



PTA AUTUMN FAIR

A reminder that the PTA Autumn Fair is on Saturday, 18th October, from 10 a.m. to 12. There will be a range of stalls with toiletries, books, games, bottles, toys, plants, uniform, bacon rolls and cakes for sale. In addition the Sixth Form will have some of their enterprise goods on display and for sale. There will be some activities for younger children such as face painting, wild art and Beat the Buzzer. There is a raffle with a host of prizes including cash prizes of £100, £50 donated by Tom Pryce, and £40 donated by Cambrian Fencing, 6 month subscription for the Cambrian News, hampers from Pollys, Rachel Organics and MGs, case of Wine donated by Rummors and two tickets to use at the Arts Centre donated by the Aberystwyth Arts Centre. Please come along and support the PTA and the Autumn Fair.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 26th September the Sixth Form prefects arranged a coffee morning for staff in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The event was part of Macmillan's flagship fundraising event, the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning', and marked the beginning of this year's fund-raising events by the Sixth Form. The students worked hard and raised £156.92 for this worthwhile cause.

STUDENT PROGRESS

This term there will be Interim checks carried out for Years 12 and 13 during October and parents will be informed of any concerns raised as a result of these checks.

Full reports for Year 13 will be sent to parents by Friday 28th November and will be followed by a Parents' Evening on Wednesday 3rd December.

TRAFFIC PLANS

We have been informed by the Highways Department that work will commence early next year on introducing some traffic calming measures along the Cefn Llan road. This will undoubtedly reduce some of the problems at the back of the School and make it safer for the students. There will be parking restrictions which will help to reduce the problems caused to traffic flow and there will be raised humps, ramps and additional signage – including some long overdue flashing lights on the Waunfawr.

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WITH PARENTS

All parents and guardians are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting with the governors of Penglais School on Thursday 23rd October 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall. We will review our progress over the past year and will happily discuss with you the school's achievements, any concerns or suggestions you may have and the developments planned for the coming year.

There will be the opportunity after the meeting for you to talk informally with the governors and with other parents over a glass of wine. We would be particularly pleased to see parents and guardians of Year 7 pupils and any other newcomers to School.

The programme for the evening will be:

- Welcome and introductions
- Apologies for absence
- Key issues in the Governors' Report for 2007/2008
- Discussion of matters arising from the report
- New developments in the School
- Any other points you wish to raise with the governors

The Governors' Report for 2007/8 is available to any parent on request by contacting Mrs. Melanie Goodwin at the school.

We look forward to seeing you on 23rd October.

OLIVER

Penglais School is performing the very popular production

OLIVER on 12th, 13th and 14th November 2008 in the Main Hall at school.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets are available from school reception at a cost of £6 for adults and £4 for children. There is limited seating so book early to avoid disappointment.

A large cast of pupils is starring along with a guest appearance by Mr. Ioan Guile who is playing Mr. Bumble. Please come along, support the school and have a thoroughly enjoyable evening out.



Cylchlythyr YEAR 12 INDUCTION PROGRAMME

University Taster Sessions.

As part of their Induction Programme into the Sixth Form, all Year 12 students attended a range of taster sessions at Aberystwyth University on the 10th and 11th September. Students were able to participate in a variety of workshops led by university staff, including Creative Writing, Law, Forensic Science, Art, and Sport and Exercise Science. Students were able to gain a clearer insight into each of these areas of study and were given the opportunity to practise their key and leadership skills. The sessions proved to be extremely popular with the students and we would like to thank the University for providing us with this experience.

UCAS

Year 13 students are currently completing their UCAS applications. The application process is carried out online and all students should have already registered on the UCAS website. The deadline for completed UCAS forms to be submitted to their personal tutors is Friday 21st November.

ARRAN GEOLOGY FIELDTRIP 2008

In September, Year 13 Geology students spent a week studying geological processes on the Isle of Arran. This has been a tradition with the department for over 20 years and pupils are able to experience earth history in one of the most geologically important places in the world. It is a very intensive week starting at 8am and finishing as late as 10 pm each day.

Not only is the geology stunning but so was the weather (honestly!) and we encountered red deer, red squirrels, basking sharks and otters, though we failed to sight a golden eagle this year. Strangely, the geology was the same as last year!

The pupils were superb and it was a pleasure spending time with them and, as every year, teachers from other schools at the Lochranza Field Studies Centre complimented them on their behaviour and enthusiasm.

CEWC CYMRU

On Friday 26th September, four of our Sixth form students, James Quan-Thomas, Roxanne Cowley, Ben Corbett and Casper Donnison, took part in a training day organised by CEWC Cymru; an organisation which aims to encourage active citizenship amongst young people. The purpose of the day was to enable the students to gain a clearer understanding of effective debating techniques. The day proved to be both educational and enjoyable and the students will be using the knowledge and skills gained from the course to set up a Debating Society for Penglais students later this term.

Work Related Education – THE WINE BAR GAME

On the 8th and 9th October, all the students in Year 12 had the opportunity to take part in the Careers Wales Enterprise Workshop – The Wine Bar Game. Students worked in small groups to make decisions about setting up and running their business over 5 quarters. The students were required to make decisions on pricing, budgets, location, marketing and solving problems. Students enjoyed the competitive nature of the workshop and produced work of an excellent standard. In the final session of the two

days, the winning group created a wine bar called The Grapevine. They made some excellent decisions and created some creative marketing materials. The members of the winning group announced on Thursday afternoon were Sam Jones, Lucy Wardlaw O'Brien, Robert O'Malley, Isabella Boorman, Gerwyn Slinger and Jessica Edwards. The Careers Wales team commented on the high standard of marketing materials produced by all groups – one group even created hats and badges for their staff to wear to help create a clear corporate image. Mrs Shaw would like to thank the students for their hard work in the workshops and congratulate them on the standard of work produced.

From this they produce two pieces of coursework which amounts to a sizeable part of their final A-Level result.



URDD

Yn ystod mis Medi, cafodd nifer o ddisgyblion blwyddyn 7 y cyfle i fynd ar daith i Oakwood gyda'r Urdd. Aethon nhw gyda disgyblion o Benweddig, a chawson nhw amser hyfryd iawn. Roedd yn dda cael sgwrsio a chymdeithasu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Bydd trip arall gyda'r Urdd yn mynd i wylïo gêm rygbi rhwng Cymru a Chanada ym Mis Tachwedd. Bydd disgyblion o flwyddyn 8 yn mynd i Lan Llyn yn fuan ar gwrs iaith gyntaf. Pob hwyl iddynt yng Nglan Llyn.

During September, several Urdd members from Year 7 took a trip to Oakwood, along with other pupils from Penweddig. A lovely day was had by all and it was a good opportunity to converse through the medium of Welsh in a relaxed environment.

There will also be another trip for Urdd members in November to see the international rugby match between Wales and Canada. Pupils from year 8 will soon be off to Glan Llyn for a Welsh First language course. We hope that they will enjoy themselves.

Bronze for Cambrian Patrol



Two Cadets from Aberystwyth Detachment Welsh Guards collected a bronze medal in the prestigious Cambrian Patrol competition. Despite having one team member drop out due to injury the Dyfed ACF Cambrian Patrol team (who had only one weekend of training) pulled out all the stops in what is widely acknowledged to be one of the toughest military competitions in the world to come home with a Bronze Medal. Cadets Alun Sykes Yr 11 and Tom Edwards Yr 10, are both pupils at Penglais school Aberystwyth. They admitted to being shattered on Monday but still made it to school on time, although Alun added "I may have nodded off in Biology".

WALES SCHOOLS DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008

On Monday 6th October, James Quan-Thomas and Casper Donnison competed in the regional round of the Wales Schools Debating Championships held in Ammanford. The students engaged in a lively and informative debate on the issue, 'This house believes that Britain does not have a national identity'. Both students performed exceptionally well and James Quan-Thomas was awarded the prize for Best Individual Debater. He will now represent the Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire region in the All-Wales final in Cardiff, where selection will take place for the national team. We wish him all the best in this challenge.

A MESSAGE TO MORRISONS SHOPPERS

Pupils in the Learning Support Centre are collecting the Let's Grow tokens currently being distributed at Morrisons. We should be grateful if you would send any tokens in to school.

DEBATING SOCIETY AND ENGINEERING SOCIETY

This coming year we have decided to establish two societies for the lower years: a Debating Society and an Engineering Society. Both societies will be run by a team of committed Sixth Form students. The first meeting of the Debating Society will take place on Monday 20th October in A13. We think that this will be an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop skills that will help to prepare them for future challenges, including presentations, interviews, and university and job applications. All pupils in Years 9 – 12 are welcome to join and the issues discussed will be mainly topical and, at times, controversial. We also intend to invite various outside speakers into school for public debates. The first meeting of the Engineering Society will also take place this term and details will be announced in assemblies and registration periods in the next few weeks.

Ben Corbett
Head Boy, Chair of School Council.

FREE WELSH LESSONS FOR PARENTS

The County Council is offering free Welsh lessons to all parents. If anyone is interested in taking advantage of this excellent initiative, please contact Melanie Goodwin at the school to register your interest.

YEAR 11 CATERING PLACEMENTS

Over the last few weeks Year 11 pupils have spent five days in a local café, restaurant or hotel gaining valuable experience of how the catering industry works. All have learnt lots of new skills and had an enjoyable time out of school. Many thanks to the following establishments: The Conrah Hotel; The Orangery; Harry's; the Wynnstay; Tides; Penbryn Hall; The Black Lion Hotel and the Home Café.



Year 9 pupil Sierida Heald attended an athletics event organised by Disability Sports Wales last May at Plascrug Leisure Centre. Pupils from a number of primary and secondary schools took part in the event and Sierida was judged to be the most successful senior girl throughout the day. She is pictured with the trophy that was awarded to her. Well done Sierida!

SIXTH FORM PASTORAL TEAM



Over the next few newsletters, we will be introducing our pastoral teams. This edition shows our sixth form team and they are, from left to right Mr. H. Bonsall (Learning Coach), Mrs. T. Ryley (Sixth Form Administrative Assistant), Ms. P. Richards (Assistant Head of Sixth Form), Mrs. S. Payne (Head of Sixth Form), Mrs. M. Thomas (Deputy head of Sixth Form), Mrs. C. Carden-Brown (Assistant Head of Sixth Form), Mrs. Donna Owen (Sixth Form Year Manager), Dr. A. Minchin (Learning Coach) and Mr. J. Evans (Assistant Head of Sixth Form).

The Sixth Form team plays a key role in supporting and advising students throughout their time in the Sixth Form. All students in Years 12 and 13 are reviewed at least once per half term on a one-to-one basis by their personal tutor who offers support and guidance on subjects, future plans, planning study time, university, college and job applications and any concerns students may have.

MATHS AND THE 12/7 NUMERACY SCHEME

For the past few years there has been a scheme in the Maths department to give a boost to some pupils usually within set 3 (not the bottom set). This is called the 12/7 Numeracy scheme and it will soon be offered to some of the current Year 7s. The new Year 7 pupils have all been tested in their first Maths lessons to decide where they will all be placed for the rest of the year.

Last year all those involved in the 12/7 worked very hard, from the Year 7s who were receiving the weekly 20-30 minute sessions to the Year 12 pupils who were giving them. Most of the Year 12 pupils who have volunteered to help use the scheme as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate coursework.

Feedback from Year 7 participants includes, "I enjoy Maths more" to "I would give the extra maths 10/10 because it has improved my maths", "It has been fun" and "My sixth former has been very helpful and brilliant". Finally, one pupil commented, "I have enjoyed the numeracy as it has helped me in my maths work and has given me more confidence than I've had before. My teacher has explained things in a simple and easy way so it was easier to learn".

The following was feedback from Year 12 students: "I think the scheme of using sixth formers to mentor the lower school has been a great success for the simple reason that the lower school can relate better to the sixth formers, given it was only a few years ago that we were in their position, coming to a larger school, facing more difficult material and how it can be incredibly daunting." "For my part, what I have gained from the experience is increased patience as it is required when teaching someone something you understand completely and entirely, but they do no."

Working with all the pupils who have taken part is very rewarding. From listening to the older pupils giving feedback on their teaching and for when the sixth formers have had exams or have been ill and I have taken the lessons instead. Watching the

relationships build up between both sides and seeing the older ones pass on their expertise has been most rewarding. Hopefully last year's group will continue for this term only.

At the end of the year testing was carried out with the whole year group and the results showed that those who had participated in the scheme had made the greatest progress. Special praise must go to Paige Smeaton who was chosen to go on the scheme. She started out in set 3 in September 2007 and then rose to set 2 by the end of the Autumn term. Having come first in her class end of year exams she has started Year 8 in the top set.

Thank you to all concerned with the 12/7 and to the Basic Skills Agency who have provided the Numberworkout files.
Caroline Goodband

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Year 11 pupil Jonathan Evans who has signed with Cardiff City's Academy Football Club. Jonathan has also been selected to play for Wales, he will be playing in a match versus Scotland on Friday 17th October. The match will be shown live on Sky Sports at 7.30pm. We wish Jonathan the best of luck.

Congratulations also go to Year 12 student Tania Wylde who has recently been selected for Hereford Phoenix Ladies Football team. She has played two league matches and has already won 'Player of the Match'.



Jonathan Evans

Elinor Thorogood (Year 12) had a very successful triathlon season, competing all over the country against the best young triathletes in the UK. She finished fifth in the trial race for the GB team for the European Youth championships, narrowly missing out on one of the four selection places. Elinor competed in the Junior Elite race in London, finishing 6th, but the highlight of her season was her 2nd place at the British Inter-Regional championships in Aldershot where she was representing Wales for the fifth consecutive year.

Four Penglais pupils qualified to take part in the Welsh Summer National Swimming championships held in the National Pool in Swansea at the beginning of August. In the high quality competition, Elinor Thorogood (Year 12), James Malkin (Year 10) and Ben Jones (Year 8) came away with many medals including several golds. Ollie Thorogood (Year 8) had his first taste of competition at this level, and swam well achieving several Personal Best times in the heats.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Year 7 Geography Fieldwork – During the latter part of this term all Year 7 pupils have been on a day of fieldwork to investigate coastal processes and landforms in the Aberystwyth area. This involved field sketching of landforms and observation of processes on Clarach, Borth and Ynyslas. All pupils were exceptionally well behaved and both teachers and pupils have really enjoyed the work despite sometimes blustery and cold weather. Pupils will now use their fieldwork to complete a project based on the results of the investigation.



RECORD LEVELS OF ATTENDANCE

Once again the school has achieved record levels of attendance at 93%. This has been possible due to the support of parents and the systems put in place to monitor attendance and keep parents informed. In the recent inspection the school was highly praised for the work done to monitor and improve attendance. In order to maintain these high levels of attendance, the following procedures are in use.

Attendance Procedures

☐ If your child is absent from school please telephone 01970 624811. There is an answerphone service so please do not wait until the lines at the start of the school day.

☐ Where the reason for absence is not known, the school will telephone the parent to ask why a child is missing from school.

☐ When your child returns to school please send an absence note to give to his/her form teacher. This note is a legal requirement, even if you have previously telephoned. The school cannot authorise an absence without the note.

☐ The school can only authorise absences for illness unless there are very special circumstances. These would include medical appointments, bereavement, religious observance etc. If you are aware of any forthcoming absence of this nature please write to your child's form teacher at least two weeks in advance.

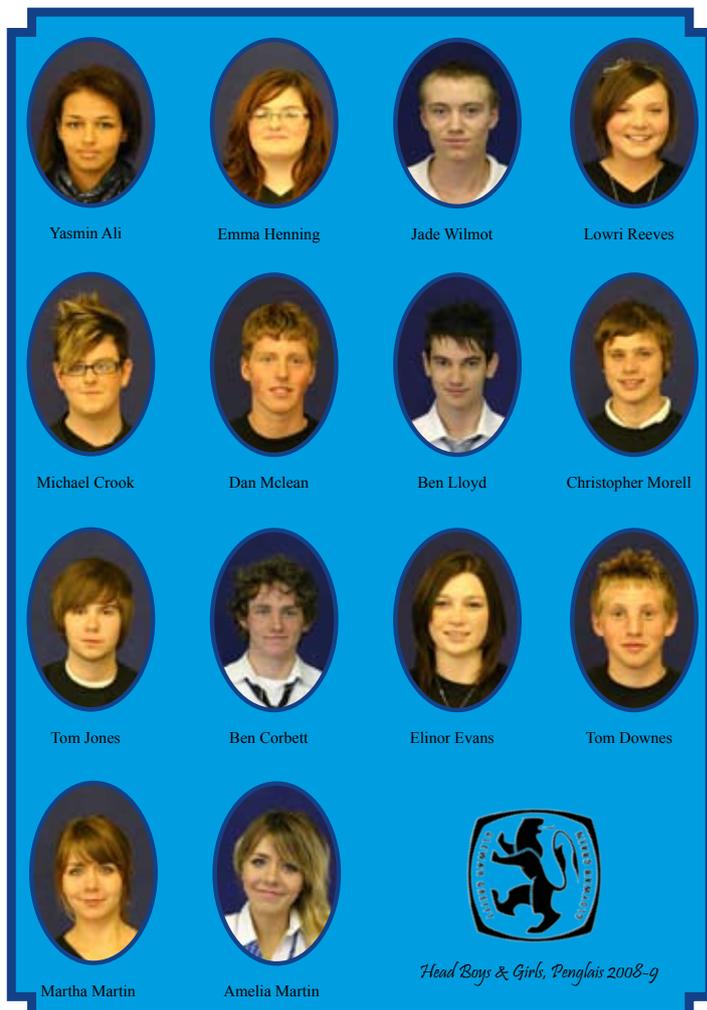
☐ If you need to take a holiday during term time, please ask for a holiday form and submit this two weeks prior to the vacation. If your child has a poor attendance record permission will be declined. Please make every effort to avoid taking your child out of school as copying up work is no substitute for being properly taught in the classroom.

☐ If your child's attendance falls below 90% you will receive a letter to informing you even if the absence has been genuine and you have sent school information regarding absences. The inspectors praised this system and recommended its adoption by other schools.

☐ When notes are not received the school will write home. Without a note an absence will remain unauthorised and be marked as a truancy. Twice each week the Education Inclusion Officer goes through the registers. Tanya Wynne is employed by the LEA. If she has concerns regarding attendance she may wish to write to you or meet with you to ascertain why your child is missing school. If necessary Tanya Wynne can involve the county legal department and possible prosecution.

As attendance has improved at Penglais it is not surprising that examination results have followed suit. Regular school attendance is vital, we always comment on this along with punctuality in all references to employers, other schools, colleges and universities.

Once again many thanks for your help. If you have any queries please telephone at any time and leave a message. Your co-operation is vital and helps ensure the school is successful.



SENIOR PREFECTS

Our senior prefects are students who are currently in Year 13 and have been selected to represent Penglais in recognition of their contribution to the life of the School. During their term in office they will be engaged in a range of activities both within and outside the School, such as leading assemblies, organising a variety of societies and representing Penglais at official functions.

Our Head Boys and Head Girls for 2008–2009 are Ben Lloyd, Elinor Evans, Sarah Trotter, and Ben Corbett.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FAIR

On 18th September, Penglais School held its first Community Participation Fair for the Sixth Form. As part of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, students are expected to complete some voluntary work and in order to introduce some of the opportunities to do this within their local community, organisations were invited to explain how volunteering could make a difference to them. Laura Rich, from CAVO was instrumental in helping to organise the event and introduced students to all sorts of volunteering in this area. During the afternoon the school welcomed a wide variety of organisations including Scouts, Guides, RSPB, RNIB, DASH, CREDCER, Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Yr Urdd, Hafan y Waun, Princes Trust, Pyramid Club and 5x60. Other opportunities to volunteer within the school were also offered – including a highly successful numeracy scheme and literacy catch-up schemes, both in Welsh and English.





Ysgol Penglais School



Come along to the Autumn Fair

Saturday 18th October
10am - 12pm

STALLS:

cakes • toiletries • toys/books/games
plants • raffle • tombola • bacon rolls
face painting • activities
entry £1 including tea/coffee
children free

