



## GREASE

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone involved in this wonderful production. Feedback on the performances has been excellent from all sources: the casts have been not only technically superb but have also so obviously enjoyed performing every day. Putting on such a show is very dependent on the help of so many colleagues, not only during performance week but also in the long preparation time and I am very grateful to everyone who has helped. Last but not least congratulations to the directors Ms. Potter, Mrs. Leggett and Mrs. Owen.

More photographs can be viewed in colour on the school website in the newsletter directory.



## CODE OF CONDUCT

The school is required by law to publish its Code of Conduct once a year. I shall take the opportunity to do so in this newsletter. As you will see our expectations are very reasonable and the vast majority of our pupils have no difficulty in observing the Code of Conduct.

Pupils will be reminded by members of staff if they fall short of our requirements. Where there are persistent and / or serious breaches of the code of conduct the school has the right to impose a detention (provided 24 hours' notice is given). The law makes it very clear that in this situation it is the parents' responsibility not the school's to ensure that a pupil has transport to go home after the detention. I mention this because some parents have not supported the school in this matter – in these cases I have made it clear that I will exclude a pupil from school if a detention is not served. I know that it can be inconvenient for parents to provide transport in these circumstances but this is an issue to be taken up with the son/daughter whose behaviour has led to the detention. Detention is a sanction the school can use to deal with poor behaviour.

### **REGISTRATION**

- Attend all registration periods
- Be silent when the register is taken
- Listen carefully to your form tutor's instructions

### **IN CLASS**

- Attend all timetabled lessons
- Arrive on time with books and equipment.
- Follow your teachers' instructions
- Work to the best of your ability
- Allow other pupils to do their work

### **AROUND THE SCHOOL**

- Move calmly and quietly around the school. This means never running, barging or shouting.
- Keep to the **left** in crowded areas and staircases.
- Queue sensibly and in single file in the canteen and outside classrooms.
- Treat school property with respect.
- Put all your litter in bins.

### **IN ASSEMBLY**

- Attend assembly
- Go to the Hall quietly and sit down with your class.
- Listen carefully to the speaker and your Head of Year.

### **DRESS**

- Always wear the correct school uniform.

### **IN THE CANTEEN**

- Queue sensibly in single file.
- Take good care of your dinner card.
- Clear your place and put all your rubbish in the bin.

### **SAFETY**

- Report any dangerous, offensive or violent behaviour.

### **GENERAL CONDUCT**

- Behave politely to everyone.
- Listen carefully to, and follow instructions.
- Do not leave classes or school premises without permission.
- Illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, matches, offensive weapons are all strictly forbidden.

### **PUNISHMENTS**

- Anyone who prevents teachers from teaching and pupils from learning will be taken out of lessons and punished.
- Bullying, violent behaviour and offensive language will be dealt with severely.
- If you break the code of conduct frequently, you will be excluded from school.

## SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

The school is also required to publicise its substance misuse policy on a regular basis. The school has always taken a strong stance against illegal drug use – any pupil possessing and / or using illegal drugs on school premises or on school visits or on activities outside of school which are supervised by it, will almost certainly be excluded from school for at least 10 days and often for much longer. If there is evidence that illegal drugs are being supplied whether free or for money the exclusion from school will be permanent. The police will be informed in all cases involving illegal drug use, possession or supply.

The governing body has recently approved an amendment to the substance misuse policy which authorises the headteacher to call the police to school premises to search or test for illegal drugs, including the use of drug detection dogs. Routine random searches will not take place – the headteacher will contact the police if he is satisfied there is reasonable evidence of possession or supply.

I do hope that you will support the school's stand against illegal drugs. The school uses a range of strategies to keep pupils of all ages informed about the dangers of illegal drugs.

## HOMEWORK POLICY

### RATIONALE

Regular homework trains pupils in good working habits and helps them to organise their time. It supports pupils' learning and informs parents about the type of work expected from their children.

### POLICY

- Homework should be set, when appropriate, for all pupils.
- Teachers will ensure that homework instructions are explained clearly and fully and that pupils write down those instructions in the planner. In KS3 and KS4 instructions should be written on the board.  
Pupils should understand the purpose of the homework and know exactly what is expected of them.  
A completion date should be given.  
Pupils should know in advance what follow up there will be e.g. hand in for marking, mark in class, test next lesson, put up in a display.  
Teachers should be aware of the effect of homework on the lives of pupils.  
When homework is collected in for marking it should normally be returned within one week.  
Marking should follow school and departmental policies and should usually include a constructive comment where appropriate.
- Sixth form students will act as Junior School supporters during morning registration. They will help pupils with the organisation of their homework.
- The school is developing a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to assist pupils with their homework.
- Subject teachers will keep records of homework set so that pupils who have been absent can make up the work they have missed.
- Records of homework set will be monitored regularly by Heads of Departments.
- If a member of staff is absent for more than one week the Head of Department will set homework for his/her classes.
- When a pupil fails to do homework a series of sanctions may be applied:
  1. Record homework not done on 'Facility'. Assistant Heads of Year will monitor the records and interview persistent offenders.
  2. Send an official homework letter to the parents and copy to the Head of Year. The office staff will administrate this process.
  3. If there is no improvement the Head of Year may invite the parents into school.
  4. There is no requirement to hold formal departmental detentions, but individual teachers may keep pupils in for 20 minutes at lunch time to complete work if they wish.

## POLICY INTO PRACTICE YEARS 7 TO 9

A homework timetable will be prepared for each class, including the small classes although they may not be given work in some subjects. The timetables will be drawn up by the Heads of Year. They will ensure a regular and equitable pattern of homework and prevent pupil homework overload.

The timetable will be drawn up to indicate the **maximum** amount of homework per subject in a ten day cycle. The homework tasks given to the pupils may be short, discrete pieces of work or longer tasks carried out over a specified number of homework slots. Plenty of advance warning of deadlines should be given and the arrangements should be made clear in the planner on each specific homework day. Teachers should avoid setting homework to be completed by the following day.

- The pattern shown below will be adopted, based on fifteen to twenty minutes per subject in Year 7, twenty to twenty-five minutes in Year 8 and thirty minutes in Year 9. The timetable will operate with some flexibility dependent on the policies set out by each department. Individual departments will decide whether to set homework for the small classes and lowest sets.

MAXIMUM AMOUNTS OF HOMEWORK TO BE SET IN KEY STAGE 3						
	YEAR 7	TOTAL	YEAR 8	TOTAL	YEAR 9	TOTAL
		Mins		Mins		Mins
En	2	40	2	50	2	60
Ma	3	60	3	75	3	90
Sc	2	40	2	50	3	90
Re	1	20	1	25	1	30
We	2	30	2	40	2	50
Mfl	2	40	2	50	2	60
			or	or	or	
			3	75	3	90
Gg	2	40	2	50	2	60
Hist	2	40	2	50	2	60
Ar	1	20	1	25	1	30
Mus	1	20	1	25	1	30
D&T	1	20	1	25	1	30
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>370</b>		<b>465 or 490</b>		<b>590 or 620</b>

- All pupils will receive planners to help them organise their time. Homework tasks will not be optional for pupils. Where non-completion of homework is causing concern the pupil's planner may be used as a focus for discussion.
- Regular completion of homework contributes to the achievement of merit marks.
- There are times when large amounts of written homework are inappropriate e.g. the last two weeks of the Christmas Term when there are many performances and events; the last two weeks of the Summer Term when there are many activities and visits.

## POLICY INTO PRACTICE YEARS 10 AND 11

All pupils will receive planners to help them organise their time. Teachers should encourage pupils to record coursework deadlines clearly in the front of the planner.

It is not possible to prepare a homework timetable for pupils in this age-group as the curriculum is flexible and setting is complex. However, over a 10 day cycle, there should, where appropriate, be three homeworks in most subjects, four in Mathematics and normally six for those doing Double Award Science. There will normally be one homework task per cycle for RE.

Each homework assignment should take about 30 minutes so that pupils have approximately 90 minutes homework each weekday. Some Entry Level classes will not be given homework.

Where extended pieces of work or coursework assignments are set these may be carried out over a longer, specified period of time. However instructions should be recorded briefly for each date when homework should be done.

Plenty of advance warning of deadlines should be given.

The Head of Year will produce a coursework plan for the whole of Key Stage 4 to ensure that, as far as possible, deadlines are fairly evenly distributed and do not coincide.

## POLICY INTO PRACTICE YEARS 12 AND 13

Each student in Years 12 and 13 should do a minimum of 20 hours of private study per ten day cycle, over and above private study time in school.

Subject Teachers should monitor non-completion of assignments and alert the Head of Year to any problems as soon as they become apparent. Such problems should be reported when PALMS operates.

If necessary the Head of Year will withdraw privileges or re-negotiate the student's programme of study.

## PTA HORSE RACING EVENING

**REMINDER** – Penglais PTA's next social event will be our first ever horse racing evening 'A Night at the Races' which will be held on **FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER at 7.30 pm in the Main Hall**. This promises to be a fun-filled, exciting evening: there will be a bar, selling very reasonably priced drinks!

Numbers for this event are limited and there are 150 tickets available. If you have purchased a horse you will automatically receive a ticket. If you would like tickets to join in the fun, they can be purchased at reception for £1 which will include entry into our prize raffle. You should purchase your tickets as soon as possible and can do so via your children.

This promises to be as exciting as Curry and Quiz night so please come along and support your PTA. Don't delay in buying tickets – remember places are limited.

## SIXTH FORM COMMUNITY SERVICES

Our first own clothes day this year was in aid of the NSPCC. As usual it raised a lot of money and £1,121.69 was collected. Many thanks to all involved in organising the very successful first disco of the year, especially Lauren Houghton, Emily Booth, Kirsty Phipson and Christian Evans. The sum of £1,000 (a nice round sum!) has been donated to the local branch of the NSPCC. The next Own Clothes Day will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> November and will be in aid of Children in Need. The theme for this Own Clothes Day will be 'Grease'.

## MOCK UN MEETING

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November a group of Year 12 pupils travelled to Carmarthen to attend a model UN Conference. After a late arrival we settled down in our positions as government representatives from Brazil, Bangladesh, India, UK and the press. We were the only school from Ceredigion there, but the accents didn't put us off! The UK and Brazil were particularly busy in getting resolutions passed, and there was plenty of competitive discussion (mostly induced by Roger!). A committee was set up to create a pool of teaching resources that countries in need could take from. It was also resolved that food mountains would be sent to countries who were in need of short term relief aid. Other more minor acts were also passed. Everyone enjoyed themselves and joined in and this event is highly recommended.

*Isabel Bottoms, Year 12*

## Mexico Trip 2006

In a previous newsletter I wrote to highlight the hard work of the pupils who were raising money to go on a trip of a lifetime to the Baja peninsula in Mexico. The pupils have now returned from the trip and below is a brief diary of events. The pupils; Harry Charnock, Adam Charlton, Roger Clarke, Jennifer Farnell, Bryony Lycett-Brown, David Straw, Tom Sansbury, Jonathan-Mark Southgate and Chelsea Taylor, all had to undergo a personal self-assessment during the trip and I think they will agree that they were all tested, both physically and mentally on the two week expedition. Despite this, as the teacher in charge of the group I was really pleased to see the 16 year old pupils I had taken away take responsibility for their own trip and behave like young adults in the face of some challenging dilemmas.

**Day 1** Long drive down to Gatwick from Aberystwyth in a less than comfortable minibus. Arrive just in time to find our flight had been put forward and would be leaving in 20 minutes. Get on flight to Houston which turns into a marathon 12 hour journey. The cause of these upsets became clear upon landing in a tropical storm to find Houston packed full of disgruntled tourists whose flights are delayed. After being sent from one terminal to the next we were finally told the next flight to Baja was on Friday. The exhausted pupils settle down to an uncomfortable night on the floor of Houston terminal E whilst I beg (and not threaten as the pupils think) for another option.

**Day 2** Success! In a round about way. Finally get to Los Cabos airport via Los Angeles, a pretty major diversion. Unfortunately, no bags arrive and so whilst some pupils set out to solve the problem, using David Straw's outstanding Spanish skills, the rest try and figure out where we were going to stay. More bad luck follows as they find the campsite that was supposed to exist had not done so for six years. Fortunately a South African expat named Gary hears our plight and offers a free night in his luxury resort. This is just what the team deserve after all the bad luck so far. Huge beds, air conditioned rooms and a swimming pool all raise spirits once our bags finally arrive on three separate flights!

**Day 3** After a dip in the pool and a lovely breakfast the team head off to La Paz to start the kayaking phase of the expedition. The heat suddenly hits us all, activity slows dramatically, whilst water consumption increases, yet the team press on and organise food and fuel shopping for the expedition. We meet Raphael, our guide and Ben, the owner of Baja Outdoor Adventures who is a fellow Welshman and a thoroughly nice guy. He provides accommodation for the team the night before they get in the sea kayaks.

**Day 4** Finally start the sea kayaking phase. Learn the safety drills, pack the boats and paddle to a lovely golden beach for our first nights camping. All the team learn camp skills very quickly under the guidance of Becca (our Outlook instructor) and Raphael. We all settle down to a rather tasteless dinner and a night under the stars.

**Day 5** Physically a very demanding day. Kayak across to Isla Espiritu Santo against the wind and current to arrive exhausted but keen to go snorkelling in the crystal clear waters of the island, a designated nature reserve. The highlight of the day for the team was seeing a manta ray jumping out of the water but the low point soon follows when we find a



group of Americans camped at the beach the team had planned to stay on. Raphael leads us to a less appealing spot but again, no complaints from the team and they set about establishing camp and getting dinner sorted.

**Day 6** Much more relaxing days paddle today with beautiful views and yet more snorkelling on coral reefs. Today is certainly making up for all the hassles with flights and baggage. The final leg of the trip to the northern tip of the island proves a bit of a slog, however, the team are getting comfortable in their kayaks and they are soon setting up camp on another beautiful sandy beach.



**Day 7** Raphael sets out the plan for the day which is to paddle the whole length of the island. Prospects of a long day are interrupted with the excitement of paddling through some rather impressive sea caves. Lunch within sight of the campsite, however, when we get there, the team finds the tide out and some very nasty looking rocks welcoming us.

The team continues round to the next bay where a lovely beach awaits, as well as a view of our final destination the following day, back on the mainland. The team are now starting to talk about the big meals they are going to eat after the expedition and I can't blame them. Camp food certainly improved throughout the expedition, however, we were all looking forward to a shower and a sample of Mexican cuisine.

**Day 8** Made it! Back on the mainland, washed, showered and good food inside us. The team hears of a hurricane heading our way which concerns a few and excites others. The prospect of our R and R being ruined by Hurricane Paul definitely puts me in the concerned category, whilst the geographer in me gets quite excited.

**Day 9** After a slow start the team get the bus to Todos Santos where there are a lot of very excited surfers and news of the hurricane. The hurricane is dying, however, it has left a huge swell hitting the Pacific shores. As the team's plan was to spend a day surfing this is an interesting prospect. The team are sent out to organise accommodation, food, a surf school and transport. All the groups come back grinning from ear to ear, having solved all the issues successfully. The Mexican restaurant they find for the evening is superb and everyone tucks into tacos, day dreaming about the surf tomorrow.



**Day 10** Grumbling tummies from too many chillies the night before but news that the surf has reached a more manageable size. A good day is had by all at Los Cerritos both board surfing under the direction of our instructor and body boarding in the shallows under the direction of Becca and myself. Everyone returns to Todos Santos with big grins and even bigger sun tans.

**Day 11** Return to San Jose del Cabo after a lazy morning souvenir shopping. Not the nicest of towns, however, after all the fun had in the preceding days there is little to complain about and a nice restaurant is found for the evening.

**Day 12** Time to go home. Everyone crosses their fingers that there are not the problems encountered on the way out. Apart from some very interesting questions at immigration in Houston there is little to worry about. We are soon on our way back to the UK reflecting on what an amazing trip everyone has had.

Writing this has made me feel incredibly guilty for missing out so many people who helped us out on the trip. The trip would have been impossible without the help of some pretty amazing people, not least our instructor from Outlook Expeditions, Rebecca A'Court, who put in a huge effort and brought out the best from all of the pupils during all the challenges they faced. I think the pupils would agree that we must also thank Mr Wells, Aber kayakers, especially Bob, Stormriders, Gary, Pedro, Raphael, Ben, Mario, Hector, Danielle, Pablo, Rueben, Miguel, Bernardo, Francisco, the team at Outlook Expeditions and last but not least the pupils parents who all made the trip happen for us. I would also like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate the pupils on their maturity, determination, and high spirits during some pretty testing times. As one pupil on the trip commented when asked what they had learnt from the trip, "You really have to put the effort in to make something this amazing happen!"

*Mr. A. Fisher (expedition leader)*



# DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

## ENGLISH

Before half term a group of Year 8 pupils took part in a workshop in the school library with children's writer Val Tyler, author of 'The Time Wreccas' (former Ottakar's 'Book of the Month') and 'The Time Apprentice'. Mrs. Tyler gave a reading from her first book and then described how she sets about planning a story; she also showed pupils how the cover designs for her books had developed from early mock-ups to the finished article that is seen in the shops. Pupils were able to ask Mrs. Tyler a range of questions about her work and she commented on how impressed she was by their lively interest in her writing. Afterwards, Mrs. Tyler signed copies of her books for pupils who had bought them. The school is grateful to the Arts Centre and to Jill Ogden for helping to organise the visit.

**Leeds Trip** - One of the texts that pupils in Year 13 have to study for Advanced Level is John Webster's 17<sup>th</sup> Century revenge tragedy 'The Duchess of Malfi'. It is a difficult but rewarding play so the opportunity to see it performed is not to be missed. Since there is currently no film of the play available, it was exciting when we heard that a new production was in rehearsal with Imogen Stubbs (Nineties heartthrob) in the lead role. However, it was somewhat daunting to discover that it was being staged by the West Yorkshire Playhouse and that we would have to travel to Leeds to see it. Leeds is probably at the outer limits for a return trip from Aberystwyth in one day.

Nevertheless, on a bright early November morning, nearly the entire contingent of Year 13 English students set off by coach for the wilds of West Yorkshire. After a brief respite at the horribly overpriced services outside Chester, the four and a half hour marathon was duly completed. The performance was an interesting one, updated to the Nineteen Forties with a peroxide perm for the Duchess and Bosola looking like a travelling salesman. It gained momentum after the interval when the basement dungeon set was revealed and Imogen Stubbs discarded her dizzy bloneness for a gritty gentility. There were bangs and screams but no blood to speak of as the play sped towards its denouement and the inevitable pile-up of corpses. Afterwards the students could be heard discussing the relative merits of the presentations of Bosola and Antonio. The consensus was that this had been a thought-provoking production.

After a brief tour of Leeds it was back on the coach and a crawl through the motorway traffic. The students certainly seemed to enjoy themselves and it was their mature behaviour and good-natured attitude to the lengthy journey that helped to make the trip a success.

## P.E.

Several Penglais pupils swam in the recent Ceredigion county championships for Aberystwyth. They performed well - most swam personal best times, some won their events, and championship records were broken. Those pupils taking part were Hossam Omar Year 13, Teleri Donnelly and Alex Thorogood Year 11, Elinor Thorogood Year 10, Judy Phillips Year 9, Laura Samuel, Dion Parry, Rhys Elgood, James Malkin and Megan Jones Year 8, and Luke Roberts, Rhys Durbin, Jessica Makin and Ola Olewicz Year 7.

## GEOGRAPHY

All Year 7 Geography groups had the opportunity of studying coastal processes in Clarach, Borth and Ynyslas. The pupils were enthusiastic and well behaved in sometimes difficult weather conditions. Thank you to parents who prepared their children well for a fieldwork day. *Photo*

## SCIENCE

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, twelve Year 13 students accompanied by two teachers Mr Brown and Miss Edwards were invited to Buckingham Palace in London as part of the National Science day.

We left Penglais at around 5.00am (quite incredible for sixth formers!) and travelled by mini bus and train to London. On arriving in London, tired, but no less enthusiastic we took the tube and walked through and around some of the sights of London such as the London eye and the houses of Parliament. We then walked through St James' park where we were quickly apprehended by the 'native' Pelican population of the park, before watching the changing of the Guard at the Palace.

We were invited through the front entrance of the palace where our coats taken by the servants and escorted to the state rooms. The event, designed to celebrate National Science day was organised with the support from the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Natural History Museum and other such organisations.

A wide range of science activities took place throughout the day in the very grand State rooms of the Palace ranging from 'Orchid Conservation' to interactive tours on subjects such as the 'The mind of Einstein'.

One of the best exhibits was on Aeronautic design by Manchester University, in which we were able to design and attempt to fly our own computerized plane. Miss Edwards was the only one from Penglais who managed to get her plane to fly, despite the fact it took 7 attempts and resulted in a queue halfway across the state Ballroom in Buckingham Palace! Another interesting exhibit was one by the Channel Four Time Team, and displayed their findings from the recent royal dig last summer that took place in the back garden of Buckingham Palace.



The day was rounded off by a stroll through the West end of London and a meal in Leicester Square before catching the train home.

The trip to the Palace was an amazing experience, one which was as much about London, the sights and the atmosphere as it was about the Science.

*Craig Marshall, Head Boy and Scientist of the Future*



Dr. John Gee, Chair of Governors and the Mayor of Yosagun planting a camelia tree in the LSC garden.



Louise Ward and Emma Sims are seen above with Mrs. Fitches on their recent trip to Poland. The girls helped the Polish students set up enterprise activities.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening at 3.30 pm
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b> <b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO PUPILS AS BOTH DAYS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS TRAINING DAYS FOR STAFF
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	PTA Horse Racing Evening at 7.30 pm
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Year 13 Parents' Consultation at 3.30pm

**COLOUR**  
**Penglais Newsletter**

View the newsletter in full colour on the school website

[www.penglaischool.org.uk](http://www.penglaischool.org.uk)

Mike Binks,  
Penglais Reprographics  
11 -2006.

Yours faithfully,  
Headteacher

**H.J. DAVEY**