



Headteacher's Message

The newsletter is once again a reminder of the busyness of a school term and the delight we have had this term in re-engaging with activities after the Covid years. The sporting fixtures have started in earnest and the PE department should be very proud of their students' footballing abilities in particular, with three out of 5 of the age groups ending the term as Ceredigion Champions and another year group reaching the final. Clearly, there is young football talent coming through which will be much needed by Wales in future years!

We did celebrate Wales being in the World Cup for the first time in over 70 years and it was wonderful to see each year group together watching the game. These community events are important in bringing the school together and in celebrating the Welsh ethos within the school.

This term we have also launched Penglais as a Reading School. All Year 7 tutor groups have been reading Chinese Cinderella during their tutor time this term. I have had the privilege of visiting every tutor group as a guest reader at least once over the term and it has been lovely to hear from the students how much they have enjoyed reading the book together. They have worked with Mrs Davies, Head of English, to choose their next book and will read that next term. It greatly contributes to students' wellbeing as well as supporting them in improving their literacy.

One of the highlights for me this half term was the 'Jolabokafloed' during their wellbeing lessons. Mrs Liz Kennedy, using money from the Welsh Government and the Books Council of Wales, bought 890 books so that every student in Years 7 - 11 could choose a book to keep. Please read more about this on page 9 of the newsletter.

Another highlight this term was the opening of the LSC building. Canolfan Ni, as it will now be called, will be opened officially in January, but it was a pleasure to be shown around the new building by one of the students. They are clearly very happy to be there and proud of the new space that they have.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy new year.

Key Dates

- Christmas Break 23rd December - 6th January
- Start of spring term Monday 9th January
- Year 9 Options Evening Thursday 19th January
- 6th Form Open Evening Thursday 26th January
- Year 11 Progress Report January
- Year 11 Parents Evening Thursday 2nd February
- Year 9 Parents Evening Thursday 9th February
- Year 9 Options Deadline Thursday 16th February
- Year 10 Progress Report February
- Half Term - Mon 20th February - Fri 24th February



Sports News

World Cup Festival!

To celebrate Wales taking part in the World Cup, students, took part in a fun 5 a-side tournament throughout the week and were allocated a Country. The event brought each year group together, helping the school in promoting the Welsh language, heritage, culture and ethos.

Results:

Year 7 Winners: Boys - Germany Girls - Germany

Year 8 Winners: Boys - Wales Girls: Brazil

Year 9 Winners: Boys - Brazil Girls: Argentina

Welsh Cup Football Competition

The Ceredigion league is now complete and the winners from each age group will now go on to play in the National rounds starting in January.

U18 Boys won against Aberaeron 4-0 at home in Park Avenue and are now Ceredigion Champions.

U15 Boys lost 2-1 away to Bro Teifi in the Ceredigion Final

U14 Boys lost 5-0 at home against Lampeter

U13 boys won 4-1 against Penweddig, Liam Lawrence scoring all 4 goals to become Ceredigion Champions.

U12 boys won 2-0 against Bro Teifi away and are also Ceredigion Champions.

We wish the teams every success in the next round.

Ceredigion Netball Tournament

On Tuesday 13th December the Year 10 netball team took part in the county under 16 tournament. School from across the county attended and they were split into two pools for the first round of matches. Penglais won all of their matches in their pool which saw them through to the semi-final. The semi-final was a close fought match between Newcastle Emlyn, but we managed to get the win and progress into the final. For the final game we were up against Aberteifi and at full time the two teams were drawing 7-7, this meant they had to play extra time to decide the winner. Unfortunately, after extra time Penglais were down by one goal which saw Aberteifi crowned the overall winners. The team did exceptionally well to get to the final as they were playing against teams a year older than them, I am confident that we will return next year and do even better. I have been so impressed with their hard work and dedication this year, they turn up to training every week and always work hard to be the best they can be. Well done to all of the team.

Mrs S Johnson Year 10 Year Leader and PE teacher



Pictured to the left are the Under 16's Netball Team

In the U18 category, the team were equal on points following a round robin competition, winning three of their matches and drawing 3-3 against Bro Pedr school in Lampeter. The team narrowly lost a place on goal difference to represent Ceredigion against the Southern Counties. U18 players: Cerys (Captain), Anna, Yasmin, Rachel, Elan, Ella, Millie, Karen.

Sixth Form News

Remembrance Day

Austin and Ella, Sixth Form Head Students read the list of the fallen in the First World war while different organisations were laying their wreaths. There were students from Penglais in many of the organisations from St John Ambulance, Army cadets, Sea cadets, Air cadets, Guides and Scouts.



Continuing UCAS successes for Year 13 students.

Year 13 students continue to be very successful with their UCAS applications. 38 students have submitted their applications so far, with another 20 or so to submit before Christmas. We have been absolutely delighted with the number and range of offers that students have already received, and we are very proud of all of them. 30 students have received a total of 81 offers from 40 excellent UK universities. 5 students have been called for interviews for Oxford and Cambridge, 2 for vocational programmes in midwifery, and radiography, and a further 3 students have received unconditional offers. One unconditional offer reads as follows: 'We are delighted to inform you that you have been selected for the University Guaranteed Places Programme based on the high quality of your application and the additional information you provided; particularly your excellent references and personal statement. Our programme seeks to identify applicants who we feel would excel and make a significant contribution to our academic community.' Students have had offers for a range of subjects including, Medicine, History, PPE, Physics, Aeronautical Engineering, Dentistry, Fashion Buying, Astrophysics, Geography, English Literature, Midwifery, Business and Entrepreneurship, Criminology, and Law. 4 students have already received offers from all their university choices, while others have had up to four out of five. Students have had offers from 14 different Russell Group Universities including 6 offers from Bristol and 6 from York. Our students continue to do very well, and, in order to build on this success, we are encouraging all the remaining year 13 students to get their applications under way as soon as possible.

Mr Nick Strong - UCAS Applications Advisor and Sixth Form Learning Coach

Science News

Biology

The Biology department hosted two special guests in November – an armadillo and a tenrec. They were brought in by our Biology supply teacher, Mr. Farmer, who looks after unwanted zoo animals and exotic pets.

Mr. Farmer's students were very excited to see the animals up close, and word soon spread with other students and teachers rushing to see them at break and lunch. Some students were able to watch the armadillo having her lunch and walking around the classroom. Armadillos are nocturnal so she went back to sleep soon after her meal, enabling us to admire the amazingly snug way she could roll up into a ball, totally encased in her armour of bony plates. The tenrec was much more active, sniffing out the new smells in the classroom.

Students asked lots of questions and then did some further internet research about the animals, their adaptations and their habitats. They found out that the species are insectivorous and the armadillo's armour and the tenrec's spines are protection from predators. Wild tenrecs live in a habitat called spiny forest in Madagascar, a lot of which is sadly being destroyed for agriculture, while wild armadillos live in south America and are under threat from habitat loss and hunting by humans.

We are very grateful to Mr. Farmer for giving us the opportunity to see these amazing animals and learn more about them.



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.

LSC News

It's been a busy term for everyone in the LSC we have now moved into our brand-new building and will now be known as Canolfan Ni. The students are settling in well and really enjoying the new space.

Children in Need was celebrated with students wearing their own clothes, as you can see there were some great Pudsey outfits!



Canolfan Ni were very lucky to be invited to the Aberystwyth fun fair. A fantastic afternoon was had by all as it was great to see all the students enjoying the rides.



The 12th December saw the students attend a sports festival at the University Sport Cage to take part in a sports festival organised by Chwarae I Bawb/Play For All. All students took part in a range of games and challenges with students from Penweddig school. Extra points went to Henry who managed to hit the camerawoman with a very well-placed football!



LSC News

Our new interactive projector has arrived we will be using the projector in lessons and well-being sessions. Some students kindly helped us with our training, they enjoyed making ripples in the water (by tapping the mat) and making the fish swim away. The projector will provide so many opportunities for kinaesthetic learning.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i bawb.



ALN News

UPDATE ON LSC

We have opened the new Learning Support Centre. For years the Learning Support Centre has been known fondly as the LSC. However, we are having a name change and we are very pleased to be able to share with you the new name of the resource base – **Canolfan Ni**

We will be having our official opening in the New Year, once all of our students and staff are settled in to the new building. We are looking forward to inviting you all to visit the new resource centre in 2023!

Aber Instruments Ltd Donations for our Young Carers

We would like to send a huge THANK YOU to Aber Instruments Ltd who, once again, have very kindly donated vouchers for our Young Carers. Pictured receiving the vouchers from Ms Christina Evans, Aber Instruments Ltd, are Kelly Harper the ALN interventions manager and Branwen, our Key Stage 4 Young Carer Ambassador. Aber Instruments Ltd involvement in supporting our Young Carers has been long standing and we are really grateful for their support.



Maths News

Mathematical Olympiad for Girls

Mathematical Olympiad for girls is run by UKMT trust to encourage girls to tackle advanced mathematical problems. It is aimed at girls in Years 12 and 13 across the UK and consists of five challenging problems. It is a 2.5 hours competition consists of five interesting and challenging Maths problems.

This year Kemi, Lexie, Somachi and Anna from the Further Maths classes took part in the challenge. Everyone has performed very well and Kemi has secured herself a Merit certificate.

Senior Maths Challenge 2022 Result

This year Senior Maths Challenge was held on 4th October in UK. 48 students from year 12 and year 13 took part in the challenge and 26 have been awarded a gold, silver or bronze certificate.

UKMT Maths challenges are run by university of Leeds to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thoughts and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Certificates are awarded to the highest scoring 40% of the candidates (Gold : Silver : Bronze = 1:2:3)

Austin (year 13) has done exceptionally well and gained an automatic entry to the follow-on round of Senior Kangaroo.

Congratulations to all the pupils for the success.

YEAR 13

Gold and Merit in Senior Kangaroo awarded to Austin.

Silver awarded to Hamzah, Caleb, Millie, Matthew, Matteo, Noah, Kemi.

Bronze awarded to Siddhant, Annest, Joshua, Dylan, Salma, Lexie, Kachi, Sohaib and Jamie.

YEAR 12

Silver awarded to Oscar (best in Year), Charlie, Anna, Luca and Hannah.

Caleb, Millie, Matthew, Matteo, Noah, Kemi.

Bronze awarded to Dan, Ryan, Anushka and Angel.



Austin with his certificates

EAL News

On a beautiful, frosty December morning, six EAL students and Miss Erica set out from school to walk to Sophie's cafe in town where some new flavours were tasted, although not all were met with approval! We pulled Christmas crackers to get into the festive spirit and then admired the stunning views on our return walk back up the steep hill to school. We all agreed that we are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful place and the EAL department would like to wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break.



Library News

The Welsh Government, working with the Books Council of Wales, has provided funding for all students between the ages of 3-16 years in Wales to receive a book of their own.

Penglais School Library decided to turn this into our very own Jolabokafloð. This is an Icelandic tradition which roughly translates to "Christmas book flood", which involves the giving and receiving of books on Christmas Eve. It is tradition to then settle in for the night with your new book and mug of hot chocolate.

Our Librarian has personally chosen the range of book choices for KS3 and KS4 students to ensure a wide ranging and suitable selection.

Students were able to choose their preferred book and also received a luxury hot chocolate sachet, Christmas bookmark and a special Jolabokafloð puzzle booklet.

Castell Howell very kindly donated luxury hot chocolate sachets for all of the students to receive. Bookers of Aberystwyth also kindly donated 24 boxes of chocolates. Thank you for these kind donations which added the extra special touch to our event.

The Christmas bookflood has been fully embraced and appreciated by all of our students, and by the end of the event approximately 860 students will have received a new book in time for Christmas!

#GivetheGiftofReading
#PenglaisReaders



With the winter months approaching and the long, dark nights closing in, 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.

<https://www.eplatform.co/gb/find-libraries/>

Do you have any card or board games sat at home gathering dust?

Penglais School Library would be extremely grateful to receive any quiet card or board games which you no longer use.

Good quality teenage book donations are also always gratefully received.

For further information please email E.Kennedy@penglais.org.uk



World Cup in School



Year 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10



Year 11

Parent Information

There has recently been a significant increase in the number of calls and answerphone messages we receive from parents/guardians asking us to pass messages on to their children during the school day. This is problematic because it causes disruption to the teaching and learning in the classroom; it takes time from our administration staff and we cannot always guarantee that messages will get through to students.

Can we please ask that parents/guardians make arrangements for after school with their children directly prior to the start of the school day. We will not be able to pass messages on to children during the day.

A number of students are also messaging their parents directly to ask to be collected from school as they are unwell. We ask that parents that receive a message from their child to contact the school attendance to ask if the child has been to report being unwell as any non-attendance must be recorded correctly.