



## Headteacher's Message

The Spring term is always a busy, academically focused half term and this has been no different. The students in their exam years are busy with coursework and starting to consider their next steps. Most of our Year 13 students have applied for University and have started to receive many offers. We were very happy to hear that two of our students, Sabrina and Tania, have received offers to study History and PPE at Oxford, and many others have received good offers to their universities of choice. Thank you to Mrs Elgood and the Sixth Form team in their relentless support in ensuring that students were able to meet the UCAS deadline.

We held two successful evenings for students and parents/guardians. The Year 9 Options Evening was very well attended with a packed hall listening to advice about the option process and then an opportunity for students and families to visit subject areas to hear what they could offer. Year 9 students have been considering and pondering options before they handed their choices in this week.

The 6th Form Open Evening was another very successful event where we welcomed students and parents/guardians from the current Year 11 as well as many students from other schools. Another packed hall, with standing room only, listened to Mrs Elgood and our Head Students talk passionately about what Penglais 6th Form has to offer our students. This again was followed by an opportunity for students to talk to current 6th form students and subject leaders about the subjects that they are interested in studying. We hope that the two evenings supported the students in their difficult decision-making process.

Our Year 7 students received their first progress report at Penglais. This is new for us this year as we have introduced the new curriculum with its new assessment procedures and therefore a very different looking report. We held a webinar in January to explain the report to parents/guardians and this webinar is now on the website for parents/guardians to access should they need further explanation of the report.

As you'll see from the rest of the newsletter, it has been a busy half term in many other ways and I hope that students and staff will now take a good break over the next week. I wish everyone a restful half term break and look forward to seeing everyone return on Monday 27th February.

## Key Dates

- |                                    |                                 |                             |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • All students return to school    | 27th February ( <b>Week 1</b> ) | • Year 11 Progress report 3 | March 2023                      |
| • Year 12 Parents Evening (Hybrid) | Thursday 9th March              | • Year 13 Progress report 3 | March 2023                      |
| • Year 8 Progress report 2         | March 2023                      | • Year 8 Parents Evening    | Thursday 23rd March (In person) |
| • Year 9 Progress report 2         | March 2023                      | • Year 9 exams              | 27th March to 1st April         |
|                                    |                                 | • Year 7 Progress report 2  | April 2023                      |



# Sports News

## **AFC FOUNDATION FOOTBALL WORKSHOP**

All students in year 7 took part in a free football taster session run by Swansea City AFC Foundation on Friday 27th Jan. All students engaged well in small-sided games, and fun was had by all!

Swansea City AFC Foundation run popular FREE Premier League Kicks sessions at Aberystwyth Town 3G pitch every Friday (except school holidays) from 5-6 pm for boys & girls aged 12-18 (Secondary school years 7-12)

They also offer young people opportunities to:

- Represent Swansea City in local and national competitions, including the annual Premier League Kicks Cup
- Attend workshops by addressing Societal challenges including topics from youth violence and knife crime to equality and inclusion
- Take part in social action projects, which provide young people the opportunity to give something back to their community
- Become an ambassador or volunteer for the Foundation
- Join their Youth Voice group

If your child would like to attend the sessions at Park Avenue, please sign up for 2022/23 here - <https://form.jotform.com/SwansFdnKicks/Home>

## **Welsh Cup Football**

In the final 16 of the Cup, Year 7 showed amazing heart and resilience to fight back from 4-1 down to draw 4-4 with Welshpool, but unfortunately lost the game 5-4 on penalties.

The Year 8 boys football successfully overcame John Beddoes High School in the last 16 of the Welsh Cup. The score line was an impressive 7-1 with many of our boys getting on the score sheet and will now face a daunting trip to Newport in order to play Basseleg School in the quarter final. Well done boys!



The U18 team were also successful and are through to the quarter finals after a superb 2-0 victory over Stanwell School with both goals coming from Cameron backed up by fantastic team performance. They now face Olchfa School in Swansea after half term.

# Sports News

## County U14 Hockey Champions

Pictured are the winners of the U14 County league who were undefeated earlier this season. After the Christmas break, the team represented Ceredigion in the Southern Counties competition in January and came 3rd place in Dyfed against Preseli, Bro Dinefwr and Llanelli schools.



## Glow in the dark Basketball

Aberystwyth Basketball club delivered a workshop for girls in KS3 to attract new members for an inclusive after school club to be held in Penglais on Thursday evenings after half term. The aim of the club is to invite girls to take part purely for fun and enjoyment without any pressure to win or be self-conscious when participating. The sessions are FREE and all age groups are welcome to join.



## Glow in the dark Basketball



## Jnr NBA

## Junior NBA

After a very successful Tournament last year, schools across Wales from all 22 local authorities will take part in this prestigious event for the 2023 season.

A draft day took place last month where each school selected found out which NBA team they represent. Penglais entered a team again this year and have been named 'Dallas Mavericks'. The Tournament will take place in March which will be split between North and South Wales, with the Finals Day taking place in Aberystwyth in June.

# HRC News

## HRC students work with Arad Goch Theatre

Students in HRC have been working with Arad Goch Theatre Group over the past two months to help their actors learn some BSL to include in their new performance 'Where the leaves blow'.

This has been a fantastic collaborative project, which students from HRC fully engaged in. They also had an opportunity to go to the dress rehearsal at Arad Goch to watch the performance and offer feedback for the final production.

The show has now gone on tour, visiting primary schools across Wales over the Spring. The performance has been created to be more inclusive for students with hearing loss and comes with a 'Teachers Pack', put together by Arad Goch and HRC students, which provides information about the performance with BSL signs for school students to learn.

Arad Goch were also able to offer support for some Penglais Year 13 Drama students who are including BSL in their assessed pieces. This was an amazing project for students to be involved in and we would like to thank Arad Goch for this opportunity. Please see the Arad Goch social media page for further information on 'Where the leaves blow'.



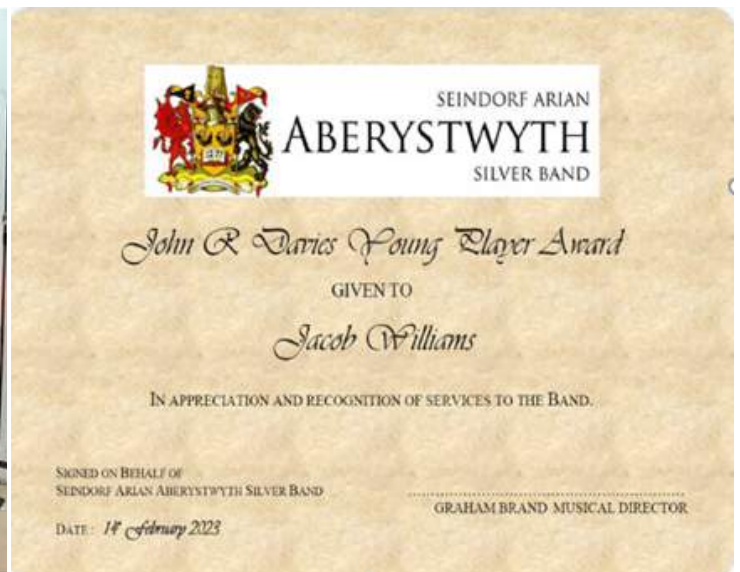
## Work Experience at Llanerchaeron NT

Students in HRC have been busy on work experience at Llanerchaeron National Trust over the past year, working with staff from the NT property in their amazing organic gardens; sowing seeds, looking after plants and harvesting produce. They have also been helping staff in the house; cleaning, cooking and making flower arrangements and decorations for their themed Christmas 'all things natural' and helping on the farm feeding animals. This work experience has helped students to develop confidence in the community, working alongside staff from Llanerchaeron and also interacting with the public when the property has been open to visitors. At the end of last term, students helped to organise the Christmas fayre and manned stalls, selling produce that they had grown over the year. It was a fantastic end to the year of work experience and we look forward to the new season ahead.



# Student Achievements

Jacob, from 10DLL, who is a member of the Aberystwyth Silver Band, was awarded the inaugural 'John R Davies Young Player Award' by the late Mr John Davies' daughter Angharad during their meeting on the 14th February 2023. Mr Davies had been a lifelong member of the band and had encouraged and inspired countless young players over the decades. Congratulations Jacob on your achievement.



## Nationwide Building Society Poster Competition

Recently our Year 7 and 8 skills classes competed in a Nationwide Building Society poster competition. Students were tasked with creating a poster to raise awareness of disabilities and celebrate diversity. The posters were displayed in the window of Nationwide in Aberystwyth before being sent off to Nationwide HQ for judging. Schools from all across the country submitted posters for the competition and we're very pleased that Ollie (Year 8) came 2nd overall. He will get a letter from the CEO and a voucher as a prize. Well done Ollie! Some of the posters made by the students are below.



# Food & Nutrition News

On Friday 10th February 2023 the Year 10 Food and Nutrition students welcomed Rachel's Dairy into school. Jo Tett-Davies (Technical Manager) and Ben Kinsey brought along a sample of different yoghurts for the students to try and explained how the product was made using various different cultures.

The aim of the visit was to deepen the knowledge that has been taught this term around dairy products and to look at some sensory testing models used in the industry.

It was great to hear about how the company started back in 1952 becoming the first ever certified organic dairy and hearing how it has grown and been endorsed by royalty over the decades. The company is now owned by French firm 'Groupe Lactalis' who purchased Rachel's Dairy in 2010 and has the capacity to produce 26,0000 tons of yoghurt per year - that is the equivalent of 1 million pots every week.

Our students learnt how they could make yoghurt at home by heating milk, adding starter cultures and incubating. They were then shown how this is scaled up and made at an industrial level. It was good to hear about pasteurisation and heat treatment again as this was knowledge recall for year 10.

We also found out about some of the careers involved in the industry which are vast, ranging from marketing, quality testing and nutritional analysis through to quality testing, distribution and engineering to name a few. Lots of these jobs our students were unaware of so to have that insight was very valuable.

We also got to taste some of the yoghurt and carry out some sensory testing. We looked at the viscosity (thickness) of different yoghurts, the flavour and the acidity and plotted our results using star profiles, ranking and rating tests. This was very useful for our year 10 students to do as this is a requirement in year 11 for their assessment work.

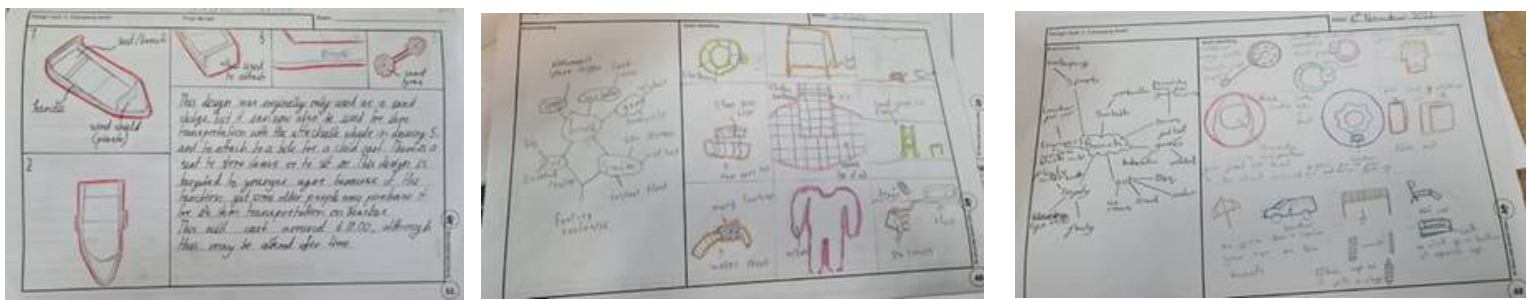
I would like to thank Jo and Ben for giving up their valuable time and of course a big thank you to our year 10 food students for participating so well throughout the session. We look forward to being able to invite Rachel's Dairy back into school next year.

Mr J Retter  
Teacher of Food & Nutrition

# Design & Technology News

This year in Design Technology, Product Design students have been undertaking company-led design tasks in both Year 7 and 8. These tasks are set by one local company and one Welsh design company and require the students to use their creativity and imagination to design products that could be sold in real life settings. Both design tasks are part of the departments' new curriculum trials that have been underway this year and the tasks have proved to have been very successful in student outcomes and skill development.

In Year 7, the department teamed up with local company Aber Outdoors to set the brief to design a product for use at the beach by a particular target market. Aber Outdoors is a recently established family run business who have a shared passion for the outdoors and the positive influence paddle sports can have on personal wellbeing from a physical, mental and emotional point of view. They provide safe, fun and educational paddle sport experiences from Aber Marina so have an expertise of the beach and the area where we live. The students have produced excellent ideas and a great deal of the work is well above that expected from 11 and 12 year old students.



The second design task was set for our Year 8 students by former student Luke Roberts who now works as a Product Designer for Zest Outdoor Living. Luke has visited the classes previously last year to support in a design task and his expertise in the design industry is both inspiring and helpful for the students. Luke designs products for the garden as Zest are an award-winning product design company who have been designing and manufacturing wooden garden products for over 35 years. Their products are sold in stores such as Charlies and Wayfair. The design task was to design a new, innovative product for outdoor living and students were again encouraged to be as creative and imaginative as possible. Luke provided videos to the students to introduce each stage of the task and also included videos of his workplace and what it is like to work as a designer. This supports elements of the new curriculum and also highlights potential careers in the design industry.

Both design tasks for half of the year groups in Year 7 and 8 have been assessed. The remaining half of the year will now undertake the same design task and their work will be assessed in the summer. The best three designs in each class will be shortlisted by the Design Technology teachers and then narrowed down to the best five in each year group. These will be sent off to the relevant company who will choose an overall winner. So far, work previewed by Aber Outdoors has received excellent feedback with the company owner very impressed by both the high quality design skills and creative ideas. We all look forward to seeing the other half of the work over the coming months.

# Football News

WELSH Schools Under 18s, captained by Aberystwyth's Cameron, a Year 13 Ysgol Penglais student, secured an impressive 4-0 against their Australian counterparts at Park Avenue.

Wales deserved more from their first half endeavours but they blew the visitors away after the break. Cameron Allen doubled their advantage with a close range to the delight of the Park Avenue faithful. Finn Roberts made it 3-0 with a stunning effort from the edge of the area with five minutes to go and Jack Shaw capped an impressive all-round team performance with another close range finish from a corner.

Cameron said: "I can't explain it honestly, to captain our first game and win 4-0 there's nothing better. It's always good as a striker to get a goal in your first game so hopefully I can add more."

Wales manager and former Seaside Marc Lloyd Williams said: "It's a special victory that I wasn't expecting at the start of the evening after what I saw of Australia on Tuesday afternoon.

"But we asked the lads to play and stick to a plan and they did that, the plan worked and I must praise every single one of the boys, they were brilliant."



## 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.



# Student Leadership Team News



## Turkey/Syria Cake Sale

On Monday the 13th of February the Student Leadership Team worked with EAL (English as Additional Language) department to run an emergency cake sale for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal which raised £459.82 to support the work of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). As a school we are deeply shocked and saddened to hear how many people have died and how many lives have been impacted by this earthquake and we are very grateful to all students who helped to run the cake sale as well as those who bought cakes and waffles.

## Children in Need

Last term the SLT also ran a cake sale and an own clothes day to raise money for Children In Need and the total raised reached an incredible £1,204.87. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this. It is amazing to see what the school can achieve when we come together to support such important causes.

# Parent Information

## Polite Notice re ParentPay accounts

Please could we remind parents/guardians to regularly check your child's ParentPay account to ensure that there are sufficient funds to purchase food from the canteen. This will allow students to be served quickly and it will 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.

# PTA News

# UV DISCO

THE ULTIMATE GLOW PARTY FOR  
YEARS 7 AND 8

DJ AND MUSIC REQUESTS

REFRESHMENTS

GLOW UNDER UV LIGHTING

FRIDAY 3RD MARCH  
MAIN HALL, 6-8PM

£2 ENTRY

(PURCHASE ON PARENTPAY)

