



CURRICULUM 2006-7

In the next two weeks pupils in Years 9 and 11 will have completed their option choices for 2006-7. This is a very important process and we have tried to reduce some of the problems identified in the straw polls conducted earlier this term. In what will be a difficult year financially (the available budget news for 2006-7 is very bleak) the governors have already decided to make their policy of maximum curriculum choice **a major priority** in the detailed planning that takes places at this time of year. In the next newsletter I hope to report on the outcomes of all this work and confirm the curriculum decisions made by the governors.

ROAD SAFETY

In recent assemblies I have been emphasising to pupils once again the importance of road safety. Major areas of concern have been the scant attention paid to road traffic by some pupils crossing the road from the bus island in the morning in particular and carelessness in crossing the roads in both the Waunfawr and Cefn Llan. Parents will know from previous newsletters that this is not a new issue and it is a **message that needs constant reinforcement**. Please could you help by ensuring that your son / daughter is aware of the dangers and knows how to cross a road safely – despite our best efforts and yours it is obvious that not all pupils are sufficiently clued up on this!

PENGLAIS SCHOOL WEBSITE

Penglais School has a new website. It can be found on www.penglaischool.org.uk This is an interactive website which is still being developed. A new section has recently been added allowing students and staff, in a secure area, to exchange information including setting and marking work.

The website has a public face, including a scroller with up to the minute news, where appropriate. This should prove useful in providing information about meetings, inclement weather and delays to the return of trips.

The website also has a school face in which items available only to Penglais school staff, parents, governors and students will be visible. To access this service you have to register on the site.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH

Last September we tried to take whole school photographs but the booking had to be postponed because of bad weather. **We shall try again on Monday 13th March!** The last school photograph was taken in September 2001 so it is overdue. The school is now so large that there will be two photographs, one for Years 7-11 and one for Year 12-13.

www.penglaischool.org.uk

LOST

A lady's ring was found at the end of the Valentine's Disco held at school on Tuesday 14th February. If anyone has mislaid a ring (could your daughter have borrowed it from you for the disco?) then please contact Melanie Goodwin at the school for further details.

HEALTHY EATING POLICY

Last year we promised a review of the products on sale in the canteen and vending machines. As previously reported in newsletters much work has already been completed: a full report about canteen and vending services will be made in the March-April newsletter. There is a commitment to phase out unhealthy options from the machines by the end of this term. The annual review of prices in the canteen is also currently being carried out and will be reported on next month. Some price rises are inevitable but they will be kept to a minimum.

GEOGRAPHY

The Year 12 AS residential fieldcourse will be taking place during the week 13th-17th March. Students will be involved in studying geographical patterns and processes in rural and urban environments. They will be carrying out techniques in data collection and statistical analysis. They will be assisted by Miss R.A. Davies, Mr. P.J. Jones and Mrs. J.Elgood. The department would like to thank Dr. Paul Brewer for delivering a lecture to Year 12 AS students on floodplains. This will help them to address the GG1 element of their course.

All Year 7 pupils should now have received a free OS map of the Aberystwyth area. This map is kindly donated by the Ordnance Survey Company and will be a very useful resource for years to come.

Kerbside Collection

Pupils from the School Council have been fighting for improved recycling facilities for the school.

They are delighted that we have now been included in the Council's Kerbside Collection. Pupils on the School Council Committee are pictured with Mr Adrian Keenan from the Waste Minimisation Dept. making the first collection.





Photo: Alex Gilbey

Football – U18 Penglais 3 Llandrindod 3. Penglais won on penalties. Penglais were the deserved winners after a poor start to the game after going 3-0 down. Penglais came close to scoring on numerous occasions and it took a penalty to get back into the game. We then scored two other goals in the space of five minutes to level the score. Unfortunately the pitch was freezing hard in the second half and therefore after full time we went straight into penalties in which Penglais were the victors

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Frosty Camp was held on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th January. As part of their training for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Gold expedition next summer, we decided it would be a good idea to brave the coldest night of the year!!



Tom Kelly, Craig Marshall, and Rachel Powell awaiting breakfast.



Dr. Cathyrin Warren cooking breakfast after cold night.

Ten Year 12 students (4 girls and 6 boys) plus 2 Penglais teachers and one volunteer student teacher went on a navigation / camping exercise in the Claerwen reservoir area, a very remote area of mid Wales. In stunning daytime weather, although cold and windy, we walked from near Rhayader to near Teifi Pools. When the sun went down the temperature plummeted to at least -7°C , and the river froze over, we all settled down for a long cold night. If you were brave enough to get out of your sleeping bag and go outside, the stars were a fantastic sight.

Next morning, again in beautiful but very cold weather conditions, the students were very slow to get started, too warm in their sleeping bags! They then navigated over very rough terrain past Teifi Pools to Strata Florida. The students coped with the very cold weather extremely well and no moaning (most unusual) was heard about the cold. Everyone was pleased to finish and were looking forward to a very **HOT** bath!

Student Comments

"It was cool" – Lauren Babcock

"I did pack my own rucksack, honest" – Imran Kaderbhai

"There were no trees to hug" – Tom Kelly

"Only 13 hours sleep" – Philippa Owen

"I have the lightest sack" – William Craig

"If I throw this rucksack hard enough I will knock Mr. Clissold into the stream!!!" – Angharad Preston

"This sack is too heavy" – Rachel Powell

"Never mind the compass, this is the way" – Cai Durbin

"William put up the tent and cook dinner" – Rafael

"I have to wear a hat otherwise my bald spot will freeze" – Craig Marshall.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

BUSINESS

On Wednesday 8th February, year 12 business students attended an enterprise workshop at the Arts Centre. In the morning students attended practical workshops on setting up their own business and creative problem solving. The second workshop was very hands on with students (and Mrs Shaw) getting involved in various activities to solve business problems. Activities included brain writing, brainstorming and solving problems by adopting the traits of famous characters.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the day was the afternoon session. The guest speaker for the afternoon session was Stephen Parry, the Olympic bronze medallist in the butterfly 2004. He highlighted the importance of focus, drive and motivation. He showed us a very motivating video clip of his Olympic swimming victory. He explained to the group how determined he had been to win a medal that year as previously he had just missed medal positions. He was so determined to win a medal that in the build up to his Olympic swim, he changed his bank account pin number to the time he believed he would need to swim within to get a medal!

Stephen Parry explained to the students how it felt to actually be ahead of USA's Micheal Phelps and the disappointment he felt when Phelps and Japan's Takashi Yamamoto passed him to clinch the gold and silver medals. Stephen has taken his motivation and drive and used it to set up several successful businesses. The clear message that students took from the day was that you need to work towards your dreams and believe in yourself.

MEDIA STUDIES

This year has seen the addition of a new AS course to the sixth form curriculum in Penglais – Media Studies. Last term, as part of their work on cinema, students saw a screening of the classic film noir 'The Third Man' in the Arts Centre, courtesy of Film Education; this was a proper celluloid copy, not something digitally re-mastered on DVD. Then on the Friday before half term the group went to Coleg Ceredigion to meet 'BB Aled', one of Chris Moyle's Radio One broadcasting team. Aled, who grew up in Aberystwyth, talked to them about his career and opportunities in the media.

As part of their Media Studies course, students are required to complete coursework that involves using a range of different types of media. This includes both digital video and digital photography and the school has had to purchase new equipment to allow students the opportunity to work with film and film editing. We have been very grateful for a substantial donation of £2,000 given by the PTA towards the cost of the equipment.

MUSIC

Please make a note of these important dates for the second half of this term.

- Thursday 23rd March School Concert in Penglais Main Hall at 7.30 pm
- Friday 24th March Urdd County Eisteddfod in Aberaeron School Cerdd Dant Group competing.
- Friday 31st March Music for Youth Regional Festival in Penglais Main Hall 1.30 pm. Entry is free for parents, relatives and friends.
- Tuesday 4th April Senior Mixed Choir, Senior Boys Choir and Cantorion Penglais will sing a Programme of music in the Foyer of the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff at 1.00 pm
- Thursday 13th April Junior musicians attend a matinee performance of 'Starlight Express' at the Wales Millennium Centre Cardiff.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Football – U18 Penglais 3 Llandrindod 3. Penglais won on penalties. Penglais was the deserved winner after a poor start to the game after going 3-0 down. Penglais came close to scoring on numerous occasions and it took a penalty to get back into the game. We then scored two other goals in the space of five minutes to level the score. Unfortunately the pitch was freezing hard in the second half and therefore after full time we went straight into penalties which saw Penglais emerge as the victors. The team go on to play Welshpool High School in the quarter finals.
- Football – U14 Penglais 3 v 0 John Beddoes (Presteigne). Penglais are yet to concede a goal in the competition. John Beddoes did threaten our goal on several occasions but nerves were settled somewhat with a Jonathan Evans penalty. He then went on to score a second goal soon after. Penglais finished the game off with Rhys Wyn scoring with his first touch of the ball towards the end of the second half. The U14s now play Ammanford away in the quarter finals.

SCIENCE

Science Club – Science Club members and 7T took part in the RSPB's "Big Schools' Birdwatch". They recorded 18 different types of bird in the school grounds. Other recent activities have included hair raising experiments with the Van der Graaf generator and exploding film canisters. Science Club is on Thursday lunchtimes, C8. Newcomers always welcome. Many thanks to Rhys, Ben and Fiona from the Sixth Form for all their help!



Penglais School Jan 2006.



Skiing Trip – Yet another successful skiing course this year to Les Deux Alpes in France. There was plenty of snow before we arrived and sunshine throughout the week. Even so on the glacier on certain days it was -20oC. All 46 children thoroughly enjoyed themselves on the slopes and had just as much fun at the night time activities such as outdoor swimming, bowling and bumper cars on ice. I would like to thank Mr. G. Phillips, Miss K. Davies and Mrs. J. Bailey for their hard work throughout the week. Next year the ski / snowboard course will be travelling to Alpe D’Huez but unfortunately it is already full but if you want any information or want to be put on the reserve list then please contact Mr. O. Jones at the school.
Mr. O. Jones



Elinor Thorogood was recently awarded Triathlete of the Year at the annual Ystywth Cycling club awards presentation.

In the same weekend in January she took the bronze medal in the URDD National swimming gala in Swansea. The following day she finished in seventh place in the Welsh Indoor Athletics 1500m championships in Cardiff.

Following her recent success at cross-country running she has been selected to represent West Wales at the prestigious UK Inter-counties cross-country champs in Nottingham in March.



Gymnastics –

Penglais pupils took part in the ‘Schools Gymnastics Tumble and Vault’ competition on 1st February at Aberaeron. Four pupils scored in the top five of their age groups, so went on to represent Ceredigion in the ‘Dyfed Schools Tumble and Vault’ competition in Ammanford on 15th February. They were Aysha Doidge (Year 9), Megan Northover (Year 8), Katie Goodwin and Laura Samuel (Year 7). Well done girls on your achievements!

STUDY LEAVE DATES

Thursday 11th May	Year 11 Study Leave starts
Friday 12th May	Year 12 Study Leave starts
Thursday 25th May	Year 13 Study Leave starts

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Wed 1st March	Year 9 Parents’ Consultation Evening at 3.30
Friday 3rd March	PTA Curry and Quiz Night
Wed 8th March	Year 10 Parents’ Consultation Evening at 3.30
Friday 10th March	INSET DAY. School closed for pupils
Monday 13th March	Whole School Photograph
Thurs 23rd March	School Spring Concert 7.30pm
Thursday 13th April	END OF TERM