



## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



*Mr. A. W. Gilbey, Mr. H. Lewis, Mr. A. Wells, Ms. H. Leighton, Mr. H. Davey, Mrs. S. Payne, Mr. M. Brown, Mr. D. Rudge*

During the autumn term Mr. Davey has been seconded to the local education authority to work on plans for the reorganisation of secondary education in Ceredigion. During his absence from school, Mr. A.W. Gilbey is Acting Headteacher. Mr. Davey will return at the beginning of the Spring term in January.

## TRAFFIC ON SITE

Parents are reminded that the Penglais site becomes extremely congested with the arrival of 25 buses in the morning and afternoon. Staff on duty will always give priority to pedestrians and the safe despatch of buses. Parents who bring cars onto site will have to wait until duty staff have satisfied themselves that it is safe for the cars to leave premises. **We have had a few cases where parents believe they have the right to drive out whilst staff are supervising pupils and ensuring that the buses can leave promptly.** We make a plea for patience and tolerance at these times. If it is safe to let cars leave we will allow them to do so otherwise we will give priority to pupils on foot and the buses.

## HPV VACCINATION FOR YEAR 8 GIRLS

This immunisation programme, to protect against cervical cancer, is about to start in Penglais School. Sessions will be held on the mornings of:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008  
 Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009

A course of three injections is required so it is important for girls to attend all sessions. Consent forms and information packs have been given out last week. A prompt return of the completed forms would be appreciated. A catch-up programme for pupils in other years will be arranged from autumn 2009.

If you need further information or have any questions, please contact Helen Stretch, School Nurse on 01970 621157 or 07980277360.

## WBQ NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to our students on their results in the Welsh Baccalaureate Diploma! We are very proud of their achievements. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to the Welsh Bac team for all of their hard work in supporting the students. Of the 82 entered, 75 achieved the Advanced Diploma and 81 passed the Core.

Our new year 12 students are preparing to start their Enterprise Projects. This involves setting up and running a business. There are cash prizes for the best businesses so we are looking forward to getting started on this popular module of the Welsh Baccalaureate Diploma. We are also excited to be offering Mandarin Chinese classes, along with sign language among others, as part of the language module. Our year 13 students are busy preparing their UCAS applications and choosing what will be the next step as they embark upon their final year here at Penglais. It is an exciting time and we look forward to supporting them in their studies and choices during the year ahead.

## VACANCIES FOR GOVERNING BODY

There are currently two vacancies for Parent Governors to represent Penglais School. These vacancies can be filled by parents of any child attending Penglais School. Nominations must be proposed, seconded by and assented to by three other eligible parents and must be submitted to Mrs. M. Goodwin, Clerk to the Governing Body, at the school, no later than Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008.

**Nomination forms are available from the school.** If there are more nominations than places available, an election will be held at which parents of all children attending the school will be eligible to vote. Parents will be informed of the arrangements at the appropriate time.

# EXAMINATIONS

Please find attached summary sheets for this summer's A Level and GCSE results. We were very pleased with the performances of students this summer and delighted that the results were better than expected. The **average** A Level performance was an impressive AAD and the numbers of students achieving 5A\*-C at GCSE was over 66%. These results, combined with our best KS3 SATs performance deserve congratulations all round.

## *Penglais School Examination Officer's Report 2008*

**Table 1: Penglais School A Level performance in 2008**

Penglais School entered 108 candidates at two or more A Level examinations – of these 96 achieved a grade in two or more subjects.

Subject	Total entry	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art	25	8	1	6	2	3	5
Biology	15	3	4	1	1	4	2
Business Studies	3	0	1	0	2	0	0
Chemistry	13	5	3	2	1	2	0
Critical Thinking	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Design and Technology	12	2	5	4	1	0	0
Drama	13	2	4	4	2	1	0
English Literature	35	8	6	12	5	1	3
French	5	3	1	1	0	0	0
Geography	18	8	6	3	1	0	0
Geology	8	1	5	2	0	0	0
German	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
History	29	10	5	12	2	0	0
Information Technology	7	0	1	0	4	1	1
Mathematics	14	5	7	2	0	0	0
Mathematics Double	3	0	1	1	1	0	0
Media Studies	17	2	3	3	6	0	3
Music	10	1	3	5	1	0	0
PE	8	0	2	2	1	2	1
Physics	20	12	4	1	2	1	0
Psychology	15	2	1	3	3	2	4
RE	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Spanish	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Welsh	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
WBQ	82	75	0	0	0	0	7
% of Total		41.2	18.9	18.4	9.6	4.7	7.2

**Table 2: Examination results at A Level VCE by candidates in Year 13**

	Entry	A	B	C	D	E	U
Health & Social Care	5	0	0	2	2	1	0

## GCSE EXAMINATION STATISTICS

**Table 5a: Examination results at GCSE by subject**

There were **203** pupils on the Y11 roll in January 2008 who were entered for GCSEs

Subject	Total/ Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Art	93	8	11	15	16	15	16	4	4	4
Biology	31	6	9	11	5	0	0	0	0	0
Business	49	2	3	2	8	7	7	10	4	5
Catering	20	2	2	0	7	7	2	0	0	0
Chemistry	31	7	17	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Child Dev	29	0	2	5	8	4	6	4	0	0
DT Food	13	0	1	3	5	0	1	3	0	0
DT Graphics	18	0	4	2	2	3	1	2	1	3
DT Resistant	50	1	7	6	15	17	4	0	0	0
DT Textiles	11	2	0	3	3	2	0	0	1	0
Drama	23	4	2	4	7	2	1	3	0	0
English	195	12	16	40	50	52	18	5	1	1
English Lit	185	13	23	45	42	39	21	2	0	0
French	32	6	9	8	3	3	2	1	0	0
Geography	80	15	15	15	18	11	3	2	0	1
German	17	2	1	4	3	5	2	0	0	0
History	90	22	19	18	16	5	8	2	0	0
IT	55	3	6	9	19	7	6	2	1	2
Mathematics	196	8	23	39	35	34	27	13	13	4
Maths Applied	19	3	5	1	2	3	4	1	0	0
Music	19	4	7	6	1	1	0	0	0	0
PE Cert	54	3	7	4	15	15	9	1	0	0
Physics	31	9	12	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
RE	67	8	18	15	9	8	6	2	1	0
Russian	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science Core	163	0	8	27	62	44	14	6	1	1
Science Addi- tional	151	0	13	24	65	32	9	6	0	4
Spanish	13	6	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	0
Welsh Second Language	143	5	11	11	73	22	6	10	2	3
Welsh First Lan- guage	42	0	0	5	13	10	9	2	1	2
% of Total	1931	7.9	13	17.6	25.9	18.4	9.8	4.2	1.6	1.6

**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	110	3	7	19	34	17	22	4	1	3
PE	16	0	1	0	1	6	5	1	0	2
Welsh	12	0	0	0	1	2	2	4	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	138	3	8	19	36	25	29	9	3	6

## PENGLAIS STUDENTS AMONGST TOP TEN IN THE COUNTRY

Penglais School has just learned that three of their students were amongst the top ten students in GCSE Religious Studies according to Edexcel, the UK's largest awarding body. Charlotte Lewis, Yasmin Eva and Harry Williams sat the GCSE Religious Studies examination earlier this summer and the results, issued last month, show that for Charlotte, who studied the short course, out of 94,361 entries she achieved one of the highest overall marks. Both Yasmin and Harry sat the full course examination and out of 67,731 entries they both came in the top 10. Mr. Albert Gilbey, Acting Headteacher, said: "This is a tremendous achievement and testament to the hard work students and teachers put into preparing for their exams. We send our congratulations to Charlotte, Yasmin and Harry."

## PARC ASTERIX TRIP

During the last week of term 80 pupils and 9 teachers visited Paris and the Parc Asterix theme park. After a very long coach journey, the boat trip on the River Seine was most welcome. From the boat we were able to view several of the most famous monuments of Paris,

including the Eiffel Tower and the Notre Dame cathedral. The weather was very kind to us – no rain and not too much sun which meant that the teachers did not have to worry about pupils getting sunstroke! A thoroughly enjoyable trip was had by all. The teachers would like to praise the pupils for their excellent behaviour, which helped to make the trip such a success.

Year 7 pupils! Look out for the letters announcing next year's trip!



## TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

Penglais has signed up to an exciting information text messaging service for all parents. This will enable school to contact you in emergencies and for information purposes i.e. closing the school due to snow, 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	Penglaig	80480
Year 8 pupils	Penglaisa	80480
Year 9 pupils	Penglaib	80480
Year 10 pupils	Penglaic	80480
Year 11 pupils	Penglaid	80480
Year 12 pupils	Penglaie	80480
Year 13 pupils	Penglaif	80480



As you may all be aware the school will be producing 'Oliver' in November. If any one has any unwanted flat caps, dark coloured scarves / material, old shirts (any colour) or trousers suitable for our Junior chorus please let us know. This would be enormously helpful to clothe our cast. Please send items to Mrs. June Wells in D5.

Mrs. Pearson, Head of Modern Languages



## JAPANESE EXCHANGE 2008

We set off early on the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> July in the pouring rain heading for what would turn out to be the trip of a life time! Many hours later we arrived in Osaka, still in the rain but about 15 degrees hotter. We were tired out but went straight into a programme of events that didn't slow down for the entire ten days.

The staff, students and parents of Otemae School could not have been more welcoming and they had made great preparations for us. The trip was a whirlwind of events from the welcoming ceremony to calligraphy, pottery and Japanese harp classes, learning Japanese, teaching Welsh and English, sleeping on futons, eating sushi and singing karaoke.

The host families and school had arranged trips around Osaka and further afield to Kyoto and Nara. Some of us enjoyed seeing one of the biggest Buddhas in the world; others visited Japanese gardens and local festivals whilst the students loved Universal Studios!

At the end of our stay we were invited to a farewell party where we all dressed in yukata (summer kimonos made of cotton) and were privileged to take part in a traditional tea ceremony.

We had a wonderful time, our students were fantastic ambassadors for Penglais School and the trip was unforgettable. Next summer we will be hosting the student and staff from Otemae. We will be looking for host families, so if you are interested in hosting a student and then having a fantastic trip yourself, get in touch.

Pat Richards and Delyth Griffiths



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child was entitled to Free School Meals at primary it does not necessarily follow that it will automatically continue with them. Parents may need to reapply. Forms are available from the school canteen or from pupil reception.

## SEX EDUCATION

It is the policy of the school governors that all children follow a programme of sex education. The school aims to ensure that all pupils have access to sex education as an integral part of the school curriculum. The provision will take into account the age, development and beliefs of the pupils. It will form part of the structured and integrated syllabus of the Key Skills programme and aspects of it will be taught in the schemes of work of other subjects. Moral issues and the value of family life will be considered. The school intends to teach about HIV/AIDs, sexually transmitted diseases and aspects of human sexual behaviour as part of the sex education programme, at levels appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils. It will also be prepared to answer questions from younger pupils on these topics. Parents may request that their children be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education (except where such education forms part of the National Curriculum) by writing to the Headteacher at the school. Sex Education forms part of the curriculum for all pupils in the school and is based upon the Local Education Authority's 'Sex Education in the Curriculum: A Statement of Policy' and the National Curriculum. Details of the content and organisation of sex education are available on request at the school from Karen Davies.

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

### BUSINESS STUDIES - TRIP TO BIRMINGHAM

Last term a group of year 10 students visited Cadbury world, Bournville in Birmingham. The students took part in an educational lecture about the structure of the company and their marketing techniques. The education staff commented on the excellent behaviour of the students. The students asked several interesting questions about the marketing strategies used by the company. During the talk we had to evacuate the building as the fire alarm sounded. After a delay of 30 minutes, students took part in a tour of the factory including the packaging plant, where students could see products coming off the production line to be packaged. Finally, the students enjoyed a taste test. Miss Davies and Mrs Shaw would like to congratulate the students for their excellent behaviour throughout the day.

### THE INCLUSION UNIT

Following the successful pilot of an ENCIL withdrawal room last academic year, Penglais is continuing to develop its approach to tackling challenging behaviour. Penglais now offers constructive and comprehensive inclusion support to pupils at risk of exclusion from school.

Staffed by trained behaviour specialists, the Inclusion Unit is now a fully integrated unit with the primary purpose of reducing exclusions from school

The three integrated elements to the Inclusion Unit are:

1. To provide an alternative to exclusion – the pupil remains in school working to their timetable in an environment that seeks to foster taking responsibility and support changes in behaviour.
2. To support those at risk of future exclusion – one-to-one and group sessions are offered to deal with issues and needs in areas where pupils can be monitored and supported within class. It is also possible to offer outside school support.
3. To offer a place of sanctuary and support – to assist all pupils in developing their social and emotional wellbeing.

The school aims to secure an excellent education for all and to prepare pupils, in a happy and secure environment, for adult life.

Further information can be obtained from Polly Sills-Jones (Inclusion Support Manager) in the Inclusion Unit or from Mr. H. Lewis (Deputy Headteacher and Head of Pastoral) on 01970 624811.



Students are pictured with Cadbury staff during a fire alarm!



The taste test.

### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

**Are you doing your bit for the environment?** – In all areas of Design and Technology (Food, Graphics, Resistant Materials and Textiles) we are looking into some of the issues relating to sustainability. On a practical level we are aiming to REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE. In food lessons all waste raw vegetable matter now goes into the compost bin as does wood shavings from Resistant Materials. We will also be saving all scrap metal and selling this on. Much of our scrap plastic will be recycled into glue / paint spreaders for primary school use. If you have any unwanted material: fabric; wood, beads, ribbon or plastic food containers, please recycle it in our direction.

**Food Containers** – A reminder that when a pupil cooks in school a suitable container is needed to take the product home!

**Your Design and Technology Department needs you!** – The Design and Technology Department is currently trying to raise funds to upgrade some of the current equipment that plays an important part in the day to day life of the subject. One of the main pieces of equipment we want to purchase is a Laser Cutter. This is a machine that is controlled by a computer and cuts a variety of material very fast and accurately, enabling the pupils to create products they are unable to produce otherwise. These machines are very expensive: the one we are looking at is £14,000! We are therefore going to run a series of fundraising events to help raise some of the £14,000 needed for the machine but we still need more help. This means we will be asking small businesses and local companies for help with sponsorship towards the target. Watch this space for updates and dates of fundraising activities. Please contact either Mrs. Wells or Mrs. Balchin if you are able to help in any way.

### MUSIC

- All singers are invited to take part in the chorus for the show 'OLIVER' this term. If you are interested in taking part, please see Mrs. Leggett for further details. Rehearsals have already begun and details can be found on the Music Department noticeboards.
- Would all Year 7 pupils who want to receive instrumental lessons this term please see Mrs. Leggett for further details.
- All instrumentalists are reminded that they should not bring uninsured instruments to school and that no instruments should be left in school overnight.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Extra-Curricular Activities (subject to change)

	Lunchtime	After School
<b>Monday</b>	Boys – Basketball Girls – Gym Club	Rugby (all year groups) Football
<b>Tuesday</b>	Boys – Badminton Girls – GCSE Club (D19)	Football (all year groups) Hockey
<b>Wednesday</b>	Boys – Girls – Year 7&8 Netball	Boys Fixtures
<b>Thursday</b>	Boys – Girls – Senior Netball	Football Training or Fixture

The Ceredigion Football Tournament will be held for boys on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October at Blaendolau and the Tournament for girls will be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, again at Blaendolau. Pupils must attend training in order to be involved in these teams. Penglais always performs well in this tournament and we look forward to seeing our teams compete again. There is a calendar outside the PE office showing all known fixtures so please check in advance and write these dates in your planners.

**Trips – Skiing** – All the money for the skiing trip should now be paid. Many thanks to all those of you have already paid. A letter will shortly be sent outlining all relevant details of the trip.

**Football Tour to Spain** – There are plenty of spaces still available but if someone intends going could the deposit please be handed in as soon as possible? Also could girls please remember that there is a Year 7 and 8 combined team for which nobody has as yet signed up. The details of the trip are on the school’s website ([www.penglaischool.org.uk](http://www.penglaischool.org.uk)) under PE. . There is, however, a mistake in the letter. The cost of the tour is £650 with a deposit of £200 payable immediately and the £450 to be paid in February.

**Senior Rugby Tour** – During the Easter period the 1<sup>st</sup> Rugby team will be travelling to the south of France. I would be grateful if players could organise themselves and turn up for training. As we all know the south of France is the hotbed of French rugby!

**Athletics** – The Penglais under 15 athletics travelled to Brecon on 9<sup>th</sup> July to compete in the NASUWT Athletics Plate competition. This is a team competition where all the athletes gain points. After some excellent performances in horrendous weather conditions, Penglais came fifth. They had previously won the Ceredigion competition and had come second in the Dyfed competition.

**Senior Football Tour** - In a year’s time the senior football team will be touring the United States for two weeks. The team will be entered into a football tournament either in Dallas or San Diego and then playing friendlies in Kansas City against some of their best teams, or so Mr. Peter Harrison (former Penglais PE teacher!) says!!

**Girls’ Senior Hockey Tour** – We would like to know if the senior girls would like a hockey tour, with the possible venue being Holland. This is up for discussion. If you are interested please let the PE department know.

**Rugby** – The following students have been chosen to represent the county at U13s: Robert Sutton; Luke Davies; Liam Cashman; Jack Partridge and Ash Hughes. Congratulations from the PE department.

Good luck to all the pupils representing our school in every sport this year. Also all those pupils who play sport outside of school please let us know when you compete and your results – we are interested in what you do. Good luck to all of you too.



**Back row left to right:** Freddie Belcher, Andrew Drakely, Michael Owen and Justin Quinn

**Front row left to right:** Kristian Jenkins, Rhys Watson-Ellis, Paul Bennett, Jonathan Evans and Jac Morris.

**Gerwyn Slinger** - Penglais Year 12 athlete  
Gerwyn Slinger claimed an amazing two gold medals in both the 800m and 400m when he represented West Wales in the Welsh Regional Championships held at Brecon on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Congratulations to this very talented sixth form student.



## GEOGRAPHY - Iceland trip 14 - 18 July 2008

On Monday 14th July Mrs J Elgood (party leader) Mrs Allen, Mrs Lawrence, Mr Lewis, Mr Jones and Mrs K Edwards (previous Head of geography) took a party of 54 pupils, ranging from Year 8 to Year 12 to Iceland. On the first full day many of the sights of the 'Golden Circle' were seen. Pupils were able to stand on the mid Atlantic ridge in Pingvellir National park, where the North American plate is moving 2 cms away from the European plate every year. Pingvellir has also been the main meeting place for Icelanders for over 830 years, including their Declaration of Independence in 1944, and is the site of many of the Icelandic Sagas. Pupils also saw the Geothermal power station at Neswajelli and the system of earthquake - proof pipelines which take the heated water from the uplands to heat all the homes in Iceland; no fossil fuels are burnt for energy in Iceland.

Several waterfalls were visited, including the magnificent Gullfoss, where pupils could stand on rock and be surrounded by the fast flowing water, Skogafoss and Seljandsfoss - where we were able to enjoy the rare experience of walking behind a waterfall. Strokker geyser was seen in full glory, with the water spouting up to 30 metres in height every few minutes. The smell of sulphur was not one to be enjoyed!

A bumpy bus journey took us to the dark black Myrdalsjokull glacier, which covers the active Katla volcano. All pupils had some time walking on the glacier and then took a very steep climb up the lateral moraine to see a fantastic view.

Some of the history of Iceland was seen at Skogar folk museum (a smaller equivalent of St Fagan's), including several of the traditional buildings reconstructed in its grounds, including a church, schoolhouse, village hall and farmhouse; and also at Skalholt cathedral.

On the final full day the party took a short aeroplane journey from Bakki airport to the Westman Islands to see the effects of the 1973 eruption of Eldfell and its effects on the town of Heimaey, where one third of all the buildings were buried under the lava flows. Pupils were able to get up close to see the puffins in their natural environment, and a 2 hour boat cruise was also provided where the the wildlife of the Islands could be observed, as well as the geology of the area including a view out to Surtsey island. A vigorous walk saw all pupils reach the top of Eldfell where the stunning lava flows from 1973 could be clearly seen, and the heat of the lava easily felt.

On the final morning a tour was undertaken of the capital city Reykjavik, where two thirds of Iceland's population live, including the stunning Hallgrimskirkja church, the Parliament building and bay area. In the afternoon the party all enjoyed the 40 degree Celsius warmth and mineral riches of the 6,000,000 litres of geothermal seawater of the famous Blue Lagoon. Many pupils and all staff tried out the revitalising effects of the lagoon silica on their faces.

Although the trip was very tiring, as a lot had been packed into a short time, it was an unforgettable experience. A large part of this is down to our fantastic guide Gautie. Not only did he accompany the party to, and explain all the sights visited, he also told us a huge amount about Iceland's geography and history, and played us some Icelandic music on the bus.



Between all the staff we have been on many, many school trips, and Gautie was the best guide we have ever had, and the care and attention to detail he provided us all with was way beyond realistic expectations. We also were lucky to enjoy hot, dry weather (unlike Aberystwyth) as well as 24 hours of daylight. We are also pleased to report that the behaviour and time keeping of the pupils was excellent, and they were a pleasure to take to Iceland. We also extend our thanks to parents for being so prompt at picking their children up after our arrival in the early hours of Saturday. It is our intention to run another trip in two years time.







## MATHEMATICS

[www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) – Every pupil is issued with a personal user name and password to allow them to use this truly outstanding site. It is excellent for revision and for helping when a pupil has missed a topic. Homeworks will be set which must be done on-line. A **few** pupils have told us that although they have internet access they have had difficulty completing on-line homeworks. In most cases, this is because a pop-up blocker is installed. You must allow MyMaths.co.uk to use pop-ups. Our survey of pupils confirmed that the great majority of homes has access to the internet but we will be making arrangements for computers to be made available at lunchtimes for those who do not have access at home.

**Modular Maths GCSE** – All pupils in the 10c band and sets 10a3 and 10b3 are following the AQA Foundation level modular course which we consider will give them the best opportunity to achieve a grade C at GCSE. Modular exams are to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> June, each of which contribute approximately 20% of the final marks. **It is vital that holidays are not arranged for these dates.**

**Additional Maths GCSE (WJEC)** – for the last two years Penglais has been pilot testing this new GCSE. Results have been excellent and students from the top sets in Year 11 will be encouraged to study for it this year. Lessons will be given at lunchtimes, twice per week. This provides an excellent grounding for those who are interested in continuing to study Maths at AS/A2 level.

## SCIENCE

The science department ran a range of sessions during Activities Week at the end of last term, including robot building, a Chemistry Cook Off and a field trip to RSPB Ynyshir. Science staff also ran kayaking and scuba diving sessions. Well done to all the pupils involved for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm and thanks to the sixth formers who helped out.

The Science department offered Years 7-10 an opportunity to build robots during activities week. A total of 65 enthusiastic pupils had a great day participating in the activity. Pupils were required to follow complex instructions and solder components and wires onto a circuit board. This was then bolted to a chassis and connected to the motors and light sensors. At the end of the day most pupils had a working robot that they could take home. Those that were not fully working were repaired by Mr. Dave Ball in his robot surgery and are awaiting collection from their owners. *(See photo)*



**WWAYS Lecture** – The next WWAYS lecture ‘Aspects of Armageddon’ by John Grattan will be held at the University on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Dr. Grattan will discuss the environmental impacts of volcanoes. WWAYS lectures are open to pupils in Years 10-13.

**Salter’s Chemistry Camp** – Three Year 10 pupils: Katrin Padel; Steffan Freeman and Dylan Freeman attended Salter’s Chemistry camps at Cambridge University during the summer. All three took part in practical work, attended lectures and experienced life on campus. Salter’s Chemistry camps are held at universities around the UK and are open to pupils in Year 10. Anyone interested in attending a camp next summer should see Dr. Warren.

P  
U  
P  
I  
L  
S'  
  
S  
U  
C  
C  
E  
S  
S

**Gerwyn Slinger** - Penglais Year 12 athlete Gerwyn Slinger claimed an amazing two gold medals in both the 800m and 400m when he represented West Wales in the Welsh Regional Championships held at Brecon on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Congratulations to this very talented sixth form student.

**Paul Bennett** – Congratulations to Year 11 pupil Paul Bennett for excelling in Athletics and Rugby this year. He ran the 200m for Wales in the Welsh School Championships in Bedford on 19<sup>th</sup> July and came a creditable 6<sup>th</sup> place. In August Paul represented Carmarthen Harriers in the Welsh Cup Final and won the ‘B’ 100m, came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the ‘A’ 200m, 1<sup>st</sup> in the ‘B’ Javelin and 1<sup>st</sup> in the 4 x 100m Relay. Paul also represented West Wales U20s on 31<sup>st</sup> August, coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200m and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 400m gaining a personal best time of 51.07. Paul has also been chosen to train with the Scarlets’ U16s Rugby squad. Congratulations on a very successful year.

On a very wet and windy Saturday in Brecon, both Gerwyn Slinger and Paul Bennett won an individual bronze in the middle boys section at the Welsh School National Track and Field Athletics Championship on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Gerwyn was pipped to second by 200<sup>th</sup> of a second in the 800m and gained a respectable third. Paul came 4<sup>rd</sup> in the 200m which was also a photo finish. Paul also received a gold medal in the 4 x 100m relay representing the Dyfed team.

**Aled Rhys Jones** – a Year 12 pupil successfully auditioned for a place and acting role in the National Youth Theatre of Wales production of ‘Mabinogi’. This bilingual play tells the mythical stories passed down through generations of Welsh people. Aled faced stiff competition to play the role of Efnisien and one of the Dreamers. Having secured the parts, Aled spent six weeks in rehearsals working alongside teams of professional theatre practitioners who act as tutors and mentors both on stage and behind the scenes. In recent years Mathew Rhys, Eve Myles and Michael Sheen all started their careers with the National Youth Theatre. This was an exciting, innovative, challenging and substantial role for Aled in his first year with the company. He performed to much critical acclaim. Aled is well known in the area as he regularly performs with the Welsh Theatre Company, at professional shows and Youth Theatre at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre. Aled shows great commitment to Penglais School through his acting in school productions and choral work. Aled Rhys Jones will be a name to look out for in the future.

**Sophie Rudge** – Congratulations to Year 8 pupil Sophie Rudge who has been invited to join an all Wales choir that will perform at the Welsh Music Education Conference in Cardiff City Hall. Sophie will be one of the pupils representing Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion. The choir will be conducted by Tim Rhys-Evans (conductor of the recently acclaimed winners of ‘Last Choir Standing’, ‘Only Men Aloud’). The choir will work on a piece especially written by Karl Jenkins.

**Hefin Squires** – Year 12 student Hefin Squires competed in the South Wales District Championship Road Time Trials on 28<sup>th</sup> June. Hefin won the race, coming first. Congratulations!



## YEAR 8 PUPILS

Congratulations to our Year 8 pupils have had a very busy summer:

**Ruth Dingle and Phoebe Williams (8NG)** completed an Under 13s music course in St. Mary’s College, Derbyshire with the National Children’s Orchestra of Great Britain. The course culminated in a concert in the Birmingham Town Hall and a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert in the Birmingham Symphony Hall.

**Sophie Rudge (8NG)** completed a week’s choral course in Malvern College with the National Choir of Great Britain. The Choir were recorded singing in the Priory, Malvern for the latest NCC CD.

**Bryony James** became the first member of the Aberystwyth Golf Club to win the Welsh Girls’ Championship Trophy. Bryony competed in Pennard Golf Club in Swansea.

## WORK RELATED LEARNING

All year 10 students took part in the NatWest’s MoneySense programme last term. The students were taken through interactive exercises designed to help them understand more about the services that banks offer, how cheques and paying books are filled in as well as looking at the importance of understanding your bank statement. The students were able to see how important it is that they are equipped with the skills and confidence required to make financial decisions in life. Students were also able to investigate the financial implications of going to college or university. We would like to thank NatWest for two enjoyable days and for making this programme available to our students.



## FAIR TRADE

The school governors and the school council have agreed on a whole school Fair Trade policy. This is a key step in promoting Fair Trade at Penglais. Further details on Fair Trade can be found at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

### Penglais School Fair trade Policy

Penglais School is committed to supporting Fair Trade wherever reasonably possible. Fair Trade is about guaranteeing a better deal for third world producers; ensuring that farmers and producer organisations get a fair and stable price for their products to help them support their families and invest in a better future.

Penglais School will:

- Have a Fair Trade Steering Group and support its work.
- Ensure that Fair Trade is part of the School Development Plan.
- Use Fair Trade products whenever suitable fair trade versions are available.
  - e.g. Tea, coffee and sugar in the staffroom/in meetings/parents' evenings and events.
  - In the canteen
  - In the vending machines
  - In cookery lessons where possible.

Have uniforms made from Fair Trade cotton available for purchase.

- Ensure that all pupils learn about Fair Trade (e.g. through assemblies and PSHE lessons).
- Promote Fair Trade within the whole school and the wider community (e.g. through display boards/articles in the newsletter/assemblies) particularly during Fair Trade fortnight.



In June four representatives of the Penglais Fair Trade group attended an awards ceremony in the National Botanic Gardens of Wales to receive an Impetus award from the Institute for Global Ethics for their work in promoting Human Rights. The award certificates were presented by the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler. The pupils had the chance to meet other groups from around Wales and discuss projects as diverse as asylum seekers support groups, community gardening and theatre as well as taking part in a problem solving exercise building tiny rafts in the gardens. The sun actually shone and we had a lovely lunch – all in all a very inspiring day. Congratulations to all the pupils involved for their hard work and commitment. Fair Trade group will start up again later in the autumn term – details to follow.

## APOLOGIES

In the last newsletter there was an error in the Carmarthen Athletics results. One pupil's name was wrongly recorded and we wish to put the record straight. Coner Berner came 5<sup>th</sup> in the 200m and also achieved a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> in the 100m. Well done Coner!

## TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS - ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009

**AUTUMN TERM** - Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008

**SPRING TERM** - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009  
(Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 – INSET Day)

**SUMMER TERM** - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009 (*this date may change as a result of decisions about INSET: please check future newsletters*)

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (pupils only)  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009 to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009 to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009 to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009 to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009  
(*this date may change as a result of decisions about INSET:*

*please check future newsletters*)

*Please note that this calendar is subject to any changes which may arise as a result of government policy decisions. Ceredigion County Council does not accept liability for any losses incurred in respect of altered holiday arrangements following such changes.*

Yours faithfully,  
**H.J. DAVEY**  
Headteacher

**COLOUR**  
**Penglais Newsletter**

View the newsletter in  
full colour on the  
school website

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