



## Headteacher's Message

It has been another interesting and challenging year at Penglais. Covid certainly hasn't disappeared, but we have succeeded in our aim of keeping the school open throughout the academic year. It has been challenging at times, particularly when there were high levels of staff and student absences due to Covid, however our community spirit and everyone pulling together allowed us to overcome such challenges.

We have seen the academic year fall back into its more normal rhythm. The exam season ran smoothly for the first time in three years and our students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 deserve a huge congratulations for succeeding in sitting their first set of external exams. We are very proud of the way they approached the exams and look forward to celebrating with them on the exam results days in August.

During the summer term we welcomed Estyn to the school. Eight inspectors spent a week in the school, observing 90% of lessons; talking to many students; meeting with parents and governors and meeting with many leaders, teachers and non-teaching staff in the school. They certainly managed to get a very full view of the school and the report will be published during the holidays. We will share the report with parents on return.

During the last half of the summer term, we re-introduced extra-curricular activities and clubs and it has been great to see students enjoying the extra parts of school that is so important for them and the school as a community. Sports Day on Monday was a huge success where nearly all students participated, whether in individual or team events, or in walking the Milo Mile. We have raised an amazing £459 from Milo's Mile which will be shared between Ty Hafan and our Learning Support Centre. Congratulations to all involved.

We will be saying a farewell to a few members of staff this year. Please see the end of term letter with further details. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be working with our staff, students, governors and parents again this year. Thank you all for your support. I hope that you will enjoy a good break over the summer holidays and we look forward to seeing you in September.

## Key Dates

- Thursday and Friday 1st & 2nd September - Inset Days
- **Monday 5th September - new term begins**
- September - Curriculum Evenings for Years 8 to 11
- September - Year 7 Meet the Form Tutor & Curriculum Evening
- October - Year 7 Parents Evening
- October - Open Evening (for Year 6 & Year 11 students)
- October - Year 11 Progress report 1
- October - Year 13 Progress report 1
- Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November - October Half term
- 7th November - Students return to school



# Year 8 - First Give Final

Year 8 had their First Give final yesterday and all did extremely well. The chosen students from the form groups had two sessions on public speaking with a coach and they worked extremely hard on their presentations. Some of them were very nervous before the event and did so well to speak in front of their year group, staff and the judging panel. It wasn't an easy task but they did brilliantly!

The charities represented were:

## **8DXJ- Bronglais Cancer Ward**

Tristan , Jack , Ioan , Jacob , Josh , Timi , Ciaran

## **8HFP- Hafal**

Harri , Freya P, Lucy R, Austin, Dylan

## **8JJR- Tenovus**

Josh, Harvey

## **8KDR- Latch**

George, Evan, Joe, Petey

The winning form that won £1000 towards their chosen charity were 8DXJ with the money going towards Bronglais Cancer Ward. The judges also decided that Josh and Harvey from 8JJR were exceptional and spoke very well with a great presentation that they had obviously put a lot of work into and they won a judges' recommendation for all their work.

Thank you again to all the students, form tutors, our panel of judges from the Sixth Form team and Mr Evans for making it possible to run this event. It has been great to see the students develop in confidence over the last few weeks. This was not an easy thing to do and they did it! Congratulations to them all.



# Sports News

## Basketball

Year 9 student Jac has been selected to captain the Wales U14 Wheelchair Basketball Team and will attend the Junior Championships this August in Worcester. He will play against England regions, Ireland and Scotland. Pob lwc, Jac!

Dan who has recently finished his GCSE's will be training with the Wales U16 Basketball team at Combine Academy this summer. Combine Academy is an International Boarding School and Professional Sports Performance Centre located in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. We hope Dan has a great experience at the academy.



## Summer Hockey Festival 2022

Students from years 8-10 attended a Mixed 7s Hockey Festival in May, which was the first of its kind in Ceredigion. Ceredigion Active have been working with Hockey Wales to attract more young players from both Primary and Secondary Schools to get involved and play more hockey. Penglais entered four teams and the day turned out to be very successful for all involved. Everyone gave maximum effort and had a tremendous amount of fun!



## Penglais Raptors Junior NBA Finals Day

Penglais School represented the Toronto Raptors at the Junior NBA Finals day after qualifying back in March. The team (pictured above right), consisting of Dhayne, Connor, Ben, Amelie, Kylan, Dominic, Olivia and Austin (all Year 7), won their quarter-final 14-13 versus the Minnesota Timberwolves. They then lost their Semi-Final to eventual champions the Charlotte Hornets (Cathays High School). This put the team into the 3rd place play-off and were cheered on by a loud section of fellow Penglais students brought down by Mrs Phillips with their good luck signs; they beat the San Antonio Spurs 15-14 to claim 3rd place overall in the whole of Wales.

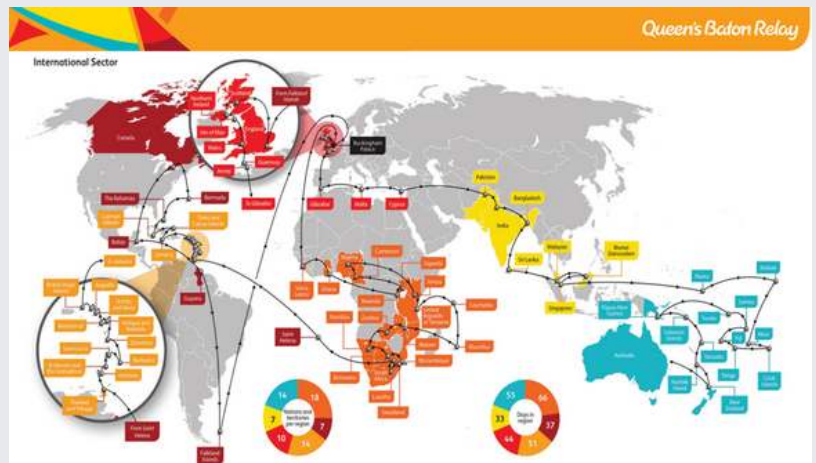
A superb achievement for the team who were all Year 7 with the competition being Year 7 and 8 combined. The whole side played amazingly throughout the tournament but a special mention for Dhayne, who won the Northern Conference Male MVP Award beating competition from 16 other schools.



# Sports News

Students from Penglais who have represented Wales in sporting events, were among 16 elite athletes chosen as baton bearers as it travelled through Wales and towards its final destination in Birmingham for the start of the Commonwealth Games in July. The baton arrived from Tywyn and was carried by the baton bearers in a relay from Plascrug Leisure Centre, through the town to the Vale of Rheidol Railway. The baton began its journey on October 7th 2021 with Her Majesty the Queen placing her message to the Commonwealth into the baton. The baton is now on its 269-day journey through the 72 Commonwealth nations, covering over 90,000 miles before returning to Birmingham for the start of the games on the 28th July. Our students taking part were Cameron, Jac, Kai, Alex, Daniel, Josh (Ex-Penglais), Órla and Ruadhán.

## Queen's Baton Relay: International Route



## Penglais School Sports Day - Milo's Mile

On the school's sports day this year, we organised a whole school sponsored walk 'Milo's mile' to honour the memory of Milo Drakeley. The whole school, including staff, took part in the event to raise money through sponsorship. The proceeds from the walk will be divided between the following two causes:

- **Ty Hafan** – one of the UK's leading paediatric palliative care charities which offers care to children and support for families through Wales.
- **The Learning Support Centre** at Penglais, so that a memorial bench can be purchased and dedicated in Milo's memory



# New Curriculum

## Building Knowledge



## Exploring Possibilities

All faculties have been working very hard this year to prepare for our new curriculum. The new curriculum will be trialled with year 7 from September 2022 and rolled out to year 7 & 8 in September 2023, and year 9 in September 2024. Faculties have been researching curriculum and assessment theory and practice, as well as exploring subject based pedagogy, in order to provide high quality learning experiences for all students.

### Four Core Purposes

At the heart of the new curriculum is the **Four Core Purposes**. Our curriculum will support all learners to become:

- Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives
- Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to take a full part in life and work
- Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as members of society
- Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to take part in Wales and the world

### Penglais Curriculum Pillars

Our **Penglais curriculum pillars** help us to make decisions about curriculum content and pedagogy and support all learners to achieve the four purposes.

#### Knowledge

- Planning for rigour in the subject content that is taught
- Ensuring all students have access to knowledge they may not receive at home
- Applying knowledge to real-life contexts
- Mastery (depth rather than breadth)
- Developing long term memory

#### Communication

- Promoting high levels of oracy across all subjects
- Making reading, subject vocabulary, written and oral presentations core to teaching, learning and assessment
- Reinforcing the importance of grammar in the learning of languages

#### Creative culture

- Problem-solving, including numeracy
- Digital competency
- Enterprise and innovation
- Out of the box thinking
- Performance and presentation

#### Wellbeing & positivity

- Building positive psychology across the school
- Building skills of resilience in students
- Developing emotional literacy
- Culture of success
- Teaching how to respond positively to success

#### Inclusivity

- High expectations for all
- Personalised learning and goal setting
- Embracing diversity
- Kindness and respect



# New Curriculum

## Curriculum developments in Faculties

Leaders and teachers in all faculties have embraced the opportunity provided by the new curriculum to research, trial and evaluate new approaches to teaching and learning in subject areas. The focus is on high quality learning experiences that enable all students to make very good progress to the point that they reach 'mastery' in a particular skill or topic within a subject.

Examples of this exciting curriculum development work are below:

Subject	Developments
<b>Design Technology</b>	Increase in practical experiences, skills and knowledge; students develop mastery and apply skills independently. Use of 'real life' design and make brief, set by a local company ( <a href="#">Barcud</a> ). Students involved in constructing assessment criteria.
<b>English</b>	Introduce new challenging novel to year 9 – 'Things Fall Apart' Chinua Achebe. Interdisciplinary links to Humanities. Final piece – tell a different story of Wales (building on the idea of the danger of a single story). Final piece – presented in an exhibition.
<b>Humanities (History &amp; Geography)</b>	Development of a joint themed enquiry 'Why do we live where we do?' Builds on concepts of 'Place' and 'Space'. Make purposeful links between the concepts taught in both subjects. Develops a fieldwork opportunity. Students produce a podcast and annotated sketch map to explain the development of Aberystwyth.
<b>Humanities (RE)</b>	Development of a reading programme of learning for faith into action using the story of Martin Luther King based on the text 'Free at Last'. Purposeful interdisciplinary links to English using reading, writing and <a href="#">oracy</a> strategies. Interdisciplinary links to concepts in social sciences.
<b>International Languages</b>	Research into local history/ geography – development of <a href="#">Cynefin</a> . Development of tourist leaflet to present information in the target language. Mediate conversation in the Aberystwyth tourist office using target language. Builds interdisciplinary links to Humanities. Develop poetry teaching & learning across French, Spanish and Mandarin.
<b>Maths</b>	Use of Cognitive Acceleration through Maths Education (CASE). Accelerate shift from concrete to abstract thinking in maths. Develops verbal reasoning and ability of students to express ideas concisely and logically. Writing assists thinking and is not an end in itself.

# Sixth Form News

## Lessons from Auschwitz – Ella in Year 12

At the start of 2022, myself and Oli were selected to take part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme. Over a series of three live sessions and some individual work, we learnt more about the Holocaust and how different the experience was for each person involved. In particular we focused on humanising the Holocaust through looking at 'the book of names', perpetrators, and individual stories. During the live sessions we were led in learning about these individual stories and even had the opportunity to listen to a live testimony from a survivor. The programme normally takes its participants out to visit Auschwitz, however we were not able to go because of covid. Despite this we were able to gain some understanding of what the camp is like now through a VR experience run in one of the live sessions. We then had the opportunity to complete a project based around what we had learnt. Oli and I wrote and published an article on the topic for the Sixth Sense (the sixth form creative arts magazine). This programme was deeply moving and taught us a lot about the importance of remembering history and is something we would both highly recommend to Year 12 next year.

## Former Ysgol Penglais Student - Grace

Grace's Mum wrote to us to inform us of Grace's recent success; she went to a ballet school in Birmingham and then onto London and is soon to graduate as a classical ballerina. Grace attended dance classes twice a week and when she was 16, she took extra ballet classes at the Art Centre to ensure her future success. Congratulations to Grace, we wish her well in her future career.



## Year 11 Taster Days

At the start of July, the Sixth Form welcomed the current Year 11's up for taster days in the Sixth Form Centre and the prefect team had the opportunity to spend some of the morning talking with them in a 'subject dos and don'ts' style session. The prefect team sat at different subject tables with posters and advice to give out, and the Year 11s had the opportunity to come and talk to us, either to help them decide between their subject choices or to have their questions answered about what it would be like studying them at A level. We had general advice such as 'do your homework on time!' and 'revise!' to more specific information such as helpful websites for certain subjects. It was lovely to meet the future Year 12 and we can't wait to welcome them back in September!

## Ella - Year 12



# Languages

## **Mandarin: Penglais showcase the Confucius classroom.**

The Confucius Classrooms are hubs radiating out across a local authority, based in schools and serving the local community. The hub concept promotes joint planning of cultural activities, sharing ideas and resources to stimulate the learning and teaching of Chinese language and culture. We are lucky in Penglais to have a native Chinese teacher who has joined us to support Mrs Huws in her Mandarin lessons. During the week 4-8 July, Penglais was chosen by Lampeter University to showcase the excellent work that we do. This involved video lessons; the use of new and exciting resources and a big Chinese lunch to finish. The students learned all about Chinese dining etiquette and cuisine. Delicious!

## **Kronburg Exchange**

Did you know that each year in Penglais we have students who study German at our German lunchtime language club? This year we have had students sit GCSE and AS German exams. In order to support these students and the exchange programme between Aberystwyth and Kronburg, we have welcomed German students and teachers for the last part of our term. This is a great opportunity to support community languages and make connections with European countries. This exchange programme started in 1980 and it has been a great experience for our host families. The itinerary included lessons at Penglais; day trips to local areas of interest; dolphin watching and meeting our town Mayor Councillor Talat Chaudhri.

## **MFL Mentoring project**

We have completed another year of our student mentoring project and many of our Year 9 students have thoroughly enjoyed working with students from the University of Wales Cardiff. Penglais students have worked on language projects which make links between language skills and employability. This year they have mainly worked with engineering students in their final year at University.





# Welsh Department

## Ambell beth i'ch helpu gyda'r Gymraeg dros y gwyliau. Some help with your Welsh over the holidays.

Gwyliwch. Gwrandewch. Darllenwch. Ymchwiliwch. Siaradwch. Mwynhewch. Watch. Listen. Read. Research. Speak. Enjoy.

Hafan | S4C [www.bbc.co.uk/cymrufyw](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cymrufyw) [www.golwg.360.cymru](http://www.golwg.360.cymru) Radio Cymru - Listen Live - BBC Sounds

Mae gan yr Urdd gylchgronau gwahanol ar gyfer pobl ifanc sy'n helpu gyda dysgu Cymraeg. Dilynwch y linc yma i ddarllen y rhifyn diweddaraf. Would you like some help with Welsh? The Urdd publishes monthly magazines for young people to help with the language. Follow this link to read the latest version. Cylchgronau'r Urdd

## Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru



Mae'n siŵr eich bod chi wedi sylwi ar yr arwyddion a'r bynting lliwgar o gwmpas yr ardal yn ddiweddar achos mae'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol - o'r diwedd - yn dod i Geredigion! Mae'r Eisteddfod yn ddathliad o ddiwylliant a chelfyddyd yng Nghymru ac yn denu miloedd o ymwelwyr yn flynyddol.

The Eisteddfod is a national celebration of culture and arts which attracts thousands of visitors every year. You will probably have seen various bunting and signs that have appeared across the county recently, all in celebration of the Eisteddfod's visit to Ceredigion.

Mae'r Eisteddfod yn cael ei chynnal mewn gwahanol lefydd ar draws Cymru bob blwyddyn ac mae yna lawer iawn o wahanol gystadlaethau a gweithgareddau yn digwydd ar draws y maes drwy'r wythnos. Yn ogystal â'r cystadlu yn y pafiliwn, bydd gwahanol weithgareddau, arddangosfeydd, cyngherddau a gigs amrywiol yn digwydd drwy gydol yr wythnos. Mae'r paratodau wedi hen ddechrau yn Nhregaron felly ewch draw am ddiwrnod, fe fydd yna rywbeth i bawb!

Finally, the National Eisteddfod of Wales has arrived in Ceredigion and will be held in Tregaron starting on the 30th of July. As well as the singing, recitation, dancing and drama competitions, there will be a huge variety of concerts and shows throughout the week. The preparations are well under way with the construction of the maes in full swing. An excellent day out for all of the family, all right on your doorstep!

Ewch i / Visit Eisteddfod 2022 | Eisteddfod Genedlaethol am fwy o wybodaeth / for more information and tickets.

## Geirfa

maes - the field

cadeirio - chairing

diwylliant - culture

seremoni - ceremony

bardd - bard

pafiliwn - pavillion

coroni - crowning

archdderwydd - archdruid

iaith - language

Dymuna bawb yn yr Adran Gymraeg wyliau Haf hapus iawn i chi i gyd. Gobeithio y cewch chi amser da a llawer o hwyl a joi. Edrychwn ymlaen at weld pawb yn ôl ym Mhenglais ym mis Medi.

The Welsh Department would like to wish you all a very happy Summer holiday. We hope you have a lovely time and lots of fun. We look forward to seeing everyone back in Penglais in September.

Hwyl fawr

# Eisteddfod yr Urdd

## Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd

Cynhaliwyd Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd eleni yn Sir Ddinbych. Llongyfarchiadau mawr i'r canlynol ar eu llwyddiant.



Llefaru Unigol i ddysgwyr blwyddyn 7 – 9: Drizzle – 2il

Unawd allan o Sioe Gerdd blwyddyn 10 a than 19 oed: Cyrhaeddodd Heledd Davies y rownd derfynol a pherfformio'n arbennig iawn mewn cystadleuaeth o safon uchel

A huge congratulations to the students who represented the school at the Urdd National Eisteddfod which was held in Denbighshire this year.

## Ymaelodi – Becoming an Urdd member

Fis Medi fe fydd cyfle arall i ddod yn aelod o'r Urdd. Os ydych chi am gystadlu yn yr Eisteddfod, naill ai fel unigolyn neu fel rhan o gôr neu grŵp, cystadlu yn y Gala Nofio, Gymnasteg neu yn un o'r twrnameint pêl-droed neu rygbi, bydd angen i chi fod yn aelod o'r Urdd ar gyfer 2022-23. Mae'r Urdd hefyd yn trefnu tripiâu cyffrous i weld sioeau cerdd, gemau pêl-droed a rygbi cenedlaethol a llawer mwy.

If you want to be a member of the Urdd for 2022-23, look out for membership letters and information at the beginning of October. There will be lots of opportunities to take part in the Eisteddfod, sporting events and a variety of trips and clubs throughout the year. Look out for more information from early October.

## Gweithgareddau Haf / Activities during Summer holidays

Mae'r Urdd yn cynnig amrywiaeth eang o weithgareddau i bobl ifanc yn ystod y gwyliau Haf. Ewch i wefan yr Urdd am fwy o wybodaeth a manylion am sut i gadw lle ar y gwahanol gysiau a gweithgareddau.

The Urdd offer a wide range of activities for young people over the Summer holidays. Go to the Urdd website for more information and details of how to book your place on the various courses and activities.

# Student Leadership Team News

## Penglais Student Charter – Sabrina and Lexie, Yr 12

We have been working on a Penglais Student Charter alongside the Student Leadership Team (StLT). Primarily, we wanted to make the Equality and Diversity Policy something accessible and tangible to Penglais students in all years, by allowing them to work towards particular 'values' that they understand and appreciate. So, on top of the Penglais School Values that we already have, we have collaborated with students to establish three key values, and what they mean, for us to implement into Penglais life. This is known as the Penglais Student Charter.

To ensure that students would be willing to work towards promoting equality and equity in the school environment, the StLT worked on creating a list of words as a starting point for particular 'values' that the students are most passionate about. We then created and sent out a PowerPoint to form groups in all the years, where students voted for their top three values that they wanted to see in the Charter.

After looking at the results, the StLT found that the three top values that students felt should define us, were knowledge, equality, and respect. To develop these values further, we wanted to elaborate on what exactly these values meant for the student body, so that they understand exactly what the school community wants to work towards. So, the StLT again worked together to create five key bullet points of what 'we value' from that key word. We then sent this out to the year groups, who gave feedback on what they wanted to see added or changed from the bullet points.

This is now our Student Charter. These are our values for knowledge. It considers our privilege to be educated, learning about diversity, and learning in a considerate and equal working environment suited to our needs. These are our values for equality. Students were considerate of both equality in the classroom and equality in the corridors, in our language and how we behave. And these are our values for respect. Respect, for students, comes in the form of listening respectfully, acting respectfully, and being able to express ourselves with other people's respect.

The final values reveal exactly how the students feel the school should be like in terms of equality and diversity. For example, it was interesting to see how knowledge was a popular value, and how students considered their privilege to be educated, both academically and about other cultures of students. It was also important for students to see that the process of promoting equality and showing respect did not just occur in the classroom, but also in the wider school environment – in our language and behaviour to one another.

The next step for the Student Charter is to implement its values into school life, to improve student behaviour in line with our Policy. Firstly, the Student Leadership Team will work to formally introduce the Charter to staff and students by September – this has already begun with assemblies to year groups to explain the work we have done through the Policy. We also plan to put the Charter on posters to put around the school and the website, and have already considered some student-friendly prototypes.

Then, we aim to implement discussion and activities surrounding the Charter values within form groups. This might start with members of the Student Leadership Team going around forms, and starting conversations about the different values. Hopefully then, the Charter will become a regular part of form time discussion – this will increase the awareness of students of the importance of equality, equity and diversity in Penglais.

# Student Leadership Team News

## A message from Maxita, former Head Girl to all Penglais Students

My name is Maxita, and I have been your Head Girl over the past school year, alongside Michael who was Head Boy. We have both enjoyed leading the Student Leadership Team, or StLT, alongside Mrs Porter working with pupils from across the year groups to improve the school. In this article, we'll be giving you an overview of what the StLT has achieved over the school year, and with the help of Sabrina and Lexie, will be revealing the new student charter and explaining what it's about.

At the beginning of the year, one of our goals was to spread out the leadership throughout the StLT. We were aware of a certain 'type' of student that often-become representatives, which could stop us from making decisions that would benefit all the students in school. You may remember that we were looking for new form reps and year reps, and with your help, alongside form teachers and heads of year, we were able to carry out a selection process which achieved more accurate representation in the StLT, with pupils from a range of academic and personal backgrounds. This meant that the StLT could address the issues that mattered to you and represent your views, no matter who you were.

For example, your year reps have discussed areas for improvement in school, such as provision for mental health, as well as issues, such as behaviour on buses or the PE changing rooms. These issues were raised with the appropriate teachers, and have been resolved, or will be another area for the StLT to investigate in the next school year.

Over the year, the school has held two extremely successful fundraisers. In the autumn term, an own clothes day was held, in which £885 was raised thanks to your efforts. This was split between the BBC Children in Need appeal which received £535, and Mind Aberystwyth which received £350, with the donations being put towards services for young people. In the spring term, another fundraiser was held in response to the War in Ukraine, and thanks to the swift work of the StLT, a range of fundraising activities were held, such as cake sales and competitions. These allowed the school to raise £880.

After Christmas, one of our main goals was to help change and improve the Equality and Diversity policy. This is a policy that is in place to help students feel safer by combatting discrimination in school, helping us achieve equality. During the spring and summer term, we have worked with students such as yourselves to come up with a student motto, and a student charter. We asked your form groups to come up with three words which you felt were important in tackling discrimination and harmful behaviour, which were then combined by the StLT to form the student values. Furthermore, our year 12 reps worked on the policy with the Equality and Diversity working group, communicating between the governors and SLT, and helping to develop the charter.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the form reps and year reps for your hard work this year, as well as the Sixth Form prefect team; you've shown great amounts of maturity in your work this year. I'd also like to thank all pupils for working with your form and year reps to help the StLT improve your school experience, we can't do it without your help! In addition, I'd like to thank all the teachers in the school who have helped the StLT this year.

In the next school year, the StLT will be led by the next head boy and head girl, who will be selected from the current year 12. They will be continuing the work of the StLT: working on school improvements, carrying out fundraisers, and continuing to implement the student charter. Make sure you get just as involved as you did this year, may even more, so that you can improve the school experiences for yourselves and those around you. Thank you for reading and I hope you all have a good summer holiday.



# Science & Digital Competency News

## **Biology department**

Year 12 Biology students had the opportunity to enter the UK Intermediate Biology Olympiad, where they competed against students from schools all over Britain to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of Biology.

Congratulations to Matthew Joseph, Seren Overton Jones, and Austin Thomas who gained silver awards, Luke Lewis-Wakelin and Marcie Neal who were awarded bronze, Ifan Blake, Amber Bowen, Noah Maylor, Daniel Van-Vlezen who were highly commended and Bruce Ferguson Payne, Charley Gamzatova, Salma Mohamed and Hannah Williams who were commended.

Year 12 students also visited castle rocks to survey the distribution of different seaweed species as part of their A level Population Size and Ecosystems module.

## **Biodiversity survey following No Mow May**

As part of their Biodiversity and Classification module, Year 9 and 10 Biology GCSE students surveyed the flowering plants growing in the Penglais grounds in May and June. We used the iNaturalist app along with guidebooks to identify over twenty different species, many of them wild, providing a habitat for bees, butterflies and other insects.

## **ICT**

Swansea University staff visited Penglais recently to run a Welsh Government funded Technocamp for year 10 ICT students. The workshop was a fantastic introduction to web design coding and the students' feedback was very positive – they have gained very valuable skills.

# EAL News

## **German Exchange**

The German exchange students invited EAL students to join them on their tour of the National Library last Thursday 7th July. A great time was had by all!



# Year 11 Leavers

On Friday the 24th of June we held the Year 11 leavers event, which was the first leavers we have been able to have since 2019 and it was great to see so many year 11 students come together to celebrate their time at Penglais.

The evening was held at Penrhyncoch football club. Students arrived at 6.30pm looking fabulous and they all enjoyed a fantastic buffet. This was followed by speeches from the staff and the much anticipated student awards. The tables were then cleared to make space for the dance floor with two hours of dancing wrapping up the evening. The students didn't stop dancing all night and it was lovely to see them having so much fun with their friends after a busy exam season.

As the Head of Year, I was so proud to see how far these young people have come during their time at Penglais, they have been a fantastic year group who have coped so well with the many difficulties that have come their way since 2020. The evening was a perfect celebration of their time in school and I am so glad we were able to put this event on for them.

I would like to thank Penrhyncoch football club for their hospitality; the food was lovely and the staff were so helpful in the run up to the event and on the evening. It made the whole event run smoothly and made my job much easier.

Finally, I would like to wish all of year 11 well for the future, I know I will see many of you around in the 6th form, but for those leaving please do keep in touch and let me know how you are getting on.

**Mrs Johnson**





# HRC News



## Hearing Resource Centre students take part in work experience with the National Trust

Students from HRC have been taking part in work experience at Llanerchaeron National Trust over the Summer term. Skylinn, Kiki and Tino have spent time working in the impressive Georgian house, helping to clean and maintain items within the house and also helping to restore the cobbled courtyard outside. They have also worked in the walled gardens, helping staff to weed and water plants, rake pathways and use flowers cut from the walled garden to make flower arrangements for the house. They have particularly enjoyed helping the NT staff and talking with visitors and explaining what they are doing.



# HRC News

## Hearing Resource Centre have a Picnic as part of Life Skills at the DASH Bungalow

Students from the HRC completed their ASDAN Module in 'Cooking on a Budget' by holding a Picnic for friends and staff at the DASH Bungalow in Llanilar in June. They have been growing their own vegetables as part of their ASDAN Gardening course and used many of their home grown produce to prepare and make food for the day.

Students had to plan the picnic by choosing recipes, buying ingredients within a budget and then cooking the food for the day. This module brought in opportunities to learn budgeting skills, consider pricing and special offers in different shops and also cooking economically and reducing food waste. The day was a huge success and testament to the hard work that all pupils have put in to their life skills learning.



# Parent Information

### Polite Notice

Please could we remind parents/guardians to regularly check your child's account on ParentPay to ensure there are sufficient funds to purchase food from the canteen. This will allow students to be served quickly and to avoid unnecessary delays at the tills. Your ParentPay account will also allow you to see what your child has purchased from the canteen on a daily basis.



# HRC News

## HRC pupils volunteer at the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay

Students from the Hearing Resource Centre volunteered to marshal at the Queen's Baton Relay as it travelled through Aberystwyth on its way through Wales to the final destination in Birmingham for the start of the Commonwealth Games in July.

Pupils were asked to marshal along the route to ensure the route was kept clear for the baton bearers and to provide information about the route to local residents and onlookers.



## Hafwen and Tirion represent St. John's Cadets at the Annual Investiture in Cardiff

Sisters, Hafwen and Tirion took part in the St. John's Ambulance Annual Investiture Service held in Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff in June. Hafwen and Tirion are long-standing members of St. John's Cadets in Aberystwyth, where Hafwen also volunteers with the Badgers group of cadets for younger members. They were invited to take part in the service where Hafwen carried the Bailiff's Grand Cross of the Prior and Tirion was the Guard of Honour and Coin collector for this service. It was a fantastic honour for these two young members to represent St. John's Ambulance



## Hafwen completes Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Hafwen has recently completed her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award with the St. John's Ambulance Cadets. She was one of a number of cadets who completed both their Bronze and Silver expeditions in Newport, Pembrokeshire during the Spring. Cadets walked for 10 miles each day carrying their expedition gear and using maps to follow routes.

Hafwen reports "I had to walk about 25,000 steps each day and climb over 350m above sea level. We also had to walk through difficult terrain and calculate our distances and use compass to find hidden objects. When we were back at camp, we cooked a hot meal and set up the tents. It was difficult but good fun." Hafwen completed her Skills and Volunteering sections of her Bronze Award by attending Karate and by teaching BSL to pupils and staff in Penglais School. Hafwen is now concentrating on completing her Silver Award soon.

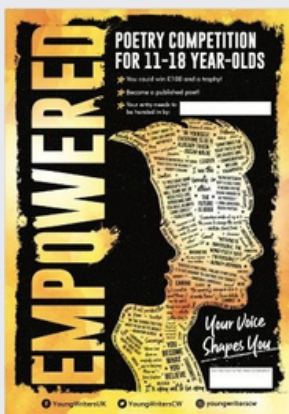
# Library News

## Penglais Readers

Penglais Readers is the school's recently formed book group. Set up in the spring term, Penglais Readers has approximately 50 members all of whom are keen book lovers. The group meets with the Librarian on a weekly basis to engage in all book-related activities including book discussions; book reviews; creating bookmarks; planning events; designing and making Library displays and promoting the love of reading throughout the school. #PenglaisReaders #WeAreReaders



Penglais Readers book group held their first Library event in June, the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. The lunchtime event was hugely popular with tickets being snapped up. Students enjoyed Flamingo Croquet, Pin the Grin on the Cheshire Cat, Queen of Hearts Card Game and more, all followed by jam tarts. We look forward to the next event that Penglais Readers plan.



Congratulations to Year 9 student Eowyn who was recognised for her writing talent after she entered a poetry competition with Young Writers. Eowyn was presented with a certificate and has the opportunity for her poem to be published in the Empowered Poetry Collection from the Young Writers. Well done Eowyn and keep up the good work!



With the summer here and long days of sunshine ahead make sure you keep yourself occupied with the ePlatform app, available to all students for free. Students can access a huge number of eBooks and audio books to take with them anywhere.



# Library News

If you take the opportunity over the summer to have a sort out then remember that you can donate any unwanted books to our school library. Please ensure they are suitable and in good condition. Many thanks!



Please nominate our Library at [www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools](http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools) for a chance for our Library to win £1,000.

If you fancy a reading challenge over the summer or need some reading tips then please see below. Remember to see the Librarian in September and let her know how many you have ticked off!

