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PTA AUTUMN FAIR

The school's annual PTA Autumn Fair was held on Saturday 6th November 2010 and raised a wonderful £3,600 which included match funding from Barclays Bank for the raffle. The PTA are enormously grateful to Alison Callow, Barclays Bank as well the many parents and pupils who supported this successful event. We were lucky enough to have Ric Lloyd, from the Flying Pickets, to open the Fair – many thanks to him for giving his time. Pictured below is Alison Callow from Barclays Bank and Mr. Davey, Headteacher.



EXAMINATIONS

The November re-sits have now been completed and results will be available on 13th January 2011. January exams begin on Monday 10th January and the final exam is on Wednesday 2 February. All pupils should have received their timetables and seating plans. If there are any concerns they need to see their Year Manager or Mr P J Jones. A copy of the full exam timetable is also on the school website, under latest news, documents and then pupil documents. Morning exams start at 09:00 and afternoon exams begin at 13:00, pupils need to be at the examination room 10 minutes before the start time.

The previous newsletter contained information about Controlled Assessments. These have replaced coursework, and the main difference is the work has to be completed in the classroom under teacher supervision and cannot be taken home. Departments have tried to spread these assignments across Years 10 and 11 and to avoid clashing with other school events as far as possible. The importance of good attendance to help complete these tasks is paramount.

SIXTH FORM

Penglais School has been very fortunate to have been selected to be a part of a 'twinning programme' for schools and barristers. On 23rd November Mrs Sian Mirchandani came to give a presentation and take questions about the legal profession. She is a barrister in London and we are very grateful to her for having travelled all the way to Aberystwyth to speak to our students. The session was open to students from years 10 to 13 and was very well attended. Constructive advice was given on how to stand out from the crowd with the best possible CV and work experience. We also discussed activities that could take place in school to help students in terms of their interpersonal skills and CVs. It was an excellent event and we hope that it inspired the students that attended to work hard to achieve their goals.

The Current Affairs Group is held every Thursday and is open to students in years 12 and 13. We are enjoying discussing and debating a wide range of topics from the proposed increase in tuition fees to the economy, the Royal Family and profound topics such as 'is ignorance really bliss?' It is a lively group and very well attended. Many of the students involved have their university interview dates and we hope that these experiences will help them overcome their nerves!



POSTING OF NEWSLETTERS

The school has been looking at ways to reduce costs in what is likely to be a tough year financially. The school currently posts newsletters home – this costs, in the course of a year, over £1,500. After this newsletter we will be sending newsletters by pupil post so please ask your children every half term to empty their bags and produce the newsletter. The newsletter can, of course, be viewed on the school's website or we can e-mail it to you directly. If you would like to receive the newsletters by e-mail please send a note and your e-mail address to Melanie Goodwin via reception.

THE ABERYSTWYTH AND YOSANO, JAPAN EXCHANGE 2010

On Thursday 3 November the ninth group of two adults and six students arrived in Aberystwyth from Yosano, Japan. Since the early 1990s small groups of students from Aberystwyth and Yosano have been visiting each other.

This exchange was instigated by the late Frank Evans who was a prisoner of war in the Yosano area of Japan. This year four of the six Japanese students were hosted by Penglais 6th form pupils. There was a wide variety of activities for the students over the 8 days they were here. On the Tuesday they spent the morning in Penglais and took part in a English lesson. On the previous Friday they had visited Penweddig. Welsh school life is very different their usual experience of school in Japan.

The students were accompanied by a translator Miyeko Tsubokura and a member of Yosano Town Council Yuki Tsubokura who was the group leader.

Sadly as with all exchange visits, time went by far too quickly. Many new friendships had been made and three of the Penglais students are now hoping to visit Yosano next year, the fourth involved visited Yosano last autumn on the exchange.

Thank you to both the sixth form students who worked very hard during the exchange and their families for being such excellent hosts and to Donna Owen the sixth form year manager who helped organise so much of the visit this year.

The following was read out by the Mayor of Yosano, Atsumi Ota, to everyone who attended the Welcome Evening:

Greetings from Yosano! Thank you so much for hosting our high school students. This year is the ninth student exchange and we are so happy to be continuing this long-running exchange relationship with everyone in Aberystwyth.

I would like to take this opportunity to deeply thank Mr. Arwel George, head of the friendship society and everyone involved in the exchange programme and especially to say thank you to all the host families.

PHOTOGRAPHS / FILMS OF PUPILS

Occasionally photographs of pupils are taken for publicity purposes, perhaps for inclusion in the local or national press about achievements and/or awards or in school publications such as the prospectus. Very occasionally the school is also part of a television programme. Rather than seek permission on every individual occasion which would be time consuming, the school is asking for general permission to use photographs or include pupils in filming when it is appropriate to do so. If any parent or pupil does **NOT** want to be included please notify the school in writing by 7th December. If we do not hear from you the school will assume that permission has been granted. We will, of course, respect any parents' or pupils' request not to be photographed or filmed.



Mr. Frank Evans, who became the first link between our two towns, wrote in detail about his experiences in the prisoner of war camp and nickel mine in Yosano during World War II in his book 'Roll Call at Oeyama P.O.W. Remember'.

Last year thanks to Mr. Teij Itoi and Mr. Tadatoshi Hosoi, a Japanese translation of this book was published and we sent free copies to the senior high school and all the libraries in Yosano.

This book clearly talks about a very sad period in our town's history but the exchange programme that has grown from it together with Mr. Evans's words of peace, send a bright, forward-facing message to us all. He said "Consider our blossoms which are beautiful in life and death. Never again let us and human beings die in an ugly holocaust but instead allow us all to live and die naturally and beautifully in peace for ever more. EIEN NO HEIWA".

We look forward to continuing this exchange relationship with Aberystwyth. And, we hope that through it, many high school students in both Aberystwyth and Yosano can learn about and understand each other and the importance of peace.

Let's meet again next year in Yosano

Caroline Goodband

Cymraeg

Gweld Sêr

Cafodd disgyblion y cwrs Cymraeg Ail Iaith Uwch Gyfrannol noson i'w chofio yn y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol yn ddiweddar pan gwrddon nhw â'r actor Matthew Rhys sydd wedi gwneud enw da iddo'i hun fel actor dawnus ar lwyfan, mewn rhaglenni teledu ac mewn ffilmiau. Fe chwaraeodd rhan Dylan Thomas yn y ffilm *The Edge of Love* a ffilmwyd yn bennaf yng Ngheredigion. Ond efallai ei fod yn fwy adnabyddus fel y cymeriad Kevin yn y gyfres Americanaidd *Brothers and Sisters*.

Roedd e yn y llyfrgell i hyrwyddo ei lyfr newydd "Patagonia ~ Croesi'r Paith". Cafodd ei holi gan Yr Arglwydd Dafydd Wigley, Llywydd y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol, am ei daith a'i anturiaethau ym Mhatagonia ac atebodd gwestiynau oddi wrth y gynulleidfa. Yn dilyn y sgwrs yn y Drwm bu Mathtew yn llofnodi y llyfrau a brynwyd a chawsom gyfle i siarad ag ef a chael llun i'w drysori am byth.



Georgina Bowen, Georgia Bennett, Matthew Rhys, Sam Pendlebury & Ffion Hughes.

Seeing stars

Year 12 pupils studying the AS Welsh Second Language course had a night to remember recently at the National Library of Wales when they met the actor Matthew Rhys who has earned great respect as a stage, television and film actor. He played Dylan Thomas in the film *The Edge of Love* which was mostly filmed in Ceredigion. But he is probably better known for his role as Kevin in the hit US series *Brothers and Sisters*.

He was at the National Library promoting his new book "Patagonia ~ Crossing the Plain" and was informally interviewed by Lord Dafydd Wigley, President of the National Library of Wales, about his adventurous journey across Patagonia. Following questions from the audience Matthew signed copies of his book and we had the opportunity to chat to him as well as taking a photograph to treasure for a long time.

Success at the Urdd Swimming Gala

Penglais School pupils were successful in the county round of the Urdd Swimming Gala. The Gala was held on the 8th November in the Aberystwyth Leisure Centre. Out of 42 competitors Penglais pupils won 17 competitions and came second and third in a further six competitions.

JAPANESE Exchange 2010.

On the 3rd November 6 Japanese students came to Wales to experience Welsh life. It's been an amazing experience not just for them but for the few of us who housed and became great friends with the students.

The exchange was set up by Frank Evans, a man who had been a prisoner of war in the exchange student's town of Yosano. It was meant to bridge the gap between cultures and create friendships for life in the hopes that by learning about each other the atrocities Frank and others faced wouldn't happen again.

There were many trips out around Wales for our guests to learn about our culture, including a visit to Cardiff (shopping!) and to Franks grave to pay our respects. It was a moving moment as the students sang Franks favourite Japanese song.

Last week we had to say goodbye to Natsumi who was staying with me and the others, it's surely a trip I'll never forget and there were many tears on the day of departure. The friendships we've created I'm sure will last the test of time and for me Natsumi is a part of my family as I'm sure the others will say the same. I just can't wait until I see them next year!

I'd just like to say thanks to the people involved in making this trip possible and hope it carries on in the future, its been something to remember for life.



SEVERE WEATHER CLOSURES

With the onset of winter I should like to remind parents / guardians of our procedures for closing the school in

the event of severe weather conditions.

The decision to close the school is based on several factors but in particular:

- the difficulty of transporting pupils, particularly to the rural areas
- the availability of key staff
- the expected disruption to the timetable
- liaison with Ysgol Penweddig.

If it is clear that poor weather makes opening difficult the school will **make a decision before 8.00am which will be broadcast on RADIO CEREDIGION.** When poor weather

Congratulations to all competitors – Isaac Williamson-Evans, Teilo Courtier-Lilley, Ben Jones, Stephen Moseley, Megan Blake, Megan Jones, Cai Elgood, Emyr Dance, Ben Lucas, Naomi Thoroughgood, Bleddyn Richards, Rachel Howard, Lowri Donnelley, Megan Dafis, Oliver Thorogood, Zoe Walker, Rachel Donnison.

Good luck to all the competitors who go on to swim in the final at the National Pool in Cardiff in January 2011.

is forecast or imminent, please check this radio station. A message will also be put onto the school website and on the school office answerphone.

If a severe weather event happens during the school day itself the situation is more complicated. The bus companies usually make the decision and arrive to transport pupils home during the day. Other pupils will be sent home once most of the buses have departed. Please ensure that we have a contact number for you: several pupils still do not have one. Again messages will be put on the website or sent by the text messaging service.

Although every effort is made to stay open the school's experience on the last two occasions with severe weather does make a decision to close more likely. It is difficult to sustain the daily routine once buses start arriving and staff who live in rural areas depart. Little useful work is, in fact, done on such days. To give you an idea of disruption it only needs 15 teachers (out of 90) to be away for a school of this size not to function. Cover cannot be arranged and supervision becomes difficult. A similar issue would arise if illness affected a significant number of staff.

SCIENCE



A group of pupils from Years 10 and 11 attended a fascinating lecture on parasites by Dr. Jo Hamilton from Aberystwyth University on 3rd November. The last lecture of the term is a demonstration lecture on fireworks on 13th December. Pupils from Years 10 and 11 should see Dr. Warren in C2 if they would like to attend.

The Year 13 Chemistry class visited IBERs on Friday 19th November where Dr. Gordon Alison demonstrated some different spectroscopic techniques and pupils were able to analyse samples they had prepared at school. We are very grateful to Dr. Alison for providing this opportunity.

THE LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

Pupils in LSC made a donation of £50 to the Wales Air Ambulance recently. We had a very interesting presentation from Ann Edwards, the community fundraiser for Ceredigion, who gratefully accepted our donation. The money was raised by making and selling cards in school.



Some pupils based in LSC have been involved this term in a Welsh Assembly funded project at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. The group of six had the opportunity to do some screen printing with an artist at the centre. Pictured here are pupils with individual cushions they made from printed material and a large group picture to which everyone made a contribution





Ben Waldron (y7), Chris Thomas (y9) and Mathew Jenkins (y8) took part recently in a football tournament organised by Disability Sport Wales. They competed along with pupils from other schools in Ceredigion and had a thoroughly enjoyable day. The boys were all presented with certificates to mark their involvement by Mr. Arwyn Thomas

BELGIUM – EUROPEAN YOUTH PRESIDENCY 2010

The European Youth Presidency is a place where people can talk with other young people from other European Countries who have consulted with young people from their countries about youth employment. It is also a platform where young people can speak and meet with policy makers from their own and other countries. There are three of these presidencies, the first was in Spain, the second in Belgium and the last will be in Hungary. The three presidencies take recommendations back to the EU on improving Youth Employment and they provide a way of doing this in a systematic and useful manner.

I had quite high expectations going to Belgium, I felt quite scared but also very excited at the prospect of going to such an important event. Before the event I felt very aware of how young I was and admittedly this is not a bad thing to be worried about but I still felt a little apprehensive. I really wanted the event to be well organised and friendly. Before the event I did a few pieces of preparation I ran assemblies in school trying to get their views and I also sent emails out to a lot of young people I know gathering their views on youth employment. I felt I had read quite a bit about the event and I was as clued up as I feel I could have been at that time but maybe if I get the opportunity to go to an event again I would try and free some more time and read more.

We travelled to Belgium on the Eurostar which was very exciting for me as I had never been on it before. After a relaxing journey we arrived to quite a funny reception which involved spinning a “wheel of fortune” to decide our means of transport to the hotel. Later, we went to Leuven’s university where the conference was being held. We had an afternoon of speeches by many different people including the European Youth Forum. Although these were quite tedious (after a very early start from travelling) they were also very useful if you really listened to what they were saying. There was a lot of talk about social dialogue and trying to promote that. There was also a lot of information on how the event would be run which I found very useful. That evening we had a ‘meeting and greeting’ party at the university canteen

The Sunday was the most productive day as we split into our workshop groups where the ‘real work’ would take place. I was in the group ‘Youth work’ which I loved. I felt everyone was listening to each other well and there was a real feel of understanding between us all. I was quite shocked at how valued my presence was, first at being the youngest there so being most closely linked to youth and secondly for being a ‘native’ English speaker. You have no idea how confused I got at being called a ‘native’ as this was so alien to me. We worked on recommendations to take to the next event. We came

up with about six recommendations in our group which spoke about promoting youth work and getting more people to see youth work in a positive light. Then at lunch there was an opinions square where you went around all the workshops' recommendations and gave your thoughts and opinions on every recommendation. In the afternoon we then worked on finalising the recommendations and making sure they gave a concrete message but not too concrete as there needed to be room for work at the next presidency.

In the evening they threw a huge party which was amazing, the desserts were superb and there was everything there except waffles. There was also perfect entertainment where we saw some really original acts and it actually got us wondering what kind of acts the UK would have shown. We also spoke a lot more to other ministers particularly the coordinator of the Belgian EU Presidency on Youth – called Jan Van Der Hee who got the young people interacting with other ministers and really lightened the atmosphere. After the party we met Tom Jeffrey who is the Director General for Children, Schools and Families who had only just arrived in Belgium. We spoke to him about how the outcomes of the presidency would affect the young people in the UK. Sadly, I got the feeling he wasn't sure how it would and if it would impact the young people. But I think we should definitely put pressure on them to DO something as there was a really positive feeling to the event.

The last day there was a lot of reporting back and speeches from some high up people in the EU. Sadly, I did not really take to all this as I am starting to get a bit tired of people speaking at us with what they think we want to hear when it would have been nice to see a young person up there or someone who didn't have the same clichéd message over and over again. But during the reporting back they showed a very interesting video on youth work which had been created from a youth conference in Ghent. I definitely think that the purpose of the event was fulfilled as we got some really good concrete recommendations but then again I don't think the purpose can properly be filled until Hungary when the final stage is complete.

We then headed to Brussels for our last afternoon where we met an old ambassador who now works for the EU. He gave us a little guided tour around a small part of Brussels. We also got to eat some rather scrummy Belgian waffles much to our delight. We might have got a bit carried away with the pleasantness of it all as we found ourselves in a bit of a rush to get back to the Eurostar to head back home in time.

The whole event was AMAZING, I had a real sense of belonging and seeing people from all over the EU striving to help make youth employment for young people better. The organisation was perfect and I personally gained a lot from the event and came away feeling quite self fulfilled. It was great that a man from the European Youth Presidency called Peter said 'It really struck me how a girl your age is so engaged and enthusiastic about change for young people and events like these'. It made me feel happy that that was the impression I had given off to people as I think this is important to get across that young people are interested and young people do want change. I did feel sometimes that I was a bit too young as a lot of them were in their early 20s or late 20s but I gained a lot from interacting with people this age. I would say there is a lot of usefulness in these events if they are run this well and taken seriously as you can network and help make change.

Bella Hughes, Yr 12



YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

Penglais Under 12s have become Ceredigion Schools football champions.

They won the tournament by beating five other schools, scoring an incredible 30 goals and conceding only once. The final was played at Llandysul against Ysgol Dyffryn Teifi with Penglais winning 4-0. The team will now play the winners of the Pembrokeshire area for a place in the last sixteen of the Welsh Schools Cup.



Pictured in the photo are (Back row) Mr Evans, Mathew Jones (captain), Liam Lewis, Joshua Abbot, David Newton, Jamie Price, Oswin Clayton, Tega Emeseh and Liam Berner, (front row left to right) Rhys Norrington-Davies, Dylan Edwards, Max Dixon, Tomos Slack, Daniel Walters, Tyler Roberts, Billy Heaven.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Year 10 Controlled Assessments – for English continue in the week beginning 6th December 2010. These sessions will assess extended reading. The new controlled assessment which have been introduced in the current Year 10 for the first time replace both coursework and some elements previously assessed on the examination papers.



The idea behind this system is for students to provide an original response without the drawbacks of ‘over preparation’ and will ensure that all students present ‘authentic’ work.

The stages of Controlled Assessment are as follows:

- **Introduction to task** – during this phase the teacher introduces students to the task to ensure they understand exactly what is required of them. Titles are provided by the WJEC.
- **Research and planning** – during this part of the process students are able to work under limited supervision. Teachers are allowed to give general advice but are not allowed to write any comments on any preparatory work. If any support is given, for example, work sheets, these will have to be sent to the exam board for checking. Teachers are not allowed to instruct students to draft essays at home but the learning and teaching which will have taken place during this phase will mean that students should have

thought how they approach the task and what important features they should consider. All students have been provided with resource booklets to support their learning for the tasks.

- **The Controlled Task** – Students write their final piece of work or take part in a speaking and listening activity under controlled conditions and within a set time limit. Students are not allowed to draft their work or take notes into the task for Writing. They may take one A4 sheet of notes into the Reading task. This must not contain a plan or a draft essay.

GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP TO PEMBROKESHIRE

On the third of November 6 Geology students from Penglais set off in the school minibus to Pembrokeshire. First stop - Strumble Head to study pillow lavas. They weren't as comfortable as they sounded! Cows attacked us in Oglof Golchfa, and we were almost blown away by gale force winds. That evening we made

our own dinner and Mr Clissold force fed us smarties, supposedly to teach us an important geology lesson. We have yet to see the lesson in that... On the last day, we went to the Blue Lagoon where we were looking for fossils, but ended up getting distracted by a seal! A thoroughly good time was had by all.



MUSIC

Penglais Musicians travelled to the Millennium Centre, Cardiff on the 11th of November to entertain the passing public on the Glanfa Stage. Many of the audience praised the pupils on the standards that were achieved during the lunchtime concert. Taking part were the Senior Girls Choir, Penglais School Choir, Wind Band and performances by Daisy Farrington, Thomas Mathias and Sophie Rudge.

On Friday 12th November many of the items performed in Cardiff were included in the remembrance service at Penglais School. This included performances by the String Quartet, Brass Quintet and a performance by Ruth Dingle.

'Candles and Carols' service will be held in Llanbadarn Church on Thursday 16th December at 7.00pm. Admission is £5 for adults and £3 concessions.



PENGLAIS PUPILS TO GET THE “RED CARPET” TREATMENT AT THE BAFTAS!



Penglais pupils are heading to London on the 28th November to attend the BAFTA awards after being selected as one of the three finalists for the Bafta Young Game Designer 2010. Rae Elias, Josh Girardi and Aaron Lewis designed a game based on a boy who explores and solves puzzles in his dreams. They also had to design controls, characters and storylines; they called the game “Born Dreaming”. The trio were nominated out of hundreds of entries nationwide after they entered their game description and screen shot. The judging panel included EA Bright Light manager Harvey Elliott and Harry Potter star Mathew Lewis who then put the three through to the phone interview stage. After this they were called up by the organisers to say they had been selected as one of the final three. The winner will be announced at the BAFTA awards on the 28th November. If they win they will come home with their very own BAFTA work experience with professional game designers at Bright Light and EA Games. They will also have a prototype of their game made which will be developed by the game designers at Abertay University. We wish Rae, Josh and Aaron all the best... Good luck!

GREEN PARTY ACHIEVE ECO SCHOOLS BRONZE AWARD

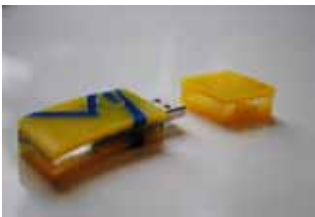


The school’s Green Party have been busy working towards the Eco Schools Award Scheme and have now achieved the Bronze Standard. The group which is made up of five pupils Daniel Dupont, Mathew Sharples, Sian Spence, Stephen Wood and Alma Piotrowicz have been meeting regularly with Mrs Balchin to discuss the seven areas that make up the Eco Schools Award

scheme. The group carried out an audit of the school grounds and buildings and have decided to target the litter aspect as their first area. They are now going to raise money by making products from recycled materials to sell as Christmas stocking fillers to buy bins that have a cover to protect them from seagulls.

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DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

New Year 7 Projects a huge success with the pupils!



The Year 7s have recently completed their first module in Design Technology and are now taking home their final products. The new modules which include making a Monster bag in Textiles using recycled materials and a USB Stick in the CAD CAM module have proven a huge success with very impressive outcomes.



EQUIPMENT FOR SCHOOL

Teachers have raised concerns that some pupils are coming to school without any writing equipment for lessons. For some this is a regular occurrence and it has to stop. Time is wasted at the start of lessons giving out pens, pencils and other equipment. Parents should know the basic equipment is required – it is listed in the pupil planner and this is a plea to all parents to make sure pupils come to school fully equipped to take part in all lessons. Teachers will be asked to check equipment on a regular basis and there will be sanctions for pupils who persistently forget to bring basic equipment.

Winner of the Children in Need Cupcake Competition

Well done to Aled Pink in Y7 who has won a voucher to be spent at Cake Craft



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 1st December	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Thursday 16th December	"Candles and Carols" at Llanbadarn Church at 7.00pm
Tuesday 21st December	Certificates Evening in the Great Hall at 7.30pm
Wednesday 22nd December	Carol services am School finishes at 1.45 and buses leave site by 2.00pm
Wednesday 5th January 2011	Spring Term starts

The school wishes all parents and pupils a very

Happy, safe Christmas break.