



ParentMail - Communications from the School

As you know we try very hard to keep parents regularly informed about what's going on at the school, however, sending paper letters home can be rather 'hit and miss' with letters often going astray along the way.

We are also increasingly aware of the substantial cost, time and environmental impact associated with the amount of paper and photocopying involved with this.

To help improve these areas we have decided to use a service called ParentMail, which is used by over 3,500 schools across the UK to communicate with 2 million parents by email and text message.

ParentMail will be beneficial to you because:

- Messages will get to you reliably.

- We can send messages directly to parents at the same time.
- You will quickly know about important or urgent messages.
- We can tell you more about what's going on at the school.

To use ParentMail we need to collect your email addresses and mobile numbers and we would ask you to complete the attached form on the back of the newsletter and return it to us by **FRIDAY 30TH MARCH**. For this system to work effectively we need EVERY parent to return this form via their child's form tutor.

Please be assured that ParentMail is registered with the Data Protection Registrar and guarantees that all information you provide will be kept private and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

Important – When we start using ParentMail, email messages will be sent from messages@parentmail.co.uk Please add this address to your email address books (or approved sender list) to prevent messages from being blocked by your SPAM/JUNK filters.

Equipment

The school has recently carried out an equipment check. A number of pupils are attending lessons without basic equipment. This not only wastes time at the start of a lesson but is also an obstacle to progress.

All pupils should bring each day to school a school bag, planner and a pencil case. The pencil case should hold pens, pencils, ruler, eraser, sharpener and a calculator.

Scholastic Book Club

The library is participating in the Scholastic Book Club. Books are available to purchase at discounted prices and will be delivered free to school for pupils to collect. The school will receive 20p in every £1 to spend back in books for school.

Order leaflets have been distributed and can also be collected from the library.

Order deadline is 4th May.

Golfing Recognition.

Congratulations to Luke Williams who is the 2012 recipient of the Pat Clare Memorial Trophy and to Zach Galliford for winning the Consistent Golfer of the year at Borth and Ynyslas Golf Club.

Urdd

Penglais enjoyed success at the Urdd National Swimming Gala in the Cardiff International Pool on 29th January 2012.

Several pupils travelled with their families to take part in individual and relay competitions. All pupils made it through the heats. Ben Jones (Year 11) came 2nd in the Freestyle race and was placed 3rd in Breaststroke race. Teilo Courtier Lilley narrowly missed by 30 seconds being placed 3rd in the Freestyle but achieved a time which places him 1st in Wales for his age group. Other individuals competing included Megan Dafis, Oliver Thorogood, Sion Davies, Isaac Williamson Evans, and Nansi Dingle. The school relay teams were all placed 6th and team members



Ben Jones (Year 11)

included Bleddyn Richards, Max Glasser, Cai Elgood, Jonah Williamson-Evans, Issac Williamson-Evans, Teilo Courtier-Lilley, Sion Davies and Morgan Revell.

Science

Forty five year ten and eleven pupils attended the “Musical Squares – Adventures in Sound” lecture at Aberystwyth University, presented by Dr. Gluyas, a visiting Physics and Electronics academic from Salford.

This was a very witty and entertaining lecture covering topics such as how sound is produced and how it travels. Highlights included listening in on the noises produced by one of our student’s digestive system – well done Lauren for volunteering her stomach! Students and staff enjoyed the lecture immensely – one student said “That was one of the best lectures we’ve had.” Thanks to Dr. Gluyas and the West Wales Association of Young Scientists for organising the lecture.



GCSE Hospitality and Catering

Rachel Jones, Kate Short, Paulina Szmigiero, Sophie Knowler-Davies Meghan Hartrick, Kay Kemp, Abby Camp and Lucy Hook.

As part of the Hospitality event pupils, had to plan, prepare and serve food to a group of people. The pupils pictured chose to raise money for ‘Help The Heroes’ and raised £100 by selling cakes to pupils and staff.

Photographed are pupils presenting the cheque to the OC of D Coy. The Royal Welsh, who was attending the annual St. David’s Day Dinner for RWFC at Aberystwyth.

Farewell to Mentro Lluest

Pupils in LSC were very sad to hear of the recent closure of Mentro Lluest due to lack of funds for this very worthwhile charity. For many years many of our pupils have benefitted from this facility, learning a range of useful skills and enjoying the varied horticultural activities and general tasks to do with landscaping.

The time spent at Lluest has led to a number of qualifications for pupils ranging from certificates in lawn mowing to nationally accredited Asdan awards. The photos show some of the varied activities we have been engaged in: pupils holding bird boxes which they made and erected around the site, a willow arch which the pupils planted and trained and a display of potted plants.

Our pupils were involved in creating a number of features at Lluest: a large pond, a wild life area and a sensory garden. All pupils were given the opportunity to cultivate an area of garden each year and were pleased to bring back the edible products of their efforts.

We are all very sorry that this valuable resource has had to close and sincerely hope that a benefactor may be found before long so that we can resume our activities.



Many congratulations to Teilo Courtier Lilley who represented school at the National Swimming Gala in Swansea on Friday 16th December. Teilo won a silver medal in the 50m front crawl and a bronze medal in the 100m front crawl. Llongyfarchiadau mawr!



L.
S.
C.

Some pupils based in the Learning Support Centre had a very enjoyable trip to the Police Station at the end of January. We were given a tour of the cells in the custody suite and saw a member of staff being 'interviewed' by a police officer (definitely innocent!). The room where all CCTV footage is collated illustrated just how well the streets of Aberystwyth are monitored. The highlight was probably sitting in the police van with lights and siren working. Our thanks to Glenda Jones (P.C.S.O.) for arranging the visit, to PC Hefin Jones (Community Police Officer) and WPC Manon Curly for showing us around. As a follow up to the visit P.C.S.O. Glenda Jones visited school on Friday 10th February with a colleague to take finger prints and footprints. The photo shows the pupils each holding their own copy of their finger prints.



Oxfam

Money raised for Oxfam Unwrapped this year and what was purchased. £336.39 raised. Which Bought:

- Goat x 6
- Green energy x 2
- Fix a Well x 3
- Safe Water for 10 people x 1
- Safe Water for 20 people x 1

- Rain Water Collection x 1
- Buckets x 1



Year 8 forms were given the opportunity to donate to 'Oxfam Unwrapped' just before Christmas. The forms spent over £170 on gifts and pictured are the form reps with their gift cards.

Key roles for pupils in the run-up to the Olympics.



In early January 20 young people from across the County, attended a conference to celebrate the first anniversary of the Young Ambassadors movement. Four of our pupils

have special roles in the build up to the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. With the Olympic Torch due in Ceredigion in May work is underway to promote the values, activities, athletes and events of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Cerys Sharples has been promoted to the role of Gold Ambassador for her sporting talent and outstanding commitment to the Young Ambassadors' movement in Ceredigion over the last 12 months. Also playing key roles as silver ambassadors are Imogen Jones, Kyle Thompson and Shaun Gopalan. Kyle and Shaun have been selected to carry The Olympic Torch.

School Meals

There is good evidence that a number of pupils who are given cash on a daily/ weekly basis are not using this to buy food in the school canteen. Some of this cash is being used to purchase goods on the way to and from school or being kept for other purposes.

Payment for School Meals

Penglais was the first school in Wales to introduce a cashless card system of paying for school meals. This has huge advantages:

- Queues are reduced as transaction by card is much faster than cash at the tills.
- Free school meals allowances are credited to cards on a daily basis. This avoids any stigma as all children are issued with a card.
- Pupils can have the card blocked if it is lost and, of course, do not have to worry about losing cash during the school day.
- Parents/guardians can ensure that money given to pupils for school meals is only used for that purpose.

There are a number of ways parents/guardians can put credit on to a card:

The safest most reliable method is by cheque. This can be posted into school. Please indicate the child's full name and registration form on the back of the cheque. A cheque can also be given to your child to bring into school. Every morning from 8.30am a member of staff is available in the canteen to accept payment. All cheques must be made payable to Ceredigion County Council.

Cash can be placed in an envelope with the pupil's name on it. This can then be handed in as outlined above before the start of the school day.

Coins can be used to top up the card by using the revaluation machines in the canteen.

Opening Times

Breakfast 8.30am - 8.55am	Break 11.15am - 11.35am
Lunch 12.35pm - 13.10pm	

Former Pupils' success

Ryan Williams Boxes for Wales.



Ryan 'Squeezer' Williams is back in the ring after 18 months. Ryan has a busy training regime and travels to Cardigan ABC to train three times a week. Ryan is now training for the Welsh Championship.

Sarah Lewis

Sarah Lewis has had one of her Classical Music Compositions performed by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in the Cardiff Millennium Centre.

Her composition 'I can't see the stars but I can feel their spears' was performed in the Welsh Composers' Showcase in the Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff. Sarah has been composing

classical music since she was 16 years old and consistently won prizes in the Young Composers of Dyfed competitions. She graduated in Cardiff in 2009 and gained her Master's degree in Composition last year. Congratulations goes to Sarah on her success.

Alex Samuel

Alex Samuel played and scored for Welsh Semi-Professional Under 18 team v England. Alex also scored the winning goal for Wales schoolboys' U18 v England – 1st time for 20 years.



Congratulations to the Year 8 Clic Quiz team who recently represented Ceredigion, coming third in the competition. Joe Wilkins, Kelsey Evans, Blathnaid Chennell and Joshua Abbott trained very hard for the competition and we are very proud of their achievement.



Fair Trade Fortnight

Mrs Porter and Miss Pritchard are using the Fairtrade fortnight to re-launch the Penglais Fairtrade group. The aim of this year's Fairtrade fortnight is to encourage everybody to take one small step towards supporting Fairtrade, for example, buying a Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg. The Fairtrade group will be meeting on Wednesday 7th March in E8 at lunchtime – please join us.

Fairtrade Funday

Members of the school council were very fortunate to be able to represent the school at this year's Fairtrade funday hosted by Aberaeron School. A variety of activities linked to raising awareness of the importance of Fairtrade were available for the students to participate in including a talk about Ghanaian cocoa farmers from Emmanuel Annang followed by some mean African drumming!



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday 14 March **Year 12 Parents' Evening**

Friday 30 March **End of Term**

Tuesday 17 April **Start of term for pupils.**



The local round of the Urdd Instrumental Eisteddfod was held in Penglais School on Wednesday 7th of March.

Maths

The mathematics department has received the results of the UKMT Intermediate mathematics challenge run by Leeds University, which puts the best mathematicians in the country against each other. After weeks of practice at lunchtime with Mr Bentley eventually 4 pupils from years 9 and 10 sat the challenge in early February. All the pupils achieved creditable results with Eszter Pinter and Cai Elgood (year 9) achieving a bronze certificate and Mohsen El-Abbadi (year 10) being awarded a silver certificate. We are sure Eszter and Cai will continue to do the school proud in year 10.

At the moment a select group of pupils in years 7 and 8 are meeting in B7 on Wednesday lunchtimes to practise for the Junior Maths Challenge in April this year. The sessions are open to all year 7 and 8 pupils who are prepared to spare one lunchtime a week.



Sky Diving

Sian Spence (Yr 11) was widely reported in the National Press during January. She is the first pupil to prepare for her GCSE Physical Education by taking on an indoor Sky Dive. Sian has been indoor Skydiving since she was 12 years old. Sian's father is a former UK Skydiving gold medallist and coach to the famous Red Devils display team.



Catering Finals 5th - 7th March.

Pupils worked hard to produce a selection of dishes.

Mrs Hague would like to thank parents for their continued support.

