



Pupil Absences

Parents of pupils who are absent from school should contact reception on the first morning of the absence, giving the reason for their child's non attendance at school. On returning to school the pupil should bring to school a signed and dated note giving the reason for the absence.

ALEX SAMUEL RECEIVES A WELSH CAP



for Aberystwyth's first team. Alex provides an excellent role model to all our pupils as he balances his studies, training and playing with such skill. He has accepted a scholarship from Swansea City and will start with the club in July. As part of the pre-season he will tour Europe with the club. A glittering future lies ahead and we wish Alex every success.

Alex was capped for Wales when he played for the FA Under 18 Welsh team against Ireland in Wexford. It was a memorable game with Alex scoring the winning goal.

Alex, a Year 11 pupil, has had several premier ship clubs show an interest in his considerable football talent. He has caught the eye of scouts from clubs such as Manchester United, Newcastle, Aston Villa and Swansea City.

As a member of the Welsh Schoolboys Under 18 team he has played against England, again scoring the winning goal. When he played against Scotland he scored the first goal. His game against Northern Ireland in Belfast was televised live on Sky Sports News. Alex can be seen on 'Scorio' on S4C when they show live games as Alex plays

Physics Dept. Engineering Education Scheme of Wales

Six year 12 students studying Physics have participated in an engineering course organised by the Engineering Education Scheme of Wales (EESW). The students completed the course with a presentation of their engineering project in the Venue Cymru in Llandudno. The team along with twenty five other teams from North Wales delivered several 10 minute presentations of the design and application of their product to various sponsors including The Welsh Assembly, Airbus UK, Magnox North and The Institute of Mechanical Engineering.

The project started last October when the six members of the team were given a brief which was to design a device to detect oil on water in the hydro-electric power station's sumps at Cwm Rheidol. The device needed



Harri Worman, Sam Margrave-Jones, Hannah Perkins, Gwilym Rowbottom, Christina Bray and Ben Dewse.

to trigger the oil removal system once the oil had been detected. The team achieved this by giving up their free time to complete research, develop and construct the device. Part of the scheme involved two days at Normal College Bangor where, with support from the university students and staff, they constructed and tested their device. Gareth Jones from Statkraft, the sponsor for Penglais School was extremely impressed with their presentation and the innovative design of the system. In fact so was the Welsh Assembly Government who presented the team an award for 'The Most Innovative Solution to the Project'. This was one of the four awards presented at Llandudno. With the award comes £50 for each member of the team as recognition of their exceptional work.

From their success at Llandudno, the team have been invited to the Big Bang Cymru at The Liberty Stadium in Swansea. The Big Bang Cymru is the national fair for Wales which provides the opportunity to put Wales on the map and showcase the talents our students possess. We wish the students all the best at this event.

The team have thoroughly enjoyed themselves so far and have learnt a tremendous amount about engineering skills and teamwork during the scheme. The team would like to thank our Physics technician, Mr Dave Ball, for giving up his own time to provide invaluable support to the team during their experience.

Maths Department

Year 10 and 11 MATHS EQUIPMENT

It is the responsibility of each student to bring their own equipment, including an appropriate calculator, ruler, protractor and compass, to their exams. It is vital that students have practised with their own calculators well in advance of the exam to ensure that they understand how to do all the necessary operations on it. Pupils who borrow one on the day are frequently unable to answer straightforward questions simply because they do not know which button to press.

Year 11 Return of Books

Students have been reminded many times by colleagues to bring in their OCR Maths homework books. The deadline was Easter, yet 37 students have still failed to return them. (If they want to keep the book it as a souvenir they can bring in £7.50 for it and I will gladly sign their copy so that it can be taken as a valuable item to the Antiques Roadshow in a few years!!). It represents £280 worth of books and it is, potentially, £280 less that I have to spend on resources for other pupils. Please ask your child if they have returned it. I am afraid a bill will drop on a few doorsteps soon if they have not done so. P A Dennis Head of Maths

Science

Forty three Year 7 pupils visited Aberystwyth University's National Science and Engineering Week exhibition in March. Activities on offer included carrying out chromatography

to solve a crime, being enclosed in giant bubble, learning about recycling and the carbon cycle and matching skulls and faeces (including a fossilised dinosaur dropping!) to different animals. Congratulations to Mobeen

Durrani and Thomas Bliss for winning the remote controlled car race and Shannon Sayer, Hannah Davies, Erin Hassan and Ella Thomas for winning the quiz. Thanks to Dr. Croft and Mr. Morel from the Centre for Widening Participation and Social Inclusion for organising the event.

STEM

University Maths Challenge

Angel Kuriakose, Jonathan Davies, Tommy Li, Eszter Pinter, Chang Yeo, and Cai Elgood were awarded medals by the Vice Chancellor at a special Mathematics evening at the University on 30 April. The final positions are a closely guarded secret and will be revealed on the night. The awards were given for their successful entries in the 2012 STEM Maths Challenge.

Chang Yeo was presented with the prize for the Junior Mathematician of the year, winning the prize against stiff competition from schools as far away as Tenby, Crickhowell and Welshpool.

Many congratulations to all our students who were truly great ambassadors for the school and were accompanied by proud parents.



Angel Kuriakose 7NR



Jonathan Davies 7NR



Tommy Li 7SO



Eszter Pinter 9MN



Chang Yeo 8KP



Cai Elgood 9 FB

History

During the Summer Term the History Department will embark on two of its annual trips. Firstly, Year 7 will have the opportunity to visit Cosmeston Medieval Village, just outside of Cardiff. This will be the third year running that we have organised this trip and we are already looking forward to it. Pupils will have the opportunity to see firsthand what it was like to live in a medieval village. Actors will be on hand to demonstrate everything from gruesome medieval medicine to warfare where pupils will have the opportunity to try out various weapons of the time.

This will be followed in July when Year 10 will be travelling on two coaches to the battlefields of France and Belgium. Departing from Penglais we will first stop in Portsmouth, where we will spend time visiting three famous warships from British History; the Mary Rose, HMS Victory and HMS Warrior. Following free time in Portsmouth we will then travel overnight on the ferry to Normandy to visit the famous D-Day landing beaches as seen in the film Saving Private Ryan. After visiting the Bayeux Tapestry we will travel by coach to Paris where a day will be spent at Disneyland Paris, something the staff always look forward to! The trip will conclude with a memorable visit to the First World War battlefields of France and Belgium and an overnight stay in the beautiful town of Ypres. These are exciting times in the History department and we are all looking forward to the months ahead.



Joe Tipping, Josh Martin Williams and Gareth Jones decided to take the challenge and ‘be brave’ whilst raising money for Sports Relief. The three Year 10 boys organised a ‘leg wax’ and exceeded their fund raising target of £500 for charity. The boys were supported by their year group, lots of laughs and tears were had by all – Well done boys!

INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY

Richard Bailey (Year 11)
Ed Ifla (Year 11)
Ed Jones (Year 13)

Penglais pupils have played this year for Wales U18 schools hockey against England. Aidan McMahon (Year 12) is also in the squad. His brother Fergus McMahon (Year 10) has also played hockey for Wales U16 this season.



BASKET BALL SUCCESS

Cerys Sharples (Year 11) who has been capped eight times for Wales has been selected to captain the U16 Welsh Basket Ball Squad for Fiba Europe held in Gibraltar this summer.

Imogen Jones (Year 11) who has been capped nine times for Wales has been selected as a reserve for the Wales Senior Women’s Squad this summer on Macedonia.

This follows on from their success last year when they played for Wales in Andorra in Fiba Europe 2011. At the end of April Cerys and Imogen travelled with the Welsh U18’s to Ireland and played against Scotland and Ireland. Congratulations to both girls on their successes.

Design and Technology

Pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 have been extremely busy recently completing their coursework. In this subject this piece of work represents up to 60% of their final examination grade so it is not only very important but also means many hours of work. I am pleased to report we have some amazing projects in all focus areas so we will be organising an exhibition later in the term - date and time to be announced soon.

Textiles

I am hoping to organise a project at the end of the summer term based on recycling and the 2012 London Olympics. If you have any old t-shirts or sweatshirts in blue, black, red, black, white and green please send them along to D5. Many thanks, Mrs Wells.

Food

We are always grateful to receive containers for pupils to take their food home in. If you have any spare ice cream or margarine containers please send them along to D17/18.

Catering/Hospitality and Child Development

Mrs Hague would like to thank all parents for supporting the subject by regularly sending in ingredients. In the recent practical CATs we have had some fantastic meals/food products made. Well done to the pupils.

The Olympic Flame

The School is delighted to hear that three pupils and one member of staff have been nominated and selected to carry the Olympic Torch when it comes to Ceredigion in May. Year 11 pupils Shaun Gopalan and Kyle Thompson were nominated by the 5x60 Officer for their work as ambassadors will run the Olympic Torch in Fishguard and Aberystwyth. Anne Pritchard nominated by Mrs Lewis will also run with the Torch in Aberystwyth. Member of staff Jackie Minchin will run on the Llanarth leg of the journey.



National Urdd Eisteddfod 2012

The National Urdd Eisteddfod is being held in Caernarfon during the summer half term. The school is very proud that we will be representing Ceredigion in 12 competitions. Listed below are the names of pupils, the competition numbers and dates that the pupils will compete. If you are unable to visit the field you can track competitions on the web (S4C or Urdd). Competitions are also transmitted on S4C.

Wednesday 06/06/12

Celine Barker – Hip Hop/ Street/ Disco Solo Yr 7-9 Aaran Clarke – Unawd Pres (219)
Helen Yates – Llefaru Unigol (219)

Thursday 07/06/12

Brass Ensemble – (221)

Emyr Dance	Katy John	Gregory Parry	Cameron James	Bryn Dennis
Erin Hassan	Flynn Ellis	Max Glasser		
Isaac Williamson-Evans		Nicolas Smith	Morgan Langley	Joshua Ireland
Aaran Clake				

Friday 08/06/12

Sophie Rudge – Solo (183) Solo Cerdd Dant (249) Duet (185) Duet Cerdd Dant

Thomas Mathias – Unawd Strings (223)

Ceri Davies Hip Hop/ Street/ Disco Solo (Year 10 Under 19yrs)

Côr Merched (192)(BI 13 ac Iau)

Georgina Evans	Isabella Hughes	Lora Jones	Bethan Wyn Jones
Seren Dupont	Marisa Oiwawa	Georgiana Hughes	Isabel Parry
Sophie Rudge	Phoebe Williams	Heini Mai Phillips	Belen Richards
Megan Clift	Emma Hopkins	Rhiannon Bryant	Tess Dupont
Bridget Potter	Melanie Owen	Elinor Morgan	Anya Czekeryla



ART

Since September, Year 12 and 13 Art students have been following a ceramics course under the expert guidance of Mr Roger Guy-Young. They have had a fantastic experience, learning a range of new techniques and making skills, which has led to some fabulous outcomes including pots, bowls, mugs and sculptural ceramics work.

Each student has had the chance to make additional pieces of work to add to their A/S and A Level projects and exams.

We would all like to thank Cath Sherell, the Arts Centre Education Officer and Mr Alan Hewson who provided funding and, of course, Roger Guy-Young. We are extremely grateful in being able to use the fantastic facilities available at the Arts Centre, and for its long standing record of co-operation and support.

National Swimming Gala Cardiff

Omitted from our report on the Urdd National Swimming Gala was Zoe Walker. We apologise for this error. Zoe who is club captain for the Aberystwyth Swimming Club took part in the 100m Freestyle girl's race in the National Urdd Swimming Gala at Cardiff National Pool.

EXAMINATIONS

The Examinations Officer Mr P J Jones has spoken to all Year groups due to sit exams and issued pupils with an exams timetable and information booklet. He would also like to draw parents' attention to the following -

- The exams section on the school website contains a full list of exam dates and a copy of all the exam information provided to pupils - please go through this carefully with your child. The Summer exams start on the 14th May and finish on the 22nd June.
- All exams start at either 9am or 1pm and pupils are expected to be present 15 minutes before the start time. This gives time for pupils to fill in the front cover and to read the exam instructions very carefully before the exam is started.
- If pupils are going to be late due to an emergency please contact main reception or the Year manager immediately to let us know, any absences due to illness will require a medical certificate.
- Pupils are to be in full uniform and are responsible for bringing the correct equipment to the exam.
- Pupils have been reminded several times that they are not allowed to bring in any mobile phones, i-pods or other unauthorised electronic equipment or revision notes into the exam room, and also that they must behave and follow all instructions from staff.
- If any of these rules are broken the details have to be passed on to the relevant exam board and the pupil(s) can expect to be disqualified from the exam.
- If pupils arrive on time, in uniform, with the correct equipment and behave it makes a huge difference in the running of the exams and, subsequently, on pupils' achievement in the exams.

Your support is much appreciated.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 11th May Year 11 Leavers' Day
 Friday 25th May Year 13 Leavers' Day
 Monday 4th – Friday 8th June
 HALF TERM
 Monday 25th June Year 6 Induction Day
 Tuesday 26th June Year 6 Induction Day

Thursday 28th June
 INSET DAY – pupils not in school
 Friday 29th June INSET DAY – pupils
not in school
 Friday 20th July END OF TERM

Urdd Rugby 7's

Penglais School was represented in the National Urdd 7's in Llanelli at the end of the spring term. The squad of Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils were accompanied by Mr Dave Slinger and Mr Robert Rudge.

It was a very strong competition and Penglais School narrowly missed being placed in the plate semi finals. This is the first time for a number of years that Penglais School has entered this competition and we are extremely proud of all the pupils who represented school. We received congratulations from Urdd officials for entering the competition.



MOCK TRIAL EXPERIENCE

Years 9-12 have been working with the Law Department from Aberystwyth University to prepare and hold a Mock Trial. The purpose of this event was to develop pupils' critical thinking skills, confidence and ability to think on their feet. The group met every Saturday morning for several weeks to prepare for the event which was held in the Old College in a very grand and intimidating room!

Members of the Law Department played the roles of the witnesses, the accused and the defendant. Penglais students made up the legal teams. It was a fantastic event! We all gained a fascinating insight into aspects of the legal system.

Many thanks to Heledd Joyner from Year 12 who acted as journalist and produced the following report.

DIEB FOUND GUILTY

On the 31st of March Carol Dieb was found guilty of burglary other than in a dwelling which took place on 7th of October 2010. The prosecution had to prove trespass and intention to permanently deprive the sole owner of property. The prosecution were successful in proving beyond reasonable doubt that Mrs Dieb had committed the offence.

The trial began with the prosecution case. This was presented strongly with a clear and cohesive opening speech, which set the scene for the first examination in chief of

the individual who was pressing charges – Moses Meer. It was established that he is a Volunteer community project worker at the ‘Mind the Gap Café’ where Mrs Dieb attends for rehabilitation support. Here Mrs Dieb was alleged to have stolen £110 from Mr Meer’s charitable collection box on the grounds that she had sought “permission” to gain access to this money. Following the establishment of the sequence of events the defence cross examined the witness. Here Mr Meer’s honesty and intentions were questioned, causing some quite passionate/ fiery exchange of accusations from the defence and the witness. Next to the witness stand, was the security guard: Ali Hassan. The prosecution lead a relatively successful examination in chief, drawing out brief explanations from a reluctant witness, before

a strong and destructive cross examination led by a member of the defence team. The defence lawyer seriously questioned the capability of Mr Hassan as a security guard. This was a very successful cross examination and was the first swerve in the road, which turned in favour of the defence. However this was short lived with defence case soon to follow.

The defence had three witnesses: Superintendent Marco O’Dello, Catherine Sanders and most significantly Carol Dieb. The first two examinations were only partly successful with neither parties seeming overwhelmingly convincing. This changed with the examination in chief and re-examination of Mrs Dieb, conducted by a member of the prosecution team. The questioning started with basic straight forward

questions, before more demanding and frustrating queries for the witness by the end of the examination in chief, which gave a growing conviction of a guilty verdict. This was finalised with the re-examination, with the prosecution accusing the defendant of a “casual relationship with the law”. This undermined and discarded the previous strong examination of the security guard with Mrs Dieb trumping Mrs Hassan on being a more significant individual case. This strong questioning, undermining element of Mrs Dieb’s case, was the ultimate decider in the guilty verdict of the magistrates.

Following the guilty verdict, the defence presented a plea of mitigation, which was unaccountably strong and relatively convincing. However, it came to no avail due to Mrs Dieb’s numerous previous convictions. The offender was sentenced to a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 26 weeks imprisonment.

This whole experience of learning the process of prosecution through a magistrate’s court from four workshops conducted by the university and the final mock trial was both informative and valuable. The constant unknown of the outcome till the final 15 minutes was thoroughly enjoyable.

On behalf of the whole team we would like to thank Mrs Brown and the University for their help, time and support.



Penglais Pupils First to Visit the New Town Library.

On the 30th April 2012 a new library was opened in Aberystwyth after a £950,000 project to convert the town hall – and on May 1st eleven Penglais pupils were the first school group to have a guided tour. They were shown around by Delyth Hughes [Children's Librarian] who explained how all the books from the old building had been packed in boxes, moved from the old library to the new building and how they then all had to be put back on the new shelves one by one – a time consuming task indeed. She was very proud to say that the library had only been closed for one week. They must have worked very hard!

All pupils and staff had a great morning. The library is definitely worth a visit; it is a welcoming, light and airy space and has an excellent collection of books [something for everyone - including a specific area for children], CDs, DVDs, information technology, Wi-Fi access and learning and meeting rooms. On the second day of being open it was certainly being well used by a range of people of all ages.

After the visit several pupils [and staff] decided they would like to become members of the library. The pupils were sure that many people will make use of this new facility in the town.



September 2012 - July 2013.

Preparations for next academic year are well underway.

We have just completed a two year reconstruction of the school budget which will target more resources into the key areas of teaching and learning next year:

□The number of teachers will increase from 73 to 78 although in cash terms the school is spending almost the same amount as in 2011-12.

□There will be additional teaching groups in the current Years 8 and 9 (next year's 9 and 10) to reduce class sizes.

□An additional teaching period is assigned to Year 12 AS subjects (from 8 periods to 9 periods a cycle)

□Additional teaching groups and support to boost literacy and numeracy in years 7 to 9 inclusive.

□A 25% increase in departmental budgets for books and resources from April 2012.

□New leases for computer equipment, as part of a rolling programme to replace out of date equipment. We start with 200 new machines this summer.

A number of new appointments have been made to the staff of the school and these will be reported in the final newsletter this term.

The site team has, as usual, a large programme of renovation and development to complete before September including:

□The renovation of the Music Department.

□Conversion of F1 in the Sixth Form Centre into a large classroom.

□Repair and renovation work on E4 mobile to extend its lifespan as a classroom.

□Conversion of D20 into a Design / Technology room.

□Conversion of D3 and D5 into a workshop and IT room for Design / Technology.

It is also hoped that the local education authority will be able to resurface the road at the front of school.

The governing body has recently confirmed that the new school day from September 2012 will be timed for a 8.45am start and a 3.15pm finish.

With that time frame all the lessons will be 60 minutes long.

Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 are embarking on their public examinations (some have already begun) timetables and we wish them all well in their examinations. A and AS results will be published on Thursday 16th August and GCSE results on Thursday 23rd August.

MUSIC

Pupils performed at the National Youth Brass Band Championship in Manchester on 22nd of April. Great praise was given for their efforts.

On the same weekend Grady Hassan, Phoebe Williams and Elinor Morgan took part in the National Youth Orchestra of Wales course. Thomas Mathias will represent Penglais in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

The Aberystwyth/ Kronberg Twinning Committee held a concert at the Aberystwyth Bowling Club. Entertainment was provided by Seren Taylor, Nansi Dingle, Osian Penry-Dance and Sophie Rudge.

Sophie Rudge represented Penglais School in the National Children's Choir of Great Britain in Shrewsbury School over Easter. She was also the soloist at Aberystwyth's Town Choir 50th Anniversary Celebration Concert.

Calum Duell has reached the second round of the X Factor auditions.

Phoenix Project

Ten Penglais Pupils were selected to take part in The Phoenix Project at Aberystwyth Fire Station, Ashley Keegan, Ezre Francois, Michael Morton, Dinas Drakeley, Charlie Thomas, Robert Harrison and Callum Worsnop, spent a week training with Aberystwyth Fire Brigade.





Leavers Day 2012





Ysgol Penglais Brass Ensemble who will compete at the National Urdd Eisteddfod.



**URDD GOBAITH
CYMRU**

National Urdd
Eisteddfod Solo
Competitors.

Helen Yates, (recitation),
Thomas Mathias, (solo
and duet strings), Phoebe
Williams, (duet strings)
and Sophie Rudge,
(Solo, solo cerdd dant,
Duet and duet cerdd
dant.



National Urdd
Eisteddfod.

Hip Hop / Street /
Disco Soloist Ceri
Davies and Celine
Barker who will
compete in the Urdd
National Eisteddfod.

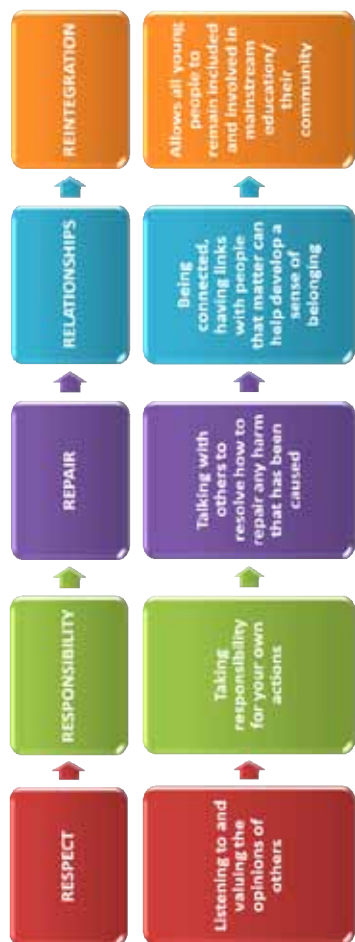


Parent/Guardian Guide



The 5 R's

Restorative Approaches (RA) are based on 5 key features:



Feedback from participants:

"I think that it has helped me think about what I did and it gave me and the teacher the opportunity to speak to each other."

"A chance to discuss issues and get some things off my chest."

Contact for further details:

Kelly Lloyd
Restorative Justice Officer
Ceredigion Youth Offending Service
Phone: 01970 633718
Mobile: 07968 326572
Email: Kelly.Lloyd@ceredigion.co.uk

Useful websites:

<http://www.restorativejustice4schools.co.uk/>
<http://www.why-me.org/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-mid-wales-12371566>

Restorative Schools - Pilot Project

Welcome to the Restorative Schools - Pilot Project. We hope the following information will help you understand the pilot and what we aim to achieve for the benefit of the whole-school.

The pilot will take place in Penglais School for 6 months from April 16th to November 16th 2012. The pilot is funded through ENGAGE, targeting pupils 14 years old and up.

The purpose of the Restorative Schools - Pilot Project is to develop awareness on Restorative Approaches (RA) and their effectiveness in schools in resolving conflict, such as between teacher and pupil.

We aim to support all individuals to learn better ways to communicate, cope and meet their needs when they are feeling frustrated/angry to ensure that they do not hurt themselves or others.

We hope the information provided in this leaflet will answer all your questions. We look forward to working with you and your child.

Aims for the pupils

- To support, encourage and develop:
- Social skills
 - Consideration for others
 - Confidence
 - Communication - Speaking and listening skills
 - Emotional literacy (understanding and expressing their feelings)
 - Respect
 - Empathy
 - Responsibility
 - Self-reflective
 - Independence: independent thinking and learning
 - Actively involved in gaining a positive education
 - Sense of belonging within the school and community
- * All equally as important

Restorative Approaches (RA)

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a process for resolving conflict that allows people to learn from their mistakes and has proven successful in schools. It highlights the importance of relationships above rules. RJ is part of a larger culture known as Restorative Approaches (RA).

RA use a variety of different circles, such as conferencing to allow everyone involved an opportunity to take turns and have their say. This method can be used for many reasons, for example to calm and resolve an argument or plan a classroom activity.

Restorative Justice Conferencing

Conferencing gets everyone involved together in a circle to take turns to listen and have their say. This is needed to put right any harm that has been caused and to come to an agreement on how best to move on, which will need to be signed by everyone taking part.

Conferences are successful in resolving:

- Friendship issues
- Conflict
- Disruptive behaviour
- Bullying
- As an alternative to exclusion

A trained RJ facilitator will always take part in the conference. Parents/guardians, school staff and anyone else that can help with resolving the issue can also take part.



Penglais

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The School is involved in a Restorative Schools Pilot Project in partnership with the Youth Offending Service. The purpose of the Pilot Project is to develop awareness on Restorative Approaches (RA) and their effectiveness in schools in resolving conflict, for example, between pupils.

We aim to support all individuals to learn better ways to communicate, cope and meet their needs when they are feeling frustrated or angry and ensure that they do not hurt themselves or others. Therefore, where appropriate, the school will implement a Restorative Approach to resolve any disagreements between pupils (see attached information).

If you are not happy for your child to be involved in this process please sign and return the form below to the above address. If you do not return the reply slip then the school will assume that you agree and if necessary your child will take part in this approach. If you wish to ask any questions before responding to this letter please contact Miss Kelly Lloyd at the school.

Yours sincerely,

Kelly Lloyd,
Restorative Justice Officer,
Ceredigion Youth Offending Service.

I am not happy for my child to be involved in the Restorative Schools Pilot Project.

Signed:- _____
Parent/Guardian

Date:- _____