



## Headteacher's Message

We have had a quite short but extremely busy half term. Our newsletter will give you a flavour of what we have been doing over the last few weeks. We have been lucky enough to be involved in a wide variety of activities in school and further afield. In all of these activities our students have been a credit to the school and we are very proud of them.

You may have seen our new Facebook page which is about our 50th Anniversary celebrations. The planning for this has been ongoing for some time and we have a range of exciting events planned for the end of this year and the beginning of next. Our PTA have been central to a lot of the planning as well as Mrs Karina Shaw who you may know as our Assistant Headteacher and ALNCo. If you wish to be involved, join our Facebook page and let us know if you have any ideas or anything you would like to offer to the celebrations. If you are an ex student, please share any pictures you have of Penglais through the years. We have been given some great images so far and it is lovely to see so many people reminiscing about their time in our school.

We are coming to the end of our preparations for the exams in Year 10, 11 and 13. If you have children in these year groups, please discuss with them how they are preparing for these exams and also check Parent Mail. We have sent information on how you can support during this time both emotionally and academically. It is so important for students to be thinking ahead now and preparing themselves. If you need any further advice or guidance please get in touch and let us know how we can help.

We have sent a letter by Parentmail to you about equipment in school. Can you make sure all students have equipment after the Easter break. It makes such a difference to them in their lessons if they have everything they need and can carry on with their learning without having to worry about borrowing equipment. We now have a filled pencil case available through Parent Pay which is a very reasonable price and can be collected in school during break time. We know that difficult times are continuing for lots of families at the moment. Please get in touch if you need any help with equipment or anything else. Your child's Head of Year is there to help you as well as our Family Engagement Officer, Mrs Karen Evans.

I hope you all have a relaxing break and we look forward to welcoming everybody back on April 17th.

## Key Dates

- |   |                     |                             |                         |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • All students return to school <b>(Week 2)</b> | Monday 17th April   | • May Bank Holiday          | May 1st 2023            |
| • Year 10 Science and English exams             | 17th and 18th April | • King's Coronation holiday | May 8th 2023            |
| • Year 10 Full report                           | May 2023            | • Year 18 Full report       | May 2023                |
| • Year 12 Progress report 3                     | May 2023            | • Year 9 Progress report 3  | May 2023                |
|   |                     | • Year 11 Progress report 4 | May 2023                |
|   |                     | • Summer half term          | 29/05/2023 - 02/06/2023 |



# New College Oxford Trip



Last month, Seren Network students from Years 11 and 12 were given the opportunity by New College Oxford to attend a school trip to visit the city of Oxford and to experience life in the University, specifically New College. The group left Penglais School on the morning of the 15th of February and arrived at Oxford at three o'clock in the afternoon. We were given a tour around Oxford city by Mr Fisher, Mr Strong and Mrs Elgood; we saw famous landmarks such as the Bodleian Library, the Bridge of Sighs, the Radcliffe Camera and many other historical buildings. The next morning, we left the hotel at half past seven in the morning, and were taken to New College Oxford. We were given breakfast, then had a guided tour by Shelby Holmes through the grounds of New College which included visiting the Chapel and the Cloisters, which were famously used as a set for the film Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Students were then given some background on New College itself and its history, and were taken to a classroom where we were given two guided sessions which gave us valuable information on what life in New College is like, and how you would apply to Oxford University. The first session provided us with information on student life and general information about Oxford and New College. The second session was led by French Literature tutor Vittoria Fallanca, where we were given a taste of what learning in Oxford would entail. After this session, we then had a small talk from Shelby Holmes on how to write our Personal Statement in preparation for our UCAS applications, and this talk was extremely helpful. It specified what we were required to include in our statements, and how much we were expected to include. This trip was incredibly valuable to those who attended, and the experience will allow us to help make educated choices for our future.

## By Joshua, Year 11 Student

I found my visit to New College Oxford to be extremely interesting, enlightening and unexpectedly enjoyable! The city itself was gorgeous, mixing the old and the new with buttresses and gargoyles right next to modern shopping centres and neon lights. This duality is reflected in the college itself, with the medieval architecture combining with fully modern facilities only adding to the sense of wonder. In terms of the experience itself, it was extremely enriching to gain so much additional knowledge on both the college and what life is like there as a student. The sample lesson was engaging and the Q and A session with the students was informative, helping allay any fears on financing or completely discarding a social life. The additional information provided on the education system in Oxford, namely the tutorial system cemented the idea in my head that this is my dream university and New College my dream college. In conclusion I have adored the first 2 steps of the step up programme and would highly recommend it to everyone as it both educated and motivated me by showing me what I am now aiming for!

## By Oscar, Year 12 student

# Sixth Form News

## Lessons from Auschwitz programme

What is individuality? Individuality is something we all have the privilege of having, but it wasn't always this way.

January 27th is marked as Holocaust Memorial Day, this year, 2023, marked 78 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the former Nazi concentration, and death camp. People worldwide come together to remember the 6 million men, women and children tortured and murdered by Nazis for simply being Jewish.

On this day we should be paying tribute to the survivors who still share their testimony to ensure future generations never forget the horrors during the time of the Holocaust. Unfortunately, the survivors won't be around forever to share their incredible stories, so we must take it upon ourselves to learn and participate in sharing their experiences.

Whilst on the visit to both Auschwitz camps in Poland, there were several moving quotes on walls and information stands. "Every person has a name. The six million Jews murdered in the holocaust have no graves or tombstones." There were several people who were murdered during their time at Auschwitz who never had their names, or any data about them recovered. As soon as they were herded through the gates, they were completely dehumanised and had their whole identity stripped and replaced by a number. Almost everyone who entered a concentration camp had a name, and a family and was an individual human being, but was never to be identified by their individuality again. It is crucial to remember that each person who entered a concentration camp was their own individual. Each person had their own experience which was just as horrible as the next person. Just citing statistics when talking about the holocaust puts them all into a group, and yet again, takes away their individuality.

The well-known diarist Anne Frank was born in 1929, and in 1934 her family emigrated to Amsterdam. Less than 10 years later, the introduction of the yellow badge Jews were forced to wear began. In 1942 the Frank family go into hiding from the Nazis and just a year later, all Jews were forced out of Amsterdam. Those in hiding were found and imprisoned, and sadly only Anne's father, Otto, survived. Although this happened in the Belsen-Belsen camp, and not Auschwitz, this was the life and the storyline of millions of people who were brutally murdered. Anne and her family's hiding place has since become a museum, and the diary Anne kept throughout her time in hiding has become an incredibly popular book. Anne's story, and the attic they hid in, give us a real insight into the awful experiences that people went through during this awful time, where they had nothing but **hope**. The only thing the Nazis couldn't take away from the Jewish was their **hope**. The **hope** they would soon come home again. The **hope** they'd be reunited again. The **hope** there would be peace.

"It happened, therefore it can happen again: this is the core of what we have to say" – Primo Levi (an Italian Jewish Chemist who survived a year in Auschwitz)

Written by Alys - Year 12

# Sixth Form News

## Chartered Institute of Management Employability Seminar

On Wednesday 15th March, two Year 12 students attended a marketing employability seminar organised by Aberystwyth University in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Management. Throughout the seminar students learnt about the most efficient and succinct way to create a CV. They were also given advice on how to develop a successful marketing career.

## International Women's Day

On Wednesday 8th March, five Year 12 students celebrated International Women's Day by attending a conference on embracing equity organised by The Seren Network. During the conference students were introduced to a host of special guests who shared their accomplishments in careers within the army, academia, and marketing. They were also given the opportunity to learn about and discuss the accomplishments of inspirational women throughout history. One of the Year 12 students, Rainebeaux, had the following to share about the event:

"Personally, I found the event very helpful and reassuring to know that there are other opportunities to succeed if things do not go as you hope it does. I also enjoyed how welcoming and understanding everyone was with one another. It was reassuring to know that there was no judgement based on your ideas and the atmosphere always felt positive".



## What is New College's Step-Up Programme?

New College's Step-Up Programme is designed to inspire and support state-school students throughout Year 11, 12 and 13. It attempts to ensure that students recognise Oxford and other selective universities as a realistic and achievable option for them in the future, and are fully equipped and supported to make a competitive application.

Crucially, it is a fully funded sustained-contact scheme. Students have regular, consistent contact with the College's Outreach team over three years.

Step 1 is where a member of New College's outreach visits Penglais to help students understand what university is and the benefits of studying at university. Step 2 is an overnight stay in Oxford and a visit to New College. Step 3 is support with the application process, Step 4 is Personal Statement support. Step 5 is interview practice. Penglais is one of the few Welsh schools to be involved with this scheme.

# Student Leadership Team News

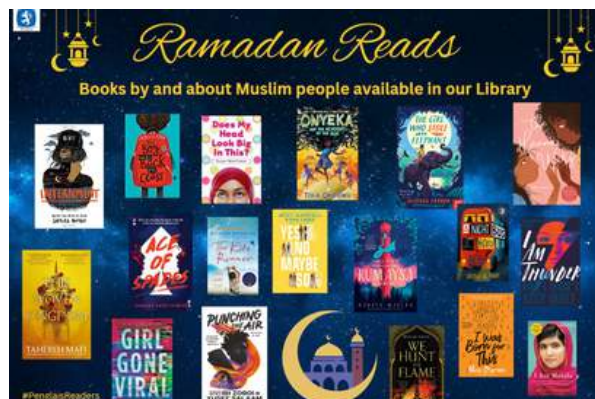
## Re-launching the Penglais Student Charter

This month year reps have been working hard to deliver high- impact engaging assemblies to re-launch the Penglais Student Charter. Following the year rep meeting on Monday 20th March year reps (led by Jona Williams in year 10) produced a fun and engaging video. Molly Reed and Charmaine Joseph (year 11) produced an informative power point and voice over. These have been used in assemblies this week and will be delivered to year 7 & 8 after Easter. The student charter poster has been given a special place in all form rooms and our digital screens have displayed the charter for all to see. It is hoped that this high-profile launch will raise awareness in the school community of our Student Charter values: Knowledge, Equality and Respect.



# Library News

**Ramadan Reads** - Penglais Readers book club have been learning more about Ramadan this term with an interesting talk from Ms Erica Gwynne-Hughes and students from the English as an Additional Language department. Ramadan is taking place this year from the 22nd March until the 21st April and is a month of fasting and abstaining from things considered impure for the mind and body. Please see our suggested Ramadan Reads which are either books about Muslim people or books written by Muslim authors. All of these titles are available in our Library. #RamadanReads



The Library turned green to celebrate St Patricks Day on the 17th March with a display highlighting "green" reads. Who knew there are so many great green books?  
#ReadYourGreens



*"Reading is like joy: you can exist without it, but why would you want to?"*

MARCUS SEDGWICK

## Benefits of Reading

Research shows that reading has benefits in many areas of education and life. In addition to the obvious benefits on reading comprehension and attainment, it also impacts upon:

- Vocabulary
- Understanding of grammar
- Spelling skill
- Writing attainment
- Attitudes to reading and writing
- Knowledge and understanding of the world and other people
- Achievement in other subjects, including maths
- Empathy and understanding of emotions
- Development of our sense of 'self' and identity

If you need any assistance or have any concerns in regard to your child's reading then please contact our Librarian Mrs Kennedy [E.Kennedy@penglais.org.uk](mailto:E.Kennedy@penglais.org.uk)

# Library News

## The Tir na n-Og Book Awards



Penglais Library are delighted that our very own Librarian Mrs Kennedy has been asked to join the judging panel for the Tir na n-Og book awards.

The Tir na n-Og Awards are the oldest and most popular awards for children's literature in Wales. Established in 1976, the awards recognise, honour and promote excellence in books for children and young people. They are organised annually by the Department of Children's Books and Reading Promotion at the Books Council of Wales.  
Happy Reading Mrs Kennedy!

# 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.

# Humanities and Social Science News

## Religion Values and Ethics

### Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

On Thursday 26th January, three classes of year 7 went to Aberystwyth University for a talk from the son of Holocaust survivors. The Holocaust was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. At the Holocaust talk we listened to Ernie Hunter retell the story of his mother Fanny Hochstetter during her time in Laupheim, Nazi Germany. In March 1933 many Germans and Jews felt that the Nazis could not crush German democracy and thought "It will soon blow over", Fanny was one of those people and almost left it too late to flee. Within days the Jewish community were forced to retire from their jobs without a choice. This led to many Jews fleeing the country. This led to the Holocaust. Ernie showed us lots of pictures, video clips and things his mum had smuggled from Nazi Germany. He also answered our questions and posed for a photo with us.

By Ave and Esme in Year 7



## Health and Social Care, and Childcare

### Virtual Dementia Bus Tour March 2023

On Wednesday 22nd March the virtual dementia bus tour visited Penglais. Students following A level and GCSE Health and Social Care all visited the bus for a one-hour immersive experience. This worldwide, scientifically and medically proven method of giving a person with a healthy brain and experience of what dementia might be like, allowed students to enter the world of the person and understand the simple changes that can be made to their practice and environment to really improve the lives of people with dementia.





# Maths News

## Maths Conference and workshops for Year 8, 9 and 12 students

Aberystwyth University recently organised a Maths events for Year 8, 9 and 12 students with support from FMSPW (Further Maths Support Programme Wales). Year 12 students enjoyed visiting the university for the day and taking part in different activities such as exploring GeoGebra, Topology and the Mobius strip, and graph theory and mathematics of juggling.

For Years 8 and 9, speakers came into school to deliver activities and talks for Set 1 maths students. They started solving Japanese puzzles by Alice Lovett which was really interesting and engaging. Colin Wright, who is famously known as a juggling mathematician, showed how Maths has taken him around the world and demonstrated surprising links between Maths and juggling - students could then use Maths to invent new juggling tricks for him to attempt. Thank you Mrs Bohra for arranging these events.

## Student comments

- Interesting to hear about different careers in maths and where it can take you. I enjoyed learning about the areas which maths is applied to.
- I enjoyed doing the different maths puzzles because its something I haven't seen or done before. The puzzles were fun and challenging. I also enjoyed listening to the speech because I learnt new things and I also learnt about where maths can take me in the future. I also enjoyed watching the man juggle and show us how maths come into nearly everything.
- It was really interesting to see that everyday things eg juggling has maths involved with it. It also taught me how I can use maths in my everyday life, not just becoming an accountant and how important maths is. I also enjoyed the puzzles as it got my brain thinking a lot more about puzzles.
- Colin made it enjoyable to learn about maths by using his impressive juggling skills.
- I liked learning about the patterns and where maths can take you with Colin. The juggling made it more interesting.
- The most fun I have had with maths.
- A fun way to show where you could go by doing maths. The best way to show an audience our age the possibilities maths opens up.
- I was very surprised how many subject and activities have maths in them.
- I think that the talk was really amazing and interesting, I also think they increased the general opinion of maths.



# Maths News

## Intermediate Maths Challenge 2023 Result

This year senior maths challenge was held on 1st February in UK. 35 students from year 9, 10 and 11 took part in the challenge and 18 have been successful to earn a 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).

Congratulations to all the pupils for the success.

Name	CLASS	CERTIFICATE
Ben	Year 11	Gold
Rachel	Year 11	Silver
Winnie	Year 11	Bronze
Glyn	Year 11	Bronze
Joanna	Year 11	Bronze
Charmaine	Year 11	Bronze
Samuel	Year 11	Bronze
Lewis	Year 11	Bronze
Carys	Year 11	Bronze
Ivan	Year 11	Bronze
Aaron	Year 11	Bronze
Malay	Year 10	Gold
Esther	Year 10	Silver
Alexandru	Year 10	Bronze
Alisha	Year 10	Bronze
Genny	Year 10	Bronze
Josh	Year 9	Bronze

# ALN News

## Ysgol Penglais is now an Arts Award Centre



We are proud to announce that Ysgol Penglais has become a recognised centre for the delivery of Arts Award at the Explore and Discover level. Arts Award is a suite of arts-based qualifications managed by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England.

Students in Canolfan Ni and the Hearing Resource Centre (HRC) will be working on the Art Award Discover or Explore level over the Summer term. To complete the Discover Art Award students will be discovering the arts and taking part in arts activities. They will then be researching local and national artists and learning more about their work whilst experimenting with their own creations. Finally, the students will share their creations by setting up and running an arts exhibition in school to share their art discoveries and creations.



# ALN News

## 'Play For All' Rugby Festival

On the 23rd March, students from Canolfan Ni took part in the 'Play For All' Rugby themed festival at the Sports Centre on Aberystwyth University Campus. The festival was run by WRU and Ceredigion Actif staff. Students enjoyed meeting students from other schools and enjoyed all of the activities on the day.



## Donkey Therapy at Dyfi Donkeys

Students from the Hearing Resource Centre and Canolfan Ni have visited Dyfi Donkeys to take part in a donkey therapy session. The students were able to get up close with the donkeys and really enjoyed learning more about how to care for the animals. We were lucky with the weather and the students enjoyed being in the countryside and the pleasure of walking with a donkey. A great experience all round!



# ALN News

## Ceramic Art Sessions

Students from Canolfan Ni, the Hearing Resource Centre (HRC) and students following the Life Skills curriculum have been taking part in Ceramic art sessions with Ceramic artist Carys Boyle. Students have been very creative and have made a variety of mobiles, coasters, ornaments and magnets. The students have been able to experiment with a coloured glaze and learn more about the clay. It has been lovely to see all of the created pieces once they have been fired in the kiln. We are looking forward to continuing our work with Carys.



## Mary Lloyd Jones Exhibition

As part of the Expressive Arts curriculum, students from Canolfan Ni are learning more about different mediums and studying the work of local artists. Students in Key Stage 5 visited the Mary Lloyd Jones exhibition at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre. They met Mary Lloyd Jones and were able to try out some of her techniques for themselves. The students will continue to develop the creative skills they have learned back at school with the aim of putting on their own exhibition in school next term.



