



## Head Teacher's Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

As we come to the end of a very unusual year, I must thank all parents/guardians, students, staff and governors for their support, positivity, co-operation and collaboration. It has been a challenging year but everyone has upheld the school values incredibly well, particularly being respectful and kind and demonstrating ambition and resilience. Well done and thank you to everyone – let's hope that we can look forward to a slightly more normal year from September onwards.

An end of term letter was sent out to all families yesterday. Please read this carefully as it has important information about September.

Please also note that the starting date for all students is Friday 3rd September.

May I wish you all a restful, safe and relaxing summer holiday.

- Ms Hughes

## Dates for September

- 01/09/21** - INSET Day
- 02/09/21** - INSET Day
- 03/09/21** - All Students Return (Week 1)
- W/C 13/09/21** - Curriculum Evening  
- Year 7 Meet Tutors
- 22/09/21** - Year 11 Meet Tutors

## Important Dates

- 7/10/21** - Open Evening
- 14/10/21** - Year 10 Meet Tutors
- 19/10/21** - Parent Governor Annual  
General Meeting (AGM)
- 21/10/21** - Year 7 Parents Evening
- 25-29/10/21** - October Half Term



# Year Leader Messages

Penglais' Year Leaders wanted to give a message to their students to end the academic year:

## Year 7

I just wanted to say a huge well done for getting through your first year at Ysgol Penglais School. It has been a very turbulent and challenging year for you all, but you have shown strength, courage, and resilience throughout each term and towards the very end. Have a well-deserved break and an enjoyable summer holiday, please stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all back here in September!

- **Mr. Daniel**

## Year 8

Year 8, congratulations. You have made it through the strangest start in Ysgol Penglais School that there has been. It hasn't been easy for any of us, but you have shown resilience and determination to get through. You have made me proud, made me laugh, and kept me busy! Looking ahead to Year 9, a very exciting year for you all with some important decisions to make. We, as a school, are looking forward to welcoming you back in September after a lovely, relaxing summer holiday, and will be ready to support you through the important year ahead. I hope you all enjoy the time off, stay safe and see you all soon!

- **Miss. Thomas**

## Year 9

Having recently taken responsibility for the year group I have been impressed with the determination with which most have shown towards starting their GCSE journey. The summer holidays will give you time to reflect on what you want to achieve in the coming two years and when we return in September I look forward to working with you to achieve your goals, overcoming the challenges and celebrating the many successes along the way.

- **Mr. Fisher**

## Year 10

As we come to the end of the academic year, I wanted to reflect on the hard work and resilience of Year 10 this year. It has been a very challenging year for all of you and you have coped exceptionally well. I took over as Head of Year in September, and since then I have been so impressed at how you have coped with the transition from KS3 into KS4. It is always a difficult time and to be able to manage this along with home schooling and restrictions in school is a tremendous achievement. I have visited many lessons throughout the year and observed you in class; the work rate, maturity, behaviour and focus I have seen has been excellent so thank you for that. You recently completed two weeks of mock exams and the feedback from staff was nothing but positive. I was so proud to hear from staff that you were all on time, well prepared and behaviour was

exemplary. This was a new experience for you all and one that you took in your stride, it puts you all in a strong position going forward into Year 11.

Finally, thank you Year 10 for this year, it has been a pleasure working with you as your Head of Year, I hope you all have a well-deserved restful, fun and safe summer holidays. I look forward to working with you again in Year 11.

**- Mrs. Johnson**

## Year 11

It seems a long time ago now that we celebrated with form teachers your hard work and determination over the last two years. I have said this to you, but I would like to reiterate how impressed all the staff at Ysgol Penglais School have been with your resilience to the challenges of Covid as well as taking on your GCSEs. When faced with difficult times in the future you can look back and think to yourself that you came through this, so you can pull through once again. I wish you all the best as you start your next steps, whether that be in college, sixth form or the workplace. Have a well deserved rest over the summer and let me know how you are getting on!

**- Mr. Fisher**

## Sixth Form

Completing Year 12 during this difficult year is something to be proud of and to celebrate. We have enjoyed getting to know you as young adults and have been impressed by your enthusiasm and drive to achieve your potential. There are many opportunities available to you so please make the most of these. As you know we don't know the answer to every question that you ask us but we will try our hardest to support you and find the answers. Enjoy your summer break and use your curiosity to research and explore your interests. Reflect on what you have learnt and you will then have an excellent basis for a great CV or UCAS personal statement. We are looking forward to seeing you all in September to support and work with you in achieving your goals.

**- Mrs Elgood & the Sixth Form team**

# Notice Board

## Students' transport via bus

It is important that the students have a valid bus pass to travel on the bus that they are using to get to and from school. They must not travel on any other bus as they are not insured.

Due to the current circumstances, we need to know exactly who is travelling on which bus. In the event of a positive COVID case we need to easily identify all students travelling on a bus.

If your child needs to apply for a new bus pass you can apply online at:

[technical.services@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:technical.services@ceredigion.gov.uk)

## Online safety resources

We would like to draw your attention to excellent resources supporting keeping your child safe online that are accessible through the HWB website: <https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/parents-and-carers/>



There are leaflets and playlists with information on all sorts of aspects of online safety - including gaming, self harm, social media etc. There is also a section for young people too. (<https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/children-and-young-people/>)

The School Beat website is also full of helpful advice - not only on online safety but also other things that you might find useful. ([www.schoolbeat.cymru](http://www.schoolbeat.cymru)).

# News

## Heroes stamp design competition

The 'Heroes Stamp Design Competition' was run by the Royal Mail, where you were tasked with designing a stamp that depicted your 'heroes of the pandemic'. Melody from Year 9 entered, taking inspiration for her design of Sir Captain Tom because she was inspired by what he did for the country during the pandemic. We would like to wish Melody all the best of luck for the stamp competition!



## Thank you from Mrs Hague

Mrs Hague, who is leaving Penglais this year, would like to say a special thank to all parents/guardians who have supported the Food Technology Department over this year and during her 19 years of teaching by providing ingredients to make their fantastic dishes.

## Aberystwyth Golf Club Championship winner Logan

Congratulations to our student Logan who won the Aberystwyth Golf Club Championship against golfers of all ages. He is the youngest ever golfer to win the tournament - a fantastic achievement!



## Follow us on Instagram!

We now have an Instagram account! You can follow us on @YsgolPenglais to catch up with the latest news and updates from students and staff!

## EAL (English as an Additional Language) poetry competition

The EAL Department is proud to announce the winner of its poetry competition. Sana, Year 7 is a very talented author and this is one of her incredibly moving poems:

*I wish you knew...  
I love you  
Not as the sunshine  
Which sometimes shines and  
sometimes doesn't  
Not as the moon  
Which shines bright only a few  
hours  
Not as the stars  
Which slowly fade away  
But as heartbeats  
Which stay with me forever*

**- Sana, Year 7**



## 'Mini-film project' Year 12 Media Studies Competition

Year 12 Media Studies students had the brief to create either a trailer to a horror film or a chase sequence. The aim was to develop their audio-visual technical skills after missing so much collaborative learning over lockdown. They worked in small groups planning their production by creating a storyboard, and then filming and editing their ideas. The students



had to explore different software options alongside directing their cast and crew. This experience will ensure they are well prepared for Year 13 in which they have to plan, film and edit an opening sequence to a TV show to a professional standard. The winners Molly and Lydia have received cinema tickets from the Commodore cinema in Aberystwyth.



## Hockey selection for Welsh squad

Ruadhán has recently been selected to play for Wales U16s in hockey and travelled to Northern Ireland to play in a 3-day International test series against Ulster. The U16s is a newly formed squad and this was their first match played as a team. Despite conceding in this test series, the team gained tremendous experience and came away with drive and determination for the forthcoming tests against England and Scotland in July!



## Learning Support Centre: Beach safety session with Mr. Lloyd

As the summer holidays are approaching, Mr Lloyd gave an important talk regarding 'beach safety' to the students at the LSC! The students also learned about the role of the coastguard and did some beach based learning activities.



# Sixth Form

## Sixth Form session from Aberystwyth University : University applications & UCAS

Penglais Year 12 enjoyed a morning session on applying to University and UCAS provided by Aberystwyth University. The new screens and sound system in the Sixth Form Centre ensured that everyone had a clear view of the presentations and could interact with the University staff. Useful websites were suggested and students had time to explore these so that they could begin to make decisions on their University studies and where to apply. The admissions process was clearly explained and support and advice was given on how to write their Personal Statements. Many thanks to Robin Lovatt, David Moyle and Dafydd Morse for their advice and enthusiasm.



[Take a look at the Penglais Sixth Form newsletter here.](#) This edition features various articles including:

- Insight into the Intermediate Biology Olympiad competition
- An overview of the Food Science Summer school by the University of Leeds
- The Vogue Forces of Fashion Summit
- The journey of applying for a degree in Medicine



## Prefect positions 2021-2022

The Sixth Form Centre were incredibly impressed with the calibre of the applications for the prefect roles. The students navigated a demanding application process of submitting an application letter, presenting their views on the challenges they will face in the school and questions from six members of staff in three interviews! See the list of 21'-22' prefects below:

<b>Head Student/Girl</b>	Maxita
<b>Deputy Head Student/Girl (D.H.G)</b>	Sarah , Harbhi & Hannah
<b>Head Student/Boy</b>	Michael
<b>Deputy Head Student/Boy (D.H.B)</b>	Dylan & Alex
<b>Primary to Secondary School Student Transition</b>	Carys
<b>Maths</b>	Daniel & Jin
<b>English</b>	D.H.B with additional responsibilities: Dylan
<b>Humanities</b>	Tatum
<b>Sports</b>	Alyse , Jamie , Celyn & Llion
<b>Sciences</b>	Seren & Poppy
<b>WBQ</b>	D.H.B with additional responsibilities: Alex
<b>Languages</b>	Amelie
<b>Creative</b>	Iwan & Heledd
<b>Wider Community/PTA</b>	D.H.G with additional responsibilities: Sarah & Harbhi
<b>Charities</b>	Mia , Ayesha & Chinaza
<b>Debate</b>	Afon & Lloyd
<b>Urdd/Welsh Ethos</b>	D.H.G with additional responsibilities: Hannah
<b>Environment</b>	Olivia & Georgia
<b>Digital Communication</b>	Billy
<b>Prefects</b>	Henry



**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**

## School Fundraising

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](http://www.yourschoollottery.com)



# Library News

## Library Summer reading challenges:

Take part in these summer reading challenges over the 6-week holidays!



**Summer Reading Challenge**

- Challenge yourself to read some of the following:-
  - **The book is better-** a book which has been adapted for TV or film
    - **Good as gold-** a book which has won an award
  - **In the friend zone-** read a book which has been recommended by a friend
  - **Not from round here-** read a book set in a different culture to your own
    - **New voices-** read a debut novel
- Then leave a review on [www.readingcloud.net](http://www.readingcloud.net) to be in with a chance to win a prize for the best review



**Summer Reading Selfie Challenge**

Send me a selfie of yourself reading in an unusual place!

Most creative and interesting wins a prize

Email photos to [E.Kennedy@penglais.org.uk](mailto:E.Kennedy@penglais.org.uk)

**DISCLAIMER**-Please do not put yourself in a dangerous or harmful position to do this

## Summer activities

Here's a list of some fun summer activities you could enjoy during the 6 week holidays!  
Things to do this summer:

Take part in a beach clean, explore the local area, try cooking new foods (e.g homemade ice-cream/pizza), read a book, go for a cycle, try painting/drawing, go swimming in our amazing Aberystwyth beaches, have a picnic, go camping, create a scrapbook, start gardening, write a story, try out a new sport or start learning a new language!

# Music Department

Peripatetic instrumental and vocal lessons have returned 'face to face' in school, after a twenty month gap of online teaching. Now is a great time to start learning an instrument, if you aren't already. See Mr Budd or Miss Blair for a letter.

## Music students' achievements

Amalie (Year 11) played a live outdoor DJ set on the school field back in May, in front of her peers from her year group to celebrate their last day in Year 11. Well done to Amalie for her hard work in preparing for this, as well as her professionalism as a musician throughout the afternoon.



Lucille (Year 13) and Tesni (Year 12) will be singing with the National Youth Choir of Wales this Summer. They will be taking part in a short concert tour of Wales; the Ffwrnes Theatre in Llanelli (2nd Sept), Prichard Jones Hall in Bangor (3rd Sept) and the Dora Stoutzker hall at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama (4th Sept).

Rhys (Year 12) has recently recorded and released his own EP and album, using his own home studio. Both are available on all streaming platforms; [a link to buy it is here.](#)

A group of students have been enjoying online workshops since February, provided by mentors with National Youth Arts Wales. Working with mentors Tumi Williams and Osian Williams, and will be meeting up with them to record in Aberystwyth Arts Centre on 14th/15th July. Well done to Heledd, Rhys, Matilda, Lucy, Charlie and Alys for all of their hard work in this project.



A group of eight students from Year 7 have taken part in music transition projects with local primary schools. They provided music for the primary schools as they arrived, as well as being on a panel to answer questions from the Year 6s. Thanks to Tilly, Lowri, Osian, Bethan, Owen, Alisha, Ella, Hattie and Charlie who were excellent ambassadors for the school, as well as to the music department.







## Online Concerts

We've recently put on more online concerts this term. Our most recent was the 'Outdoor Concert'. The concert had something of a Garden Party feel to it and included a special birthday message for HM The Queen (who was celebrating her birthday on the same day, and presumably also had a garden party!). We also put on a concert to celebrate the 180th anniversary of the birth of composer Joseph Parry. Well done to Liwsi (Year 8) and Henry (Year 8) for narrating the concert, as well as to William (Year 13) and Lucille (Year 13) for appearing on 'Heno' on S4C to advertise it.

Our final concert of the year will be the Penglais Prom in the final week of term. This will feature contributions from local primary schools, as well as current Penglais students too. Do tune in and watch it if you can.

## Donation of equipment

We are very grateful to Ms Stephanie Dowse for the donation of an electric piano recently, as well as to Dr Debra Croft for the donation of music stands and instrumental books for string players. If anyone else has any instruments hidden in their attics, please get in touch!

## Congratulations

Congratulations to all Year 11 and Year 13 musicians for their hard work this year. The GCSE and A Level Music classes were the model of conscientiousness and diligence whilst working towards their Centre Assessed Grades this year. We are sure that your hard work will pay off with excellent results. Da iawn pawb!



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!](#)



# Fundraising

## Ms N. Williams cycles 100 miles for Dementia UK!

"During the month of June I took on the challenge of cycling 100 miles for Dementia UK. This charity is very close to my heart as my mum was diagnosed with this cruel illness during the first lockdown and has recently been admitted to Hafan y Waun care home. The last day of the challenge was a very emotional one to say the least. I was overwhelmed with the amount raised for the charity which came to £432." - Ms. N Williams



## Mr J Evans fundraising result for Cancer Research Wales

In May half term Mr Evans and two friends hiked cross country from Aberystwyth to Aberdare, walking 5 consecutive days and averaging around 17 miles per day, whilst carrying 12kg in their backpacks. They managed to raise £5,010 for Cancer Research Wales 'down to the kindness and generosity of the people who have donated and got behind us over the last few months - it really blew us away.' Congratulations!

## First Give programme

Year 8 students have been learning about the social issues in their local communities. They worked in groups within their tutor groups to research the charities. Then each tutor group voted for their favourite charity. The charities chosen were:

Care Society (8TAH), Care Society (8DLL), The Wallich (8EIE), Mind (8JJB), Tenovus (8SEV), Nibbles (8FLB).

After the charities were chosen, the groups started to work on their social action and presentations.

8SEV had a 'wear something red' day and sold wrist bands for their charity. The other tutor groups have been working with their charities to create their presentations. 8DLL and 8TAH had an online meeting, 8FLB have been emailing Nibbles and they have had gifts sent in the post, including rabbit's teeth!

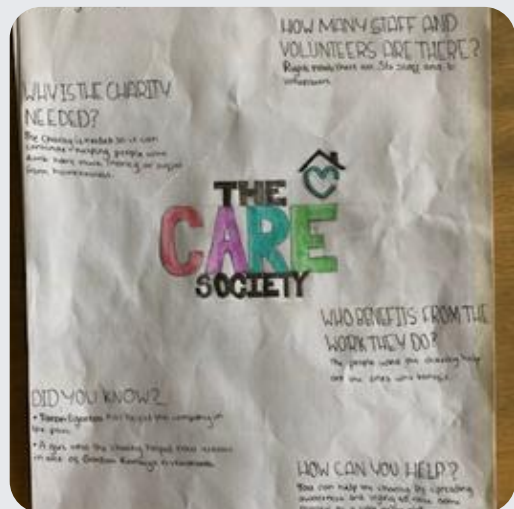
The deadline for the first version of the presentation was Wednesday 30th June and we



have received our first feedback from the First Give team. They are now working hard putting the finishing touches to their presentations for the First Give final. The deadline for this is the 12th July and the winners of the £1000 will be announced just before the summer holidays.



Pictures from 8SEV



Pictures from 8TAH