



STAFFING

Mrs. Jane Leggett is retiring as Head of Music at the end of this term. She has worked at the school since 1987 and has been Head of Music since 1998. Her contribution to the school and its musical tradition has been truly outstanding. Her inspirational teaching and incredible capacity for hard work have enthused and energised pupils and colleagues alike. We all remember the superb concerts and performances that Jane has organised and directed over the

years: she will be sorely missed. At the end of such a distinguished career we wish her a well-deserved and happy retirement.

Mr. M. Bassett-Jones, who has taught Health and Social Care and Science at the school for the last two years is leaving for a new post in the London Borough of Barnet. Ms. K. Porter who has taught English for the last three years is moving with her family to South Africa at the end of term. Miss E. Jones who has taught Welsh and played a significant role in developing the Welsh ethos

of the school in the last two years, is leaving for a new post in Bangor. Mr. M. Bonser who has taught Modern Languages at the school for the last eight years is leaving his part-time post to devote more time to his business. We wish them all the very best in the future.

Mr. M. Brown (Deputy Headteacher) is being seconded to the local education authority's advisory team in 2009-10 and Mr. M. Francis (Head of English) is taking a year's sabbatical to carry out research and writing.

We wish them both well in their new ventures and will welcome them back to school the following year!

Several colleagues are returning in September with part-time posts: Mrs. M. Collin (SEN), Mrs. M. Lindsay (SEN) and Mrs. S. Morris-Jones (Welsh)

At the time of writing all vacancies at the school have been filled and in the September newsletter new colleagues will be introduced.

BUILDINGS AND PREMISES

An enormous amount of work improving the school environment is taking place this summer:

- three science laboratories are being completely refurbished
- both food technology rooms are being completely refurbished
- new ICT centres have been created in the Library, the History and Geography departments
- two new classrooms are being built near the sixth form centre, ready for September
- replacement windows are being installed in the Administration block and D Block
- the male staff toilets are being renovated
- the school canteen is receiving new furniture and some new facilities; we are also installing a servery in the sixth form centre.

The school has received a £10,000 grant to install solar heating panels in one part of the school. We also hope to provide some limited additional car parking space too.

In the autumn term we intend to refurbish the main foyer and the entrance to M1/M2 at the rear of the school. In the spring, two of the Mathematics rooms will be refurbished.

CAR PARKING

The recent changes to Cefn Llan and the restriction of parking in that area have meant an increase in traffic at the back of the school. This is causing us great problems in the rear car park at the end of the school day.

Some parents are bringing cars to pick up their children into an already narrow car park. This is causing a number of health and safety problems:

- Pupils from the Learning Support Centre meet their taxis and minibuses in the rear car park. This means that the most vulnerable children in the school have to negotiate an increasingly busy car park. It has also meant that their transport (which is planned to leave the school at the earliest opportunity) has been frequently delayed by parents' cars blocking the way out.
- Large numbers of pupils leave school via the rear entrance to walk home. Staff on duty report increasing problems with traffic entering the site whilst children are leaving.

We have examined the problem and taken advice. The best solution is to let the children from the Learning Support Centre continue to use the rear car park – it is the shortest distance from their classroom to the taxis / minibuses and it avoids the area where the rest of the buses operate. The rear car park will however be closed to all other traffic at this time of day and staff will be on duty to ensure that only the taxis and the minibus for the children from the Learning Support Centre use the rear car park.

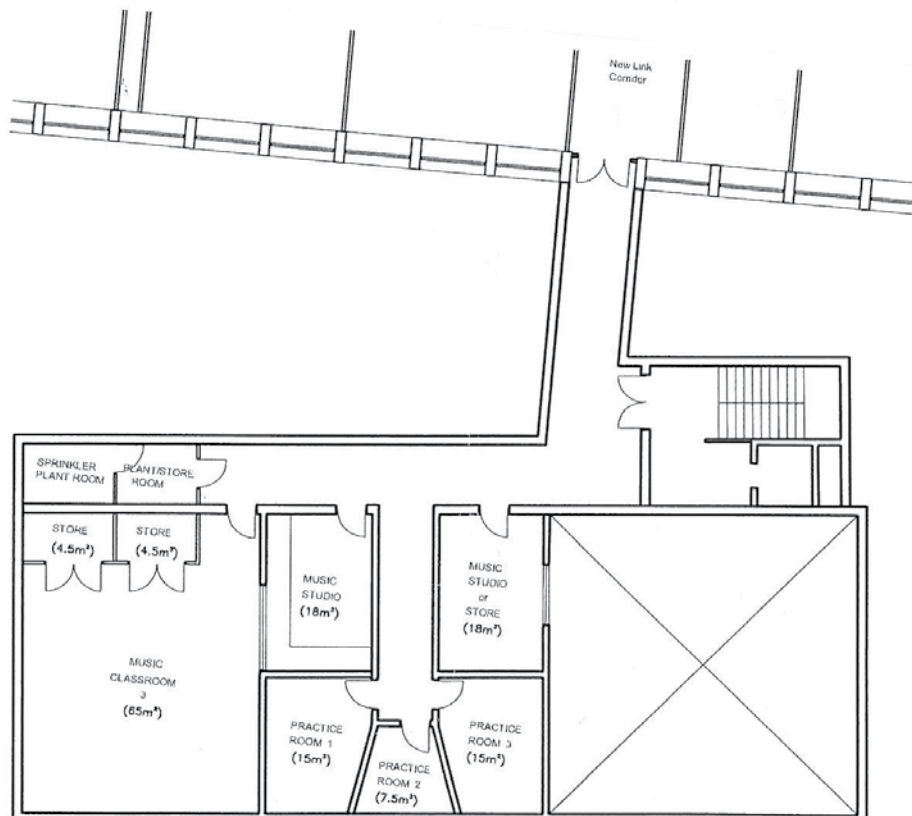
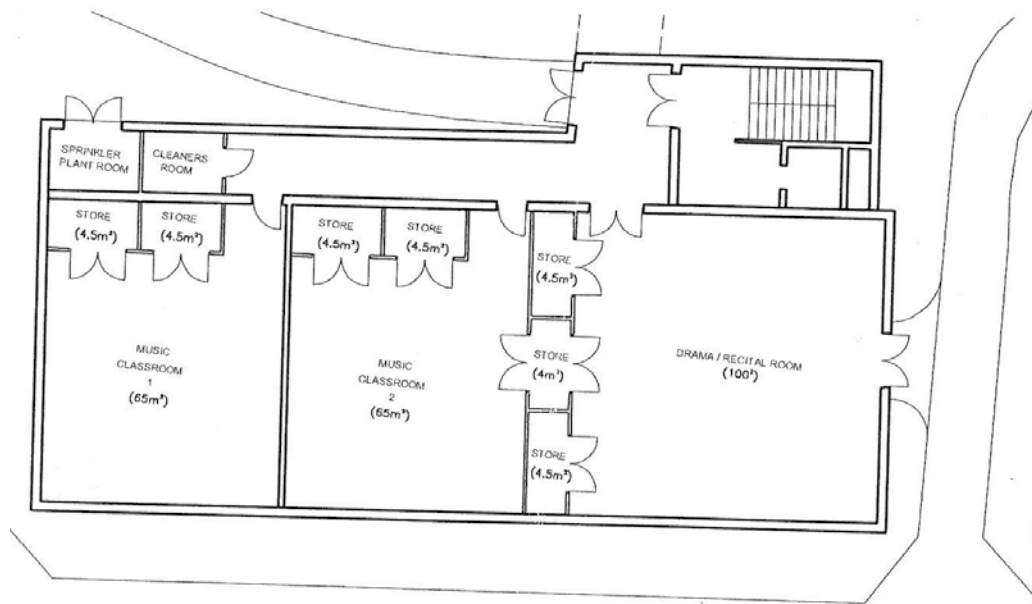
If parents wish to bring cars onto school premises to collect children at the end of the school day we would like you to park in the **lower** hard court area. This will reduce the risk of congestion and safety hazards. It will mean that patience is needed as the buses will be allowed to leave school premises

first. This is carried out under the direction of senior staff and it is usually completed by 3.30pm.

I do hope that parents understand the reasons for these decisions which are important to reduce health and safety risks and, of course, you need to consider your own personal liability in case of accidents.

NEW DRAMA AND MUSIC BLOCK

Attached are some plans for the new Drama / Music block which is scheduled for construction in 2011-12. We would welcome comments on the design of the new block, its situation and ideas for its use by the community. These suggestions will be considered and incorporated into the final specification. Anyone with any comments or ideas should put them in writing to Mr. H.E. Lewis, Deputy Headteacher, at the school.



SENIOR MANAGEMENT POSTS 2009-10

The school is moving towards a new management structure in the next 12 months. It is planning to have a senior manager in charge of all aspects of each **Key Stage** in the school. There are three key stages:

Key Stage 3: Years 7, 8 and 9
 Key Stage 4: Years 9 and 10
 Key Stage 5: Years 12 and 13

In September 2009 the Head of Key Stage 3 will be Mrs. H.G. Griffiths; the Head of Key Stage 5 is Mrs. S. Payne.

The Head of Key Stage 4 will be appointed later in the year.

The Head of Key Stage 3 is a new post and Mrs. Griffiths will be concentrating on the changes to the curriculum in Key Stage 3, developing links with all feeder primary schools and overseeing assessment throughout Years 7, 8 and 9.

The teams for 2009-10 are:

HEAD OF KEY STAGE 3 – MRS. H.G. GRIFFITHS			
YEAR	HEAD OF YEAR	ASSISTANT HEAD OF YEAR	YEAR MANAGER
7	Mrs. G.W. Evans	Miss T.A. Williams	Miss J. Fenner
8	Mrs. C.A. Adamson	Mr. O. Jones	Miss S. Thomas
9	Mrs. G.M. Rudge	Mrs. J. Elgood	Miss C. Jones

10	Mrs. A.J. Lewis	Mrs. S.M. Owen	Mrs. C. Owen
11	Mr. P.J. Jones	Mr. A. Fisher	Mrs. S. Grasham

HEAD OF KEY STAGE 5 – MRS. S. PAYNE			
12	Mr. J. Evans	Ms. P.M. Richards	Mrs. D. Owen / Miss L. Dolloway (Asst. YM)
13	Mrs. N.M. Thomas	Ms. P.M. Richards	Mrs. D. Owen / Miss L. Dolloway (Asst. YM)

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

On Thursday 9 July all pupils and staff will be attending an end of year celebration concert in the Great Hall. The aim of this event is to showcase some of the musical talent in the school as well as to recognise the wider achievements of our pupils and staff over this very productive year.

Pupils will walk from the school to the Arts Centre during period 2 returning in time for lunch. We are very grateful to the Arts Centre for allowing us to use their facilities for this special occasion.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

On Saturday 11th July the school is holding an informal retirement celebration for Mrs. Jane Leggett, Head of Music in the Main Hall at 7.30pm. A number of ex-pupils and current pupils of the school will perform a few musical items followed by drinks and light refreshments. All are very welcome to attend.

MATHEMATICS

In April, a group of pupils from Years 7 and 8 took part in the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge. Elinor Feasey and Arwyn Munday have been awarded bronze certificates. Silver certificates to to Mohsen El-Abbadi, Amy Tweed and Tess Dupont. It was particularly pleasing that three pupils have achieved a gold certificate: Megan Carter Davies, Michael Lai and David Henley. David has also received the certificate for "Best in School". Congratulations to all concerned.



CATERING

52 Year 10 pupils have just completed their first practical exam, accounting for 15% of their final mark. All catering staff, Mr Jones and Mrs Grasham were very impressed by the high standard of their cooking and presentation. We are also grateful for parents helping their child to practise over half term and organising the ingredients. During the last two weeks of June and the first week of July all these pupils will have a one week work placement in local restaurants, cafes and hotels, and the report they complete afterwards will account for 20% of their final mark. The school is very grateful for the goodwill shown by local businesses to help the pupils meet this course requirement. Next spring the pupils will be prepared in school for their final practical, which will account for 25% of their final mark.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Textiles – Bags, bags and even more bags! – Not only did we manage to raise almost £400 for the local charity Beacon of Hope we also managed to come second in the Simplicity Competition. As a result the department now has two brand new sewing machines, a selection of Simplicity patterns and numerous reels of thread. Well done to all those involved.

Food – The food technology rooms are at long last being refurbished and will be in use, looking very stylish, at the start of the new school year. The rooms will be out of action until the end of the summer term and we apologise to all those who cannot use the rooms in school at the moment.

Resistant Materials – In the next few weeks we will be taking delivery of a brand new laser cutter and Mr. Davies, Mrs. Balchin, Mr. Evans and Mr. Kelsey are all getting very excited about this! It will be used by pupils in all key stages to enhance their practical work when using a range of materials. Thanks to the LEA and Mr. Rudge for making this possible.





Army Careers Exhibition

On Friday 8th May Mr P Jones and Dr Minchin led a party of 38 Year 9 and 10 pupils to an Army exhibition day at Bodelwyddan Castle. Careers advice was available for those interested in joining the army, and there were numerous activities for all to get

involved in, to develop key skills like communication and working as part of a team. Penglais was represented in all the inter-school challenges of obstacle course, tug-of-war, and penalty shoot out. Over 2 days all secondary schools from North Wales to Aberystwyth were invited to attend and over 1,000 pupils attended. We narrowly lost the final of the boys' tug-of-war but won the boys' penalty shoot out. We also had success in the jerry-can lift, with Becky Hill and Emyr Hopkins defeating all others

in the U15 category. As well as all the competitions there were many other activities for pupils, including wall climbing, cooking, mechanics and motor cross, as well as a display by the heavy artillery.

Sergeant Major Matthias and Captain Jamieson came into school on Thursday the 22nd June to present the victorious pupils with their army shirt and award.



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 whole-school 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	Penglaisg	80480
Year 8 pupils	Penglaisa	80480
Year 9 pupils	Penglaisb	80480
Year 10 pupils	Penglaisc	80480
Year 11 pupils	Penglaisd	80480
Year 12 pupils	Penglaise	80480
Year 13 pupils	Penglaisf	80480

STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE

We are often asked at the school to advise on books and study programmes to support pupils' education. The Student Support Centre is a company which provides help to those parents who would like to offer their children a home-based complement to their schoolwork in Maths, English and reading.

I have been asked to distribute the enclosed information on behalf of the Student Support Centre and, having reviewed the service they provide, feel that it may of interest to you and of benefit to your children.

Although neither the school nor I actively endorse the service, I do feel that you might like to know that this service is available and to decide if you would like further information. I would appreciate it if you would return the reply slip to the school office as soon as possible. The Student Support Centre, not the school, will arrange further contact.

YEAR 13 LEAVERS' FANCY DRESS



On Friday 22nd May Year 13 gathered in school for their last official day of school before their A Level examinations. They all came in fancy dress with some amazing costumes. Staff in the Sixth Form Centre also entered into the spirit of things and came dressed for the occasion. The pupils held a coffee and cake morning and invited all staff to join them in bidding them farewell. That evening the sixth form held their hugely successful Leavers' Dinner and Dance at Llety Parc.



One of our Year 13 pupils Gareth Dally dressed up as our Deputy Head, Mr. Brown, for the day and went to morning briefing looking remarkably like him! Mr. Brown said, "Meeting Gareth in the staffroom at morning briefing was a huge surprise for me. Once over the shock though we had a lot of fun. Pupils and staff thought they were seeing double as Gareth and I worked together. Thank you Gareth for making this a very special day to remember."

Gareth has made fantastic progress over the eight years that he has been a pupil at the school. All credit is due to the work of Mrs Gaynor Edwards and the staff of the Learning Support Centre. Over this time he has become a much loved member of our community and will be greatly missed by all. We wish him all the very best for the future.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 13 and Year 11 Leavers good luck in the future, whatever they decide to do next. You have all made your mark in one way or another and you will all be missed.



MEDIA STUDIES



On the 17th June, Year 12 Media Studies students attended 'DS4', the Fourth Festival of Digital Storytelling at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. Penglais students have been to sessions at previous festivals, but this was the first time that they had been able to take part in the whole day's activities. The Festival was created to inspire, encourage and demonstrate the exciting possibilities of digital storytelling and our students attended lectures and breakout sessions run by celebrated international digital storytellers. At the start of the first session, Huw Edwards, formerly with the BBC, introduced his storytelling project based around a community in North Wales. Having found by chance original footage of everyday local life in 1950s Wales, Edwards returned to the community with the help of secondary school students, to interview some of the original participants. He was followed on stage by Annette Mees of 'Coney', an agency for adventure, immersive theatre and play, who described how her work with communities in Shoreditch in London helped to bring people together from a variety of different backgrounds. A particular high spot was the keynote speaker, Bonnie Shaw, creator of 'Snap-Shot-City', a project which challenges participants to tell a story about where they live through a simultaneous global photographic treasure hunt. Our students were invited to post images of Aberystwyth on to their website and so add a local dimension to this mass visual storytelling project.

There were also practical breakout sessions. Gilly Adams of the Made in Wales Theatre Company ran an enjoyable workshop exploring techniques designed to help people feel confident enough to tell their own story; the BBC's Video Nation team introduced students to the techniques that are used in making a Video Nation short and there were short presentations by other digital storytellers working in a variety of innovative and unusual ways.

During the lunch break, some Penglais students boarded the BBC Video Bus and were initiated into the mysteries of the microphone and sound recording, while others found themselves locked into the strange virtual world of Cab a Go Go. The students certainly enjoyed the broad range of activities available and we are grateful to Aberystwyth Arts Centre for allowing us to participate in the Festival. Penglais Media Studies students are now engaged in their own digital storytelling projects and will certainly have learned from their experiences at DS4.

SCIENCE

A Year 8 team comprising Joe Nagaoka-Taylor, Arnie Blakemore, Peter Henson and Bryn Mortice-Wait, competed in the Salter Chemistry Competition at Aberystwyth University on Wednesday 10th June. After a full day of experimental investigation, competing against 10 other schools, the team took first prize. The boys gave an outstanding performance. Well done boys!



PARIS TRIP

Back by popular demand... "The best trip ever". Open to all Sixth Formers and of particular interest to those studying History and Art, it is proposed to organise a trip to Paris from 17th -22nd of February (half term) 2010. Visits to all the major sights in Paris and Versailles are included as well as a day in Eurodisney. Travel is by coach and we stay in a 2* hotel in central Paris on a half board basis. Cost is £320.

Further details from Donna Owen or Dr Minchin in the Sixth Form Centre. Experience the buzz of a big city; see all the sights! Book your place now!



Disability Sports Wales Athletics.

Pupils from the LSC competed successfully in the athletics tournament held at Plasrugg Leisure Centre on the 12th of May.

INDIA EXCHANGE VISIT

Thank you for your response to requests for host families for the visit from Pinegrove School, India in September. Pinegrove School is bringing 3 members of staff and 18 pupils to Aberystwyth on 6th September for a week so if anyone else is interested in hosting a pupil please contact Mr. Fisher at the school.

FORM 8KK

8KK has won £100 in a no-smoking competition. The form, together with their form teacher Mrs. Keirle, will be celebrating with a trip to the Arts Centre before the end of term! Congratulations 8KK!

URDD NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, CARDIFF 2009

This year's National Urdd Eisteddfod was held at half term in the Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay. Pupils from all year groups competed in a variety of competitions over the week.

Year 7 pupil Ceri Davies successfully danced her way to second place in the solo disco dancing competition. This was an excellent result for Ceri who was a young competitor to be a finalist in this competition for pupils from Years 7-9. Ceri danced in the magnificent Donald Gordon Theatre in front of a vast audience.



Ceri Davies – Urdd Disco Dancing Competition

Year 8 pupil Sophie Rudge won the Solo Cerdd Dant for Years 7-9. This is the third time that Sophie has won this competition. Sophie is one of five competition winners selected by the Urdd to sing in the Disney Resort, Paris during their Welsh celebrations between 6th and 8th March 2010. Competing for the Abacadabra Aelwyd (Arad Goch) Sophie and Sam Ebenezer (Ysgol Penweddig) were placed third in the Duet Cerdd Dant competition.



The Second Language Cerdd Dant Party performed on stage in the Donal Gordan Theatre and was placed second. Several members of the Cerdd Dant group have competed over the years and we wish, in particular, Year 13 pupils Elinor Evans, Alex Thorogood and Katrin Padel good luck for the future.



The First Language Cerdd Dant Party gave an excellent performance in a very high standard competition. Whilst this party was not staged the school is extremely proud of their performance.



The school is very proud of all the pupils who took part at all levels of the Urdd competitions this year. It is recognised how much commitment, time and effort is put into all competitions to ensure that the highest standards are achieved. We look forward to seeing our talented pupils compete again next year as the Eisteddfod will be held in Ceredigion.

The school would like to thank Mr. Tudur Jones for his continued commitment to accompanying our pupils. We would also like to thank Mrs. Bethan Bryn Jones and recognise her tremendous contribution for the school. Mrs. Bethan Bryn Jones has composed the settings for the Cerdd Dant solos, duets and parties. She has also given her time freely by offering expert advice and support in a highly specialised field of Music. Mrs. Bethan Bryn Jones has recently been working on a very creative, exciting and innovative project which saw the staging of "Under Milkwood" in Welsh to Cerdd Dant on 27th June at the Great Hall, Aberystwyth.

Penglais School Junior Cerdd Dant Singers, Cardiff Urdd National Eisteddfod, 2009

In a highly competitive environment and despite outstanding performances not all our pupils made it to the final. All pupils selected to go to Cardiff were winners of their categories in the County round.

Thomas Mathias performed in the magnificent new Hoddinott Hall in the Millennium Centre.

Thomas was highly praised for his solo violin performance.

Katrin Padel competed in the sole Welsh Learners' Recitation category at the Dragon Centre in Cardiff Bay. Katrin has shown great commitment and has taken part in the Urdd Eisteddfod for several years.

The school's Senior Disco Dancing Team competed in the Western Theatre. Angela Woodiwiss, Rachel Varnham, Clarrissa Busson, Hannah Goodchild and Rachel Varnham skilfully danced to a full theatre. Rachel also gave a solo dance performance in a fiercely competitive category.

LIFE SAVING AWARD

At the St. John Investiture Service at Llandaff Cathedral, Gareth Farrow was awarded the St. John Medal for Life Saving Award in Silver for service in the cause of humanity. Gareth received a rapturous round of applause and the Prior stated that this medal had not been awarded nationally in Wales for 21 years. The ceremony was presided over by the Archbishop of Wales and the Prior for Wales presented the medal. Congratulations Gareth.



PE DEPARTMENT

Sporting Success

Penglais's Elinor Thorogood, Year 12, represented Great Britain at the European Triathlon championships in June. The team were fifth overall and Elinor recorded the fastest British time and the third fastest individual time of the day. Congratulations, once again Elinor.

Penglais Year 11 student Rosie Bailey was capped for Wales, playing in the U18 Girls' Hockey squad against Australia Schools. She goes from strength to strength and has also been selected for the final 18 Welsh squad who will travel to Madrid in July for the European Championships. Congratulations Rosie and we wish you well in the European Championships.

Imogen Jones, a Year 8 pupil has been selected to attend Welsh Basketball training development sessions with the U14 girls squad. Imogen is one of 19 players to be selected from schools across Wales and attends clinics based in Cardiff. She has thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and will play competitive matches which are due to start in September. We wish her every success.

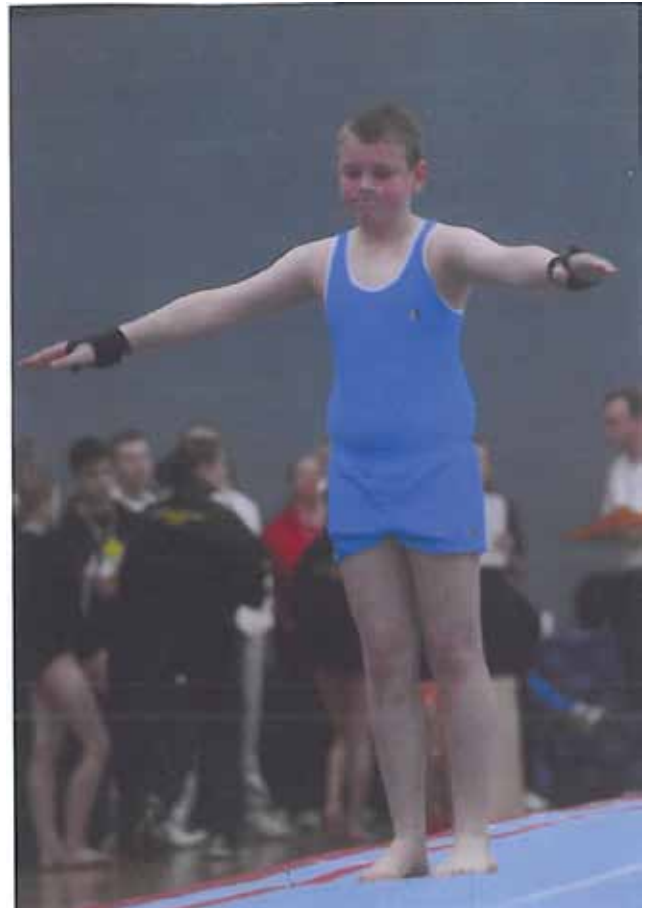
Athletics - Penglais has had much success at the Ceredigion NASUWT Athletics Cup in Lampeter on 9th June. The junior girls achieved many personal bests in their events and won the competition 14 points above their rival teams. At the Dyfed Championships the team came in fourth place despite an unfortunate injury in one of the events on the day. The team members were: Rachel Donnison, Molly Farebrother, Amy Haynes, Megan Carter Davies, Megan Dafis, Amy Jenkins, Imogen Jones, Charlotte Drakeley and Ellie Margrave-Jones. Well done to all of you!

Paul Bennett has competed and achieved great success this season. In the West Wales Championships Paul came first in the 200m, 1st in the 400m and set a new record and also came first in the Javelin. In the Welsh Championships he came 2nd in the 400m and in Dyfed Schools Championships he came 2nd in the Javelin, 1st in the 200m and 1st in the 400m, equalling the record of 50.5 seconds. An incredibly impressive season. Well done Paul!

NOTICE TO PARENTS

During the recent hot weather pupils have obviously been drinking more water. There are water fountains in school so in an effort to cut cost and waste please send pupils to school with their own water bottles to avoid heavy use of plastic cups. We would also like to remind parents that the school does not always have the facility to dispense change for large denomination notes.

Gymnastics – From competition to casualty! – Despite suffering a hand injury two days before the competition, Year 8 pupil, Peter Goodwin, competed in the British NDP Finals at Stoke-on-Trent on 10th May. The youngest in his category, Peter was in fourth place after his first tumble but injured his hand again and suffered intense pain during his second run. With his hand strapped, he finished the competition in sixth place. Well done to you Peter!



The National Library of Wales Visit.

Pupils from LSC enjoyed a guided tour of the Library on Friday 5th June.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

High School Musical – Cardiff Millennium Centre 26th June 2009

Mrs Leggett led 39 pupils from Years 7 to 10 for their annual musical visit on Friday 26th June to Cardiff. The first part of the day in Cardiff was spent in the National Museum of Wales in Cathays Park. Pupils were able to examine various fossils, bones and creatures in the Glanely Discovery centre; as well as wildlife and vegetation, including an excellent ant display, in the natural history section. A very impressive moving mammoth, as well as various dinosaurs, were seen in the mammals section. Pupils were also able to wander round various art galleries, including 'Faces from Wales' and 'Landscapes of Wales'. After a short trip to the Bay area 5 o'clock saw curtain up for 'High School Musical'. A packed house willed on 'basketball mad' Troy and 'Brainiac' Gabriella in their battles to impress teacher Ms Darbus and Coach Bolton, and win a race against time to win the audition to win the lead roles in East Side High's show. The highpoint for many was the performance of the worm in Ms Darus's detention class! The (largely) youthful audience enthusiastically clapped and cheered as prima donna Sharpay missed out on the lead role, and they all sang along in a rousing finale of 'we're all in this together'. All the pupils were a credit to themselves, the school and their parents, the party returned to school at 11pm and we are very grateful for parents' co-operation in picking up the children so promptly.



Celebrating the talents of Penglais students

Musicians will be amongst those Penglais students whose talents will be celebrated at the Arts Centre Great Hall on the morning of 9th July. Singers and instrumentalists will be heard performing as part of this special event.



ST. OMER TRIP



This trip was organised by the MFL department and 35 pupils from Years 8 and 9 and 3 staff (Mrs Newbold, Dr Ibbotson and Mrs Keirle) spent a fantastic 5 days in Northern France.

It was really fun, the weather stayed nice and we got to do many things that I hadn't done before, like: Euro Disney, The Aquarium and The Chocolate Factory!! I made friends with

lots of people I hadn't spoken to before and it was very interesting. Plus the Chocolate was nice too!!!

Paige Smeaton 8KK



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School term ends on Friday 17th July at 1.45pm. All the buses will depart the site by 2.00pm. Two buses will leave earlier – the 585 and 550 services will leave at 1.15pm.

School resumes for pupils on Wednesday 2nd September.

There will be a coffee morning run by the school's PTA on Saturday 5th September at 10.00am for parents of the new Year 7 pupils.

PENGLAIS SCHOOL UNIFORM

Kids grown out of their uniform? Need a Year 11 V-necked sweatshirt and tie? What about a shirt or blouse to go with the tie? How about 6th Form? Don't forget the PE kit! No need to drag the kids around the shops or try and find somewhere to park – just contact Alison and have the uniform delivered to your door



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