



## PARENTS' BULLETIN

### PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS

The school is delighted with the summer's examination results. Summary results for GCSE and A Level follow: a fuller analysis will be provided in the Annual Report of Governors to parents in October. The A Level results achieved by Year 13 averaged a remarkable AAC only slightly down on last year's average of AAB. The GCSE results were the best ever recorded at the school with 74% of pupils achieving 5A\*-C grades, including 27% A\* and A grades. The numbers achieving 5A\*-C, including both English and Mathematics at A\*-C, increased by 12% this year, from 43% to 55% of the year group. These are significant successes and the school is confident that 2012 will see even better results. Congratulations to the students and thanks to the teaching and support staff for all their hard work and effort in securing these results.

During the winter Welsh Assembly Government will be banding secondary schools according to their performance in examinations and the proportion of their pupils who are eligible for free school meals. This school has always published its examination results and this year they are the best recorded at GCSE at Penglais. The school is determined to improve performance at all levels and 2012 will see even better results in all key stages. There will certainly be a great deal of media attention given to the interpretation of thinly disguised league tables: I would ask parents to remember that comparisons between secondary schools can be misleading. In Ceredigion, for example, there are no special schools. All pupils who have additional learning needs in Ceredigion attend mainstream secondary schools. Penglais, in particular, has a designated centre for 20 pupils with severe and moderate learning needs. The school also has 40 pupils with statements and 400 on the special needs register. The school has always operated an open access policy at all levels and is justly proud of the achievements of all its pupils. Pupils with additional learning needs do not always achieve the gold standard of 5A\*-C at GCSE: some do but many achieve other worthwhile qualifications. All I would ask is that this is taken into account when comparisons are made: few secondary schools in Wales have such a significant proportion of pupils with those additional learning needs, as at Penglais. This year we achieved 74% 5A\*-C at GCSE and we hope to do even better next year but given the nature of the school's intake it is **unlikely** that we will push this much higher than 80%.

Penglais School entered **114** candidates at two or more A Level examinations – of these **106** achieved a pass grade in two or more subjects.

### Penglais School A Level performance in 2011

Subject	Total entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U/X
Art	24	0	3	4	4	10	3	0
Biology	20	3	4	3	3	1	2	4
Chemistry	16	1	5	1	4	4	1	0
Cymraeg	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Design and Technology	14	0	0	1	7	3	3	0
Drama	6	0	0	3	2	1	0	0
English Literature	24	0	4	5	11	2	1	1
French	6	1	0	0	0	0	4	1
Geography	25	1	10	3	4	4	2	1
Geology	5	0	0	2	1	2	0	0
German	7	0	1	2	3	0	0	1
Health and Social Care	8	1	1	3	1	2	0	0

History	52	3	6	19	14	6	4	0
Information Technology	13	0	2	0	3	2	3	3
Mathematics	23	4	5	3	7	2	1	1
Mathematics Further	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Media Studies	14	0	0	1	2	5	4	2
Music	6	0	1	2	2	1	0	0
Music Tech	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PE	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Physics	10	1	4	1	3	0	0	1
Polish	4	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Psychology	12	0	2	4	2	1	3	0
Sociology	22	1	5	7	3	4	2	0
Spanish	5	0	0	2	1	1	1	0
Welsh	5	0	0	1	3	1	0	0
WBQ*	99		95					4
Number of grades*	427	18	149	70	81	54	36	19
% of Total*		4.22	34.89	16.39	18.97	12.65	8.43	4.45
POINTS	38560	2520	17880	7000	6480	3240	1440	0

### Examination results at GCSE by subject

There were 192 students entered for GCSEs in 2011

Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X
Art	89	15	14	21	21	5	0	8	0	1	4
Child Dev	15	0	0	0	5	2	4	3	1	0	0
DT Food	4	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
DT Graphics	18	1	4	3	4	5	0	0	1	0	0
DT Resistant	33	3	3	5	9	7	3	3	0	0	0
DT Textiles	8	1	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drama	11	0	2	3	4	1	1	0	0	0	0
English	179	3	18	45	55	24	19	14	1	0	0
English Lit	129	2	23	42	30	23	5	2	2	0	0
French	26	4	5	2	10	3	1	0	0	1	0
Geography	80	19	26	18	8	7	2	0	0	0	0
German	11	4	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
History	112	17	26	23	16	10	9	7	3	1	0
Hsp & Catering (single award)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hsp & Catering (double) award	26	1	7	6	12	17	8	1	0	0	0
IT	43	6	10	7	15	1	4	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	188	19	25	25	47	18	22	10	15	5	2
Music	16	2	6	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
PE Full course	18	2	7	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
RE	26	6	8	7	0	2	2	0	1	0	0
Science (additional)	140	27	19	48	26	12	5	2	1	0	0
Science (Core)	139	6	29	35	53	8	5	1	2	0	0
Spanish	36	6	4	3	10	7	2	2	2	0	0
Welsh First Language	58	0	1	12	13	20	3	6	3	0	0
Welsh 2nd Language (full)	105	11	18	10	28	11	14	5	6	2	0
Total	1537	155	259	332	376	187	110	64	38	10	6
% of Total		10.09	16.85	21.60	24.46	12.17	7.16	4.16	2.47	0.65	0.39

### **MEASLES, CHICKEN POX AND SHINGLES**

Please may we ask for your co-operation in an important matter. One of our pupils is receiving medical treatment for cancer which puts them at risk if they are exposed to measles, chicken pox or shingles. Please let us know **immediately** if your child is suspected of having measles (01970 624811). Please could you ensure that MMR inoculations are up to date to reduce the risk of these infections occurring in school. Our pupil is also at risk from chicken pox and would need to be given an injection within three days of contact. If your child is suspected of having chicken pox, again you should let us know immediately. It is also important that you let us know if there is a case of shingles in your household.

Your child is not at risk whatsoever from this situation. However the health and well-being of our pupil who is at risk does depend on the co-operation of all other parents and we hope you can help us.

With many thanks for your co-operation.

### **WIZARD OF OZ**

The staff and pupils of Penglais School are busy rehearsing for the musical production of 'The Wizard of Oz' Miss Mogg, Head of Drama and Mr. Carwyn Evans, Head of Music will be joined by Mr. Ioan Guile who will work on this exciting production.

Performances will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm. The musical will be performed in the school hall and tickets are available from school reception. Tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £4 for children and concessions. Early booking is advisable.

### **REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR THE WIZARD OF OZ**

The school is looking for sponsorship to stage 'The Wizard of Oz'. We would welcome sponsorship from local companies / businesses. Advertising spaces in our programme are priced at £100 for a full page, £50 for half a page and £25 for a quarter of a page. Please contact Mrs. Rudge for further details.

### **PENPARCAU BUS TICKETS**

With effect from the 3rd October, Penparcau bus tickets purchased at school will increase from 40p to 45p. Tickets bought at school will still be considerably cheaper than if bought on the bus, these will cost 60p.

### **SEX EDUCATION**

It is the policy of the school governors that all children follow a programme of sex education. The school aims to ensure that all pupils have access to sex education as an integral part of the school curriculum. The provision will take into account the age, development and beliefs of the pupils. It will form part of the structured and integrated syllabus of the Key Skills programme and aspects of it will be taught in the schemes of work of other subjects. Moral issues and the value of family life will be considered. The school intends to teach about HIV/AIDs, sexually transmitted diseases and aspects of human sexual behaviour as part of the sex education programme, at levels appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils. It will also be prepared to answer questions from younger pupils on these topics. Parents may request that their children be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education (except where such education forms part of the National Curriculum) by writing to the Headteacher at the school. Sex Education forms part of the curriculum for all pupils in the school and is based upon the Local Education

Authority's 'Sex Education in the Curriculum: A Statement of Policy' and the National Curriculum. Details of the content and organisation of sex education are available on request at the school from Karen Davis.

### **MFL Department News**

The MFL department has now set up a blog to support pupils in their language learning. On the main page there will be lots of information including general departmental news and posts regarding trip payments and winners of our Pupil of the Month. On the right of the Home page, there are links to year 7 French, Year 8 French etc as well as links to our GCSE and A Level sites. These sites provide specific support to pupils and there will also be useful links to other websites and reminders re homework, tests etc. We will also be adding podcasts to support listening and speaking as the year goes on and copies of vocabulary lists etc for pupils to download, should they lose their hard copy!

There is a link to our blog from the MFL Departmental page of the new school website – but here is a copy of the address:- <http://penglaimfl.blogspot.com>. On the 26<sup>th</sup> September, The European Day of Languages, we plan to celebrate languages and language learning with a range of activities around the school. More details to follow.

*Mrs J Newbold, MFL Co-ordinator*

### **SCIENCE**

The Science department will be offering pupils in Years 10-13 opportunities to attend science lectures during this term. Dates are 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> December. The Chemistry department will also be choosing a team from Years 9-11 for the annual RSC competition. Interested pupils should see Dr. Warren in C2.

### **Nuffield Bursary success for Penglais A level Science students.**

Congratulations to three of our Sixth Form pupils, Michelle Li, Wai Lee Lai and Duncan Horne, who were all awarded Nuffield Bursaries enabling them to work as part of university research teams over the summer holidays. Michelle was part of a research team studying the genetics of inflammation at Cardiff University's Immunology Dept. Wai Lee Lai participated in a study carried out by Aberystwyth University's Sports Science Dept on the Drive for Leanness system while Duncan Horne worked on a Robotics project with Aberystwyth University's Physics department. These projects provide an invaluable insight into academic life and will greatly enhance students' CVs and UCAS applications. Hopefully the bursaries will be available for year 12 pupils again this year – the Science Dept will let classes know as soon as the application forms are available (usually in the summer term).

### **PE DEPARTMENT**

#### **ACTIVITIES FOR LUNCHTIME AND AFTER SCHOOL, PE DEPARTMENT**

	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>	Basketball (SH) Gymnastics (Girls)	Netball (7,8)	PE Detention in D19	Netball (9-13)	
<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b>	Rugby all school	Football 7,8,9,10,11 Hockey (All year groups)	Fixtures	Senior football Fixtures	

### **SKIING SUNDAY RIVER**

Payment for this trip should be given to Mr. Jones as soon as possible. There will be a meeting soon with all pupils in school time and then in October for all parents. Please make every effort to

attend as I want to make sure you get all the relevant information. I also need the information I sent out to you last academic term as soon as possible. It is on the Penglais web site under the PE department. The company has informed me that pupils may still come on the trip in February 2012 but must do so very quickly. I cannot guarantee that the cost will be the £1300 as previously quoted due to the increase in flight price the closer we get to the departure date. Those who have paid their deposit already stay at the existing price. Please come and see me if there are any queries.

PE kit requirements will be strictly enforced this year. Only Penglais specified kit may be worn. The regulations for the boys are blue socks, blue or black shorts, white t-shirt with school logo and physical education on the back or blue rugby/football shirt. The blue hoodie may also be worn. As there are only six weeks given to rugby some leeway will be given if a top is damaged. We always have a few spare, clean rugby tops in the PE department. These tops can be borrowed by your child. If these tops are not available then as near to the colour of the school may be worn as long as they are appropriate for that activity. The girls' kit is exactly the same but they are allowed black or blue tracksuit bottoms/training leggings.

Footwear is extremely important. Daps / pumps of any sort will not be allowed in lessons, proper trainers must be used and football boots must be available for activities that require them.

After the first few weeks sanctions will be imposed for incorrect or non-existent kit. A note must be given for all problems relating to PE. All Physical Education detentions will be on Wednesday lunchtime in D19 opposite the gym.

Fixtures will not be on the same day every week due to clashes with other activities. We hope to have a text service up and running for all fixtures. This will be particularly helpful when we need to cancel any fixtures due to bad weather or unforeseen circumstances. Please keep an eye on the PE notice board for team lists and general information. Let's hope that we have a good year and that Penglais does well in all teams and activities.

**Mr O. Jones**

### **Sociology GCE**

Staff and students in the Sociology Department would like to thank Professor Alan Clark of the Department of Law and Criminology, Aberystwyth University for the fascinating and thought-provoking lecture he gave GCE students on health inequalities in the UK, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. We would also like to thank Professor Clark for kindly donating a copy of his book, *The Sociology of Health Care* (Longman, 2010) to the school library, which students are very keen to read.

### **Health and Social Care GCE**

Jane Guest, the Project Co-ordinator for Social Care Partnership (Mid-Wales), first visited the Health and Social Care Department in Penglais in 2010, and returned again in July this year with three colleagues, Angie Smith, a personal assistant, and Judith Andrews and Mari Jones, both trainee social workers. Their candid discussion of their experiences helped everyone who attended the session to gain a greater understanding of the value and challenges of professional social work. We would like to thank Jane, Judith, Angie and Maggie for their contribution and for the very informative material they brought for our students.

Health and Social Care GCE students were also fortunate to be able to visit the Sports Science Department at Aberystwyth University in July, where they heard about the current research work being carried out on fall prevention in older people. This was particularly beneficial to our A2 students who are carrying out case studies on individuals in this age group, and both staff and students would like to thank Dr Rhys Thacker, Lecturer in Exercise Physiology, for the warm

welcome, very informative talk and the encouragement he gave to those students who are thinking about applying for university places.

### **Psychology GCE**

Penglais Psychology students were very pleased to have the opportunity to visit Aberystwyth University at the end of last term to attend a lecture by Dr Sarah Riley, Senior Lecturer in Psychology on the *Psychology of Club Culture*. Students were intrigued to hear about the findings and conclusions of the research, but the talk also demonstrated very clearly the nature of the research process and this will be helpful to them in their A2 work. We are very grateful indeed to Dr Riley for both an engaging lecture and the copy of her latest journal article. We will follow Dr Riley's future work with great interest.

### **ANCIENT HISTORY**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July pupils taking the short-course Ancient History GCSE, along with others in the "Ancient History Club" and members of the Aberystwyth Young Archaeologists Club, took part in a (long!) day-trip to Stonehenge and Avebury in Wiltshire. Pupils and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed exploring these fascinating ancient monuments. All five of the pupils who went on to sit the theory element of the GCSE passed with Grade C or above: a brilliant achievement!



## **Iceland – Fire & Ice Tour Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

67 pupils and 7 staff returned from a visit to one of Europe's most geographically stunning and geologically active countries, organised by Mrs J Elgood at the end of the summer term.

At Manchester airport the Manchester United team was lucky enough to bump into the Penglais group as they were leaving for their tour of the USA, and a number of pupils (particularly the girls) had their photos taken with some of the leading players like Nani and Ryan Giggs.

After arriving at Keflavik international airport due to the size of the party we were split into 2 buses, each with a guide, and we visited the same places at the same time. The group was driven straight into the heart of the capital city Reykjavik, seeing major sights such as the Althing Parliament building and the concrete Hallgrimskirkja cathedral and had a short time to sample the shops in the city centre. There were no signs of the recent banking crisis as much construction was going on, the new opera house in the bay has just been completed and the pupils were very impressed by how clean and tidy the city is. Over 200,000 people out of the country's population of 320,000 live in Reykjavik and we were informed it is one of Europe's fastest growing cities. The evening was the first chance for pupils to see how light Iceland is late into the evening.

Day 2 was the first full day in Iceland. The first visit was to the imposing 60 metre tall Skogarfoss waterfall. Here waterproofs had their first real test. We then visited the folk museum next door at Skogar. The museum is the life's work of Thordur Thomasson and it shows the history of Icelandic life and many old buildings have been reconstructed in the grounds, similar to St Fagans, Cardiff. At the age of 90 he is often at work in the museum, and he explained to the group how Icelanders used to weave wool and also played the country's oldest musical instrument whilst singing 'Oh My Darling Clementine'. The group then went for a hike to the black Solheimajokull ice tongue, which is part of the Myrdalsjokull glacier, where the ash from recent volcanic eruptions has given the glacier its black colour. After walking over the lateral moraine and taking photographs of the amazing view the group then all had a chance, in turns, to walk on the glacier. The tongue of ice is melting by between 50-70 metres per year. In the afternoon the group visited the black beach at Vik, where basalt rock has created a black sand beach. The final visit of the day was at Seljalandfoss, where all pupils were able to walk around the side and behind the waterfall, and again take some amazing photographs. The bus journey for the day showed many views of the Eyjafjallajokull volcano which brought air traffic to a halt in Europe last year. Pupils were challenged by the guides to correctly pronounce the name, several were able to and also issued the guides with a similar challenge for them to pronounce the name of the longest railway station in the world! In the evening many pupils relaxed in one of the geothermal hot tubs at the nearby swimming pool and had their first experience of Icelandic bingo with Mrs Allen showing real talent in leading the calling.

Day 3 saw an early start to catch the ferry at Landeyjarhofn to Heimaey in the Westman Islands. This day saw our luck with the weather change and the group was battered by heavy rain and strong winds all day, the ferry journey out gave a clue to what was in store for the rest of the day. Despite the poor weather all the group remained positive and visited the excavation site of the 1973 eruption of Eldfell. 400 out of the 1200 houses on the island were destroyed and some are now being excavated, with information boards showing the layout of the houses and who lived there; no people were killed by the eruption due to the slow speed of the lava. The group were led on a walk of the lava field, and were astonished by the volume of lava from the eruption. In the afternoon the group walked up Eldfell as far as was possible due to the poor weather and also went to see some of the hardy puffins on the cliffs around the island. At the end of a very wet, cold and windy day the two guides were very impressed with the extremely positive attitude shown by pupils throughout the

day. More swimming and bingo rounded off the day with Mrs Lawrence taking a turn with the calling.

On day 4 the weather was a lot better and saw us follow the 'golden circle' route. The day started with visiting the Faxi waterfall and salmon ladder, followed by the famous geysers where pupils were clearly warned not to dip their fingers in as the water is heated to up to 200 degrees. We saw the site of the legendary geysir and other smaller geysers. We all watched Strokkur erupt 20 metres high at roughly 4 minute intervals. The group then drove to the magnificent Gullfoss waterfall, where pupils were able to stand on a rocky outcrop as the Hvita river raced around them and down a 70 metre drop, there were stunning views of the waterfall and its gorge all around the outcrop. The group was then driven to the national park at Thingvellir, seat of the ancient parliament, and the place where plate tectonics could be seen at their best. This is the Mid-Atlantic ridge, where the Eurasian plate and North American plate pull apart, by about an inch each year, creating giant rips in the earth and also creating an impressive rift valley. Pupils were able to place one leg in North America and the other in Europe! The plate boundaries could easily be seen all over the Parliament plains. A relaxing late afternoon was spent at the Blue Lagoon, Iceland's number one tourist attraction. All the pupils and teachers tried out the white silica which is said to work wonders for the skin and take years off the face. After over an hour of hard work in the geothermal-heated lagoon our final evening meal was taken in the restaurant at the Blue Lagoon.

An early morning call at 4.30am was required on day 5 to catch the plane back to the UK. All pupils proved throughout the visit that they can respond to early morning calls and pack a suitcase! All staff were delighted with the positive comments from our guides, bus drivers and various people throughout the visit that the pupils' behaviour was a credit to the school and their families. A special mention also has to go to our guides, Gauti (who guided us round Iceland 3 years ago) and Hrafnhildur, who both led us on the tour, giving us lots of information on Iceland and enlightening us with stories of battles and deaths from the Icelandic Sagas.

A lot of pupils (not to mention staff!) needed to catch up on lost sleep and after such an enjoyable, memorable and informative trip it is hoped the trip will run again in 3 years.







## MATHS

**Wanted by the Maths Department** – Please does anyone have any part used or even unused cans of spray paint that they would be willing to donate to the Maths department? Cans may be handed to reception or to Dr. Devlin in the Maths department. Many thanks.

**Maths Books** – The question is often asked at Parents' Evenings if there are any books that help explain maths as it is taught now. Both the following are excellent books that provide assistance for KS3 Maths. *'Maths for Mums and Dads'* by Rob Eastaway and Mike Askew, published by Square Peg ISBN no. 9780224086356 and *'Usbourne Junior Illustrated Maths Dictionary'* published by Usbourne.

A belated 'thank you' to all who took part in the 12/7 Maths last school year from the Year 12s who so ably assisted with the Year 7s. I know from the feedback received from the Year 12s and the new Year 7s that every one gained a great deal from taking part and enjoyed the experience.

Following the Year 12 Volunteering Fair at the start of this term, there has been a huge response from them to work teaching the Year 7s who will be on this year's scheme. Last year Dr. Devlin and I trained the largest group ever and the result was about 40 Year 7 pupils took part in the 12/7 Maths support throughout the year. This year it is hoped that we will be able to have similar number of Year 7s taking part.

Ieuan Dennis, Katie Goodwin, Tim Brendler-Spaeth and Michelle Li (currently Year 13 pupils) also helped with a trial when a small group of Year 7s had a further Maths boost in morning registration in the last few weeks of the summer term. Many thanks to them for making this trial possible.

*Mrs. C. Goodband (Numeracy Teacher)*

### MUSIC DEPT LONDON VISIT TUE 5<sup>TH</sup> & WED 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011

Mr Evans led a group of 23 pupils to London by train, on a musical theatre visit. After arriving at Euston station the group were led by non-charging guide, Mr P Jones, to Leicester Square for an evening meal, before enjoying the delights of Mamma Mia at the Prince Edward theatre on Coventry Street. After a fantastic performance all the group were on their feet and singing to the encore medley. It was late into the evening before the group reached the Norfolk Towers hotel in Paddington.

With much better weather forecast for the morning the group braved the underground at 9.30 and headed for Westminster station. This gave time for some sightseeing and photographs around Westminster, where the group could see the London Eye, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament and the recently cleared Parliament Square. The group then walked up Whitehall, passed the Exchequer and Foreign Office and saw 10 Downing Street, with police fully armed, the Cenotaph and many other famous statues. At Horseguards Parade we saw where the Royal Wedding procession went, with Mrs Gregory adding in the details. It was then up to Trafalgar Square, where the area was being fenced off for the Harry Potter première and on to Covent garden where several performers could be watched / listened to.

At 11.30 the group was booked into Queen's Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue for a backstage tour of Les Miserables. The group were taken straight onto the stage, and could see all the scenery and props used in the long-running show, as well as to see the 'quick change' changing rooms in the stage wings. We couldn't work out how the stage seemed so small when we were all on it, yet appeared so large from the stalls. The group then had a presentation about the show and its costumes and were able to try on the outfits of several of the main characters in the show, ending with Mr Evans as Monsieur Thernardier and offering to stand in for Matt Lucus and Mr Jones willing to take over from Alfie Boe as Valjean. At the time of printing the offers have not been taken up!

After lunching in Victoria station the group saw the matinee performance of Wicked in the Victoria Apollo. This is a huge theatre, and the auditorium was certainly 'buzzing' at the end of the first act after a belting performance of 'defying gravity'. At the end of the 3 hours the cast received well deserved standing ovations at the end of a memorable performance.

It was then back on the underground to Euston to catch the train back, reaching Aberystwyth at 11.30pm. A lot had been packed into a day and a half, and the school cast of 'Wizard of Oz' are off on the yellow brick road to see the London production at the Palladium on October 5<sup>th</sup>.





## **FUNDRAISING**

A number of ex Penglais students and a current teacher are among a group of runners aiming to raise money for Bronglais Maternity ward and the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) in Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest. Lucy Bond, Mark Gelly Jones (ex pupils) and Eirwen Benjamin (science and psychology teacher) will be running a number of races, including the Men's Health Survival of the Fittest 10K and the Cardiff half marathon in October and the Aberystwyth 10K in December. They are supporting this good cause following the life-saving care provided to local girl Mari Fenton and her baby Tyler, who was born two months prematurely as a result of pre-eclampsia. The story features on page 3 of this week's Cambrian News, which tells how Mari and her unborn son could have died without the life-saving intervention of Bronglais maternity ward and SCBU in Withybush. Bronglais currently has limited facilities for dealing with extremely premature births, and the runners hope to raise funds and awareness so that future cases in the locality can benefit from the level of care provided to Mari. If you would like to show your support for this good cause, sponsor forms can be found in Plascrug Leisure Centre, New Look, Spartacus on Terrace Road, PD's Diner on the prom, Isaac's sweet shop on Pier Street and the Express chip shop opposite the train station. Forms can also be found at Penglais School. All the runners would like to thank everyone so far for their generous support!

## **JAPANESE EXCHANGE WITH OTEMAE HIGH SCHOOL, OSAKA**

In July this year eight Japanese students and two teachers from our partner school Otemae visited Aberystwyth. They were hosted by a group of Penglais students and teachers.

*This is a report by Megan Carter-Davies, Year 10 who hosted one of the students.*

The two weeks in July with Ami, the Japanese student that I was hosting, was very enjoyable. Lots of brilliant activities were put on for everyone taking part in the exchange including surfing at Borth, visiting Harlech Castle, cooking traditional Welsh and Japanese food and much more. The weeks were full of brilliant activities.

The group hosted a Japanese Tea Ceremony in the 6<sup>th</sup> form centre on one of the days which was interesting, and they also shared some of their Japanese culture in some assemblies. Although there

weren't many waves, the surfing was really fun and some of the Japanese students were standing up pretty quickly! After that we went to Ynyslas and played a few beach games.

Harlech Castle was really nice, even considering that it was really windy and the long journey to get there. Mr Clissold led a kayaking session at the Gravel Pits and, even though it was raining, it was really fun and almost everyone managed to fall out of their kayaks! Another day we took the exchange students on a short tour of Aberystwyth, finishing with a trip on the Cliff Railway up Consti and having an ice cream.

At the weekend, my family took Ami to see Powys Castle. It was my first time there too, so we both really enjoyed it and it was a wonderful day out. That evening we also visited the Elan Valley dam which was so pretty in the sunset and made a lovely ending to a great weekend.

Throughout the two weeks, I learnt loads and made some good friends. It was really nice having Ami stay with me. At the end of their stay, a leaving party was held at Dr Minchin's house which was good fun. We had a limbo competition (the Japanese won) and some water games, and lots of food!

I'd love to go to Japan on the next visit because I've had a fantastic time with them and I think it would be really interesting to learn more about another culture.



Plans are being made for Penglais students to visit our Japanese partner school, Otemae Hish School, Osaka in July 2012. Further details will be available in the near future from Mr. A. Wells.

**FORTHCOMING DATES**

Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Celebrations Concert, Great Hall
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Governors' Annual General Meeting with Parents at 7.30pm.
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov – Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>WIZARD OF OZ performances</b>