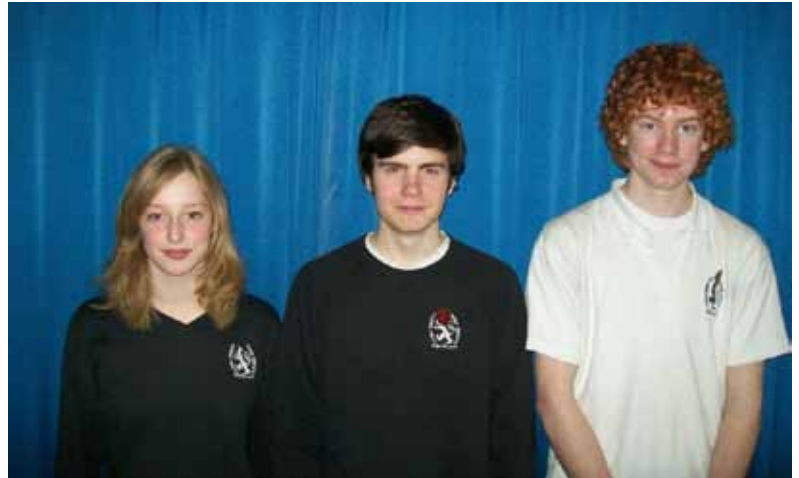




Sixth Form Success

Congratulations to three of our Year 13 students who have been successful in achieving university offers from Oxford and Cambridge University - Eleanor Warren to study Biochemistry at Oxford, Edward Williams to study Mathematics at Cambridge and Daniel Dupont to study Mathematics at Oxford.



Raising Money for the Japanese Exchange.

This July a group of 8 Japanese students from Osaka will be visiting Penglais School and staying with host families (pupils from Y11, Y12 and Y13). The money raised will help fund the many activities they participate in during their stay.

On Saturday 26th March a large group of pupils gave their time to bag pack at Morrisons. They did a great job and managed to raise almost £500.

Due to the recent earthquake and tsunami we have decided to put half the money raised towards this appeal.

Many thanks to all those pupils and staff who helped.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Cara Williams who has received an Evan Morgan Scholarship to study Geography and Mathematics at Aberystwyth University and to Raj Singh who has received a Merit Award to study International Politics at Aberystwyth University.

5x60

Dodgeball Festival

On March 3rd this year the Ceredigion 5x60 Team organised a Charity Dodgeball Festival in partnership with the British Heart Foundation. All 7 secondary schools took representative teams from Years 7 and 8 to Cardigan for the Festival and over 100 pupils took part. Pupils who represented the Penglais 5x60 teams were chosen as a reward for their commitment to attending the most dodgeball/bench ball sessions throughout the year. Over £550 was raised on the day, with more sponsorship money still coming in!

The Penglais 5x60 Girl's Team and the Year 8 Boys' Team also won their group's competitions, claiming the top prize on the day. Congratulations to everyone who took part and raised money for a very worthy cause.



Year 8 Boys team



Year 7 Boys team

Rotary Club Interview

Aoife Taylor and Alma Piotrowicz have been selected by the Aberystwyth Rotary Club to go to Dolygaer Activity Centre to participate in a leadership course. Both girls received excellent feedback from their interviews. Congratulations to you both.



Year 7 & 8 Girls' Team

Geography and History Easter Revision Sessions

Dear Parent/Guardian

With the exam season fast approaching History and Geography have decided to offer some revision sessions for pupils. Each session will run from 10am – 3pm and pupils will be given a breaktime and lunchtime. Pupils will need to bring a packed lunch or money to buy lunch locally. Geography will be based in room B12 and History will use A13.

The revision sessions on offer are as follows:

- Tuesday 19 April – History Hitler’s Germany (for any Year 11 pupil)
- Thursday 21 April – Geography Year 11 pupils re-sitting the Year 10 exam
- Tuesday 26 April – History USA 1910 – 1929 (for any Year 11 pupil)
- Wednesday 27 April – History USA 1929 – 2000 (only those re-sitting)
- Thursday 28 April – Geography Year 11 pupils re-sitting the Year 10 exam.

Each session will aim to revise the course content and help pupils to develop the exam techniques necessary for success. Pupils are welcome to attend all the sessions on offer or they can select those that are most appropriate to their needs. We hope that pupils will take full advantage of the help that has been offered to them.

Pupils can also check out the GCSE sections of our blogs:

History – <http://penglaisschoolhist.blogspot.com>

Geography – <http://penglaisschoolgeog.blogspot.com>

Yours faithfully

R. Allen (Head of Geography)

D.R.Payne (Head of History)

Science Department Visits

On 17th March 60 pupils from Year 7 attended the National Science Week Exhibition at Aberystwyth University. Pupils enjoyed a wide variety of hands-on Science exhibitions including a mechanical horse and a walk-in planetarium.

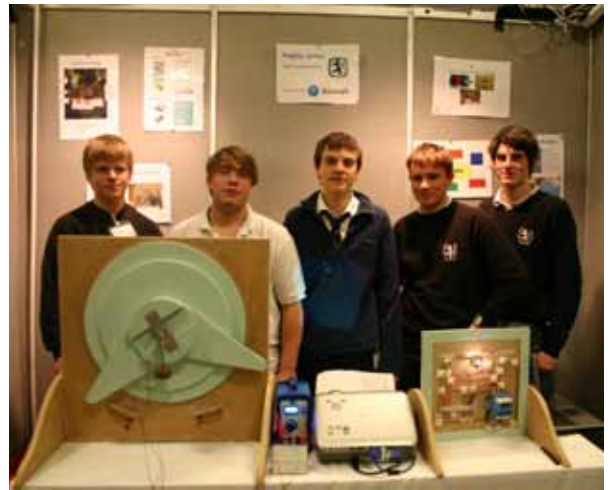
Two groups of Year 12 Chemistry students have recently visited IGES, Aberystwyth University. The groups were invited by Dr Bill Perkins who took them on a tour of his laboratories. The group were shown analytical instruments, including mass spectrometers, which they study as part of their AS course. The group found the visit invaluable and we are very grateful to Dr Perkins for giving up his time.

Rosie Coates, a Science communicator from the social enterprise organisation *Science Made Simple* came to Penglais to present a show called “Music to your Ears” to Years 7, 8 and 9. The presentation included demonstrations and audience interaction, covering topics ranging from the basics of sound to the latest in music technology. Some pupils got to have a go at altering their voices and Rosie demonstrated how sound is made by vibrations, how our ears work, what sound waves look like, what harmonics are and how a Theremin, one of the earliest electronic musical instruments, makes eerie sounds without even being touched.

Thanks to the Welsh Assembly Government and Aberystwyth University’s West and Mid – Wales Widening Access Partnership for funding these presentations.

Engineering Education Scheme of Wales

Five students participating in the engineering Education Scheme of Wales presented their project, which they have been involved with since last October, to members of industry at Venue Cymru in Llandudno on the 4th April 2011. The team designed a proximity switch for the main inlet valve at the Rheidol Power Station. During their project the students spent many hours researching and designing a solution which involved working as a team. The students built a working model of their design and demonstrated it to groups of assessors at the presentation who questioned them on many aspects of their understanding of the problem and their chosen solution. They also gave presentations to their parent engineer and other engineers who were present. The team received high praise from the assessors for providing an excellent solution to the problem.



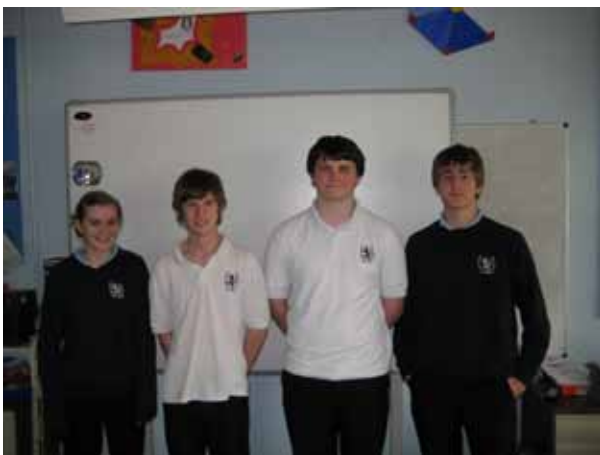
Members of the EESW team at Venue Cymru.

Left to Right:
Mathew James, Daniil Ruvinskii, Timothy Brendler-Spaeth, Oliver Riding, Sam Dorrington

More Maths Success Stories

A level in year 11 !!!!

Well, not quite, but, four year 11 students sat an AS module in Decision Mathematics in January. This is a module usually reserved for Year 12 students studying for the Further Maths A level examination. The students studied after school under the guidance of Dr Devlin and their results were excellent with all students passing at either grade A or B. Gwilym Rowbottom scored full marks – an achievement not previously achieved by any Penglais student. Congratulations to all of them and many thanks to Dr Devlin for giving up so much of his time. These students and 11 others are also studying for an Additional Maths qualification at lunchtimes with Mr Bentley.



From left to right, the D1 students are Seren Dupont, Gwilym Rowbottom, Rhys Durbin and Gergo Pinter.

Students of the Month

Despite some students saying that, “It would be really embarrassing!!” we have pressed ahead with introducing a Student of the Month award. We now know that we were right to do so because students are proud to have their name displayed on noticeboards within the department, getting letters home and having their success celebrated in assemblies. Recent winners have been:

Dinas Drakeley 7GO, Megan Blake 7 JW, Andrew Morgan 8CH, Iestyn Jones 8CH, Archie Davies 8FB, Allan Cole 9PD, Ashley Holloway 10NG, Ti Rune Buchi 10IW and Luke Davies 10CP

We are rewarding hard work and success in every ability group so everybody has a chance of becoming a Penglais Maths Student of the Month.

organised by the University. Although we would have liked to see more entries, we congratulate those who took part and eagerly await the results.

he had ever seen! Many thanks to Mrs Caroline Goodband, Mrs Annabelle Lowe and all the 6th form helpers for making it such a success. We will soon be installing 8 computers in room B10 to help provide individualised learning support and to allow pupils to practise what they have learned.

Maths Challenge

Students from years 7 to 10 have recently had the opportunity to enter a Maths Challenge

Numeracy Support

In a recent inspection of the Maths Department an inspector congratulated us on our numeracy intervention strategy. The best

6th Form News

The Current Affairs group took part in the Question Time Event that Head Boy, Andrew Morel, organised on their behalf. On the 8th of April, five political representatives were invited to take questions from the audience which was made up of pupils from years 10 to 13. Mr D.R. Payne chaired the event which took place in the Main Hall. Ian Harrison represented the Conservatives, Elin Jones spoke on behalf of Plaid Cymru, Steffan John represented the Liberal Democrats along with Chris Simpson from the Green Party. The Labour Party was represented by Richard Bouchier. There was stimulating and animated discussion of issues that affect us all on a daily basis. We are very grateful to Andrew Morel for the time and effort that he put into organising this very popular and successful event.

A Debating group meets on Tuesdays at lunchtime in F2 for Years 10 -12. This is in addition to the Current Affairs Group that meets every Thursday. Two students from Aberystwyth University are running this group in order to provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their debating skills and broaden their knowledge of current affair issues. We are very fortunate to be able to draw on the knowledge and expertise of students and staff at the University. We would like to express our thanks to Dr. Sue Pester for her support in broadening the experiences of our students.

Design and Technology

Cupcake competition

This year the Design and Technology department has held several competitions for pupils in KS3. There has been much creative cake decorating with the majority of entries coming from year 7 - well done to all those who have entered.



Theme: Children in Need
Winner: Aled Pink 7GO



Theme: Valentines Day
Winner: Isla Smeaton 7OB

The Design and Technology Department is making a particular request to parents of pupils who have prepared food in school. Please ensure that your child has a container to carry food home in. In recent lessons only 6 pupils out of 48 had containers to carry home their gateaux.

Calon Ceredigion Nurse Appeal

BHF Cymru has identified an urgent need for a BHF Heart Failure Nurse to provide specialist care to heart failure patients across Ceredigion, and is coordinating a public fundraising appeal aiming to raise £125,000. This is the cost of supporting a new BHF Heart Failure Nurse to benefit local people in Ceredigion over three years, including salary, training and essential equipment. As part of the fund-raising campaign, Year 12 students organised a Valentine's disco and sold roses, balloons and heart shaped badges. The



School Council sold Love Hearts and offered a Valentine's Day message delivery service. As a result of all their hard work a total of £902 was raised and a cheque was presented to Glan Williams, President of the Aberystwyth and District British Heart Foundation.

Thank you to all who supported the campaign by giving their time, energy and enthusiasm to this event.

Sophie Rudge to be soloist in The Birmingham Symphony Hall

Sophie Rudge (10NG) has accepted an invitation to sing in The Côr Canoldir Concert in the Birmingham Symphony Hall on June 5th 2011. Catrin Finch will accompany Sophie and she will sing along side Elan Mannahan Thomas.

Success in The County Round of The Urdd Eisteddfod 2011

The school is delighted that so many pupils entered competitions in the local and county rounds of the Urdd Eisteddfod. We are proud of the pupils' commitment and loyalty to the school. Pupils who won the following competitions will now compete in The National Eisteddfod in Swansea during the summer half term week. We wish them every success in the next round:

Ceri Davies (Solo Disco Dancing) Osian Dance (Solo Woodwind) Tega Emeseh (Solo Learners' Recitation) Grady Hassan (Solo Brass), Thomas Mathias (Solo Strings), Sophie Rudge (Solo and Duet Cerdd Dant), Niamh O'Brien, Tara Howard, Rachel Howard, Celine Barker, Erika Busson, Katy Reyers, Michelle Gopalan, Annabel Talco, Leanne Hopson, Sarah Cooke, Alysha Fitzpatrick, Misha Thomas, Tara Thomas and Ceri Davies (Group Disco Dancing), Georgiana Hughes, Hattie Chambers, Elinor Feasey, Celine Brendler-Spaeth, Emyr Dance, Carys Lewis-Watson, Osian Dance, Harvey Hassan, Evan Rowbottom, Rhys Jenkins, Dylan Langley, Cameron James, Gregory Parry, Georgina Evans, Max Glasser, Isaac Willaimson, Gareth Owen, Ruth Dingle, Grady Hassan, Phoebe Williams, Gwilym Rowbottom, Ellis Griffiths, Duncan Horne, Steffan McMillan, Sophie Rudge, Emyr Dance (Band/ Orchestra) Elinor Morgan, Thomas Mathias, Michelle Li, Ruth Dingle, Phoebe Williams, Marisa Oikawa, Gwilym Rowbottom (Ensemble)

On Friday 18th March a number of fund-raising activities were organised as part of a fun day to raise money for Comic Relief and a range of local charities. A fancy dress own clothes day saw both staff and pupils dressed in a range of costumes. Pupils were entertained by singers, dancers and local bands in talent shows organised by the sixth form community services group and treated to some video clips of the staff and prefects 'doing something funny for money'. They were also given the opportunity to throw wet sponges at teachers. Badges, red noses and runny noses were sold in the build up to the event and the total raised thus far stands at £2023.

Comic Relief



Thank you to everyone for the hard work that went in to organising the event and to all those who joined in and had fun whilst raising a substantial amount of money.

St Davids Day

As part of Penglais's celebration of St David's Day on 1st March, the Sixth Form Prefects ran a Welsh themed cake stall and a concert in the Main Hall at lunchtime. The concert included performances by local band Blue Echo and our very own Mr Nelmes who performed a number of Tom Jones classics. For those brave enough to participate there was also a leek eating competition which was won by Raj Singh, Year 13.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event.



The Urdd

Success for Penglais School at the Urdd Swimming finals at the National Pool Cardiff.

A team of enthusiastic swimmers from Penglais School travelled to Cardiff to take part in the Urdd Swimming finals on the 30th January 2011. The team, many of whom went through the heats with fast times, included:-

Teilo Courtier Lilley, Isaac Evans, Bleddyn Richards, Max Glasser, Megan Dafis, Lowri Donnelly, Zoe Walker, Rachel Donnison, Ben Jones, Megan Jones, Naomi Thorogood and Oliver Thorogood.

In fiercely competitive races Megan Jones year 12 won two silver medals in the Freestyle and Individual Medley competitions, Ben Jones won a bronze medal in the boys Breast Stroke. Megan Dafis year 10, Lowri Donnelly year 9, Zoe Walker year 9 and Rachel Donnison carried off Silver medals in the Freestyle and Medley Relays.

National Youth Training Choir of Wales

Five pupils spent the February half term in Bedstone College Shropshire training with the choir.

Sophie Rudge,
Rhys Jenkins,
Duncan Horne,
Ruth Dingle and

Daisy Farrington took part in an end of course concert in Abergavenny.

Rotary Young Musician of the Year

Three musicians from Year 10 were very successful in this year's Rotary competitions.

Instrumental

1st – Thomas Mathias
2nd – Grady Hassan

Vocal

1st – Sophie Rudge

Urdd Eisteddfod 2011

The Music Department has been busy preparing for the Local and County Eisteddfod rounds. Entries include School Wind Band, Senior Strings, Junior and Senior Girls, Vocal Ensemble and soloists, Osian Dance, Thomas Mathias, Grady Hassan and Sophie Rudge.

The annual Spring Concert was held on the 7th of April in the Main hall. It was a very successful evening with staff and pupils performing a variety of musical items.



Reach the Heights Project

Over the last two terms pupils have been involved in a Welsh Assembly funded project 'Reach the Heights' which was organised by the Arts Centre. The activities, which were taught by staff at the Arts Centre, have included screen printing, ceramics and photography. The finale of the whole project was an exhibition of work and a reception for the pupils, parents and friends on 26th March



LSC

Swimming Gala
Pupils from LSC took part in a swimming gala on 8th February organised by Disability Sport Wales. Our



competitors did really well in all classes and were presented with medals and certificates.

Donation to Dentaid

Sally Reading from the Ystwyth dental surgery received a donation from LSC pupils towards her charity Dentaid. Sally gave a very

interesting talk about the work she does in Kenya and will put the money towards her next trip. The money was raised by selling hand made cards.



Awards at Lluest

A small group of pupils who attend Mentro Lluest each week for work experience were successful recently in passing the assessment for the 'Safe Use of Petrol Lawnmowers' They were all presented with a certificate to mark their achievements.



Music Department Celebrates Success. Success at Three Counties Level

A number of pupils have successfully auditioned for places in the Three Counties Bands and Choir Three Counties Big Band – Evan Rowbottom

Brass Band – Arran Clarke

Wind Band – Naomi Parry and Osian Dance

Choir – Sophie Rudge, Seren Dupont

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday May 3

Thursday May 5

Friday May 6

Thursday May 12

Friday May 27

Monday May 30 – Friday June 3

Monday June 13

Monday July 4

Thursday July 14

Summer term begins

Sports Day

Year 11 Leavers' Day

Year 12 Study Leave begins

Year 13 Leavers' Day

Half Term

Year 12 return from Study Leave

PTA Treasure Hunt 6pm

End of Summer term

ROCKET CHALLENGE

Five year 12 Physics students have entered the UKAYRoC rocket challenge. The challenge is for young people and involves building a rocket to carry an egg to 750ft and back down undamaged in 40-45 seconds. To achieve this, the students have had to understand the dynamics of rocket design. They have modelled a small toy rocket using SpaceCAD design software which has given them the skills to allow them to design and construct a rocket large enough to carry an egg. They have researched and overcome many problems before a successful flight was realised on a blustery Ynyslas beach at the beginning of March in front of their sponsors QinetiC and Nomad Supplies. The team can now successfully launch and recover the egg and are determined to qualify for the UK finals which are to be held on the 10th May in Leicester.



Photo:
Mathew Sharples, Omar Ali, Oliver Jordan, Ben Labrosse, Sam Harvey



Twin Peaks Challenge

On Saturday 16th April 2011, Lois and Leah Brewer (two sixth form pupils from Penglais School) will be climbing Snowdon, then cycling 50 miles from Snowdon to Cadair Idris, and then climbing Cadair Idris. They are aiming to raise £1500 for the British Heart Foundation's 'Calon Ceredigion Nurse Appeal'. Please help them to raise money for this worthy cause by donating at the following website: www.justgiving.com/loisandleah-twinpeakschallenge

SECOND HAND SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school would welcome any good second hand uniform. From time to time some pupils for a variety of reasons need replacement uniform. If you have any items that you could donate to school, please send to the school reception.



Y11 Own
Clothes Day



The Yr11 Catering and Hospitality group raised £70.00 for the British Heart Foundation. They are pictured here presenting a cheque.



A presentation of £300 to Michelle Phillips who is running the London Marathon in aid of Asthma UK. Pictured with Melissa Evans and Rubab Khan.

Step Up to Medicine

On 5th March, a group of Year 12 students attended the Step Up to Medicine Conference organised by Cardiff University. As part of the conference, students attended a series of lectures covering topics such as the qualities needed to become a successful doctor, how to make a successful application for a Medicine degree and what to

expect both during the Medicine course and as a junior doctor.

Students were given the opportunity to take part in a number of practical sessions which included taking blood using a prosthetic limb, intubation, checking blood pressure and heart rates and emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The day proved to be extremely informative and of great benefit to all who attended. A special thanks to Mr Jones for driving the mini bus down to Cardiff.