



## SCHOOL CLOSURE

Once again the school had to be closed because of adverse weather conditions in December. In 2010 a total of six school days was lost due to poor weather and two other days significantly disrupted. This is highly unusual. In previous years

we have had closures but only occasionally and nothing like the scale of 2010.

One significant factor that made the situation worse was the very low temperatures that persisted after the snow had fallen. In previous years a thaw came fairly quickly but last year the low temperatures were exceptional and

persistent. The result was that impacted snow froze making the whole site hazardous for staff and pupils, let alone the difficulties encountered in having enough teachers to take classes. It took the site team days to make the whole site safe. We were only able to open on a limited basis for examination classes because a snow plough was made

available by the county council for a limited period.

The PTA has now decided to give the school more snow clearing equipment including gritters and a small snow plough attachment. This should help us to re-open more quickly should a similar situation arise in the future.

## INSET DAYS AND CLOSURE DAYS

A reminder that the summer term now ends on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July for pupils as the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> have been designated as INSET days. This also means that Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March is no longer designated as an INSET day.

The spring term finishes on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April and the summer term starts on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. There had been a plan to designate these as INSET days as well but my understanding is that, due to the school closures because of bad weather, they are now designated as ordinary school days.

At the time of writing I was expecting information about whether there was to be a closure day for the royal wedding in the summer term as the event falls within the existing Easter holiday.

## ENFYS DANCE

### COMPANY

A number of Penglais students took part in the 5x60 Roadshow that took place in December at Lampeter University. The group of Penglais students put on a great performance demonstrating their amazing team spirit and dancing skills.

As a result of the success and popularity of this event a new street/hip hop dance class will be starting at the Penparcau venue, next to the park. The class will be part of the Enfys Dance Company and prices will be £4.50 per class or £16 for 4 weeks. This class will be held on Tuesdays from 4-5pm commencing on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Everyone is welcome to join, new and familiar faces alike. If you have any queries please contact Charlotte Warwick on 07975516317 or e-mail [lotty1990@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lotty1990@hotmail.co.uk)

## DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS AND POLIO IMMUNISATIONS

This booster injection is being offered to all Year 10 pupils. This is to complete the immunisation course started as a baby. The date for this in Penglais School is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Older pupils who have previously missed their booster can also be included. Please could you ensure that completed forms are returned promptly to school. Many thanks for your co-operation – *Helen Stretch, School Nurse*

## HPV 3 INJECTIONS

These are to be given to all girls in Year 8 who have already had the previous two injections. The date for the final one is the morning of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Since 2001, 27<sup>th</sup> January every year has been set aside as Holocaust Memorial Day. This is the international day of remembrance for victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. On this day we honour the survivors of regimes of hatred and take the opportunity to reflect on the ways in which we live our lives today.

For 2011 the Holocaust Educational Trust has chosen 'Untold Stories' as the theme for the day. This year Cardiff is hosting the national event and two pupils from our sixth form have been invited to attend.

Mrs. Poyton from the 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 at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Following on from this experience and the link made with the Holocaust Educational Trust, two sixth form students, Melissa Evans and Ellie Rowlands were able to participate in the LfA project in March 2010. Both girls valued the experience and were willing to share the lessons they had learned with our Year 9 pupils. We are privileged again this year, in that two students have again been invited to participate in the LfA project. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 Isabella Hughes and Andrew Mackay will attend the first seminar session of the project before visiting Poland and Auschwitz-Birkenau on 15<sup>th</sup> February. We hope that they will also value this experience and that they will be prepared to share the lessons they learn within the school and the wider community.

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February Penglais will be visited by Mary Mihovilovic, an educator from the Holocaust Educational Trust. Mary will lead some introductory sessions for Year 9 pupils. The year group will then listen to the testimony of holocaust survivor Eva Clarke.

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

## SUCCESS FOR MR ED

Penglais is very proud of Mr. Edwards, Head of Art, who has recently won a Welsh Icons Award in the category 'Children's Book of the Year'.

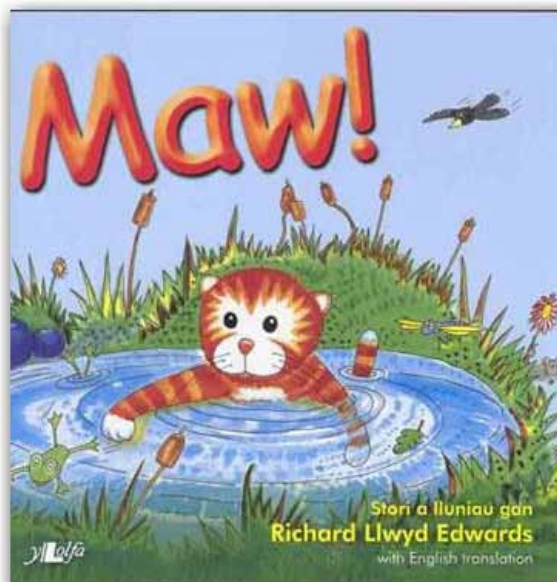
His Welsh language book is the first book in a new series of picture and story books for infants following the antics of a ginger cat from the slate town of Upper Corris. The book has been written and drawn by Mr. Edwards and describing his new creation he said: "Maw enjoys climbing, saying his name, playing, eating and sleeping and sleeping and sleeping... He supports Celtic and his favourite colours are green and white and ginger like his hair of course."

If anyone is looking for a beautifully illustrated book for younger children you can buy it at Siop y Pethe and Y Lofa.

## SCIENCE

A group of sixty pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 visited Theatr Hafren in Newtown just before Christmas to see Birmingham Stage Company's production of Horrible Science. This blend of Science and Drama was very different to our normal Science trip experience, involving as it did catchy cheesy songs, some great 3D effects and the chance to eat ice cream. We

learned many scientific facts such as "20% of bathroom door handles have traces of faeces on them" (the 3D flying faeces showing what happens when you flush a toilet were particularly effective at making the audience scream), "a single bacteria can multiply into 16 million bacteria in a mere 8 hours" and "the gas emitted when you break wind is methane and if harnessed could generate electricity in a power station". Thanks to Ms. Partridge from Mid Wales Travel for driving us so safely in the snow on the way back home over the mountains.



## YOUNG MUSICIAN OF DYFED – by Thomas Mathias, Year 10

Being a finalist in the Young Musician of Dyfed competition was a great experience for me as it was a great chance to perform for a sustained period of time. The atmosphere there was great as everyone chatted and discussed how other could improve. After everyone had played there was a chance to talk to the judges and they gave us a lot of feedback. The judges included the leader of the English Chamber Orchestra and the Royal harpist to the Prince of Wales so it was great to talk to them.



Finalists and adjudicators, from left: John Stein, Christopher Vale, Sioned Llywelyn, Catrin Price, seated, Charlie Kind, Talis Spence, Thomas Mathias and Claire Jones.

## LAND-BASED TASTER DAY

In November 2010, 12 year 9 pupils attended a land based industries workday at Coleg Sir Gar. The objective was to provide pre-16 students with the opportunity to experience

a taster of various land based careers. The pupils were all given a talk and information regarding the vast amount of choice in this field. The workshops included agricultural engineering, animal studies, landscape design, equine, countryside management and agriculture. There was also a mystery workshop which included bush craft and a demonstration by Meirion Owen and his Quack Pack. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and expressed interest in further education relating to topics studied on this day out.

## Outstanding Achievement

Peter Williams (Y13) is pictured here receiving the Award for Outstanding Achievement for pupils in LSC. Peter has been at the School since Year 7 and has made remarkable progress during his time in LSC.



Peter was also presented with a photo frame from Mrs Balchin (D&T) of the Rally Experience Day in which Peter participated.



Pupils from LSC once again enjoyed an afternoon at Aberystwyth fair in November. Our thanks go to Mr Studt who kindly organises this event each year.



## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Year 10 Controlled Assessment for English continued in week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010. These sessions assessed extended reading. The new controlled assessments 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.

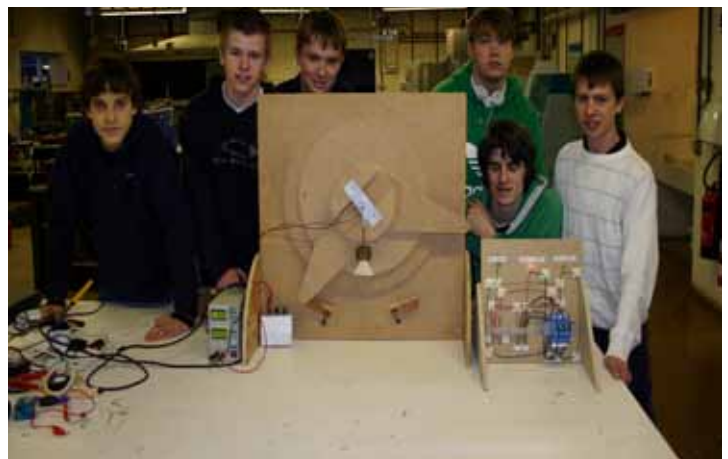
The idea behind this system is that students provide an original response without the drawbacks of 'over preparation' and will ensure that all students present 'authentic' work,

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.

## Engineering Education Scheme of Wales

Six members of Year 12 who are studying Physics are taking part in the Engineering Education Scheme of Wales. This scheme allows students to solve real problems for a local company and gain experience in the area of engineering. This year's sponsors are Statkraft who own and operate the hydroelectric power station at Cwm Rheidol. Currently at the power station the Main Inlet Valve that feeds the water from the penstock or inlet tunnel and into the Main Generating Sets has a series of mechanical limit switches which require regular maintenance. The task for Penglais this year is to design a system which does not use these mechanical actuated switches currently employed and if possible upgrade the system to provide the position of the main inlet valve during operation. The new system must link into their current reporting and control system which includes an output to a pc display. Initially the students visited Cwm Rheidol to get a look at the problem. For the last three months they have spent their spare time researching and building a prototype of their solution. During this time they have attended a three day residential at Coleg Normal in Bangor where they built and tested their system. The students will present their solution to key members of Industry at Venue Cymru in Llandudno on the 4<sup>th</sup> April.



Names from Left to Right are: Timothy Brendler-Spaeth, Matthew James, Oliver Riding, Daniil Ruvinski, Sam Dorrington, David Pritchard

## YEAR 8 SUCCESS

Year 8 pupils recently took part in the final of the Dyfed Powys Police School Liaison Crime Prevention quiz. They were the Ceredigion Regional winners of this important quiz, narrowly losing in the finals. The school is impressed with the pupils' commitment and enthusiasm in this extra-curricular activity.



The winning team is pictured: Cai Elgood; Georgia Mackereth, Eszter Pinter, Oliver Herschel and Tomos Lewis.

## PENGLAIS SCHOOL'S ENGINEERS GO RALLYING FOR THE DAY!

The Vocational Engineering class had the opportunity to get a glimpse into the world of motorsport thanks to the help of the drivers from local motor clubs. The group of 14 pupils from Year 11, who are currently taking NVQ Engineering, got to meet the drivers, look at their cars and also get hands on experience under the bonnet working with qualified mechanics. Both their teachers, Mr. Garwyn Davies and Mrs. Fiona Balchin, thought it would be very interesting for the pupils to see how the skills learnt in the workshop could be related to the real world and in particular to have some fun!

The Year 11 Engineering group got to experience what it was like to be a rally navigator for the day at Sweet Lamb Motorsport Complex in Llangurig. The pupils had the opportunity to navigate drivers from local motor clubs around the infamous 'bowl' where the World Rally Championships took place in November. Before they got to go out in the cars the pupils were shown how to prepare and check over a rally car by Chris Palmer. They changed wheels, checked oil and water and looked at the safety features that make a rally car different to a normal everyday road car. They were then taught how to plot a small course using maps and co-ordinates that would be used on a real road rally. The pupils then went in a car around the course getting code boards and marshals to sign their clip boards. They also had to negotiate obstacles such as Give Way signs and triangles. The pupils gained points throughout the day whilst Roamer Company, Magnet Trade and James Hatfield Motorsport Photography. The winning pupil was Nathan Edwards, closely followed in second place by Sam Morris with Geoff Macken taking third place.

A fantastic day was had by the pupils, staff and drivers. A huge thank you goes to Chris Palmer (CP Electrics) for all his help and time that went into making the day a great success. We would also like to thank Barry Jones, Arfon Griffiths, Marc Mayes, Rob Walters, Clive Williams (Hillcrest Garage), Dylan Balchin, Dafydd Hughes, George Eadon, The Basic Roamer Company and Magnet Trade. A big thank you also goes to Jon

Bennett Evans for allowing us the use of the facilities at Sweet Lamb for the day. And finally a huge thank you to James Hatfield, a former Penglais pupil, who now has his own Motorsport Photography business, for taking the photos.



## **CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS AT PENGLAIS SCHOOL**

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December Penglais School held its annual prize and certificates' evening at the Great Hall, UWA Arts Centre. The Headteacher, Mr. Haydn Davey welcomed back students and parents and highlighted the school's excellent academic achievements, before introducing the guest speaker for the evening, Sue Jones-Davies, distinguished actress and singer and ex-mayor of Aberystwyth. She gave an interesting and relevant talk about the importance of paying attention to your own feelings and ambitions rather than those which are suggested for you. She then presented the following prizes, awards and colours, as well as A Level and GCSE certificates to many of the pupils.

**LILLIAN BALL PRIZEWINNERS for Outstanding Performance at A Level** All of the following students achieved at least 3 A grades at A level together with their Welsh Baccalaureate and many of them achieved the new A\* grade.

*Ruth Ashford, David Cutress, Tommy Davies, Caspar Donnison, Yasmin Eva, Gareth Farrow, Marguerite Hughes, Linzi James, Matthew Kelly, Ceri Lumley, Claire Maloney, Rohit Nan, Fleur Newton, Sofia Ropek-Hewson, Lucy Wardlaw O'Brien, Joe Warren, Harry Williams.*

**For Outstanding Performance at GCSE** All of these students achieved a minimum of 5A\*s with many achieving 8A\*s and more!

*Isabella Ashford, Timothy Brendler-Spaeth, Rhys Elgood, Angharad Gilbey, Sam Harvey, Wai Lee Lai, Michelle Li, Alma Piotrowicz, Freya Pryce, Iolo Squires, Owen Williams.*

**LILLIAN BALL AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT WITHIN THE LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE** went to *Peter Williams*

**ARDWYNIAN ASSOCIATION PRIZE For Best Performance at GCSE** went to *Alma Piotrowicz* for achieving an incredible 12 A\*s.

**The PENGLAIS/PENWEDDIG COMBINED PRIZE for French** went to *Claire Maloney*

**The PENWEDDIG COMBINED PRIZE for Geography** went to *Lucy Wardlaw-O'Brien*

**CEREDIGION NFU TRUST AWARD** went to *Emyr Hopkins and Harry Williams*

**JANE CURWEN PRIZE WINNERS for Outstanding Contribution in Music** were *Naomi Parry and Harvey Hassan*

**The EVAN MORGAN SCHOLARSHIP for outstanding Academic Achievement by a Year 7 Pupil** went to *Bethan Henley*

**For OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT in a Year 8 Pupil** *Timothy Medcalf*

**For OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT in a Year 9 Pupil** *Megan Carter-Davies*

**For OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT in a Year 10 Pupil** *Gwilym Rowbotham*

**For OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS at A Level** *Joe Warren* and at **GCSE** – *Yi Xing Cao and Wai Lee Lai*

**For OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CHEMISTRY** - *Harry Williams*

**The LEADERSHIP PRIZE** went to *Sofia Ropek-Hewson*

**The GARETH WRIGHT MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN HISTORY** went to *Caspar Donnison*

**FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE, EFFORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCHOOL**

**Year 8 Pupil** - *Catrin Davies*

**Year 9 Pupil** - *Tess Dupont*

**Year 10 Pupil** - *Cerys Sharples*

**Year 11 Pupil** - *Seren Dupont*

**SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR** - *Liam Button*



**FOR OUTSTANDING SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT - Elinor Thorogood**

**MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS - Imogen Jones and Dan Maher**

**SPORTS COLOURS AWARDS were awarded to:** Coner Berner, Jesse Dent, Rowena Donnison, Ella Downing, Rhys Durbin, Sarah Ford, Zach Galliford, Peter John, Laura Jones, Jessica Lai, Jess Makin, Sam Margrave-Jones, Ceri Morris, Henry Partridge, Gabriella Tedaldi, Aimee Thomas, Joe Williams, Lee Worrall

**MUSIC COLOURS AWARDS were awarded to:** Sarah Blake, Hattie Chambers, Emma-Rose Davies, Seren Dupont, Daisy Farrington, Gina Harrington, Georgiana Hughes, Lauren Hughes, Rhys Jenkins, Arthur Jones, Ned Kenyon-Jones, Victoria Lewis, Carys Lewis-Watson, Jang Morgan, Marisa Oikawa, Gwilym Rowbotham

The evening was rounded off with mince pies and wine in the Arts Centre Bar.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Parents' Evening at 3.30pm in the Small Hall
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 7 Parents' Evening in the Small Hall at 3.30pm
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 Parents' Evening in the Small Hall at 3.30pm
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 12 Parents' Evening in the Small Hall at 3.30pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Concert in the Main Hall
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 10 Parents Evening in the Small Hall at 3.30pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	END OF TERM
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Summer term begins

Ysgol Penglais School

# PTA Quiz & Curry Night

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at  
**Penglais School**  
**Small Hall**

Join us for a brilliant night out!  
Questions to tax your brain.



## Shilam

**Generously  
Sponsored by**



All for only **£8.50** per person. 7.30 p.m. Quiz starts at 7.45p.m.

Please complete and return this slip to reception by **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March** at the latest.  
Please indicate how many vegetarian meals (if any) your party will require

**Tickets are limited to 120, so don't delay.**



Please Reserve ..... Places for the PTA Quiz ..... it.

(Including ..... Vegetarian Meals).

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011. @ £8.50 per person.

I enclose cash or a cheque payable to **Penglais School** for

£..... for ..... people.



Name..... Date...../...../.....

Very Generously sponsored by the Shilam Restaurant, all proceeds to PTA school funds.

Please return to Penglais Reception by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March