



Head Teacher's Welcome

I cannot put into words the pleasure we have had over the last two weeks of seeing our Key Stage 4 and 5 students back in school. It has been wonderful to see the school gradually filling up with young people since March 15th and we now can't wait until April 12th when we will welcome all our students back. Whilst online learning has improved over this last year, it has become very apparent that nothing can really beat being with your teacher, teaching assistant and fellow students in the classroom.

The return has gone very smoothly for our older students. They have all remembered the hygiene routines and one-way system in the school and have adapted well to wearing face coverings in the classrooms. The focus for students in Years 11 to 13 will now be on completing their courses successfully and more information will be shared with students, before the Easter break, about their assessments over the next half term. Please look out for this in your inbox. Students in Year 10 will also be pleased to receive an announcement from Qualification Wales that their courses will be adapted for next year and we will await further information about this next term.

I hope that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are looking forward to their return. We have been very impressed by their attitude and resilience to online learning and hope that they will return with a positive frame of mind to their learning in April. I know that their teachers and tutors are very much looking forward to seeing them again - and you can read messages from your Heads of Year in the newsletter.

Thank you to you as parents and guardians for supporting your child in accessing and continuing with their learning. I'm sure that there's been a lot of cajoling and encouraging going on in many homes across the country so thank you for the part you have played over the last few months.

For the next two weeks, I hope that you all have a rest from the screens, have plenty of fresh air and exercise, coming back refreshed and ready for the summer term. Happy Easter!

Important Dates

- All students return to school site
– Week 1 – 12/04/2021
- May Bank Holiday – 03/05/2021
- Inset Day - 28/05/2021
- Inset Day – 09/06/2021
- End of summer term –
16/07/2021



Return to School

KS3 Head of Year's Welcome Back Messages

Head of Year 7, Mr Daniel:

"It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all back to Penglais School. Your efforts, dedication and persistence during online learning has been outstanding Year 7, so a massive well done from myself and all your teachers! Please take care when coming back to school and ensure that you are aware of ALL the safety precautions that we still have in place here. I look forward to seeing every one of you very soon."

Head of Year 8, Miss Thomas:

"Year 8, we are so excited to welcome you back to school on Monday 12th April! It has been a quiet place to work without you! Congratulations for making it through this strange time of online learning. You should all be very proud of yourselves for your resilience, persistence, and hard work throughout lockdown. Have a lovely and relaxing Easter holidays, and I am looking forward to seeing you all in person and catching up with you after the break."

Head of Year 9, Mr Hughes:

"Oi oi! Welcome back Year 9. I hope you've all kept yourselves busy over lockdown, whether it was with school work, keeping fit and active and doing the things you enjoy. Lockdown has been tricky for us all; Staff, students and parents have all had their own battles, so now more than ever is a time to be kind to everyone. Make sure you check in with your friends as often as you can, as they might be struggling. Can't wait to see you all and have a good catch up. Stay safe!"

Students' Perspectives on their Return to School

Y12 Student:

"I never realised how much I missed human interaction until I returned to the Sixth Form Centre. Even though we were all in masks, I felt a sense of normality and the satisfaction of not getting a headache from looking at my computer screen all day."

Year 12 Student:

"Lockdown was taken two ways, it seemed. It was taken with messy desks, dodgy Wi-Fi, and sleeping in past twelve. It was also taken with a new lease of creativity, a chance to learn something a new, perhaps a newfound drive for independent learning.

I think lockdown was without a doubt difficult. It challenged the way we are used to learning, replaced people with computers and classrooms with Teams. However, I think it also taught us some valuable skills. How to motivate and engage ourselves without the concrete unity and companionship of other pupils and teachers. Learning alone is often a challenge, and in the lead-up to assessments, we will be revising by ourselves. I think lockdown has given us the ability to do this effectively. Lockdown has given us a different perspective on individual learning and the way we process information and ideas while we are alone. Going forward, this is a skill we can use to really get a grasp of our subjects over Easter and in the lead-up to assessments."

Year 13 Student:

"Despite the doom and gloom, school has been at least one positive thing to focus on during these difficult times. Best of all, as our lessons were being recorded any funny moments were also recorded. It is like having a virtual memory book of our best moments as a class which will eventually become precious memories as time goes on. My fears and concerns about returning to Sixth Form soon disappeared after the first week back at school. The sense of community that I felt in Year 12 was stronger than ever before as students and teachers were delighted to physically be in school after what felt like an eternity."



Registering to Vote

This May marks the first time that people aged 16-17 can vote in the Senedd Elections! This is a fantastic development, as it means that young people can have a say on what will affect their future, so if you will be 16 or above on the 6th May, register to vote before April 19th, and have your say in the election, May 6th. For help on how to register, and to get a better understanding of the process, see the PDF in your Year Group's Team Files.

Penglais Library

Last year, World Book Day was the Library's last event before things changed dramatically. We were lucky enough to have Waterstones here in 2020 but this year was just the Librarian and her display. We hope you all used the digital book token which was sent out to you, to obtain one of the fab books pictured below.

Which one was your favourite? Don't worry if you haven't read any of them yet as the Librarian has them available for you when you return to school.



Penglais School Library is now on Teams. You will find the Librarian's recommended reads, library news, useful resources, online reading facilities, suggested book of the month and a student book request facility. This is your library so make sure you let us know what books you would like and provide your input. Please go to Teams and join with the code 3kcopov if you are interested in books and reading.



Any queries then please contact the Librarian directly on E.Kennedy@penglais.org.uk

Food & Nutrition

The Food department would like to say congratulations for all the hard work put in by their students whilst cooking from home! They would also like to say a massive thank you to parents/guardians for providing ingredients. Here are just a few of the delicious dishes made by a selection of Year 10 students.



Learning Support Centre

This term we celebrated St David's Day! Kieran, Henry, Rhian and Logan from the Learning Support Centre made some Welsh themed arts and crafts; take a look at their handmade daffodils and leeks. The students also made beautiful Mother's Day cards!

And to tie in the end of term, the week before the Easter holidays the students took part in an Easter egg hunt and Easter crafting.



Music News

Burns Night – Online Concert

Students put on a short online concert to celebrate the birthday of the bard Robert Burns. The evening saw a series of readings, performances of Scottish repertoire and a mini-ceilidh. The evening finished (as is tradition) with a performance of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Dydd Miwsig Cymru

On 5th February, students put on a lunchtime concert to celebrate Dydd Miwsig Cymru. The concert featured performances entirely in the Welsh language, and featured a mixture of traditional repertoire and brand new music.

Music Futures – National Youth Arts Wales

Two groups of musicians from Penglais have been taking part in a 'Music Futures' scheme, run by National Youth Arts Wales. They achieved this through a process of application; there are 24 young musicians across Wales taking part, of whom 6 of them are from Penglais! The students are currently enjoying weekly online workshops with mentors, focussing on the craft of song writing. The mentors are Tumi Williams (Afro Cluster) and Osian Williams (Candelas). The Music department at Penglais are collaborating with Ysgol Rhydywaun in Merthyr to make this happen. The Penglais students will be take part in a digital residency with Kizzy Crawford over the Easter holidays, before taking part in a short tour of performances across Wales in August.

Learning Instruments

As we approach the Summer term, it is time to start thinking about instrumental and vocal lessons. If you (or your child) are interested in receiving these, please get in touch; these are paid for annually (£160 for the year), and are provided by peripatetic teachers from Ceredigion Music Service. We can provide lessons in any instrument except guitar and bass guitar, and always have room for more students. If you would like to know more, please get in touch using the email address below.

S4C – 'Heno' / Bronglais FM

To promote the concert, a number of students appeared on 'Heno'. Well done to all students involved. Two students (Ashe and Hugo) also appeared live on Radio Bronglais FM on the day of the concert, to advertise our online concert. This involved a twenty minute slot, talking about life as a musician at Penglais during a pandemic.



St David's Day

The Penglais Music Department put on an online concert for St David's Day, featuring musicians from across the school. This was our 25th annual concert, as well as being exactly a year to the day since our trip to Cardiff to sing at the Senedd. It also marked almost exactly a year since our first online concert. To mark the occasion, students performed a variety of Welsh-themed repertoire. The concert featured special messages of encouragement from professional musicians across Wales and beyond; these included Kirsty Williams MS (Minister for Education), John Rutter CBE, Catrin Finch, Alis Huws (Official Harpist to HRH The Prince of Wales), members of 'Only Men Aloud' and more. The concert ended with a spirited rendition of 'Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau', featuring as many students as possible.

National Youth Choir of Wales

Four of our students have recently taken part in a workshop led by Tim Rhys Evans MBE, as part of their year with the National Youth Choir of Wales. The students will also be taking part in a residency in Carmarthen in late August, followed by a short concert tour across Wales.

World Book Day

Students took part in an online concert on the evening of 4th March, to celebrate World Book Day. The concert programme featured literary-themed repertoire, all recorded and performed by musicians at Penglais. Many thanks to Liz Kennedy (librarian) for her help in organising this concert.

PA System Donation

In March 2020, the Penglais PTA kindly paid for a brand new PA system for the music department. This is a portable system, which was intended to be used for our regular concerts at the Museum (as well as for PTA events). Of course, circumstances dictated otherwise; however we have now finally had a chance to use it! The PA system is currently installed on a temporary stage in the music department, ready to be used for recitals in our GCSE and A Level classes in late March. We are looking forward to using it for 'proper' (not online) concerts in the future, and are immensely grateful to the Penglais PTA for their generous grant.

Penglais Proms

We will be taking a short break from online concerts in April and May, whilst the GCSE and A Level classes focus on non-exam assessments. However, the 'Penglais Proms' concert series will return in late June. The 'Penglais Proms' are a series of lunchtime concerts throughout late June and early July, featuring the pupils of Ysgol Penglais School. The concerts are based on the 'Proms' series in the Royal Albert Hall in London (as pioneered by Sir Henry Wood), and feature different themes each week. All pupils are welcome to take part. If you'd like to get involved, do get in touch by contacting us using the email below.



News in Nature

The Science department has noticed a huge spawning of frogs / newts in the pond to the side of the department. We are encouraged to have this wonderful wildlife right here at Penglais and look forward to seeing how our spawn develops over their 14 weeks of growing!



Creative Earth is an art competition for people aged 16 and under from across the UK, run by the UN COP26 Climate Change Conference in collaboration with WWF. Enter the competition to be in with a chance of having your artwork displayed at COP26 and show the rest of the world your vision for the future. Take a look at how you can get involved here:

www.together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/creative-earth/



Sixth Form News

Chemistry Olympiad 21'

Eight of our Year 13 students were brave enough to sit the challenging UK Chemistry Olympiad Round 1 Exam - The leading chemistry competition for students in secondary education. Despite the challenges facing these students with the current circumstances, they decided to take up this new challenge. Results have now been published and we have some great results! Thomas is to be awarded a Silver Award; Maddie is also to be awarded a Silver Award; Theo is to be awarded a Bronze Award. The Chemistry Department are very proud of all students who took part and competing against students in all schools and colleges across the UK. A total of 7120 entries!



Studying in the USA

Matilda is a Year 13 student currently studying Maths, Chemistry, Biology and the Welsh Baccalaureate. She applied to the Sutton Trust / Fullbright organisation to study in the USA. The process is highly competitive and we are immensely proud of the huge amount of work that has been needed to secure a place at a highly respected US University.

Vet Application Process



Cerianne is a Year 13 student studying Chemistry, Biology, Geography and the Welsh Baccalaureate. We are very proud of her achievement in achieving a conditional offer to Cambridge to study veterinary science. She was also interviewed for veterinary science in Edinburgh, RVS London / Aberystwyth and Liverpool. Cerianne has also achieved two other conditional offers and is awaiting Liverpool's decision. A fantastic achievement.

Sixth Form Newsletter



This term we have introduced a newsletter dedicated to the Sixth Form. If you would like to read more about the articles featured in this section then take a look [here!](#)

Social Media & Gaming Webinar for Parents / Guardians:

Tim Teulu are holding a webinar on the 4th May to support parents / guardians in understanding online gaming and social media. If you are interested in attending the webinar, please see the details on the flyer.




Social Media & Gaming for parents/Carers



An introduction for parents who want a better understanding of their teenagers use of social media and Gaming



How to keep them safe online ?
What does PEGI mean ?
Why do they game so much ?
Are you a NOOB ?


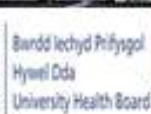



Just a few of the questions we aim to answer in our interactive virtual session. Delivered via Teams/ Zoom, with opportunities to share experiences and ask questions

To book on a session or for more information
Please contact:
timteulu@ceredigion.gov.uk or 01545572649

To book on to a Webinar
Please email dysgu@ceredigion.gov.uk



Canteen Menus



Canteen Menu WEEK 1



Day of the Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime Hot Dish	Chicken Curry Vegetarian Curry	Sausages, Mash and Gravy Vegetarian Sausages Jacket Potato and Baked Beans	Meat Balls Pasta Bake Tomato Pasta Bake	Homemade Beef Pie Vegetarian Pie	Fish and Chips Vegetarian Burger
Baguette (Break & Lunchtimes)	Chicken Tikka Cheese	Chicken & Bacon Egg	Ham Quorn & Pesto	Chicken & Sweetcorn Tikka Quorn	Tuna Cheese & Pickle

All baguettes served with fresh salad. All hot meals served with a selection of vegetables.

Meal Deal 1

Hot Main
+
Fresh Fruit (apple or banana) or yoghurt

£ 2.50



Separate price for individual items available
in the canteen areas.

✓ Suitable for vegetarians ✓ Suitable for vegans

Meal Deal 2

Baguette
+
Fresh Fruit (apple or banana) or yoghurt
+
Small Bottle of apple juice, orange juice, water or Mooies milkshake

£2.50



Canteen Menu WEEK 2



Day of the Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime Hot Dish	Spaghetti Bolognese Vegetarian Bolognese	Meat Lasagne Vegetarian Lasagne	Chicken Pie Cheese & Potato Pie Jacket Potato & Beans	Chilli & Rice Vegetarian Chilli & Rice	Pork & Noodles Macaroni Cheese
Baguette (Break and Lunchtimes)	Chicken Tikka Cheese	Chicken & Bacon Egg	Ham Quorn & Pesto	Chicken & Sweetcorn Tikka Quorn	Tuna Cheese & Pickle

All baguettes served with fresh salad. All hot meals served with a selection of vegetables.

Meal Deal 1

Hot Main
+
Fresh Fruit (apple or banana) or yoghurt

£2.50



Separate price for individual items available
in the canteen areas

✓ Suitable for vegetarians ✓ Suitable for vegans

Meal Deal 2

Baguette
+
Fresh Fruit (apple or banana) or yoghurt
+
Small Bottle of apple juice, orange juice, water or Mooies milkshake

£2.50

Fundraising Activities

Miss Hannah Runs 100 miles for Mind charity:

"Due to Covid and lockdown restrictions I was unable to see my family over Christmas. Over the various lockdowns running has helped me with my mental and physical health. So during February I set myself the challenge of running the 100 miles distance it would take to travel to my parents' house in Wolverhampton, raising £270 for the charity Mind."



Raise funds for Penglais School every time you shop online with over 4,500 shops and sites. Thank you to everyone for raising donations! Find us on easy fundraising to start:

Click [here!](#)



Joining the school lottery is another opportunity to raise money for the PTA to spend on projects in school. It's easy to sign up and easy to stop at any time!

More information on www.yourschoollottery.com



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**



Ysgol Penglais School



**WIN
A WHEELIE AWESOME PRIZE!**



**WIN A
£500
BIKE
VOUCHER**

- Please help give our fundraising a boost this term
- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Cash prize winner EVERY week
- You could even win the £25k jackpot!

Buy A Ticket

THE BIKE FACTORY

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Offer ends 17th Apr 2021.
Terms and conditions apply (see website for details).