



## STAFFING CHANGES

At the end of this term we say farewell to several colleagues. Mrs. Wendy Crockett will be retiring as deputy headteacher after 15 years' service. She came to Penglais in 1992 after a successful career as an advisory teacher and head of department. As a key member of the senior management team she has made an enormous contribution to the development of the school and has been responsible for major areas of the school including special education needs, staff development and training, the School Council. I am extremely appreciative of her support, imagination and commitment over the years: the school and its community have much to be grateful for. Mrs. Crockett will be sorely missed.

Mr. Peter Hendry is also retiring after an awesome 30 years' service at the school. Before his appointment as an assistant headteacher in 2000 Mr. Hendry had been head of Science and before that head of Geology. Under his leadership the Science department went from strength to strength and he too has made a substantial contribution to the management of this large school. He organised the highly effective professional support for newly qualified and student teachers and, more recently, staff development and training. He has also introduced and managed the extensive database of pupil achievements for departments to analyse and set targets. This was highly important and his work has received national recognition in his

continuing work for the University of Durham.

Dr. Anne Minchin retires after 18 years' service at the school. She has taught Science throughout that time and has undertaken the formidable task of organising the school's personal, social and health education programme. She has given unstintingly of her own time in organising and supervising an enormous range of educational visits at home and to most parts of Europe. These extra-curricular activities add enormous value to the education of pupils. Penglais has been very fortunate to have such enthusiastic teachers as Dr. Minchin to organise such activities.

We wish all three the very best for their retirements.

Mr. M. Watkins (Welsh) also leaves us at the end of term after 2 years' service. He joined us from Aberaeron school and he is hoping to join the police service in the autumn.

The school has made several new appointments for September and, at the time of writing, has a full complement of teaching staff for next year.

Mr. O. Bentley, Ms. D. Phillips and Mrs. S. Lacey are all joining the Mathematics department. Miss E. Jones joins the Welsh department. Mr. M. Basset-Jones has been appointed as a part-time teacher of Health and Social Care.

### PTA & 100 Club

This is just a short note from the PTA to remind you of the 100 Club. This costs £10 to join and cash prizes are drawn three times a year. Please do join, not only does it support our fund raising but also gives you the chance to win some money back!!!

### Cheques for lunch money

Please could all parents / guardians note that cheques for lunch money **MUST** be made payable to 'Ceredigion County Council' not Penglais School.

### X-Factor

Year 11 student, Caroline Peel, has made it through to the second round of the X-Factor. Congratulations Caroline and good luck in the next round.

### Physical Education

Congratulations to Year 10 pupil, Gerwyn Slinger, who competed recently in the Dyfed Schools Athletics. He ran an excellent 800m race and will now go on to represent Penglais in the Welsh Schools Athletics Championships to be held later in the summer. Good luck Gerwyn!

**CHANGES TO THE PASTORAL SYSTEM**

In September we are appointing additional staff to help the Heads of Year in their important work with pupils. Each Head of Year will not only have a deputy but also a Year Manager to assist them.

The Year Managers are not teachers. They are experienced support staff and their task is to help the Heads of Year provide academic support for pupils by interviewing pupils about their work, setting targets for improvement and monitoring them. As support staff they will be available all day in offices, next to the Heads of Year rooms. They can also help with the paper work, telephone calls, correspondence and keep in touch with parents and pupils. These are all new appointments and the intention is to provide additional support for pupils and improve communication between home and school.

The Year Managers will be:

Year 7	Miss Cara Jones	01970 621142
Year 8	Mrs. Claire Owen	01970 621119
Year 9	Mrs. Sarah Grasham	01970 621124
Year 10	Miss Joanne Fenner.	01970 621154
Year 11	Miss Siân Thomas	01970 621156
Sixth Form	Mrs. Donna Owen	01970 621163

The Year Managers' e-mail addresses will be distributed in the September newsletter.

**NEW TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE**

Penglais is signing up to a new and exciting information text messaging service for all parents. This will enable school to contact you in whole-school emergencies and for information purposes i.e. closing the school due to snow etc., reminders for Parents' Evenings, PTA Social Events, trip information etc. The possibilities are endless. To register for this service parents should check below and then text the relevant word to 80480. This will cost you one text message at your standard network rate. You will then receive a free response to confirm that you have registered. Following this all text messages you receive from Penglais will be free of charge. Once you have registered to one of the year groups you will also receive whole school messages via this text service.

Parents of current	Text the word	To:
Year 7 pupils	Penglaisb	80480
Year 8 pupils	Penglaisc	80480
Year 9 pupils	Penglaisd	80480
Year 10 pupils	Penglaise	80480
Year 11 pupils	Penglaisf	80480
Year 12 pupils	Penglaisg	80480

**ART DEPARTMENT**

**Missing Art Books** – Miss Williams, Mr. Edwards and Ms. Everard provide all the art books for the Art Department which include lots of beautiful, expensive hard back books and exciting new publications on graphic art and fashion illustration. Recently a number of these books have disappeared. The Art Department desperately needs them back and really wants you all to have access to these wonderful, precious collections of Art. Please could pupils and parents check whether there are any in your homes. If so, please return them to the Art Department as soon as possible. Many thanks for your co-operation.

**LOST PROPERTY**

For some time, we have been struggling to cope with the huge volume of lost property in school. As a result, we are creating a lost property room on D block corridor where all lost items will be properly stored. As far as possible clothing will be displayed on hangers for easy identification. The office will be looked after by one of our lunchtime staff, Mrs. Christina Roderick, who will open it for pupils from 1.15 to 1.25pm every day. Any parents who would like to phone about particular items can leave a message with reception which will be passed on to Mrs. Roderick. Alternatively, you could write to Pupil Reception, marking your letter 'Lost Property'.

It remains our policy to keep unmarked items for two weeks only. Can we once again appeal to parents to avoid having to buy new uniform by ensuring that all items are marked with their child's name. Writing it into the garment label in biro will suffice. All marked items are returned to the owner.

**PUPILS' SUCCESS**

Congratulations to Year 9 pupils Judy Phillips and Rebecca Woodvine who took part in this year's diabetes UK Walk in the Park. The walk took place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June at the promenade in Aberystwyth to raise awareness and much needed funding for the Diabetes UK charity. Well done girls.



## WORLD MAP PICTURES



Thank you to all those of you who have bought pictures of the Join Up event earlier in the year - we have raised over £200 to date. The aerial photos shown below are also available at £2 each (printed on A3 card in colour). They can be ordered from pupil reception. All proceeds will go to the L.O.S.T. Charity (Lango Orphans Scholarship Trust) to help build a school in Uganda.

## GEOGRAPHY

**Fieldtrip to Iceland July 2008** – The Geography department at Penglais School are organising a **five day** fieldtrip to Iceland during the period **14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008**.

The aims of this fieldtrip are:

- To give pupils ‘hands-on’ experience of glaciated, fluvial and volcanic areas related to Key Stages 3 and 4 programmes of study.
- To provide an educational experience in one of Europe’s most dramatic landscapes.

Some of the proposed visits and activities are:

- A tour of breathtaking Gullfoss including a walk behind its spectacular waterfalls
- A trip to the famous Black Glacier to see glacial processes in action.
- A walk through Thingvellir National Park to witness the moving of the earth’s crust including the fascinating Mid Atlantic Ridge.
- A trip to the amazing Skogar Folk Museum to experience the history of the Icelandic people from the Vikings to the present.
- A visit to a Geothermal plant to see how the Icelandic people harness energy from the bowels of the earth with a relaxing bathe in the mineral rich Blue Lagoon Spa.
- A short flight to the island of Heimaey. There will be a boat tour around the island to look at the huge colonies of puffins. The highlight of the trip will be the opportunity to climb up the volcano over buried houses from past eruptions.

The trip will cost between £810-£860 (depending on numbers – the more pupils we take, the lower the cost will be). This price includes all accommodation, meals, travel, trips, activities and entrance fees and payments can be made in instalments.

The party will travel from Penglais School to Manchester airport by coach and will fly British Airways to Keflavik.

Any pupils interested please see Mrs. Elgood for details.

## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

**Coursework** – Years 11 and 13 pupils should collect their practical products as soon as possible. Due to a shortage of storage space we will not be able to keep these after the end of this school year.

**Materials for practical work** – We are always very happy to receive donations of textile fabric, wood and metal, so if you are having a clear out over the summer please think of us and bring items not wanted into school for the attention of Mrs. Wells or Mr. Davies. Many thanks.

## ENGLISH

The long-anticipated visit of children’s writer Darren Shan took place last month. Darren Shan is author of ‘Cirque du Freak’ and ‘The Demonata’, and has sold about eleven million books worldwide. ‘Blood Beast’ - book five of ‘The Demonata’ - was released on June 4th and has quickly shot to the top of the Children’s Bestsellers chart.

Darren Shan’s visit to Penglais was part of his UK tour and was organised through the Waterstones branch. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, the whole of Year 7 assembled in the main hall in eager anticipation. Despite a sore throat, Darren was soon in full flow and he invited a number of pupils to assist him in reading, screaming and doing impersonations of a wolf howling. Year 7 certainly seemed to enjoy his gory brand of fiction and there was a long queue of fans waiting to have books signed after the performance.

As part of the visit, the English Department ran a competition in conjunction with the Library. We asked for a hundred words describing why you should read Darren Shan novels. The competition winner, Owen Morgan, received a personally signed copy of Darren Shan’s latest book and the runner up, Hannah Pullen, a Darren Shan shirt. Fans of Darren Shan were interested to hear that one of his novels is currently being made into a film by Universal Studios.



Owen Morgan with his prize

We are grateful to Waterstones for helping to arrange the visit.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	School will finish at 1.45pm. Buses will have left school site by 2pm.
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	INSET day (staff only)
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	START OF THE AUTUMN TERM FOR PUPILS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my staff, pupils and their parents for their combined efforts and hard work in making this year another successful one for Penglais School and to wish you all a relaxing, restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully,

**H.J. DAVEY**  
Headteacher

## LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

Pupils in the Learning Support Centre are once again very grateful to the Rotary Club for funding a day out at Oakwood on 13<sup>th</sup> June. The day was part of a ‘Kids Out’ project where children from all over the country enjoy the generosity of the Rotary Club.