



CLOSURE OF SCHOOL DURING RECENT BAD WEATHER

The closure of the school for four days at the beginning of term could not be avoided. The main problem this year was the exceptionally low temperatures after the initial fall of snow – these persisted for several days, making the school site dangerous to use. It was not until the Friday lunchtime of that week that site staff had cleared the snow and ice from the entrances, paths, roads and car parks so that they were safe to use.

The decision to close the school is never an easy one. It has to be made early, usually by 7.30am, so that announcements can be made on Radio Ceredigion. Some of the forecasts were confusing. Even if conditions in Aberystwyth itself are reasonable a significant number of staff and pupils live in the rural areas where, as on this occasion, conditions were appalling. As I have explained before a secondary school timetable can not be run effectively if more than 15 teachers are absent on any one day. Further problems are caused by the absence of site staff or catering staff. If you add to this the difficulties some of the bus contractors face in these conditions, you can understand how difficult it is to avoid closing the school. The decision to close is never taken lightly and it is one taken in collaboration with the headteacher of Ysgol Penweddig as both schools share the same bus routes.

Many parents found the school text messaging service very useful in these circumstances. This service will also enable school

HISTORY

Holocaust Memorial Day – is marked each year on 27th January. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the death and concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The day commemorates all communities who suffered as a result of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution, and demonstrates that the Holocaust is relevant to everyone today as it also presents an opportunity to consider more recent atrocities that raise similar issues. There are still many lessons to be learned at an international and individual level.

The theme for the UK Holocaust Memorial Day 2010 is 'The Legacy of Hope' and it asks all of us to become part of this legacy by offering opportunities to listen to survivors of the Holocaust.

Mrs. Poyton, History Department, took advantage of the opportunity to take part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project in June 2009. This involved hearing a testimony from a survivor of the Holocaust and a visit to the concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Following on from this experience and the link made with the Holocaust Education Trust, on Tuesday 2nd February Penglais will be visited by Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan and Year

Parents of current	Text the word	To:
Year 7 pupils	Penglaisf	80480
Year 8 pupils	Penglaisg	80480
Year 9 pupils	Penglaisa	80480
Year 10 pupils	Penglaisb	80480
Year 11 pupils	Penglaisc	80480
Year 12 pupils	Penglaisd	80480
Year 13 pupils	Penglaise	80480

to contact you in emergencies and for information purposes i.e. 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.

CLOTHES BAG COLLECTION

A big thank you to everyone who donated clothes and linen to the 'Clothes Collection' before Christmas. Over 100 bags were brought into school which raised £400 towards building school / toilet facilities for a school in Awassa, Ethiopia. The next bag collection will take place the week 12th – 16th April and we would be very grateful if you could remember this when spring cleaning your wardrobes! Bags can be dropped off at school between 3.30 and 5.45pm on these dates as well as during the school day.

9 pupils will listen to her testimony. It is a privilege for us to welcome Joanna to our school. We are grateful to the Holocaust Educational Trust for co-ordinating the visit and we hope that by hearing Joanna's testimony, it will encourage our students to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives.

On Wednesday 3rd February Dr. Chris Steed, an educator from the HET, will visit school and lead follow up sessions for the pupils in which they can reflect upon Joanna's testimony and what they have learned.

A further result is that we are able to offer two sixth form pupils the same opportunity to participate in the Lessons From Auschwitz Project in March 2010. This will be an excellent chance for pupils to become involved and hopefully help to design and implement projects in school and in the wider community where they can share their experiences and the lessons they have learned.

Ceredigion

31 Mai – 5 Mehefin 2010



Eisteddfod yr Urdd

Fel y gwyddoch mae Eisteddfod yr Urdd yng Ngheredigion eleni. Mae croeso mawr i aelodau'r Urdd i gymryd rhan. Cofiwch bod yna gystadlaethau ysgrifennu creadigol, celf, technoleg, dawns a cherddoriaeth. Os oes gennych ddiddordeb, yna siaradwch gyda'ch athro Cymraeg gynted ag y medrwch!



As you know, the Urdd Eisteddfod is in Ceredigion this year. All pupils who are members of the Urdd are encouraged to participate. Remember there are competitions for both first and second language students as well as opportunities to compete in creative writing, music, art, technology and dance. If you are interested, then see your Welsh teacher as soon as possible.

Sophie Rudge will be representing Penglais School at Disneyland Paris on 5-7th March. Sophie won the Unawd Cerdd Dant at the Urdd National Eisteddfod last June and won this excellent opportunity for her to sing at Disneyland Paris to celebrate St. David's Day in their annual Welsh Festival. In August Sophie also won the Under 16 girls' solo at the National Eisteddfod held in Bala at the tender age of only 13. Congratulations Sophie!

Raising Money!

Year 12 Community Services group have had a very successful first term, raising a substantial amount of money for a variety of good causes. An Own Clothes Day and a disco raised nearly £800 which was split between Wales Air Ambulance and Aberystwyth Gymnastics Club. They also organised a spectacular fun day which included fancy dress, and talent shows, raising over £1,800 for Children in Need!



Presenting a cheque to Aberystwyth Gymnastics Club



Bananas in Pyjamas help Children in Need!

This term, they have made a donation to a project building toilets in a school in Africa, and have also organised an Own Clothes Day in order to raise money for those suffering in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti. This appeal raised nearly £800.

Thank you very, very much for your support!

They will also be organising a Valentine's Disco for Years 7 – 10 on Thursday 11th February.

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS AND POLIO IMMUNISATIONS FOR YEAR 10

These injections will be carried out in school on Thursday 18th March. Students will bring home forms to give consent several weeks prior to this date and it would be appreciated if they could be returned promptly. If you have any questions, the school nurse can be contacted on 07980277360. Many thanks.

SCIENCE

On Wednesday 25th November 20 Year 13 A Level Chemistry students visited the IBERS laboratories at Plas Gogerddan. The pupils were shown a number of analytical techniques by Dr. Gordon Allison, including GC-mass spec, IR and nmr, all techniques studied in the A level course. They were also able to run spectra of some samples they had prepared in school. We are very grateful to Dr. Allison for arranging this visit.

The WWAY's Christmas lecture this year was by Dr. Douglas from Swansea University on Chemistry and Light. 120 pupils from Year 11 attended the lecture in the Great Hall, Aberystwyth University, and enjoyed some entertaining and spectacular demonstrations.

On Tuesday 26th January pupils from 7G and 7H attended a lecture on Chemistry and Energy by Prof. A.J.S. Williams in the Great Hall, Aberystwyth University.

MUSIC

The following students have recently been successful at national level. They have auditioned for a number of various groups and are waiting to take part in some of the most exciting and high standard concerts this year.



16 students will be taking part in the 'National Training Choir' Course during February.
Seren Dupont, Osian Penry-Dance, Marisa Oikawa, Sam Harvey, Isabella Hughes, Rhys Jenkins, Rhian Daniel, Duncan Horne, Hannah Morgan, Jang Morgan, Georgina Evans, Daisy Farrington, Emma Rose Davies and Sophie Rudge (Ruth Dingle is missing from this picture.)



National Choir of Wales.
Duncan Horne (Ruth Taylor is missing from the picture)



National Children's Orchestra
Phoebe Williams and Thomas Mathias (Ruth Dingle is missing)



NUMERACY

Congratulations to Georgia Mackereth 7 LP and Samuel Bowen 7 LP who are both on the 12/7 numeracy booster scheme. Both of them have moved up a Maths set this term and are now in set 2



National Brass Band of Wales
Grady Hassan (only in Year 9, will be a member of this band where the age range is up to 21!!)

Congratulations to them all.

VACANCY FOR PARENT GOVERNOR

There will shortly be a vacancy for a Parent Governor to represent Penglais School as one parent governor's term of office is due to expire on 7th March. This vacancy can be filled by parents of any child attending Penglais School and the term of office runs for four years. Nominations must be proposed, seconded and assented 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 12th February 2010.

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.

LEAVING SCHOOL PREMISES DURING THE DAY

A reminder to parents that the school cannot allow pupils to leave premises unless a parental note or medical appointment is presented initially to the Form Teacher and then at school reception where the pupil will be required to sign out. The school may contact parents to check the validity of a note or appointment. Parents who are collecting pupils must attend Reception to meet them and sign out. If pupils leave school site without permission parents will be contacted and there may be a missing person's report made to the police.

PTA Curry and Quiz Night

Friday 12th March 7.30pm

PAST STUDENT SUCCESS – GETHIN JONES

Year 13 student Aled Jones's brother Gethin, a previous winner of the Jane Curwen prize, has continued to develop his musical talents. He graduated from the Royal College of Music and Drama in Cardiff this summer with a degree in Jazz Studies. During his time in Cardiff he has played with and for some of the leading names in jazz music, including Quincy Jones who was very appreciative of his drumming skills. Gethin also won one of six Yamaha scholarships this year, awarded to the top jazz student in each of the UK Conservatoires. As well as a financial prize, which was awarded at a special presentation evening at the House of Commons, the scholars recorded a CD of their own work. The CD was launched at the 606 Jazz Club in London recently and was available free with the December issue of Jazzwise magazine.

Gethin is hoping to continue his jazz studies and is busy performing in venues around the UK as well as teaching drum skills in schools in South Wales. He has his own jazz ensemble who have been invited to the New York Jazz Festival next year where they will be launching their first CD. We all wish him every success.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 3 rd February	Year 11 Parents' Evening at 3.30pm
Tuesday 9 th February	Year 9 Options Evening (Vocational) at 7.30pm in Main Hall
Wednesday 10 th February	Year 9 Options Evening at 7.30pm Main Hall
Wednesday 24 th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening 3.30pm
Wednesday 3 rd March	Year 7 Parents' Evening 3.30pm
Wednesday 10 th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 3.30pm
Friday 12 th March	PTA Curry and Quiz Night 7.30pm
Wednesday 17 th March	Year 12 Parent's Evening 3.30pm