/AIDs, sexually transmitted diseases and aspects of human sexual behaviour as part of the sex education programme, at levels appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils. It will also be prepared to answer questions from younger pupils on these topics. Parents may request that their children be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education (except where such education forms part of the national Curriculum) by writing to the Headteacher at the school. Sex Education forms part of the curriculum for all pupils in the school and is based upon the Local Education Authority's 'Sex Education in the Curriculum: A Statement of Policy' and the National Curriculum. Details of the context and organisation of sex education are available on request at the school.

Visiting Speakers and Resources – Many of the resources used in PSHE have been produced by commercial organisations. These are of a very high quality and cover topics not generally available elsewhere. Speakers from the community, charities and commercial organisations are invited to share their specific expertise as often as is practicable. Their contributions are invaluable and add an extra dimension to the learning of the pupils. They may offer free samples or may invite pupils to join their organisation in the course of their talk. If you are unhappy about this, please write to the PSHE Co-ordinator, Dr. A Minchin or Mr. H. Lewis, at the school and alternative arrangements can be made for your child.



Catering

The hunt is on for Future Chef 2006. We have been very lucky to have Chris Williams head chef at Harry's Restaurant to come into 5 Catering lessons. He has shown pupils how to work with good simple ingredients to produce fantastic sauces to go with mackerel, chicken and steak. Pupils have been enthusiastic and well motivated.



LOST PROPERTY – REMINDER

We would like to remind parents of our arrangements about lost property. A large number of items, mainly clothing is found every week and it causes a huge storage problem.

We have decided that we can only keep unmarked items for two weeks after they have been found. After this time, anything which is unclaimed will be thrown away. Property which is marked with the owner's name will always be returned. It is very simple to write a pupil's name in biro on the label of a sweatshirt and might save you the cost of a replacement.

MAKING THE LINK – ENGLISH, WELSH AND MFL

Over the first cycle of next half term – Monday 31st October – Friday 11th November, Year 7 pupils will be taking part in the

'Making the Link' Project. During their English, Welsh and MFL lessons they will be learning about how languages work and

about some of the similarities and differences between the languages they are studying. Pupils will be given a booklet to be used

in all their language lessons over the cycle. They will also need to bring their normal exercise books.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

- Science Club has started again for Years 8-10 on Tuesdays between 3.30 and 4.30 p.m. This involves lots of challenges and "hands-on" activities and is run by Dr. Helen Williams from Aberystwyth University. It is funded by West and Mid Wales Widening Access Partnership. There is no charge for pupils and anyone living within an eight mile radius of Penglais is entitled to a free taxi home. If your child would like to join they can collect a letter from Miss Edwards, Room C10.
- Year 7 Science Club will start after half term. Please see Miss Edwards if you are interested.
- 80 Year 10-13 pupils have attended two lectures hosted by WWAYs at Aberystwyth University. The lectures were on "Lasers" and "Drugs in Sport". The next lecture is on 11th January 2006. The topic is "Nature's Chemistry Set". See Dr. Warren in room C4 if you'd like to go.
- On Tuesday 11th October Roger Clarke, Ben Corbett, Joe Warren and Berin Smaldon won the mid Wales round of the 'Top of the Bench' competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry at Gregynog Hall, Newtown. The team will now go on to compete in the national final in the Science Museum, London on 25th March 2006.

Meet the governors of Penglais School

18th October 2005

Dear Parents / Guardians,

All parents and guardians are warmly invited to meet the governors of Penglais School on Thursday 3rd November 2005 at 7.30 pm in the Room B10. We will review our progress over the past year and will happily discuss with you the school's achievements, any concerns or suggestions you may have and the developments planned for the coming year.

Invite:

There will be the opportunity after the meeting for you to talk informally with the governors and with other parents over a glass of wine. We would be particularly pleased to see parents and guardians of Year 7 pupils and any other newcomers to School.

The programme for the evening will be:

- Welcome and introductions
- Apologies for absence
- Key issues in the Governors' Report for 2004/2005
- Discussion of matters arising from the report
- Some new developments in the School
- Any other points you wish to raise with the governors

The Governors' Report for 2004/5 is available to any parent on request by contacting Mrs. Melanie Goodwin at the school.

We look forward to seeing you on 3rd November

Yours faithfully,

J.H.R. Gee

Chair of Governors

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Mon 24th – Fri 28th Oct | HALF TERM |
| Wednesday 2nd November | Year 7 Parents' Consultation 3.30 p.m. |
| Thursday 3rd November | OWN CLOTHES DAY (for those pupils bringing goods for the Autumn Fair) |
| Thursday 3rd November | AGM of Governors with Parents at 7.30 in Room B10 |
| Saturday 5th Nov | Autumn Fair at 10.0 a.m. |
| Wednesday 9th November | Year 8 Parents' Consultation at 3.30 p.m. |
| Friday 25th November | INSET DAY – School closed for pupils |

Yours faithfully,

H.J. DAVEY
Headteacher

