



EXAMINATION RESULTS

Congratulations to all Penglais students who took examinations last year: their results were amongst the best of recent years. Sixth formers turned in a really impressive average grade score of AAC or 26 points. GCSE results in Year 11 were equally impressive with 69% achieving more than 5 grades at A*-C and 93% 5 grades at A*-G. The school was pleased to see the first results for the Welsh Baccalaureate which boosted overall performance in the sixth form. Also noteworthy were the results of the engineering group in Year 11 with 13 students gaining the full NVQ Level 2 qualification.

Well done to everyone: pupils, teachers and, of course, parents! As usual in the first newsletter of the year I append summary sheets for the various examinations. More detailed papers will be published in the annual governors' report which will be available in October.

THE NEW YEAR 7

Hopefully our new intake should be well settled in its new school. On Wednesday 24th October parents of the new Year 7 will be invited to a consultation evening with form tutors to review the first half term.

From time to time, photographs are taken of pupils for local and regional newspapers, brochures, competitions etc. We always ask parents for permission to do this and if any parents of new Year 7 pupils **do not wish their child to be photographed** they should notify the school office within a week of receiving this newsletter. We shall assume that permission has been granted unless we hear from you.

Please could parents of new pupils ensure that the school has an emergency contact number in case of illness or accident? Very rarely the school has to close in the winter due to inclement weather. In these circumstances it is vital that pupils know where they should go in case the school has to close early. It is important during bad weather conditions to listen to Radio Ceredigion for messages about school closures. We usually try to get a message on the radio by 8.00 a.m.

The school would like to remind new parents to ensure that Year 7 pupils put **name tags** on their clothing.

NEW STAFF

The following new members of teaching staff have joined us this September:

Mr. O. Bentley (Mathematics)
Ms. D. Phillips (Mathematics and Learning Core)
Ms. E. Jones (Welsh)
Mr. M. Bassett-Jones (Health and Social Care)

Ms. Siân Thomas and Mrs. Claire Owen joined the year manager team.

Mrs. V. Busson and Mr. T. Davies joined the school in June as Learning Support Assistants and the following Learning Support Assistants joined us in September: Mrs. R. Baker; Mrs. J. Meachem; Mrs. J. Slinger; Mrs. A. Taylor; Ms. A. Webb; Mrs. N. Williams.

We welcome them all to Penglais School and wish them well in their new posts.

Since the retirement of Mrs. Crockett, new arrangements have been made for the management of special education needs in the school:

- The post of SENCO is now shared between Ms. E. Ball and Mrs. E.D. Griffiths.
- Mrs. M. Lindsey is the teacher in charge of the Learning Support Centre.
- Mrs. H. Collin is the teacher in charge of the Dyslexia Centre.
- Mrs. A. Davies is the secretary for the whole of the SEN department and is contactable on 621126.

PENGLAIS PTA

The PTA held a coffee morning for parents of the new Year 7 on Saturday 8th September in the Small Hall. This was a good opportunity for new parents to meet the PTA which now has some new recruits!

The PTA plan a quiz evening on Friday 9th November – this will have an Italian theme and details will be sent out in the next newsletter. These evenings are always good fun and are well attended.

The PTA raises funds for the School Council, school clubs and societies, additional equipment for departments as well as projects to improve the environment at the school. The PTA is asking every family to contribute £5 this autumn to support the fund raising activities at the school: this is an alternative to buying raffle tickets this autumn



PTA FUND RAISER

NAME OF PUPIL: _____

FORM: _____

AMOUNT: _____

SIGNED: _____ Parent / Guardian

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUS PARKING

Over the summer holidays work was carried out to improve bus parking on site. We were not happy with all the changes and some modifications will be made in the next two weeks. We are supervising the arrival of buses in the morning and their departure in the afternoon – until the modifications are made please bear with us. I had hoped this could all have been sorted out before the start of the new term – I will be able to issue the new plans in the next newsletter.

As always, please take the greatest care in bringing your car onto this school site and follow the directions of school staff.

HOMEWORK

I would like to draw your attention to the school homework policy. Regular homework trains pupils in good working habits and helps them to organise their time. It also supports pupils' learning and informs parents about the type of work expected from their children. All pupils must complete homework: planners will have been given to all pupils in Years 7-13 to help them organise their time. Teachers will ensure that homework instructions are explained clearly and fully. Completion dates will be given and where homework is collected in for marking it should normally be returned within one week. Rooms are made available at lunchtime if pupils wish to use this facility. Teachers will adopt a common procedure if homework is not completed: obviously failure to complete homework is a serious matter and parents will be contacted.

The main features of our homework policy are as follows:

- There is a homework timetable for pupils in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9). This sets out the maximum amount of homework which may be set in each two-week cycle.
- It is not possible to devise a homework timetable for Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) as the curriculum is flexible and the setting is complex. However, over a 10 day cycle, where appropriate, there will be three homework tasks in most subjects with more in Mathematics and Science.

- All pupils have been given planners in which to record the details of homework set.
- If homework is set pupils must complete it by the deadline given.
- Homework will not normally be required for the following day.
- Teachers may decide not to set homework if there is no appropriate task on a particular day.
- Some pupils in the lower sets and small classes may not be required to do homework in some subjects.
- Sixth Form students will act as Junior School Supporters who will help pupils, particularly in Year 7, to develop the skills necessary to plan and complete homework tasks.

Years 10 and 11

It is not possible to prepare a homework timetable for pupils in this age group because of the complexities of setting. However, over a 10-day cycle, there should be three homeworks in most subjects, with more in Mathematics and 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. Teachers will encourage pupils to record coursework deadlines clearly in the planners. Where extended pieces of work or coursework assignments are set these may be carried out over a longer, specified period of time. Year Tutors have produced a coursework plan for the whole year so that, as far as possible, deadlines are evenly distributed.

Years 12 and 13

Here there will much emphasis on the students' own responsibility for organising their private study. All pupils will have received planners to help them do this. Guidelines have been given and experience has shown that a minimum of 20 hours of private study per ten-day cycle **over and above private study time in school** is required. Arrangements have been made for Subject Teachers and Form Tutors to monitor non-completion of assignments: where this becomes a serious problem the Head of Sixth Form will intervene and, if all else fails, the student will be asked to discontinue the course.

Generally parents can help by:

- ensuring that pupils have a place to do homework which is free from distractions.
- supporting pupils by giving encouragement.
- helping pupils to plan their time and organise themselves.
- checking pupils' planners from time to time and comparing the entries with the attached guidelines.
- contacting the school if their children are experiencing difficulties **or** if they are told that homework has not been set on a regular basis.



PENGLAIS PTA

FUND RAISING

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 3	or 75	or 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
TOTAL		370		465 or 490		590 or 620

PUPIL SUPERVISION BEFORE SCHOOL

This is very important. The school opens later in the morning because of changes to the hours of the site team. The school is not open at all before 8.00am and no supervision is available until 8.40am. Most staff do not arrive until 8.30am.

We have had reports of pupils arriving on school site well before 8.00am – there is no supervision for them and the doors of the school are not open until 8.10am at the earliest. Please ensure that pupils arrive when there is a reasonable number of staff on site.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Natalie Bulman, a Year 13 pupil last year, has had her coursework nominated for entry into this year’s Innovation Awards. She worked extremely hard to produce a jacket suitable for evening wear. She printed the lining fabric by hand and made her own buttons using pewter casting resulting in a very innovative garment. Her work will be displayed both in Llandudno and Cardiff. We wish her every success in this prestigious event.

FAIR TRADE

Undaunted by the torrential rain at the end of June the Penglais Fair Trade Group took part in Wales’ national Big Fair Trade Picnic event, cunningly holding the “picnic” inside in the dry. Forty pupils enjoyed healthy cereal bars, fruit juice, fruit and not so healthy (but very tasty) chocolate cake – there was also a chance to learn more about Fair Trade and a quiz. Over 5,000 people took part in Fair Trade picnics all over Wales – many of the local primary schools joined in as well. More information can be found at www.fairtradeschools.org - you can also read an article there about the Penglais group’s work, written by pupils Alma and Freya. The group will start meeting again in the next few weeks – details coming soon via assemblies.



JAPANESE EXCHANGE

At the end of the summer term Penglais hosted eight students and two teachers from our exchange programme school in Osaka, Japan. Our Japanese guests gave the whole school an insight into Japanese culture through a series of excellent assembly performances featuring traditional dance, kendo, music and singing. During the week despite some great Welsh rain there were trips around Aberystwyth, Harlech castle, Devil's Bridge Railway and a boat trip from Newquay. There was also an action packed evening schedule of BBQs and beach parties. At the weekend the host families put on a range of activities including yachting, quad biking and trips to London. The Japanese students had a taste of various lessons, printing Welsh dragons in Art, learning modern dance steps in PE and making Welsh cakes in food tech. They also enjoyed a music performance by the lower school choir. This is always an interesting exchange as Osaka is the antithesis of Aberystwyth, being a large bustling city with a very fast pace of life – many of the students and teachers remarked on the peace and quiet and relaxed lifestyle that we have here. Some excellent friendships were forged and the host students will be visiting Japan next summer. Any other students interested in getting involved should give their names to Mr. Gilbey, Mr. Brown or Miss Edwards. Finally a big thank you to the Japanese students for being such enthusiastic and friendly guests and to the host families and teachers involved for helping to make the trip such a success.



SCIENCE

Biology – the Biology Department has a large cycad (*cycas revoluta*) which needs a new home. It measures 2m x 2m and is free to anyone prepared to look after it (and to transport it!) We also have a fish-tail palm (*caryota*) and one or two other assorted plants to give away. We have a limited number of pot grown locally sourced oaks for planting out. Anyone interested please contact Mr. H. Bonsall.

Biology A level students have had the opportunity to meet conservationists working in Cardigan Bay to learn more about the biology and ecology of the whales and dolphins found locally, threats to their survival and survey techniques used to monitor them. The group attended a talk by researchers from the Sea Watch Foundation's Newquay project before going out on one of their survey boats to see bottlenose dolphins in their natural habitat. Thanks to Sea Watch and the Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust for funding the trip.

Chemistry – During the summer holidays three Year 11 pupils Mathew Kelly, Sumuditha Ranawaka and Joe Warren attended Chemistry camps at different universities. The boys participated in a variety of activities, witnessed amazing demonstrations as well as experiencing a taste of university life staying in the university Halls of Residence. Any Year 10 pupils wishing to attend next summer's Chemistry camps should see Dr. Warren in C6.

GEOGRAPHY

Iceland Expedition – There has been a fantastic response to the Iceland expedition that will be taking place in July 2008. 50 pupils and 6 staff will be taking part in what promises to be a once in a lifetime experience. Further details from Mrs. J. Elgood.

Year 7 Fieldwork – All Year 7 pupils will be taking part in one day of Geography fieldwork during October. The fieldwork will involve investigating coastal processes and landforms in Clarach, Borth and Ynyslas. Further details on the trips will be given to each class via the class teacher. Please can parents ensure that pupils are appropriately dressed as it can be cold, wet and slippy! Thank you for your co-operation.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

MODERN LANGUAGES

The Modern Languages department is intending to take a 5 day trip to Northern France in May 2008. This will be offered to all pupils in Years 8 and 9 studying French and is an excellent opportunity for pupils to practise the French they already know and to pick up some more! There will be a full programme of excursions including visits to a French market, a V2 rocket museum, an opportunity for pupils to visit a traditional French bakery and a visit to Disneyland Paris! We will be staying at a small French chateau near St. Omer which caters specifically for school groups. In previous years this trip has proved to be highly popular with pupils. Some quotes from last year's trip include, "the French trip was sublime!", "Disneyland was fantastic!", the rocket museum was really good", "I liked seeing the chocolate factory" and last, but not least, "the food was really good". Deposits of £30 to be paid to Mrs. Newbold in E1 by the end of September.



Parc Astérix – During the last three days of the summer term a group of 81 Year 7 pupils and 10 teachers went on the annual trip to Paris and Parc Astérix. We had a calm crossing from Dover to Calais. The weather in Paris was beautiful. The pupils were able to enjoy a leisurely trip down the River Seine, taking in all the famous sights.

The following day was spent in the park. Again, the weather was glorious which was lucky for those who needed to dry off after being on the water rides! At the end of the day we returned home via the tunnel. Once back in Britain, most of us fell fast asleep after a really tiring but exhilarating trip.

This year we will be returning to Parc Astérix with the new Year 7, at a cost of £119. Letters will be given out soon! Mrs. Pearson (Head of MFL)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Congratulations to Gerwyn Slinger who came 3rd and received a bronze medal in the 800m at the Welsh Athletics Championship with a personal best time of 2:04.

The following pupils have been selected for Ceredigion hockey teams: U18 - Sophie Griffiths, Helen Welsh and Hannah Williams; U16 Rosie Bailey and Gemma Pugh; U14 Georgina Bowen and Victoria Toy.

The Girls U15 Tennis team were triumphant in the Ceredigion Championship. The team included Laura Blakemore, Nia Witts, Judy Phillips and Rebecca Woodvine. They will now play against the Pembrokeshire champions.

Terry and Danny Edge, last year's Year 11 pupils, have won a football scholarship to attend Walford and North Shropshire College in Shropshire for their sixth form studies. Congratulations to both boys.

Elinor Thorogood (11SE) has been chosen to represent Wales at the British Inter-Regional Triathlon Championships for the fourth consecutive year. In August she competed in the Elite Youth Sprint race at the London Triathlon, where she finished in 8th place. Elinor's hard work and dedication to triathlon has been rewarded with her being named in British Triathlon's Talent Identification Squad, and she now receives coaching and guidance from the National Coach at the Triathlon High Performance Centre in Swansea.



Congratulations to Jonathan Evans, Year 10, who has been selected for the Welsh U16 Football squad. Congratulations also go to Chris Wylde, Year 9, who has been selected for trials with Wrexham Football Club.

Instrumental Lessons

All students wishing to receive instrumental lessons this term should have had a meeting with their peripatetic teacher by now to organise their instrumental timetable. If any one has not yet managed to meet their teacher, please come to see Mrs Leggett in D2. Please remember that no instruments should be left in school over night and that all instruments brought to school should be insured.

'Freefall'

During the Summer term we were delighted to report the outstanding success of 'Freefall', our group of Music GCSE performers and composers. They not only won a £1,000 as the first prize winners of the Lloyds/TSB Young Ensemble of Wales competition, but also went on to give polished performances at the Welsh Proms in St David's Hall, Cardiff and at the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham in July.

During the Summer holidays, we received the news that Freefall had been awarded the prize for New Compositions at the National Festival of Music for Youth. The adjudicators congratulated Tom Barry, Richard Davies, Sam Dunning, Russell Evans, Fred Harper and Hugh Parry on the excellence of their performance and on the quality of their composition work. The boys are now continuing their studies as Penglais sixth form Music students.

Music extra curricular activities

Rehearsals are already underway for the end of term concert at the Great Hall and for the Kronberg Christmas Market concert tour. Many extra curricular activities are on offer once again this year, both choral and instrumental. Everyone is invited to take part and will be made to feel welcome. We simply ask for enthusiasm and regular attendance to rehearsals. Here are some details of the groups rehearsing this term:

- **Junior Show Singers** - this talented group of Year 7 and 8 pupils will be putting on a performance of the musical 'Gel' in the Great Hall at the end of this term. Make sure that you do not miss the opportunity to be a part of this production which is full of catchy songs. Year 7 meet on Monday lunchtime and Year 8 during morning breaks on Monday and Tuesday.
- **Cantorion Iau Penglais Junior Singers** - this is a new group of keen Year 7 and 8 singers who want to extend their repertoire of songs. They meet on Tuesdays after school rehearsing until 4.15 pm. The group will be performing in our Concert in the Great Hall at the end of term and in the Candles and Carols evening in Llanbadarn Church. If you would like to join this group, please come along to see Mrs. Leggett for further details.
- **Senior Singers (Years 9 - 13)** The Senior Singers are rehearsing hard for their concert visit to Kronberg in December and for their performance at the Great Hall before the end of term. These singers include members of the Senior Girls Choir, Senior Boys Choir and Senior Mixed Choir. Once again all senior students are welcome to join any of these groups. Rehearsals extend from Tuesday - Friday, taking in morning breaks, lunchtimes and after school on Wednesday (details of rehearsal times can be found on D2 door).
- **Wind Band** - woodwind, brass and percussion players are invited to play with this group who are preparing for a performance at the Christmas Concert. Rehearsal will be held in the Main Hall on Monday after school.
- **Junior and Senior Strings** - These ensembles, who are preparing for concerts at Christmas time, rehearse in D1 on Thursdays - Juniors lunchtime and Seniors after school.
- **Junior Brass** - a large Junior Brass group meets regularly during lunchtime on Wednesdays. All Junior Brass players should come along to these rehearsals.
- Additional sessions after school are being organised to offer assistance with aspects of harmony and music theory to GCSE and A level Music students. There will also be opportunities for individual instrumental and vocal soloists to work on their practical performance programme. Dates and times can be found on D2 door. See Mrs Leggett for further details.

Dates for your diary:

- **Thursday 13th December** - Penglais School Christmas Concert at the Great Hall (Junior and Senior musicians)
- **Thursday 20th December** (date to be confirmed) - 'Candles and Carols' at Llanbadarn Church (Junior and Senior musicians)

SEN DEPARTMENT

The SEN department was delighted to receive a cheque of £250 from the Aberystwyth branch of the Railway Club. At the presentation were (from left to right): Ieuan Evans (treasurer); Anne Davies (secretary); Roland Morris (Aberystwyth Stroke Club); Eirion Evans (chairman); Delyth Griffiths and Maggie Lindsey (SEN Department, Penglais School).



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 24th October	Year 7 Consultation Evening with form tutors at 3.30pm
Thursday 25th October	Annual General Meeting of Governors with parents at 7.30pm
Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November	HALF TERM
Monday 5th November Tuesday 6th November	INSET days – school closed for pupils
Friday 9th November	PTA Italian Evening 7.30pm

Yours faithfully,

H.J. DAVEY (Headteacher)

Penglais School Examination Officer's Report 2007

Table 1: Penglais School A Level performance in 2007

Penglais School entered 106 candidates at two or more A Level examinations excluding entries at General Studies.

Grade		A	B	C	D	E	U	
Number	376	170	60	68	41	23	12	
Percentage		45	16	18	11	6	3	
Total Point Score		20400	6000	5440	2460	920	0	35220

Table 2 Examination results at A level by subject

Subject	Total entry	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art	27	13	6	4	2	1	1
Biology	22	6	3	2	4	2	5
Business Studies	10	0	2	3	4	1	0
Chemistry	17	8	3	1	2	2	1
Design and Technology	14	3	2	3	2	3	1
Drama	6	2	3	0	1	0	0
English Literature	35	13	7	8	6	1	0
French	10	4	2	1	2	0	1
Geography	18	6	2	9	1	0	0
Geology	5	2	1	1	1	0	0
German	5	1	1	0	1	1	1
History	37	12	10	11	3	1	0
ICT	10	3	2	2	3	0	0
Mathematics	15	5	1	6	0	3	0
Media Studies	8	0	0	3	1	3	1
Music	8	0	3	3	2	0	0
PE	8	0	1	4	2	1	0
Physics	19	7	6	0	3	2	1
Psychology	16	5	2	6	1	2	0
Spanish	5	2	3	0	0	0	0
Welsh	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
WBQ	81	79	0	0	0	0	4
Total	376	170	60	68	41	23	12
% of Total		45	16	18	11	6	3

Y11 GCSE EXAMINATION STATISTICS**Table 5a: Year 11 Examination results at GCSE by subject**There were **210** pupils on roll in January 2007 who were entered for GCSEs

Subject	Total/Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Art	85	7	11	24	20	10	6	2	3	2
Biology	31	9	15	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Business	28	1	8	3	7	5	2	1	1	0
Catering	19	1	1	1	10	6	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	31	13	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Dev	39	0	2	5	12	11	8	1	0	0
DT Food	16	0	2	2	7	2	1	1	1	0
DT Graphics	20	5	4	3	7	1	0	0	0	0
DT Resistant	59	0	4	11	16	16	7	1	3	1
DT Textiles	20	2	4	6	4	2	1	0	0	1
Drama	14	4	2	5	2	0	1	0	0	0
English	206	10	29	59	34	46	23	4	1	0
English Lit	187	11	20	30	54	42	22	6	2	0
French	49	4	10	11	11	11	2	0	0	0
Geography	97	6	15	17	23	24	7	1	1	3
German	28	0	0	7	8	10	3	0	0	0
History	120	27	30	29	14	12	4	2	1	1
IT	40	1	4	5	5	10	6	1	6	2
Mathematics	203	6	22	37	51	22	34	18	9	4
Maths Further	26	2	2	4	2	4	5	1	4	2
Music	20	5	6	5	4	0	0	0	0	0
PE Cert	31	2	4	6	8	9	2	0	0	0
Physics	31	18	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
RE	74	9	23	18	9	8	7	0	0	0
Science	335	6	18	38	139	86	26	16	2	4
Spanish	23	4	8	3	4	2	1	1	0	0
Welsh	204	37	26	9	53	42	18	10	7	2
% of Total		9.4	14.3	17.4	24.8	18.7	9.1	3.2	2.1	1

Table 5b: Year 11 Examination results at GCSE Short Course by subject

Subject	Total/Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
RE Short Course	111	2	5	14	26	30	22	8	4	0
PE Short Course	17	0	1	0	3	2	1	4	3	3
TOTAL	128	2	6	14	29	32	23	12	7	3

Table 6b: Year 11 Examination results at NVQ by subject

(Each pass at Level 1 is equivalent to 4 grades at GCSE D – G and each pass at Level 2 is equivalent to 4 grades at GCSE A* – C and)

Subject	Entry	Level 1	Level 2	Fail
Customer Care	14	14	0	0
Engineering	17	4	13	0

Table 6c: Year 11 Examination results at COEA (Entry Level) by subject

Subject	Entry	3	2	1	Fail
English	7	1	4	1	1
Geography	9	3	6	0	0
Science (Single Award)	10	3	1	4	2