



THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE PROJECT

During the recent holiday the school received news that the sixth form centre project would be going ahead this year. Although it was agreed that this was an essential project, securing the £700,000 necessary proved difficult. Final confirmation that the money would be available was only received last week. Unusually, the school will be making a capital contribution of £75,000 from its own budget towards the project. Without that contribution the project could not proceed and the governors decided that it was essential not to delay any further.

The building is one of the largest constructed at the school in recent years. It is a two storey building with a 200 square metre communal lounge, a food preparation area, a 180 square metre study area with enough points for 90 computers, three offices, two classrooms, entrance hall, male and female toilets, a disabled toilet, cleaners' store, plant and communications rooms and a lift. The accommodation is designed for 300 sixth formers. The architect's drawings are set out below.

Building work, at the site at the rear of the school adjacent to Cefn Llan, commences next month. The project will be completed at October half term. The existing sixth form centre will be used as a base until the autumn half term. It is hoped that the school will be able to construct an additional car park next to Cefn Llan by September. The construction of the new sixth form centre will enable us to tidy up this area of school with new fencing, tarmac paths and car parks. During construction a significant area of the school grounds next to Cefn Llan will have to be cordoned off. A temporary car park will be opened on the hard court areas during this time.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

The County Council has recently placed an advertisement for a crossing patrol officer for the rear exit of the school. Although it is much later than I had hoped it is nevertheless a welcome development.

ONCE AGAIN, AS WE HAVE EMPHASISED IN ASSEMBLIES, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS AWARE OF ROAD SAFETY. WE STILL SEE EXAMPLES OF CHILDREN CROSSING ROADS WITHOUT LOOKING DESPITE ALL ADVICE, WARNINGS AND GUIDANCE. TEACHERS ARE ON DUTY INSIDE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AT THE END OF THE DAY BUT THEY ARE NOT LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PUPILS' ROAD SAFETY OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL.

At the time of writing the school is in negotiation with the local education authority about the congestion at the site in the afternoon. We have come up with proposals to improve access in the late afternoon and make the parking of buses easier. I hope to report on this in the next newsletter.

AUTISM CYMRU

Increasing numbers of children are being diagnosed with autism, a condition which causes considerable communication problems. The experience of school for autistic children can be distressing and lonely unless staff and pupils understand about their condition and learn how to react in a positive way.

We already have a number of pupils in Penglais with autism and more will be joining us in September. We are building links with the unit for autistic children in Llwyn yr Eos school.

Autism Cymru was established in 2001 to provide help and support for people with autism, their families and the people that work with them. S4C is making a special appeal on their behalf in June.

We would like to do something to support this appeal. Would you help us?

We are going to challenge the pupils of Penglais and Llwyn yr Eos to build a chain long enough to stretch from one school to the other. We will sell paper links for 10p each. We think we will need about 10,000 links. Everyone who buys a link in the chain will have their name written on it.

We hope the chain will show that we want to link up with pupils who find it hard to communicate and also that we want the two schools to help each other.

We will sell the links from Monday June 5th onwards. We want to finish the chain by Wednesday 14th June. On Thursday June 15th Coastal Challenge cyclists will ride from Swansea in the South and from Amlwch in the North to Aberystwyth. We would like to present the money we have raised to them when they arrive.

EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL URDD GOBAITH CYMRU 2006

Several pupils will be competing in this year's Urdd Eisteddfod held in Rhuthun during half term week. We wish them all the very best in their competitions.

Kim Gornall Individual Recitation for Learners
Years 7-9
Caroline Davies Individual Disco Dancing
Years 7-9
Rachel Varnham Individual Disco Dancing
Years 10-13
Disco Dancing Group Years 10-13 choreographed by Claire Lewis, Year 13

and last but not least our **Parti Cerdd Dant** for Learners Years 7-13 taught by Mrs. Jane Leggett. Pob dymuniad da i chi i gyd.

YEAR 10 PUPIL SUCCESS

Gabriel Jones, Year 10, auditioned for the Youth Music Theatre UK (YMT:UK) in February and was selected to join the cast of 'Missing Melanie', one of six musical theatre company productions taking place throughout the UK this year. He will be in London from 5th – 18th August working on 'Missing Melanie', culminating in performances. YMT:UK audition young people between the ages of 12 and 21 and invite writers, composers and choreographers to evolve music theatre specifically for young people. During rehearsals the cast are encouraged to input ideas and to develop the production. 'Missing Melanie' was first performed at the Edinburgh Festival in 2005.

Daniel Owen, Year 10, was part of the Aberystwyth and District Squadron Air Training Corps who beat off the opposition to become the Wales Regional First Aid Champions after their competition in Sennybridge recently. Dan, Cadet Sergeant, together with three others represented No. 3 Welsh Wing ATC in the annual championships after winning the Wing Championships. During the competition they had to deal with various scenarios which included skateboarding accident casualties with dislocated knees, a broken jaw, broken ribs, sprained ankle and wounds with embedded glass. They also had to complete written tests and diagnosis. The team have now been invited to compete at the ACF National Championships at the RMC Sandhurst in October.

Congratulations to both Gabriel and Daniel.

THE NEW LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

An important part of the project was the adaptation of the existing sixth form centre as a new Learning Support Centre. It is planned that the work commences as soon as the new sixth form centre opens. This will be an extensive renovation, including facilities for life skills, classrooms, information technology and recreation areas. At the time of writing it is not possible to give an accurate completion date for this work but it will probably be January – April 2007.

GOOD LUCK TO PUPILS

The examination season has begun in earnest and we wish everyone in Years 11, 12 and 13 good luck in their GCSEs, AS levels and A2 examinations and much success in the future. A Level and AS results will be published on Thursday 18th August and GCSEs on Thursday 25th August. School will be open from 9.00 a.m. on both days for collection of their results slips.

CUSTOMER CARE COURSE

Thirteen Year 10 pupils following the Customer Care course recently took part in a two day study visit to Ireland, arranged by Careers Wales West, Stena Line and South East Ireland Tourism.

Accompanied by course teachers Mrs. Fitches and Mrs. Walker, the students travelled with Stena Line from Fishguard to Rosslare. During the crossing they were given a tour of the vessel and heard presentations by Stena crew members on customer procedures on board. They also observed customer care by the ship's crew and collected evidence for their portfolios.



Accommodation was at the Quality Inn Waterford, where pupils continued to note service levels during the welcome evening meal.

The next day, following a walking tour of Waterford, pupils were welcomed to Waterford Crystal, observing glass blowing and engraving in the factory and looking at retailing skills in the shop.

The last part of the day proved a popular activity as the pupils explored Waterford's shopping centre and its customer care techniques!

On the return sailing they took part in a quiz organised by Stena line, finally arriving back in Aberystwyth at a very late hour.

Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Fitches would like to thank the group for their enthusiasm and good behaviour which made the visit so enjoyable.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography Fieldwork

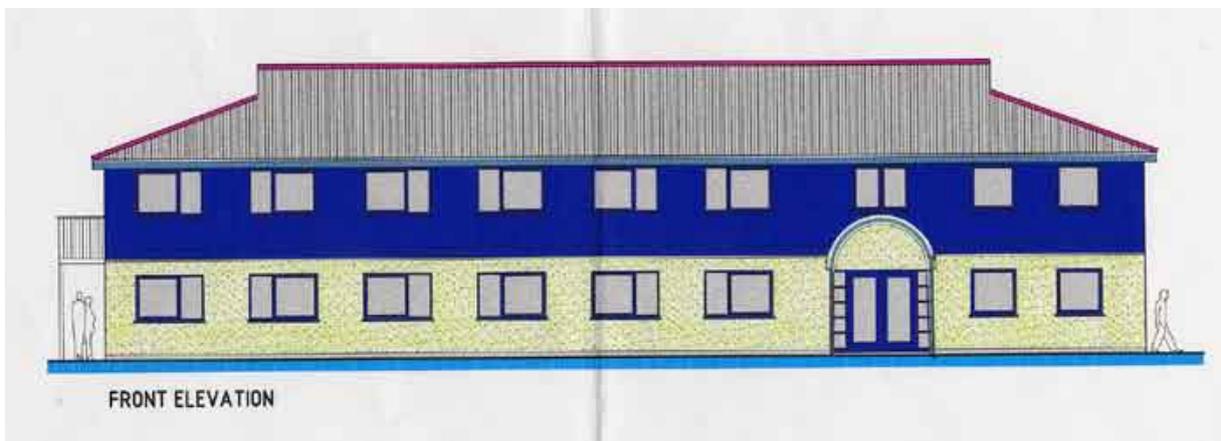
13th – 17th March 2006

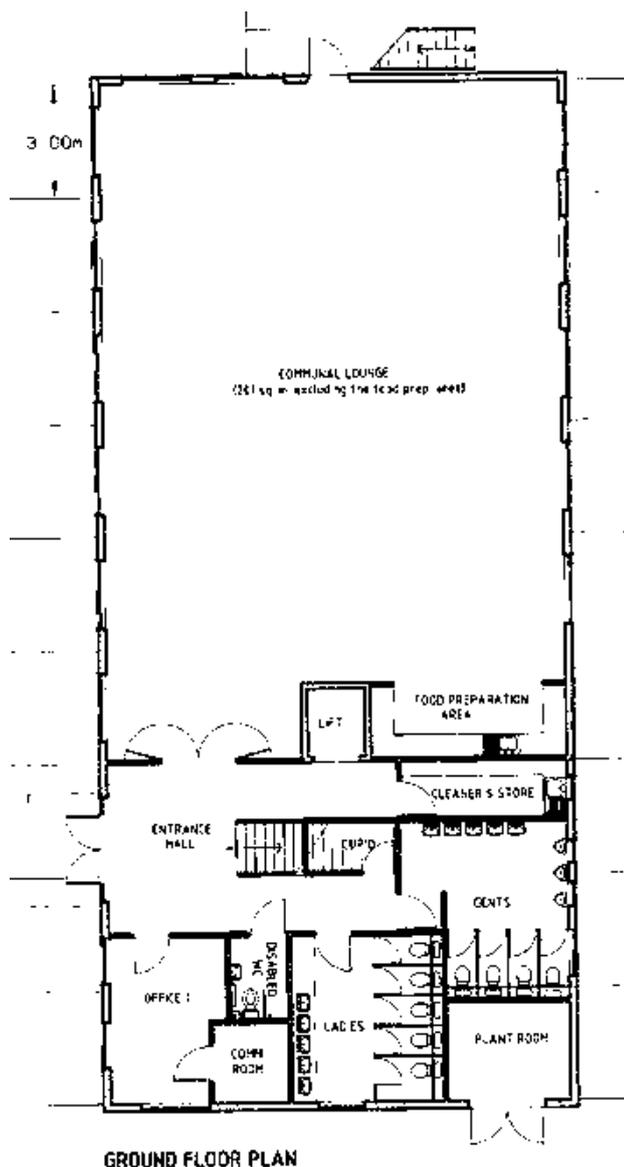
– Spring in Shropshire does not usually mean snow! However Year 12 impressed the three members of staff, Miss Davies, Mr. Jones and Mrs. Elgood by their enthusiasm, tenacity and cheery nature. Digging away snow before reaching soil is not the norm, but Year 12 coped admirably. Snow melt swelled the height of the river Onny and high waders were certainly needed for Craven Arms! Biting winds in Birmingham and the villages around Bridgnorth did not stop these intrepid explorers (but four pairs of socks, two



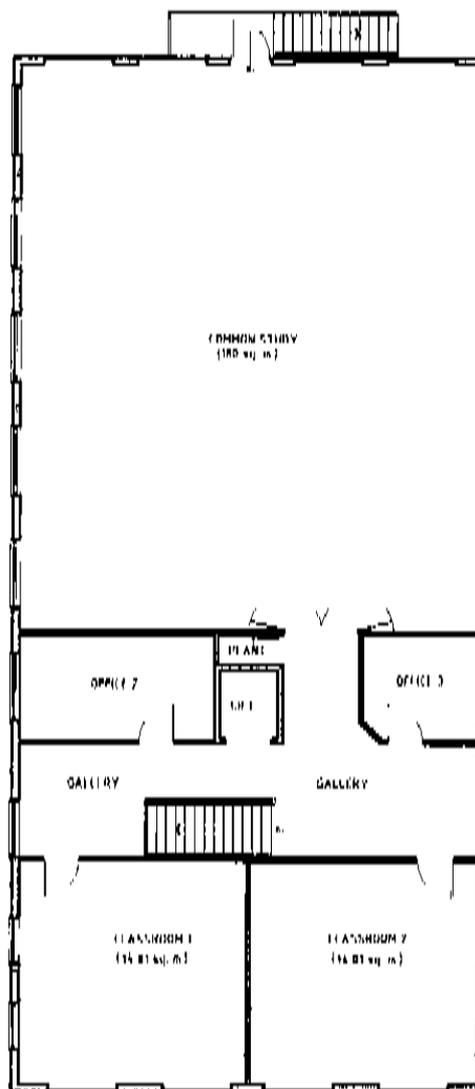
woolly hats and gloves helped!). Pupils also displayed some culinary skills in the kitchen at the barns in Much Wenlock and an enjoyable week was had by all.

The Sixth Form Centre Project





GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Visitors from Germany – A group of pupils from our partner school in Kronberg has just returned home from a visit to Aberystwyth. Accompanied by their teachers, they experienced lessons in Penglais and visited local attractions including Devil’s Bridge, Ynyslas, the Llywernog silver lead mine and King Arthur’s Labyrinth in Corris. The department would like to thank families who offered to host our visitors. It is planned that Penglais pupils in Years 9 and 10 will make the return trip to Germany early in the new academic year.

European Youth Project – At the end of June, students studying German in Year 12 will be flying out to take part in the multi-national youth project in Kzryzowa, Poland, where they will be working with contemporaries from other European countries on a number of themed activities, and in the process, using their German. All the participants study German which is the working language over the course of their stay. In the past, this event has been one of the high points of our students’ ‘sixth form experience’, and Mr. Pearson is looking forward to seeing old friends and reacquainting himself with the wonderful facilities available at the Centre.

MUSIC

The Spring Term provided several exciting performance opportunities for Penglais musicians. These included the Spring Concert, the Regional Auditions for the National Festival of Music for Youth and the local and County rounds of the Urdd Eisteddfod.



Penglais choirs performing at the Wales Millennium Centre

Wales Millennium Centre

It was a particular privilege to be invited to perform a programme of music for the Lunchtime Foyer Music Series during April this year at the Wales Millennium Centre. This was a great experience for the School Choirs and gave us an opportunity to bring our music to another audience.

The Senior Mixed Choir, Senior Girls Choir, Cantorion and the Senior Boys Choir all took part and were very well received by a large crowd relaxing at lunchtime in the Foyer. Many visitors to Cardiff came up to us to express their enjoyment of our performance including Assembly members from the Welsh Parliament Building next door. We have already received an invitation to return next year which we hope to be able to take up.

Catrin Finch, Harpist

Our chamber choir Cantorion also received a special invitation for a performance at a charity concert for The Beacon of Hope in May. The concert starred Catrin Finch, the internationally renowned harpist who acted as our accompanist. She was a delight in the afternoon rehearsal and showed such an interest in our programme. Our senior singers will always remember this special concert with Catrin. We were also delighted to have Rhys Taylor, clarinettist, to join us in our closing songs.

MUSIC for YOUTH

Congratulations to our Penglais brass players and to Mr. Alan Phillips on their success in the Music for Youth Regional auditions. We wish them every success as they go on to perform in Birmingham in July.

National Urdd Eisteddfod

Penglais will be well represented once again this year at the National Eisteddfod over Half Term. Once again this year there will be pupils singing, dancing and reciting at Ruthun in North Wales. Good luck to all the competitors.



Cantorion performing with Catrin Finch.



Junior Show Singers

Our hard working Junior musicians enjoyed a well earned trip to see Starlight Express at the Wales Millennium Centre recently. They were also able to visit the Welsh Parliament buildings next door.

Year 13 Musicians

Many of our Year 13 musicians will soon be leaving us. They have made an outstanding contribution to our music making at Penglais and we are very grateful to them for their enthusiastic support and commitment. We wish them well in the future and hope that they will continue to enjoy their music for many years to come.

MATHEMATICS

Intermediate Maths Challenge – In a previous issue we reported that a number of pupils in Years 9 to 11 had successfully taken part in this prestigious competition run by the University of Leeds. Year 11 pupil Joshua Scott was in the top 10% of all participants in the UK and went through to the second round. He did remarkably well and was in the top 25% of this very select group. This level of achievement is rare in schools outside the independent sector. We look forward to a similar achievement in the Senior Maths Challenge for Years 12 and 13 next year.

LITTLE SHOPS FOR HORRORS

To promote healthy eating in school and reduce queues at lunchtime, the canteen staff have made available two alternative sites where food can be purchased. From 12.30 p.m. each day a trolley where pupils can use cash to buy food are located in the Main Foyer and the D Block Foyer at the rear entrance.

Both trolleys have a range of foods on offer including fruit, sandwiches, baguettes and healthy snacks. Bottled water and a variety of fruit juices may also be purchased.

COLOUR Penglais Newsletter

View the newsletter in
full colour on the
school website

www.penglaischool.org.uk

Design & Technology Inovation Awards

The department has decided to enter Yatin Sardana's project, based on a spicy salmosa for this prestigious competition. His work is of a very high standard and he has experimented with lots of flavours before hitting on his winning contribution. We wish him well.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 29 May- Friday 2nd June incl HALF TERM

Monday 3rd July New intake induction day

Tuesday 4th July New intake induction day



Yours faithfully, H.J. DAVEY
Headteacher

Mike Binks,
Penglais Reprographics
5-2006.