



Head Teacher's Welcome

It has been, yet again, a different half term to that expected. And, once again, everyone – students, staff and families – have risen to the challenges that this has provided. Usually, we would now be mid-exam season, with Years 11, 12 and 13 half way through their exams before the half term break. However, on Thursday this week, we said farewell to the Year 11 and 13 students knowing that they have finished their assessments. For Year 13 students and some Year 11 students, this was the end of their time at Penglais. It was a pleasure to join Year 13 for their farewell lunch; to congratulate them for the brilliant way they have conducted themselves throughout this difficult year and to wish them all the very best for their future. Year 11 students also had their own celebration on the fields and it was a joy to celebrate the end of their hard work with them. One of the best aspects of working in education is seeing the students develop over the five or seven years they are at school. This time, we have seen these students not only cope with the learning and assessments but also with all the uncertainty and challenges that a pandemic has thrown at them. They have shown resilience, ambition, developed their independence and confidence and throughout have also succeeded in being respectful and kind. We are very proud of them all and wish them all the best in their futures.

Students in Years 7 and 8 have re-engaged well with learning in the classes and we look forward to another half term without any disruption (hopefully!) to re-embed the learning culture and values. Our Year 9 students have completed Key Stage 3 and will be starting on their GCSE courses after half term. I'm sure that they are looking forward to being able to focus on their chosen options and start on that important next stage in their school career.

So, after a busy seven weeks, it is time now for everyone to re-charge their batteries. A well-deserved rest for everyone, ready to return for the final six weeks of the year. Thank you to parents and guardians who have supported your children through these very difficult and challenging times. Let's hope that June will bring sun, warmth and a continued recovery for everyone.

Important Dates

7th June - Students return on week 2 timetable. Year 12 will be studying virtually from home during this week.

9th June - Inset day. No students in school.

16th June - Provisional results shared with Years 11, 12 & 13.

W/c 21st June - Year 10 exams (over 2 weeks).

21st - 25th June - Virtual lessons for Year 11 students returning to Sixth Form.

25th June - Deadline for centre reviews.

28th - 30th June - Sixth Form enrolment interviews.

July - Full report for Year 8 & Progress report for Year 10.

1st - 2nd July - Year 11 to 12 induction days.

16th July - Last day of Summer term.

News

Racing Achievements



*Tom
racing in
Blackheath*

Tom, Year 9, has been racing for the last few years and really enjoys the sport. Over the weekend of 17th -18th April, Tom competed in round 1 of the Blackheath Motoduro Series at Tink Hill Quarry near Stoke on Trent. Aboard his KTM 85cc, he came 2nd and 4th which earned him 3rd overall in his class. The Blackheath organizers had designed a tough and challenging layout for the riders, full of twists and turns, through dense woodland and motocross track. When Tom raced he described the track as "dusty, dry and bumpy". Tom has put on an excellent performance, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for him.

TV Filming

Owen in Y7 took part in filming for his first television job for 'Byd Dadcu' in Cardiff earlier this year. The filming process involved him sending in a self-tape, taking part in a screen test and once he was cast for the role, he then learnt various scripts for the filming. Congratulations to Owen and we look forward to seeing him on 'Byd Dadcu' in the near future.



KS3 Maths: 'Wales Rocks 2021' TTRockstars Competition

Things got competitive in KS3 Maths this half term with a few select classes taking part in 'Wales Rocks 2021' TTRockstars online event. Students were put to the test to see how fast they could correctly answer as many questions based on the times tables as possible, in competition with other schools across the country.

The event was spread over four days, giving students the opportunity to play under any games mode with their scores contributing towards the competition. We may not have won the ultimate golden prize of an Amazon gift card...but huge congratulations are still in order for Anne-Marie (7KDR) a.k.a Chadwick Ocasek who pipped the top position in Penglais School with an incredible score of 12,355. In an extremely close to the knuckle, last minute race, Roman (7AMV) a.k.a Godzilla Rockendorf came in 2nd position, followed by Petey (7KDR) a.k.a King Brassington who came in 3rd. Miss Nardiello (a.k.a Ziggy Cherry), wants to say a huge well done to you all, as your enthusiasm and determination shows what true rock heroes you are!

Also, we must give a shout out to Bethan (Bonnie Blasey) and Zephyr (Oz Broach) who came within the top 10 in the school! Also to other students who came in the top 3 in their classes. These were Vincent (Ron Wolf), Joshua (Trent Rockalicious) and Josh (David T. Hendrix). Alex (Noel Sennett), Macy (Mindy Malone) and Danny (Smokey Lamm) in Year 8. Esther (Stella Jackal), Alisha (Michelle Iris), and Genny (Bianca Haynes) also in Year 8, and Winnie (Alice Rollins) in Year 9.

A big thank you to all those who got involved, and I look forward to the next arena tour (competition)! But for now, keep jammin' and rehearsing, and maybe next year we could even reach #1 in the charts (country)!



Images of Aber

Miss Southgate, who is a keen photographer has provided us with the imagery throughout this term's newsletter.

"I'd just like to say how lucky I am living in such a beautiful place! Surrounded by mountains and beautiful beaches. It really does make me happy! I love photography and sharing beautiful local images."

- Miss Southgate



Music Department

New Equipment

We have recently invested in new equipment for the Music department. New arrivals include a brand new stage piano (plus hard case, for taking out to use in concerts), as well as a professional bass amp (paid for by a grant). We've also invested in more ukuleles (for 'whole class' teaching), as well as refurbishing and restringing the guitars. The department has also benefited recently from a brand new class set of keyboards (15).

We are looking forward to using this equipment (particularly the electric piano and amps, as well as the PA system, bought in March 2020 by the PTA) for external concerts as soon as circumstances permit.

Student Achievements

Yolanda (Y11, alto) has recently won a place on a British Youth Music Theatre course, via an extremely competitive audition process of pupils from across Britain. She will be taking part in 10 days of rehearsals in Ipswich, before taking part in a run of performances of 'Cabaret Macabre' in August. Well done Yoyo!

A number of Penglais students have recently taken part in a series of workshops with Kizzy Crawford, run by National Youth Arts Wales. Only 20 students from across Wales were picked; six of them were from Penglais! The lucky students were Rhys (Y13, guitar), Alys (Y9, guitar), Heledd (Y12, voice), Charlie (Y13, guitar), Lucy (Y13, voice) and Matilda (Y13, voice).

Amalie (Y11) is due to play a DJ set for the Y11 farewell event on Thursday 27th May.

Sarah (Y12) recently passed her Grade 5 flute exam, whilst George (Y13) recently passed his Grade 8 cornet exam too.

Charlie (Y13) is off to Falmouth University in September, to study guitar on the BA Hons Music course.

Online Concerts

Three online concerts will be held in the last week of term:

"Parry 180" – Wednesday 26th May 2021, 1pm



A short lunchtime concert, marking the 180th anniversary of the birth of composer Joseph Parry. The concert will feature performances of Parry's most famous works ('Myfanwy' and the hymn tune 'Aberystwyth'), as well as some of his other works.

"Half Term Showcase" – Thursay 27th May 2021, 1pm

An informal lunchtime concert marking the end of term, featuring students from across the school.

To watch the concerts, search for 'Cerddoriaeth Penglais Music' on both Facebook and YouTube.

We will also be putting on a Summer series of online concerts in late June and early July, called the 'Penglais Proms' (modelled on the proms concerts in the Royal Albert Hall, as pioneered by Sir Henry Wood).

Fantasy Island

After completing online work on map skills, Year 7 students were asked to design their own 'Fantasy Island' using many of the map skills they have developed. The final stage was to create these ideas into a 3D model. On display in the reception are examples from DXJ, KDR and KSP.



LSC

"Our theme this half term has been spring, so the students have been busy making model nests, planting seeds and monitoring their progress. We have also been observing and recording the development of our tadpoles. Our enterprise this term has been growing and selling plants. Here are some 'before and after' pictures of us with our seedlings. We did some market research and worked out how to make a profit! All profit will go to the LSC but I do have my suspicions that some of the students have organised their own line and are flogging their plants when I am not looking!

A big thank you to Sam's mother in law who donated some tomato seedlings to the LSC earlier in the term, and to everyone else who bought our plants. So far, we have raised £30 for the LSC!"



Science News

Penglais has supported biodiversity by taking part in 'No Mow May'

Insect populations are declining worldwide because of human activities (e.g. their habitats have been destroyed or they have been affected by climate change or the use of pesticides). This has a knock on effect for animals that eat insects and for plants that need insects to pollinate them, which will become a real issue for humans as three quarters of our food crops rely on insects for pollination. Penglais has supported bee and butterfly populations this year by leaving large areas of grass unmowed so that plants can flower, providing pollen and nectar for insects, birds and mammals. This was as part of a national initiative, No Mow May, organised by the conservation charity Plantlife and had the added benefit that the school grounds looked bright and colourful. Some Year 10 students have surveyed a small area of the school grounds and found sixteen different species in flower in the grass, including red clover, buttercups, forget me nots and cuckoo flower.

You can find more details about No Mow May [here](#) – if you haven't taken part this year, maybe you could do it next year!



Virtual Genetics Café

Sixth Form students had the opportunity to attend a virtual science café on careers in genomics. Genetic researchers, doctors and genetic counsellors based in Wales gave talks and answered questions on their work in this interesting cutting edge field. Thanks to the Wales Gene Park for organising this event.

6th Form News

A Message from Year 13 Students to Staff

"We would like to thank all of the teachers and support staff at Ysgol Penglais for their support, dedication and hard work throughout the years. We have enjoyed our studies and are now looking forward to new adventures."

- Year 13

Alumni News

In May's edition of the 6th Form Newsletter, see an array of stories from Penglais Alumni, including;

- An Insight into Human Geography at Cardiff University & a Placement Year
- Studying Medicine & Making the Most of Covid-19 at Cardiff University
- Attaining a Bristol Helicopter Pilot Scholarship
- Exeter University, Internships and Clubs & Societies

Find out more from Penglais alumni in the Alumni News section of the 6th Form newsletter.

If you are interested in joining the Penglais Alumni Friendship Association or would like to contact the alumni office please email alumni@penglais.org.uk

[Click here to fill in the Alumni Association Online Registration Form](#)

6th Form News

The news stories from the 6th form this term feature articles including:

- My Young Yale Scholars Experience
- Penglais Scholarships Success
- My Final Art Piece
- Penglais Students in Politics

Student Opportunities

The 6th form edition of the May Newsletter also features 'Student Opportunities', showing upcoming events and webinars for their learners.

Webinar Review Series

In this edition, 6th Form students took the time to review some recent webinars that they had attended, including:

- A Career in Film, Media, PR and Marketing
- A Career in Pharmacy

Read more about their experiences in the 6th Form newsletter!

Sixth Form Newsletter

Last term we 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 at our full 6th Form newsletter **[here!](#)**

Library

PTA Funded Library Chairs

The Library are delighted to receive these new fully cleanable reading chairs and beanbags, which were generously funded by Penglais PTA. The vibrant purple goes with the Library colour scheme and we look forward to welcoming students to relax on them as soon as possible.



The Hay Festival 2021

The Hay Festival is online this year and live events will be taking place between the 24th - 28th May.

Visit www.hayfestival.com to see the full programme. These events are live and will also be available to watch again on the Hay Player. There are some great speakers and a variety of events so is worth taking a look.



May 4th: Star Wars Day!

May the 4th is Star Wars Day and was celebrated in the Library with a display. The literary knowledge of Year 7 was also recently tested by our Librarian in an interactive Kahoot Quiz, "How well do you know your books?" The winners, 7 DXJ, spent their tutor time having an introduction to the Library and experienced all things Star Wars related which the Library had to offer! This included crosswords, word scramble, wordsearches, Kahoot quizzes and free Star Wars bookmarks.



New Library Stock

Our school Librarian, Mrs Kennedy, is always working hard to try and keep the library stock up to date. What's better than a new release? How about books that haven't yet been released? The books pictured are some of the titles recently won by our Librarian and received prior to publication date and general release. All are available to read in the school library. Penglais School Library- Keeping ahead of the times!



Notices

A reminder that mobile phones are not to be used on the school site by students. If students choose to bring mobile phones to school, they must be on silent or switched off, placed in school bags and must not be removed until leaving the school site at the end of the day.

Should a student need to contact home during the day then they may do so at Student Services.



Should parents/guardians wish to contact their child in school they must use the school landline number: 01970 624811

Reminder that students need to bring enough water for the day as the water fountains are out of operation due to the current situation.



If you would like to see more of Penglais' Policies and Procedures, then please **click the link to our website here.**

Canteen Menus



Canteen Menu WEEK 1



Day of the Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main 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 Cottage Pie	Chicken Burger & Chips Vegetarian Burger
Baguette	Chicken Tikka Cheese	Chicken & Bacon Egg	Ham Quorn & Pesto	Chicken & Sweetcorn Egg & Spring Onion	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

meal deal

**Separate price for individual items available
in the canteen areas.**

Meal Deal 2

Baguette
+
Fresh Fruit (apple or banana) or yoghurt
+
Small Bottle of apple juice, orange juice or water
£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	Chilli & Rice Vegetarian Chilli & Rice	Chicken & Veg Rice 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

meal deal

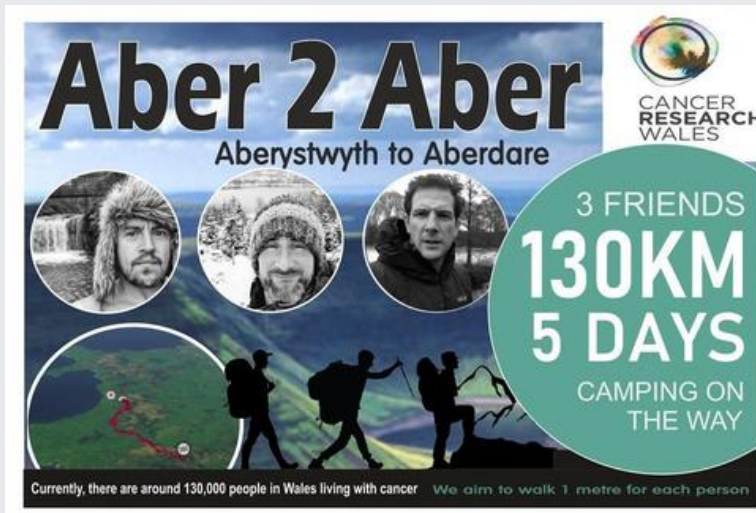
**Separate price for individual items available
in the canteen areas**

Meal Deal 2

Baguette
+
Fresh Fruit (apple or banana) or yoghurt
+
Small Bottle of apple juice, orange juice or water
£2.50

Fundraising Activities

Mr J Evans, Creative Faculty Leader, is walking 130km for Cancer Research Wales:



"In May half term I am hiking cross country from Aberystwyth to Aberdare where I am originally from. This is to raise money for Cancer Research Wales. The challenge is to walk 5 consecutive days averaging around 17 miles per day, carrying around 12kg in bags as we are camping at the end of every day so will be carrying our tents and equipment. We will be hiking across a range of terrains including over mountains, through waterfall country, and through Wales' most deserted area. Many thanks for any donations"

You can donate, [here](#)!

Mr J Evans



Raise funds for Penglais School every time you shop online with over 4,500 shops and sites, including the shops featured below. Thank you to everyone for raising donations!

Find us on easy fundraising to start: Click [here](#)!





WIN
1 OF 5
£100
B&Q
Gift Cards

SUPPORT US
Through Thick & Thin

- Help us raise essential school funds
- Support our lottery from just £1 a week
- Guaranteed cash prize every week
- Win up to £25,000

To support your school, go to:
yourschoollottery.co.uk
and search for: **Penglais School**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Offer ends 5th June 2021. Terms and conditions apply (see website for details).