



INSPECTION REPORT

Attached to this newsletter is a summary report of the school inspection carried out in February.

Penglais welcomes the report which confirms that this is “a very good school with many outstanding features”. The inspection team’s findings are very similar to our own assessment which shows that our self-evaluation procedures are robust and the direction in which we are taking the school is the right one.

It is pleasing to see that achievements at Key Stage Four and in the Sixth Form are regarded as outstanding. The quality of the curriculum throughout the school is praised, in particular the wide range of options at Key Stage Four and in the Sixth Form was particularly commended. Support for learners of all abilities is described as outstanding. Pupils are praised for the consistency of their good behaviour – their personal progress and respect for peers, adults and diversity is also described as outstanding.

At a time when funding for secondary schools in Ceredigion is under pressure it was pleasing to note that “the way the school uses its resources is outstanding” and that “the school provides outstanding value for money”. There are recommendations in the report to improve our accommodation, in particular facilities for drama, music, art, food technology, the library and drainage of the school fields. These can only be achieved with significant capital investment from the local education authority into its largest school.

The issues that the inspectors highlighted for development were already part of our plans for improvement and we continue to make progress on them. The local education authority is planning a three year programme of capital works to improve the accommodation we wished to alter.

A full report is available at the school and can be obtained from Melanie Goodwin at the school.

PLANS FOR 2008-9

As you know from my last newsletter, it has been a tough year for school budgets, not just in Ceredigion. The general situation in the secondary schools in Ceredigion, from the financial point of view, is more serious than at any time in the county’s history and I hope parents were able to quiz county councillors in the recent elections about their plans for dealing with it. The budget for 2008-9 at Penglais is balanced and the school should end that year with a modest surplus: forward planning for 2009-11 suggests that this will continue if pupil numbers remain at their current levels. However, in order to achieve this and avoid a deficit, as my last newsletter showed, it has been necessary to cut back on expenditure this year.

Fortunately no subjects are being cut from the curriculum nor do I see the need to do so in future years as the action being taken now will ensure that the school is financially viable in the next three years. The professionalism and hard work of teachers will ensure that pupils will not be disadvantaged. It is a real frustration as a headteacher to try and put in place the curriculum that parents, pupils, staff, governors and politicians want with resources that year in, year out are demonstrably inadequate for the task. The point has been argued over for years – the secondary sector in Ceredigion has been underfunded in the last three years to the tune of more than £1million. The situation is not peculiar to Penglais, of course, and the issue of underfunding has received coverage in the Cambrian News.

COUNTY LANGUAGE POLICY

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the County Language Policy. The governing body has discussed this document with the Director of Education. The governors would like to invite parents to a meeting in the Main Hall of the school on Tuesday 3rd June at 7.30pm so that they can discuss the policy and its implications for Penglais School.

The following statement (in response to the language strategy) sets out the school’s intended policy:

The school has no difficulty in continuing to develop a distinctive Welsh ethos and in affirming its commitment to bilingualism. Linguistic continuation and progression between key stages is recognised.

- *Welsh 1st language groups will continue to be staffed generously to ensure appropriate differentiation and progression.*
- *From September 2008 all pupils entering the school will be taught Physical Education bilingually. Some aspects of Music will also be taught in the same way for those pupils.*
- *Pupils in Welsh medium registration groups will have their form period time and their Learning Core lessons delivered through the medium of Welsh.*

- *All pupils are either taught Welsh first language or Welsh second language depending on their programme of study in Key Stage 2.*

As a result of these measures between 18% and 22% of the curriculum will be delivered either through the medium of Welsh or bilingually. However, the teaching and learning experience will be predominantly through the medium of English and the school believes this is in keeping with the wishes of the majority of parents and pupil. Examination courses in Key Stage Four and in the Sixth Form will, with the exception of Welsh, be conducted through the medium of English.

As far as continuity between key stages is concerned pupils who follow a Welsh first language programme of study in Key Stage 3 must do so in Key Stage Four.

Normally the school would expect and encourage pupils to follow the same linguistic programme of study in Key Stage 3 as in Key Stage 2. However on entry to Penglais an evaluation of each pupil's linguistic competence in Welsh will be made, in consultation with the child's primary school and parents. Where it is considered that it would be in the pupil's best interests to follow a Welsh second language programme of study that decision will be made on educational criteria. The decision will not be altered later in the key stage.

The natural language of communication between staff and pupils at the school will be either Welsh or English as appropriate. Use of Welsh will be encouraged throughout the school: it will be used in assemblies for example. English will however be the main medium of communication in the life and administration of the school. Official school correspondence and documentation will be bilingual.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

On 18th March, sixth form students from the Psychology Department attended a Taster Day organised by the Centre for Applied Psychology at the Aberystwyth University. The day was very well organised and students had the opportunity to hear lectures on Research Ethics, Social Psychology, Perception and Language and Stress and Health. The latter was particularly relevant in view of the forthcoming Psychology AS exams on the 16th May. We all know what to do. In addition, there was a very interesting talk from the two careers advisers, Julie Keenan and Emma Harrison, pointing out the many different ways that a qualification in Psychology could be used. Everyone enjoyed the day and Michael Randall won a £25 book token for the best response in an Applied Psychology competition. We all agreed that we had been very well looked after (the buffet provided at lunchtime was delicious), and that we had gained a great deal of knowledge. We would all like to thank Dr. Katherine Bullen and her colleagues in the Psychology Department for this great experience of university education.

James Quan-Thomas, year 12 Psychology student.

AS Psychology Conference at Birmingham University

Although the 28th April involved an early start (7.30 am) and a long journey to Birmingham University, the day was a great help, providing us with lots of information that will be helpful when we sit our AS exams in Psychology. It was very interesting meeting the people who wrote the textbooks and who mark the examination scripts – Mike Cardwell and Cara Flanagan. Mike was very, very funny and found unusual ways of stressing the importance of revising and passing examinations, which none of us will forget.

We were all pleasantly surprised by Birmingham University, which had a nice atmosphere and reminded us of a Harry Potter film because of its nineteenth-century-looking buildings and halls covered in paintings of important figures who were once part of the University. We explored most of the campus and gained some understanding of what it might be like to be students there.

The downside of the day was, we all agreed, the hard plastic seats in the hall. However, this did provide us with a good learning opportunity for May 16th, when we will be sitting for several hours on hard plastic seats in the hall in Penglais School, demonstrating our knowledge of Psychology. At least we now know we can do it. Mind over matter.

Nadia Marashi and Abigail Hughes, Year 12.

LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

Bethany Speake (Year 8) represented the school in the finals of the Disability Sport Wales swimming gala held at Swansea on 12th April. Beth had qualified at a gala held at Plascrug Leisure Centre in February and went on to compete against students from all over Wales. She gained a second place in the 50m front crawl and 3rd in 25m breaststroke. Well done Bethany!



WELSH BACCALAUREATE



Key Stage 4: THE LEARNING CORE AND THE WELSH BACCALAUREATE

Students currently in Year 10 following the Learning Core course will now gain the equivalent of THREE extra GCSEs. The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ) will be worth 3 Grade As to students who pass the Intermediate Diploma or 3 Grade Ds to those who pass the Foundation Diploma. All of the assessments will be portfolio based and the greater part of the work will be conducted during timetabled lessons. These students will also be given the opportunity to obtain all six of the Key Skills at an appropriate level. Students who are in Year 9 will commence the WBQ in September 2008 as part of the Learning Core and not the ASDAN COPE course. Further information on the WBQ is available at www.welshbaccalaureate.org.uk while details of the Key Skills can be found at www.dysg.org.uk.

PENGLAIS AT WORK

On 25th April nine Year 10 pupils from 'Penglais at Work' cooked a gourmet three course meal for 17 guests. The pupils have been attending Coleg Ceredigion one day a week since September. They are working towards NVQ qualifications in Catering and Hospitality. The pupils involved were: Peter Williams, Luke Edwards-Richards, Emma Standing, Sally Ellis-Williams, Louise Drakeley, Jake Jones, Nathan Bamford, Jordan Thomas and Sam Edmonds.

The guests who included Mr. H. Lewis (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs. G. Evans (Head of Year 10), Miss T. Williams (Assistant Head of Year 10) and Miss Jo Fenner (Year 10 Year Manager) were treated to the following menu:

STARTERS

*A hearty Leek and Potato Soup with Croutons
Tuna Fish Cakes with Lime Dip*

MAIN COURSES

*Vegetarian Lasagne with Pine Nuts, Aubergine and Oregano
Chicken Stuffed with Fresh Basil and Sundried Tomatoes, wrapped
in Parma Ham served with Madeira Sauce
(All main courses were served with a selection of perfectly cooked
carrots, broccoli, gastronomic roast potatoes and piped mash
swirls)*

DESSERTS

*Sherry Trifle garnished with Raspberries and a Shortbread Biscuit
Apple Crumble Tart with Fresh Cream*

The pupils worked hard to produce the meal from scratch in less than two and a half hours. The guests completed a questionnaire at the end of the meal giving very positive feedback. Mrs. Mandy Cropper (College Tutor) thanked everyone, especially the pupils who did an amazing job with the delicious food and friendly, professional service. She also thanked the support staff, Mrs. J. Thomas, Mrs. C. Williams, Mrs. V. Busson, Mrs. H. Sinclair and Mrs. Linda Phillips. The high standard of food and service was a credit to Mrs. Cropper who has taught the pupils the importance of hygiene, nutrition, variety, team work, communication and confidence.

BUGSY MALONE

Aberystwyth Arts Centre Stage School recently performed an excellent rendition of Bugsy Malone. Many of Penglais pupils were involved both on and off the stage. This was a highly accomplished production and we congratulate all our pupils.

URDD EISTEDDFOD WINNER

Katrin Padel's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of Urdd county Eisteddfod winners reported in our last newsletter. Katrin a Year 10 pupil won the solo recitation competition for learners in years 10-13.

GEOGRAPHY

Year 12 Fieldtrip to Shropshire – All Year 12 pupils took part in a week of field work at the beginning of March. This was an extremely successful trip run by Mrs. J. Elgood and Mr. P. Jones with support from Mr. C. Terrell. All pupils developed an excellent understanding of fieldwork methods and techniques as well as improving their individual and group study skills. This trip is invaluable to Geography students as it is the only opportunity that they have to apply their skills and knowledge in the field. Our thanks to all parents and staff who co-operated with this trip.

Theatre in Education – We have been very fortunate to have the Small World Theatre into Penglais on 23rd April to perform 'Merlin's Coat'. This is a bilingual production about the consequences of global warming. Year 6 pupils from seven primary schools in the area as well as some Year 7 groups attended the performance. All pupils were excited and amazed by this super production. Our thanks are extended to the Small World Theatre.

Entertainment for the Waun Fawr Retirement Group

Junior singers and instrumentalists provided an afternoon entertainment for the Waunfawr Retirement Group as part of their St David's Day celebrations. There was a strong Welsh flavour to the performances which included solo singing, Cerdd Dant solo and ensemble singing, a harp solo and solo violin and string trio.

Urdd local and county eisteddfodau

Congratulations to all Penglais pupils who took part at the local and county Urdd Eisteddfodau. Several individuals and groups will be representing Penglais at the Urdd National Eisteddfod including: Sophie Rudge (Cerdd Dant solo and Duet); the Junior Cerdd Dant singing group, the Welsh Learners Cerdd Dant singing group, Senior Disco dancing group, Katrin Padel and Jeyshri Kalyanasundaram (individual recitation). We wish them the best of luck at the National Eisteddfod.

Music for Youth - Regional Festival

Once again this year, Penglais hosted the Regional Festival for the National Festival of Music for Youth. The Penglais Senior Choir, Senior Show Singers, Junior Choir, Sevens (Junior Boys Singers), Senior Boys Choir, Big Band and Brass Ensemble all performed as part of a memorable afternoon of music. Each group received a great deal of praise and encouragement from Jeremy Patterson the adjudicator. We were pleased to welcome instrumental groups and choirs from Ceredigion and Swansea to round off an enjoyable day of music making.

Fund raising concert for the Ceredigion Urdd National Eisteddfod 2010

Junior and Senior Penglais musicians took part in this concert in Rhydpennau Village Hall, Bow Street. It was good to hear such confident performances from all our musicians in front of a large audience.

Spring Concert - 23rd April

This evening proved to be a celebration of the talents of our Penglais musicians, particularly those of our outstanding Year 13 musicians who will be leaving school at the end of this term. Their support and enthusiasm has provided an excellent example to our younger students.

Thank you to all the performers who took part in the concert and also to parents, relatives and friends who supported us on the evening. We are also very grateful to Penglais staff and the PTA for all their help.

Late News

We have just heard that the Penglais Show Singers have been invited to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham Town Hall. Only 25 choirs have been chosen to take part after a series of auditions held at Regional Festivals all over the UK. Congratulations to the choir and the best of luck.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF GREAT BRITAIN

Sophie Rudge 7NG has recently returned from a 2 week tour of America and Canada with the National Children's Choir of Great Britain. There was a punishing schedule with the choir singing with the Children's Choruses of Toronto, Glen Ellen (Chicago) and Vancouver. The Choir stayed with host families and the choristers were able to visit breathtaking attractions such as Niagara Falls and Grouse Mountain.

Sophie would like to thank all her teachers for preparing school work for her and in particular to Mrs Leggett and Mr C Evans for their continued support.

Wales Millennium Centre

Penglais musicians were pleased to return to the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff once again this year. Some of the Senior Singers and instrumentalists were returning for the third time but for the members of the Junior Choir this was their first visit as Penglais pupils. Once again our performances were very well received with members of the audience readily showing their appreciation. Members of a coach party from the North of England refused to leave until they had heard each of the groups perform!



RADIO CYMRU

Sophie Rudge yn siarad yn fyw ar raglen Hywel a Nia ar Radio Cymru, cyn mynd ar ei thaith i Ganada ac America.



SCIENCE

Forty five year seven pupils visited IGER to take part in Aberystwyth University's Science Week. Activities included building miniature robots, taking and identifying fingerprints, finding out how long tapeworms can grow and learning how satellites can help scientists to research glaciers.

Congratulations to Bethan Lowther, Luke Colwill, Holly Richardson, Joe Taylor and Sophie Humphrey who won prizes in the quiz.

We would like to remind year 10 pupils and their parents that the first part of the GCSE exam is sat in the June of year 10. Pupils sit three exams (forty five minutes each) and will be awarded an overall GCSE grade in Core Science. In year 11 the pupils will study for the Additional Science (and in some cases the Separate Science) exams so that by the end of year 11 each pupil will have a total of two or three grades at GCSE.

The year 10 exams are on the following dates.

Biology 17th June am

Chemistry 18th June pm

Physics 20th June am

The Year 10 Applied Science and Entry Level classes do not have GCSE exams this summer.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

At Penglais over recent years, the school has installed and refined an electronic registration system. Pupils are not only registered at the start of both morning and afternoon school but also in every lesson, in total seven times a day.

Due to both an investment in staff resources and finance, the school has raised the profile and importance of attendance. With more pupils attending school regularly this has improved achievement across all age ranges, showing itself significantly in grades attained at external examinations.

Parents have also played a significant part in this process and the school would very much like to thank you for your continued support. The school regularly sends out letters if pupils fall below the government's 90% target for attendance.

If your child is absent from school can you please telephone to let us know the reason. The school will contact you on the first day of absence if no message is received. The school has an answer phone for you to leave a message at any time. It is a legal requirement that a written explanation for the absence is provided when your child returns to school.

NB Requests for leave of absence for any reason other than illness/bereavement must be made at least two weeks in advance. Pupils with attendance below 90% may be refused. If the leave of absence is for a holiday, the appropriate Holiday Form must be submitted a fortnight prior to departure. Please remember that every effort should be

Good luck to all our GCSE, AS and A level pupils.

ART

Please could all books belonging to the Art department be returned by the time Years 11 and 13 leave. Most of the books from the Art department have been bought personally by the art teachers and not from school funding. It is therefore even more important that all these books are returned as soon as possible.

MORE SPORTING SUCCESS

Penglais School's very talented Elinor Thorogood recently came 4th in the U17 Youth British Duathlon. She will also be representing Wales in the Home Nations U20 Triathlon. Good luck Elinor – we're with you all the way.

KIT AMNESTY – ATTENTION ALL PUPILS AND PARENTS

If you have a piece of school team kit under your bed or hiding at the back of your wardrobe, please bring it back to school. School team kit is very expensive to replace. There will be a bin in reception where you can dispose of your kit anonymously. This is an amnesty, therefore there will be no repercussions – we just want it back!

made to take holidays when the pupils are on vacation. Holidays taken in term time will impede progress and the school will expect your child to copy up missed work.

If you have any queries regarding please contact your child's Assistant Head of Year.

WELSH SCHOOLS UNDER 16'S

FOOTBALL FINAL



Penglais 4 – 5 Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen

Penglais just missed out on becoming Welsh Champions in a thrilling cup final played at Newtown on Sunday 20th April. Penglais had won all of its games comfortably en route, becoming Ceredigion and Dyfed champions in the process.

The team and supporters arrived at Newtown Football Club early only to find out that due to bad weather the game had to be switched to the less prestigious academy fields. It didn't seem to faze our boys early on in the game as they settled into the game. They started well and things were looking good when midfielder Liam Button got a knock on the leg. As he came off the field for treatment Syr Hugh Owen took the opportunity to exploit the numerical advantage and take the lead with a well worked goal. It was a blow to Penglais but they quickly put it behind them and scored an equaliser almost immediately through a cool finish from David Griffiths.

Penglais now took control of the game attacking at every opportunity. Five minutes later there was jubilation when Griffiths volleyed the ball over the keeper to take the lead. Syr Hugh Owen were struggling to cope with Penglais and there were numerous opportunities to make it three before half time with Leigh Jenkins in the Penglais goal even coming close to scoring with a long kick up field.

Penglais were to pay for not extending the lead when early pressure from Syr Hugh Owen led to an equaliser. After performing so well in the first half Penglais were struggling to keep the ball and were then behind for the second time in the match when Syr Hugh Owen scored with a well taken goal. It woke our boys up and Griffiths got his hatrick following good work from Jonathan Evans. Penglais then took the upper hand and found themselves in front again when Liam Button volleyed the ball into the roof of the net. Nine minutes remained but victory was snatched from our hands when Hugh Owen equalised taking the game into extra time.

During the first half of extra time, Penglais outplayed the opposition creating chance after chance only to see them hit the woodwork or cleared off the line. Luck was definitely on Penglais' side as such a one sided extra time ended with Hugh Owen scoring with their only chance.

The boys were left extremely disappointed but should be proud of their achievements and the quality of football they have played throughout the year. The squad was as follows: Leigh Jenkins, Evan Lewis, Mathew Evans, Dylan Morgan (Captain), Ben Grasham, Michael South, Liam Button, David Griffiths, Kristian Jenkins, Jonathan Evans, Joshua Hartrick, Jonathan Hartnell, Rhys Wyn Watson, Adam Tourle.

DOUBLE GB SELECTION FOR GARETH

Gareth Farrow competed in the third of the GB Team Slalom selection races on 19th April in Nottingham and the second GB Team Wild Water Racing selection the next day at Bala. This was a very intensive weekend for Gareth not only competing in two major competitions but also involving nearly 500 miles of travelling.

The slalom race was also the same competition as the final Olympic Selection race and the final World Championship Team Selection race. It was held on a testing course and even the top competitors, including the 2004 Olympic Silver Medallist, made mistakes. Following a very close contest over the three races Gareth was 2nd reserve in the Junior 18 Slalom Team for the Junior World Championship in the Czech Republic in July.

The next day, several hundred miles away, Gareth also secured a place on the Junior 18 Wild Water Racing Team for the European Championships in Italy in July (often referred to as Pre-Worlds).

Gareth paddled the course, which is mainly remote from habitation and is run over difficult rapids. At the Europeans he will be competing against top International Juniors, many of which will be two years older than Gareth.

Gareth will be training and competing on the continent for a total of six weeks over the summer period from the end of June to the end of August in a total of ten major international races for both Slalom and Wild Water Racing.

The school is extremely proud of Gareth's achievements and we wish him well for the summer.



DISABILITY EQUALITY COMMITTEE

Penglais has put in place a disability equality scheme. This is in line with current legislation regarding disability equality. As part of the scheme the school has to establish a disability equality committee.

The committee would help oversee the scheme. The scheme covers aspects of discrimination and accessibility to the building plus the curriculum.

The school would like parents and staff who have a disability themselves, a child with a disability or an interest in such issues to serve on the committee. If any parents or staff are interested please write to Mr. H.E. Lewis, Deputy Headteacher, at the school.



DYFED SCHOOLS ATHLETICS MEETING

Gerwyn Slinger ran in the first Dyfed Schools Athletics meeting of the season in Carmarthen on Wednesday 23rd April. He competed in the 800m U17 and came first, winning a gold medal. He also ran an impressive 400m in 53 seconds for Carmarthen Harriers on Sunday 20th April in Swansea. Gerwyn's season has got off to an excellent start and we wish him well for the rest of the season.

FAIRTRADE NEWS

School Uniform tops will soon be available in 100% Fairtrade cotton as well as the current non Fairtrade 65% polyester / 35% cotton mix. Cotton is a natural fibre; it is not scratchy and can be worn by people who are allergic to wool or synthetic fibres. Cotton “breathes” and helps remove body moisture, keeping you cool in summer and warm and dry in winter.

You can choose which to buy but we feel that it is important to support Fairtrade because:

- Fairtrade guarantees a better deal for workers in developing countries
- Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.
- Fairtrade allows men and women to earn a fair living wage so their children can go to school rather being forced to work in terrible conditions.
- Fairtrade ensures workers can afford food and medical care.

For example Laljibhai Narranbhai, a cotton farmer from India says ‘I did not get any education but I want my children to. Because of the Fairtrade price I can send them to school.’

The price of Fairtrade tops will not be much more than the price of non Fairtrade tops, but the difference has a big impact on the people in developing countries who work hard to produce our cotton.

You can get more details about buying uniform from Ms. Alison Jones at Penglais.

We hope you will join us in support of Fairtrade.

Thank you,

Alma and Freya of Penglais Fairtrade Group

SAYAKA NAKATA AND JAPAN DAY

In October 2006 Sayaka Nakata from Osaka, Japan came to teach Japanese in Ceredigion schools for 18 months

Just before she returned home Sayaka organised a excellent Japan Day which was held in Ysgol Penweddig

The day before 6th form pupils from both Penglais and Penweddig spent the day busily preparing. Sushi was soon being expertly rolled under Sayaka and Kaori’s instructions.

On Saturday 8th March everyone involved met early to make sure all was ready before the doors were opened to the public. We were also joined by 4 Japanese female students from the University who rapidly rolled more sushi and made miso soup. When the doors opened there was the opportunity to practise calligraphy with Ashleigh, (this is taught in Japanese schools to pupils from an early age) so many went away having written their names in Japanese. On another table, Hana and Collette taught ‘how to use chopsticks’, with a variety of objects to pick up to see if the skills had been passed on successfully. Kai was in charge of paper folding Japanese style/origami. Everyone from here was able to have a go to make a variety of shapes.

Each of the tables was expertly organised by 6th form students from both schools who had visited Yosano, Japan in the Autumn of 2007 on the Aberystwyth/Yosano exchange. (Sayaka had prepared them for what to expect in Japan)

The Japanese students from the university were in charge of helping people put on the yukata – summer kimono’s. The sight of a young Polish male student from the university leaping about in a yukata will remain with me for a long time.

The sushi was a great success and sold well with people buying extra to take home. The day ended with the helpers enjoying sushi and miso soup. One of the helpers played the piano while we ate and then further entertainment was provided by some with an unplanned wasabi eating competition. Wasabi is a very hot horseradish so there was a great deal of laughter. The Japanese students told us they were amazed to find people in Aberystwyth who knew where their country is, have visited and speak their language – some more successfully than others. Everyone agreed that the day had been excellent and was great fun and should be repeated. We were also able to say ‘arigato’ thank you and ‘sayonara’ goodbye to Sayaka.

Hopefully we will have another teacher from the Japanese Rex programme in the Autumn. Sayaka was the only teacher on the programme in Europe as the other 20 were elsewhere in the world. Japanese has been taught in Penweddig for over 10 years. Sayaka has been the first teacher in Penglais where she taught 6th form students as part of their Welsh Bac. Japanese has been taught before but to an after school club by the last Rex teacher but one. In one local school she visited a geography lesson to talk about her experience of being in the Kobe earthquake in 1995. Her school was then closed for 3 months due to the damage

Sayaka has been a wonderful ambassador for her country while she has been in Ceredigion where she has visited both primary and secondary schools. She is now back in Japan for the start of the new school year.

Thank you also to Sentonaika the Japanese food shop in Shrewsbury where the ingredients for the sushi and miso were bought, who very kindly gave extra goodies for the day.

Caroline Goodband

EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL YR URDD 2008

Bydd nifer o ddisgyblion yr ysgol yn cystadlu yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd Sir Conwy yn ystod hanner tymor.

Ar y dydd Mercher bydd Jeyshti Kalyanasundaram yn cystadlu ar y Llefaru Unigol i Ddysgwyr Blynyddoedd 7-9 a bydd y Parti Llefaru i Ddysgwyr Blynyddoedd 7-9 hefyd yn cystadlu.

Diwrnod y cerdd dant fydd hi Ddydd Iau. Bydd Sophie Rudge yn cystadlu ar yr Unawd Cerdd Dant i Flynyddoedd 7-9 yn ogystal â'r Parti Cerdd Dant a'r Parti Cerdd Dant i Ddysgwyr. Hefyd, bydd Katrin Padel yn cystadlu yn y gystadleuaeth Llefaru i Ddysgwyr Blynyddoedd 10-13.

Dydd Gwener bydd Rebecca Thomas yn cystadlu yn y gystadleuaeth Dawnsio Disgo Unigol Blynyddoedd 10-13 a bydd y Grŵp Dawnsio Disgo Blynyddoedd 10-13 yn cystadlu.

Pob dymuniad da iddyn nhw i gyd.

THE URDD NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2008

Many Penglais pupils will be competing in this year's national Urdd Eisteddfod which will be held in the Conway Valley during half term week.

On the Wednesday Jeyshti Kalyanasundaram will compete in the Individual Recitation for Years 7-9 Learners and the Years 7-9 Recitation Party for Learners will also be competing.

On Thursday Sophie Rudge will compete in the Cerdd Dant Solo for Years 7-9; the Years 7-9 Cerdd Dant Party and the Cerdd Dant Party for Years 7-13 Learners will also be competing. Katrin Padel will be competing in the Solo Recitation for Years 10-13 Learners.

Friday will see Rebecca Thomas competing in the Solo Disco Dancing for Years 10-13 and the Years 10-13 Disco Dancing Group will also compete.

We wish them all the very best.

NUMERACY IN PENGLAIS

The Numeracy room in Penglais was new in September. The first year of its use is passing quickly. A group of Year 7 pupils have been individually working with a Year 12 student to help improve their numeracy skills. These sessions take place weekly for about 20 minutes. The Number Workout is provided by Basic Skills Agency and has been very successful in previous years. Previous participants have increased their end of year grades

Other pupils have been working in small groups with either Mrs Goodband or Mrs Lacey again to improve their skills. There are pupils in school who have gaps in their knowledge, these can be due to a pupils being absent when a topic was taught or due to changing schools so a topic is missed or that they really do find dealing with numbers very difficult.

Everyone is aware of Dyslexia but Dyscalculia (a severe difficulty of dealing with numbers) is less well known. Research into it is about 20 years behind Dyslexia.

Very recently I visited Special Needs North Conference and listened to Steve Chinn talk about 'Anxiety with Maths'. Some Year 8 and 9 pupils have taken part in his survey on anxiety in maths

At Special Needs North I was able to see and try out Numbershark 4. Over the last week some numeracy pupils have been trying out the demonstration version and all agree it is much improved from the version we currently have. So its arrival is eagerly anticipated. We are also looking at Dynamo Maths as it impressed me very much at Special Needs North and it also appears to be excellent for assisting with teaching the four rules of number: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This programme was devised to support Dyscalculic pupils.

Some pupils do not have a good grasp of their multiplication tables and will quite happily tell me this. My reply is that anything that improves tables including Nintendo games should be carried out regularly (*See photo*)



Ceredigion Language Strategy

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

National Context
Welsh Assembly Government documentation and directives such as Iath Pawb (2003) state the right of every child in Wales to be a Welsh speaker.

Ceredigion context
The Single Education Plan of Ceredigion states the priority given to bilingualism. This priority is reflected in the corporate document Ceredigion 2020 as well as the corporate Welsh Language Policy.

The Ceredigion Language Strategy is based upon these principles.

1. The aim of this strategy is to develop our pupils' skills to enable them to use both Welsh and English fluently and with confidence. This will enable them to become full members of the bilingual society in which they live and will nurture pride in the language, heritage and culture of both Wales and Ceredigion
2. Ceredigion Local Education Authority believes strongly in the educational value of all pupils having the ability to communicate fluently in both Welsh and English. The Education Authority states clearly its objective that pupils will be confidently bilingual in all primary and secondary schools within the county.
3. A clear Language Strategy is the key to the success of bilingual education. The main objective is to ensure the bilingual skills of pupils in Welsh and English in both curricular and social contexts. Setting realistic targets will develop bilingualism on every level. The Language Strategy should be clearly communicated by
 - including the Language Strategy in county documentation and websites
 - including the Language Strategy, and the individual school policy in developing bilingualism, in the School Prospectus and other relevant school documentation.

In accordance with Welsh Assembly Government documentation, 'Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision' (October 2007) schools will have to state which subjects, or units of subjects will be taught through the medium of Welsh or English in the school prospectus. Opportunities for developing the dual literacy skills of our pupils also need to be identified. This information will show clearly the percentage of the learning experience that is through the medium of Welsh.

4. A Welsh ethos in each school is central to the Language Strategy.
5. The strategy will be monitored annually using evidence from a variety of sources including the School Prospectus, schools' Welsh Medium Education Actions Plans, pupil data, School Improvement Team visits, visits by Athrawon Bro, and ESTYN inspectors.

IMPLEMENTING THE LANGUAGE STRATEGY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Primary schools set specific aims regarding the bilingualism of their pupils. Secondary schools have a responsibility to affirm and further develop the bilingualism of each pupil. It is also the responsibility of these schools to provide the necessary support to enable this development.

Every secondary school within the LEA will ensure the relevant linguistic continuation and progression of each pupil.

1. The Transition Plans for each area will note the principle of linguistic continuation and progression between Key Stages. The Language Strategy should be discussed annually in Key Stage 2/3 meetings.
2. Pupils who have been assessed at the end of Key Stage 2 in accordance with Welsh First Language National Curriculum criteria will **continue to study Welsh as a First Language in the secondary school**. Linguistic continuation should also be provided in other curricular areas when transferring from Key Stage 2 to 3.
3. Every secondary school will place groups of pupils on different stages of the continuum in accordance with their linguistic development. The medium of the education provided should reflect these needs. Schools should also provide informal education activities through the medium of Welsh to further enrich the pupils' language experience.
4. The LEA will provide a Framework for the **Welsh Medium Education Action Plan**. Individual schools will set specific targets to be met within an agreed time scale. The LEA will regularly monitor the implementation of these Action Plans and revise and review them with the schools accordingly.
5. From September 2008, latecomers to secondary education in Ceredigion will receive linguistic support on the school site for a specific period of time. The provision will be assessed annually depending on pupil numbers.
6. Pupils who are officially assessed to have Specific Learning Needs will receive appropriate language support within the wider provision offered in schools. Specific attention will also be given to those pupils who do not speak either Welsh or English at home.
7. Staff appointed to schools should either be bilingual or agree to learn Welsh in accordance with their needs. It is acknowledged that schools are at different stages of the Welsh Medium Education continuum. Schools at the Developmental Stage will appoint bilingual staff, where appropriate, according to curricular need.

8. Present staff who are unable to speak Welsh should be encouraged and supported to develop their bilingual skills.
 9. Welsh should be the main medium of everyday life and administration in schools.
 - Welsh should be used as the only or main medium of communication in assembly and announcements.
 - Welsh should be encouraged as a natural language of communication between staff and pupils.
 - Social activities and extra-curricular activities will encourage the use of Welsh.
 - All signs, correspondence and documentation will be in Welsh or bilingual.
- Schools at the Developmental Stage of the Welsh Medium Education continuum will use the Welsh language as an effective means to promote and develop the Welsh ethos of the school.

Welsh Medium Education at Key Stage 3 and 4				
<p>Pupils experience at least 80% of Curriculum through the medium of Welsh at Penweddig and Dyffryn Teifi and in the Welsh streams of every other secondary school.</p> <p>Deliver and assess Welsh as a First Language and ensure progression in pupils' language skills and experiences.</p>	<p>Pupils experience at least 50% of Curriculum through the medium of Welsh in every secondary school excluding Penweddig and Dyffryn Teifi.</p> <p>Deliver and assess Welsh as a First Language and ensure progression in pupils' language skills and experiences.</p>	<p>Pupils experience at least 30% of Curriculum through the medium of Welsh in every secondary school excluding Penweddig and Dyffryn Teifi.</p> <p>Latecomers to secondary education in Ceredigion will receive relevant language support on site.</p> <p>Deliver and assess Welsh as a Second Language and ensure progression in pupils' language skills and experiences.</p>		
		<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Step 2 At least 20% through the medium of Welsh</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Step 1 At least 10% through the medium of Welsh</td> </tr> </table>	Step 2 At least 20% through the medium of Welsh	Step 1 At least 10% through the medium of Welsh
Step 2 At least 20% through the medium of Welsh	Step 1 At least 10% through the medium of Welsh			
<p>Areas of the curriculum should be provided by studying some units in Welsh and other units in English as to achieve the agreed percentage through the medium of Welsh. The school 'Welsh Medium Education Action Plan' will reflect this by providing detail as to which subjects are taught through the medium of Welsh and for what period of time. These details will also be provided in the School Prospectus, SDP and subject schemes of work. The LEA will be responsible for supporting and monitoring this plan.</p>				

Double success for Penglais U15 Rugby players

Ceredigion Schools U15s & Pembrokeshire League Winners



Penglais representatives for Ceredigion School, L/R
Christopher Randall, Rhys Wallace, Paul Benett, Kristian Jones, Daniel Binks, Andrew Drakeley.



Andrew Drakeley awarded player of the Match at the final in Narberth on 3rd May.

Ceredigion v Cardiff Final

Turning in a tremendous all-round team performance, the Cardis lowered the colours of a strong Cardiff side to win the Dewar Shield Amdaal Bowl final at Llandovery.

Ceredigion showed an abundance of flair in attack and when the Cardiffians mounted waves of attacks in an attempt to pull the game out of the fire they put bodies on the line in a first-rate defensive display but the Cardis would not be denied and ran out worthy winners. The trophy was presented by David Mathews of the Welsh Schools Intermediate Group.

Aberystwyth v Narberth Final

Pupils also represented Aberystwyth U15s on Sunday in the Final of the Pembrokeshire District League Fianal against Narberth and again came home winners.



Paul Benett was selected by the Scarlets squad for next season.