



STAFF RETIREMENTS

The end of the school year sees many long serving teachers and support staff retiring from Penglais School. Mrs J.L. Pearson, of Head of Modern Languages, is retiring after 21 years' service at the school, nine of them as head of one of the school's biggest departments. We shall be losing a very experienced and successful teacher and head of department. Her husband Mr A. Pearson is also retiring after 22 years' service in the school where he too has taught languages, having been both head of German and second in department. Mr Pearson has also been the school's Professional Tutor responsible for the supervision of student teachers, a role in which he shone as an experienced and wise mentor for teachers entering the profession. We wish Mr and Mrs Pearson a long and happy retirement.

Also leaving us is Mrs E. D. Griffiths who has been the school's Special Education Needs Co-ordinator, a post which she has shared with Ms E. A. Ball. They have effectively divided this massive role between them since 2007. Mrs Griffiths has worked at Penglais School in various capacities since 1986, starting out as a supply teacher. She then taught Science before moving into the area where she has made a really outstanding contribution to the school. This work is with children

who need additional help and guidance in order to succeed. She is a very committed and hard working colleague whose work as SENCO has been really appreciated by pupils, parents and colleagues: she has earned a well deserved retirement!

Ms P.M. Richards retires this summer too having worked at Penglais since 1990. She has taught in the English department during all that time, undertaking a full load of work at all levels up to A Level: She has also made a significant contribution to the new A Level in Media Studies. She has always shown a real enthusiasm in her subject and has been a second in the English department and a subject mentor for student teachers of English. In recent years she has also been an assistant head of sixth form, playing an important role in supporting sixth formers through the UCAS process and preparing students for public speaking competitions and debates. She has always shown great care and provided support for her students. The school will be losing another very experienced and successful teacher this summer. We do wish her too, a long and happy retirement.

Mrs Alison Jones who is currently our examinations clerk is retiring after 21 years service too. Her current role is a vital one in supporting senior staff

in charge of the massive examinations process which has to be managed every year. Her expert knowledge, hard work and commitment will be hard to replace. Before involvement in this work Mrs Jones held senior administrative posts in the school: she started as a school receptionist, then managed the main school office before working with canteen and cleaning services and eventually examinations and data work where her contribution has been invaluable. She too has thoroughly earned a well deserved retirement after such long and committed service to the school.

Mrs Medina Powell retires from her role as Cover Support Assistant this summer too. This is a

post she has held for eight years and before that she worked as a NNEB in the Special Needs Department. Cover support assistants carry out a very important role covering short term absences of teachers and Mrs Powell was one of the first to be appointed at the school. It is work that is much appreciated by colleagues: Mrs Powell has also provided excellent additional administrative support to the English department and the school is very grateful for her services. She too leaves with our very best wishes for her retirement.

I will include further details of new appointments to the school in the first bulletin of the new term.

CHANGES TO LOCKER RENTALS IN SEPTEMBER

The charge for renting a locker next year will be £10.00.

This will include a deposit of £5.00. The deposit will be returned to pupils at the end of the academic year on receipt of the locker key.

If your child no longer wants to rent a locker the key should be returned at the end of term to reception.

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

Thank you to all parents who replied to our letter requesting parents' email addresses. We received just over 500 addresses but still need more to make our mailing efficient. If you have not sent your email address we will still be pleased to receive it. Please send your details to rjh@penglais.org.uk.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We expect our pupils to be smart and easily recognisable as Penglais School pupils. No aspect of our pupils' appearances should draw attention to themselves. To avoid inequalities of dress and to maintain very high standards of appearance, the school has produced guidelines to ensure correct uniform is purchased. We ask parents to support the school in this matter. Please see the attached uniform list and guidance for purchasing of uniform.

There is an immediate ban on 'hoodies' in school. Pupils are not to bring them into school. The only exception to this rule is wearing the PE hoodie (blue with the school logo) for PE/games lessons.

The Governors have circulated parents on proposed changes to the school uniform. Whilst changes to the uniform will not be confirmed until the annual general meeting in October we are including in this newsletter details of the proposed uniform. There is nothing on this list that is not currently on our uniform list. In Year 7-11 we are simply phasing out some uniform items. The sixth form uniform will now include an approved black fine knit jumper with the school logo embroidered on the front.

Non-uniform items of clothing are not permitted and this applies to all year groups.

GIRLS' UNIFORM YEARS 7-11

- Navy sweatshirt with embroidered school logo.
- A white polo shirt with embroidered logo.
- A knee length black skirt. This may be either straight style with vent or pleated worn with black or natural coloured tights (not footless) or white socks.
- Alternatively black full length trousers of a conventional design in plain material may be worn.
- In summer, tailored black knee length shorts are allowed.

BOYS' UNIFORM YEARS 7-11

- Navy sweatshirt with embroidered school logo.
- A white polo shirt with embroidered logo.
- Black tailored trousers with a conventional design in plain material.
- In summer, tailored black knee length shorts are allowed.

SIXTH FORM GIRLS

- A black sweatshirt or jumper with embroidered school logo.
- A white blouse and tie to be worn with the school jumper.
- A white polo shirt with embroidered logo to be worn with the school black sweatshirt
- A knee length black skirt. This may be either straight style with vent or pleated worn with black tights (not footless) or white socks
- Alternatively, full length black trousers of a conventional design in plain material.
- In summer, tailored black knee length shorts are allowed.

SIXTH FORM BOYS

- A black sweatshirt or black jumper with the embroidered school logo.

- A white polo shirt with embroidered logo.
- Black tailored trousers with a conventional design in plain material.
- In summer, tailored knee length shorts are allowed.

FOOTWEAR FOR ALL PUPILS

Trainers should be mainly black or plain black / brown shoes of a design which are safe for the school environment. If the school deems footwear to be unsuitable and presents a health and safety hazard a parent may be asked to collect the pupil. The pupil may not be allowed back into school until the pupil has acceptable footwear which is deemed suitable for the school environment. Heels should be low, toes enclosed and footwear not liable to slip off. Boots are not acceptable.

N.B. If it is not on the above list – it is not uniform.

A fleece jacket with school logo is available, though not compulsory. Years 7-11 navy, Sixth form black.

Outdoor clothing - All pupils may wear conventional coats (but not leather or denim) jackets in blue or black with no large logos. There is a complete ban on the wearing of hoodies from September unless it is part of P.E. kit.

Jewellery – Although the school strongly recommends that jewellery is not worn and accepts no responsibility whatsoever for loss of jewellery on school site, pupils may wear jewellery to school. However, in some lessons, on the grounds of health and safety, jewellery must be removed, e.g. in PE lessons and in other practical subjects. This will be the decision of the subject teacher. If the school judges that some jewellery is either dangerous or offensive, then it will be banned.

Hairstyles - Extreme hairstyles are not allowed. Hats may not be worn inside the school building.

PE KIT – GIRLS (Years 7 and 8)

INDOOR

- A plain white round neck T-shirt with the school logo on the front and Physical Education on the back. Initials are optional.
- A pair of navy/black shorts.
- Trainers suitable for both indoor and outdoor activities such as netball.

OUTDOOR

- A hooded top in Royal blue with long sleeves with the school logo printed on the front. Initials are optional.
- Football boots are essential for safety reasons for outdoor activities such as hockey.
- Shin pads and long Royal blue or white socks.
- Navy/Black shorts or tracksuit bottoms for colder weather.

PE KIT - BOYS

INDOOR

- A plain white round neck T-shirt with the school logo on the front and Physical Education on the back. Initials are optional.
- A pair of navy/black shorts.
- Trainers suitable for both indoor and outdoor activities.

OUTDOOR

- A Rugby top in Royal blue with long sleeves.
- Football/Rugby boots are essential for safety reasons for outdoor activities.
- Navy/Black shorts or tracksuit bottoms for colder weather. Please note that tracksuit bottoms with zips are not permitted for contact sports for safety reasons.
- Shin pads and long royal blue socks.
- Gum shields are advisable.

Uniform and sportswear is available either from Lampeter House, Terrace Road, Aberystwyth, Ffigar Sports, 23-25 Pier Street, Aberystwyth, SY23 2LR or from Mrs. Alison Jones who can be contacted on 07808 174847 or 01970 625288 at any time. Uniform is available all year round from Mrs. Jones. Her website is www.alisonjonesschoolwear.co.uk. A home delivery service is also available.

GUIDANCE ON SCHOOL UNIFORM

We strongly advise parents to purchase at least two sets of school uniform to ensure that pupils are dressed correctly for school.

Identification

All clothing must be marked with the pupil's name.

Girls' Skirts

These must be of a woven fabric and not knitted. Skirts should be black, no longer than knee length and no shorter than 4 inches above the knee. Decorative features, such as sequins, buckles, belts, dress buttons, decorative zips, studs or laces are unacceptable.

Girls' Black Trousers

Must be in a traditional tailored style and made of woven and not knitted fabric. Leggings, tracksuit bottoms, ski pants, jeans, skinny jeans, corduroy, denim, combats, flares, turn-ups, or excessively long trousers are not acceptable. Trousers must not resemble jeans. The decorative features listed above are also unacceptable on trousers.

The School Polo Shirt

The polo shirt must be worn with the collar outside the sweatshirt and must not hang lower than the bottom of the school sweatshirt. A sleeveless white camisole/ vest type garment may be worn under the T-shirt but must not hang lower than the polo shirt. Coloured or multicoloured T-shirts or long sleeved T-shirts must not be worn beneath the school polo shirt.

The School Sweatshirt

The sweatshirt should be worn in conjunction with the school polo shirt. It is school uniform and must be worn. On very warm days pupils may remove the sweatshirts. Coats/ Jackets should not be worn in place of the sweatshirt.

The White Shirt worn by 6th Form Pupils

This should be traditional style with buttons up to the neck to ensure that the knot of the tie rests no lower than the neckline.

Jackets and Coats

These should be black or navy. There is a complete ban on the wearing of hoodies from September unless it is part of PE kit.

Boys' Trousers

Tailored style and made of woven and not knitted fabric. Ski pants, tracksuit bottoms, corduroy, denim, combats, flares, turn-ups or excessively long trousers are unacceptable. There should be no decorative features as outlined in the section on girls' trousers.

Trousers must not resemble jeans.

Footwear

The proposal is that only black shoes or black trainers (not converse) must be worn. The governors will finalise a decision on this at the Annual General meeting. Shoes should have a heel no higher than 2 inches to avoid the risk of accidents on the stairs of school. Laces must be black. Boots, walking shoes, flip-flops sandals, and sling back shoes are unacceptable and must not be worn to school.

Make-up

This must be discreet and only worn if desired. On health and safety grounds pupils should not wear nail varnish.

Hairstyles

Pupils are expected to keep their hair in a suitable style for school. If hair is dyed it should be restricted to those found in natural hair colours. Extreme hairstyles and colours are considered unacceptable.

Blue or black headbands or scrunches may be worn. Hair bands scrunches and grips should be plain and not have any decorative features such as flowers.

Jewellery

The school discourages pupils from wearing jewellery to school. If pupils choose to wear jewellery they must take responsibility for its security during some lessons, such as PE or D+T as pupils may be asked to remove jewellery. Jewellery must be unobtrusive and not detract from the school uniform.

PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychology Department was very pleased to welcome back Ria Wells to give the 2011 Returning Students' Lecture to the A2 Psychology group. Following her outstanding achievements at A Level in 2007, Ria has travelled the world and gained a vast knowledge and understanding of different cultures which she shared with us in her brilliant exposition of cultural differences. We are immensely grateful to Ria for this contribution to the school's work and very special thanks from the A2 students who will be examined on this fascinating area in June.

SUCCESS AT THE NATIONAL URDD EISTEDDFOD IN SWANSEA

Penglais is celebrating the success of pupils who took part in the National Urdd Eisteddfod. Ceri Davies (Year 9) danced her way to 1st place in the Hip Hop/ Street/ Disco Dancing Solo. The school's Disco Dancing/ Hip Hop/ Street group came second and included Ceri Davies, Niamh O'Brien, Tara Howard, Rachel Howard, Celine Barker, Erika Busson, Katy Reyers, Michelle Gopalan, Annabel Talco, Leanne Hopson, Sarah Cooke and Alysha Fitzpatrick. Osian Penry Dance (Yr 9) came second in the Year 7-9 Solo Woodwind competition and Thomas Mathias (Yr 10) came second in the Solo Strings Year 10+ under 19 competition. The school band also played in the Eisteddfod Pavillion on Friday night. Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the Eisteddfod this year.

The school is grateful for the support and contribution made by the Music Department and in particular Mr C Evans and Mrs R Gregory. A big 'thank you' to Mrs N Gruffydd of the Welsh department and also to Miss Emma of the Art Centre Dance School for preparing the dance team and to all the parents for their huge support.

URDD CLUB

Next September an Urdd Club for Year 7-13 will run one lunchtime a week. The club will organise a variety of activities in and out of school focused on the interests of the members. The club aims to support pupils' participation in the Urdd and offer extra-curricular activities.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru

Wyt ti'n hoffi.....

- Celf a chrefft?
- Ymlacio
- Chwaraeon?
- Gemau ?
- Teithiau?
- Cystadlaethau?
- Cymdeithasu a gwneud ffrindiau?

Bydd clwb Urdd Penglais yn cynnig hyn i gyd a mwy felly cofia edrych allan am wybodaeth ym mis Medi

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

If you have any good uniform that is no longer needed, the school would be pleased to receive any good items of school clothing. We sometimes have a supply of uniform for emergencies and our stocks are low.

ATHLETIC SUCCESS

Year 13 pupil Paul Bennett has had a very successful three weeks of competition.

He took gold at the Welsh U-20 Athletic Championships in both 400m and 400m hurdles. He followed this up a week later winning the 400m hurdles in the Welsh Senior Championships in Cardiff. He went a step further this weekend by winning the British Championships in Bedford in a personal best time of 53.28 seconds. This winning time gives him automatic selection to represent Great Britain in the European Junior Championships in Estonia in July.

WIZARD OF OZ

Following the last highly successful musical 'Oliver', the Music and Drama Departments are busy preparing for the next production. There is an emerald haze coming from the Music Department with a large number of pupils rushing along the yellow brick road to auditions. Mr Ioan Guile who is an associate

director of the music department will be director in this production.

The production will be performed between the 2nd and 5th of November 2011. Tickets will be available from the school reception from the end of term. Several departments will be working on this production and we will welcome parental help for makeup, costume, staging and sponsorship.

GUEST ARTIST AT THE SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM.

Sophie Rudge (Year 10) joined the renowned harpist Catrin Finch and soprano Elin Mahanham Thomas in The Canoldir Male Choir's 45th Annual Concert. In keeping with Canoldir's practice of recognising and encouraging young musical talent Sophie was invited to sing two solo pieces accompanied by Catrin Finch.



GYMNASTICS

Well done to Penglais pupils (from left to right) Sophie Edwards (yr 8), Priscilla Li (yr 9), Peter Goodwin (yr 10) and Niamh O'Brien (yr 8) on being selected for the Welsh National Gymnastics Squad.



Congratulations to Peter Goodwin (year 10) on being invited to join the Welsh Elite Gymnastics Squad. Peter has his first competition for Wales in Basingstoke in June, Good luck Peter!

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

On 24th June and 1st July, a number of Year 7 pupils visited Cosmeston Medieval village near Cardiff. They were given a guided tour of the village by a local medieval archer and priest. They were able to see the way people lived in the Middle Ages. The pupils were given an excellent demonstration of weapons and warfare from the time: many tried on the chainmail and handled the weapons themselves. They were also given a very detailed and rather gruesome education about medical practices from the period. As well as being educational, the trip was a very enjoyable experience for all pupils who attended.

Mrs L Poyton, History Department

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Many congratulations to the following athletes who represented Ceredigion at the Dyfed Athletics Championships held in Carmarthen on Saturday 18th June.

Year 7

Megan Rowe -100m and 200m
Katy John -1500m
Megan Blake - High Jump
Zoe Forster-Brown – Long Jump
Mathew Jones – 800m
Rhys Norrington-Davies – Hurdles
Ezrah Francois – Javelin
Tega Emeseh – 100m and 200m

Year 8

Emily Thomas – 800m
Lowri Walker – Javelin
Tom Slinger – 800m

Year 9

Rachel Donnison – 100m and Long Jump
Tyler Camp – 400m and High Jump
Femi Adetunji – 800m
Ali Sallami – Javelin

Year 10

Megan Dafis – 300m and 1500m
Megan Carter-Davies – 800m
Joe Lewis – 800m
Charlotte Drakeley – Javelin

Tyler-Jess Camp, a new pupil at Penglais broke the County High Jump record with a jump of 1m 70cm, the former record being 1 66cm set in 2003.

The U16 (Middle Girls) athletics team also represented Ceredigion in the NASUWT Cup held in Sir Thomas

Picton School, Pembrokeshire last week.

They came 6th place, achieving a total of 41 points. Megan Blake a Year 7 pupil was asked at the last minute to join the team to replace Megan Dafis in the high jumping event due to injury.

100m – Rachel Donnison
200m – Stephanie Humphreys
800m – Katherine Lewis
1500m – Megan Dafis
Discus – Amy Jenkins
Javelin – Charlotte Drakeley
Shot – Imogen Jones
Hurdles – Amy Jenkins
High Jump – Megan Blake
Long Jump – Rachel Donnison

PTA

Getting involved in the PTA is a great way to meet other parents and teachers as well as to support your children and the school.

The PTA usually holds one major fundraising activity each term (for example, a fair in the autumn, a curry and quiz night in the spring and a treasure hunt in the summer). In the last few years money raised by the PTA has been used by the school to:

- Refurbish and equip the school library
- Buy water coolers for the pupils to use
- Contribute to the refurbishment of the school hall (new lighting and curtains)
- Support various school clubs
- Buy a snow plough to enable the school to stay open during inclement weather

The PTA also holds a coffee and cake morning each September to welcome Year 7 pupils and their parents. It also serves refreshments at various school events such as concerts and parents' evenings. This year the welcome coffee and cakes morning will be on Saturday September 10th at 10.30am.

Being part of the PTA is fun – our meetings are informal and short and we hold some purely social events, such as going out for a meal in a local restaurant a couple of times a year.

Any support that parents can offer (even if it is just helping out at one event in the course of a year) is valuable and much appreciated.

If you would like to become involved in the PTA, please contact the school (email: melanieg.penglais@ceredigion.gov.uk). Thank you!

SCIENCE

Year 7 have been to Penglais Park as part of their Biology work on the environment. They used quadrats to survey the plant species in two areas and analysed their data to compare the colonisation of two disused quarries. The following comments are from reports written by pupils in 7F:

“It is a wonderful place, full of nature.”

“I saw a squirrel and heard some birds.”

“I liked the part where we got the quadrats and looked at the plants.”

“We saw the whole of Aberystwyth town and it was really nice.”

YEAR 7 SCIENCE CLUB

Every Thursday lunchtime at 12.50 in C9 there is an opportunity for year 7 pupils to come to Science Club and get involved with the activities. We enjoy every session. The aim of Science Club is to give the pupils chance to do experiments and have fun while learning amazing interesting facts. I never knew Science could be such fun! (written by George Griffiths. Year 7).

The Biology department is grateful to Aberystwyth Recycling Centre (ARC) for the donation of 11 A level microscopes. They are a fantastic addition to the department's resources.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Health and Social Care Department would like to thank Dr Sue Fish, Medical Director of Hwyl Dda Local Health Board, Amanda Williams, Esther Morgan, both radiographers at Bronglais Hospital and Sarah Hytch, Breast Cancer Nurse also from Bronglais, for the richly informative lectures they gave to the A2 group. Thanks also go to the many contributors from within the school and to other health professionals and individuals, from both within and beyond Wales, who have generously provided telephone interviews, guidance and contacts to help further the work of the Penglais GCE Health and Social Care students.

SOCIOLOGY

The year 12 Sociology class is very grateful to Dr Kate Williams for her fascinating and thought-provoking lecture on the social and legal issues around drug taking. Sociology GCE student, Freya Pryce, commented afterwards: “The thing I found especially interesting was the comparison of how drug control works in Portugal and Switzerland. It was positive to learn about real solutions to problems we are failing to deal with in this country.” Many thanks to Dr Williams for her contribution to the department's work.



LSC Leavers, Ross Belcher, Bethany Speake and Chris Turner.

Can you hammer a rubber nail into a block of wood with a banana? Penglais pupils know how to do it, thanks to Pete Hollamby and Peter Edwards from Cardiff University. Visiting pupils from local primary schools and our own year 7 pupils were treated to a fantastic chemistry show 'It's a gas' during the year 6 visit on 28th June. Teachers will be able to develop these experiences during their science lessons next year.



Salters' Festival

On Wednesday the 8th of June, four Year 8 students, Atma Black, Catrin Davies Bethan Henley and Cai Elgood, attended the Salter's Chemistry Festival at the University of Aberystwyth. The Salters' Festivals provides the opportunity for enthusiastic young students to spend a day in a university department and to take part in practical chemistry activities which are both fun and challenging!



"In the morning we had to carry out chemical tests on some different powders to help solve a crime. We worked really well as a team and got the right man! In the afternoon we had to plan an experiment to cool a liquid to an exact temperature using a chemical reaction. It was a hard task but we managed to get very close. It was really fun working in the labs at the University and we all had a great day"



LSC

Pupils from LSC enjoyed a day at Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort on Wednesday 22nd June. The day started with a trip back through time to the Iron Age where we made bread, had faces painted in preparation for battle, undertook some training in the skills for hunting wild boar and building houses.

Following a donation made to the Wales Air Ambulance earlier in the year staff and pupils from LSC were invited to visit the base at Welshpool to see the helicopter and meet some of the paramedics. It was a very interesting and informative day.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday July 14

End of school term
Buses will be leaving school site between 1.45 and 2.00pm

Thursday August 18

AS/ A Level results available

Monday September 5

New term for pupils begins

Thursday August 25

GCSE results available

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS ACADEMIC YEAR 2011 – 2012

AUTUMN TERM

Monday, 5th September 2011 to Thursday 22nd December 2011
(Friday 2nd September 2011 – INSET Day)

SPRING TERM

Monday 9th January 2012 to Friday 30th March 2012

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 17th April 2012 to Friday 20th July 2012
(Monday 16th April – INSET Day)

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2011 – 2012

Friday 2nd September (INSET Day) pupils only
Monday 24th October 2011 to Friday 28th October 2011
Friday 23rd December 2011 to Friday 6th January 2012
Monday 13th February 2012 to Friday 17th February 2012
Monday 2nd April 2012 to Friday 13th April 2012
Monday 16th April 2012 (INSET Day) pupils only
Monday 7th May 2012
Monday 4th June 2012 – Friday 8th June 2012
Monday 23rd July 2012 to Friday 31st August 2012

