



Headteacher's Message

We are reaching the mid-way point in our examination season and all of the students have been absolutely outstanding. They have attended all exams with a positive attitude and we can only congratulate them on this. There are still some important examinations left and this does include Year 10 so please ensure you take some opportunities to revise over the half term break. There will be some revision sessions over half term so please keep an eye on Parentmail over the next few days.

Looking forward to the last half term we will be continuing to work hard with our remaining year groups. Can you make sure we are all adhering to the uniform policy and have all of the correct equipment for learning. It makes our lessons much more enjoyable for students if we are not spending lots of time giving out equipment.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort in September. They will be visiting us on the 3rd and 4th July to experience Penglais life first hand and have the chance to ask us any questions about the day-to-day life of the school. They usually have a really enjoyable couple of days experiencing lessons and speaking to existing students. Year 11 will also be taking part in transition days on 29th and 30th June and they will get a taste of Sixth Form life as well as experience the subjects they have chosen.

We will be sorry to say goodbye to two year groups and we want to send them the warmest wishes possible on their journeys moving forward. Some will be going to university, college, apprenticeships or work. I hope you will always remember us, and we look forward to hearing from you in the future. In our newsletter you will read the sad news that one of our previous members of staff has passed away. Sandra Morris-Jones worked at the school for most of her career and was a much loved and dedicated advocate of the Welsh Language. We send our condolences to her family and I know many of our previous students and staff will remember her fondly.

Lastly, we would like to wish you a restful half term break and please enjoy the varied contents of our latest newsletter. We are so lucky to have so many talented individuals in our school.

Key Dates

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| • All students return to school
(Week 2) | Monday 5th June | • Year 10 PP4 exam results | July 2023 |
| • Year 10 End of Year exams | 26th to 30th June | • 50th Celebration Summer Fair | Saturday 15th July |
| • Year 11 transition to Sixth Form | 29th & 30th June | • Trip Days | 18th to 20th July |
| • Year 6 transition days | 3rd & 4th July | • Last day of summer term | Friday 21st July |
| • Year 5 transition day | 11th July | • AS/A2 exam results | 17/08/2023 |
| | | • GCSE exam results | 24/08/2023 |
| | | • First day of Autumn Term | 5th September 2023 |



Year 13 Leavers Day



Friday 12th May saw Year 13 arrive in school in a huge array of fancy dress costumes to celebrate their last ever day of lessons in school. Staff were invited to join them for coffee and cake in the Sixth Form Centre, so that students could say thank you for everyone who has supported them during their secondary school education.

Mr Phil Jones, our very experienced cake judge, stated that the standard of baking, taste and presentation this year was extremely high. 1st – Minion cake. This was very large, colourful, the attention to detail with the decoration was excellent. It had a lovely texture and GREAT taste. 2nd Boxes of cup cakes. There is labelling on some of the cupcakes. The top of the cakes were crunchy and the cake itself had a lovely light texture, just right for cake!! 3rd Strawberry cup cakes. Bonus marks for including fruit on the top. Well presented and very, very tasty.

Year 13 have been a pleasure to get to know and we wish them the best of luck for their exams and for the future.

Sports News

Football News

Urdd Football

Penglais had a successful day at the Urdd tournament in Blaendolau on 12th May. The Year 7 & 8 girls team came runners up in the plate final, while the Year 7 & 8 boys, Year 9 & 10 girls and Year 9 & 10 boys all ended the group stage in the top two and progressed into the cup competition. The Year 7 & 8 boys won their quarter final before falling to a narrow 1-0 defeat in the semi-final and the Year 9 & 10 girls were knocked out on penalties in the quarter final after a goalless game. A HUGE congratulations to our Year 9 and 10 boys who won the entire competition, beating Glantaf in extra time in the final!



Ben, a Year 10 student recently attended trials at Aston Villa specifically for Goal Keepers. Approximately 100 goalkeepers attended the trial and were divided into age groups. Ben was with the under-15 section. They completed activities in their groups, led by coaches from Brentford and Crystal Place. There was one Aston Villa scout watching the individuals and taking notes. If successful, Ben will be contacted in the future by the Aston Villa Academy. It was a great experience and he was able to learn a lot from professional coaches and other goalkeepers from around the country.

Ceredigion Champions

Congratulations to Lily who is a member of the Ceredigion Schools Football Association's Girls Under 15 team, who played in a National final at The New Saints FC, Oswestry last Saturday, 20th May. The girls faced Cardiff and Vale Schools and secured a 3-0 victory, making history by winning the Welsh Inter Schools Association Cup for the first time!



Sports News

Welsh Cup

Under 13's

Our Year 8 boys football team sadly lost in the penultimate round of the Welsh Schools Cup against a very good Ysgol Alun side - 3-1. In very difficult circumstances, the boys fought gallantly from the first minute and were in the game until the very end. They bow out of the competition with their heads held high and able to claim being one of the best school football sides for their age group in the whole of Wales! An incredible achievement to reach this stage of the competition, da iawn fechgyn.

Under 18's

The U18 Senior football team had a successful year becoming Ceredigion Champions and making it to the quarter final of the Schools Welsh Cup. They gained notable victories over Penweddig and Stanwell School before they were knocked out by eventual competition winners Olchfa School.

Basketball

Junior NBA

In March, Penglais took part in the North Conference Jr NBA Wales day in Bangor University, this year we had the honour of having 2 teams (Dallas Mavericks and Orlando Magic) coached by Liam (Year 13) and Alex (Year 11) respectively. Both teams however, found themselves in the same group as each other and also alongside the New Orleans Pelicans.

Both teams played some superb basketball in all 4 of their matches with the Dallas Mavericks winning the group and advancing to the Welsh Finals Day in June at Aberystwyth University alongside the 3 other group winners from the North Conference and 4 group winners from the South Conference.

A special mention to Dhayne (Year 8) who won the male MVP award for the 2nd year in a row. Well Done Boys!



Cricket

Year 8 pupil Aadvik has had the brilliant news of being selected for the Wales Under 13s cricket squad for the upcoming season. An amazing achievement for Aadvik who has trained hard all winter to gain selection. He will play across England and Wales this summer, taking on sides such as Cornwall, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Yorkshire whilst playing at some fantastic cricket grounds. He will be playing alongside and competing against some of the best young cricketers in the country. Aadvik has been keenly supported by Aberystwyth Cricket Club who train every Friday at the cricket club at 5:30pm. Any new players wishing to start or join are warmly welcome down the club.

Llongyfarchiadau Aadvik on your fantastic achievement.

Sports News

Ceredigion Athletics

The school is very proud of the many students from Penglais who represented the school in the Ceredigion Championships held at Johnstown athletic track in Carmarthen. Many of our athletes were congratulated on their impressive performances on the day, in particular Kemsi in Year 7 who came 1st in the 100m, 200m, and Long Jump event and was also a member of the winning relay team. Carter, a year 10 student also had an impressive time for the 100m and 200m events and was also the 4th leg of the winning relay team. 16 athletes in total have been selected for the Dyfed Championships having come within the first two places in their individual events.

Congratulations to:

Year 7

1. Kemsi - 100m, 200m, Long Jump
2. Tomos - 1500m

Year 8

1. Sol - 800m
2. Liam - 15000m

Year 9

1. Josh - 100m
2. Austin - 200m, Long Jump
3. Steffan - 1500m
4. Owen - Hurdles
5. Joe - Javelin

Year 10

1. Carter - 100m, 200m
2. Will - 800m
3. Daniel - 1500m
4. Josh - Long Jump

Library News

The Library hosted the first Penglais Chess Tournament to take place in recent years. Entry numbers were so high that we had to limit it to 48 students, with participants spanning Years 7 to 13.

This meant 3 rounds before we were at semi-final stage with our players including Ffredi (Yr8), Anthony (Yr7), Thomas (Yr10), Ivan (Yr11) and Mohamed (Yr11). The semi-finalists all played 2 games each with the two players with the most points going through to the final.

The Grand Final took place on Friday 12th May between Ivan and Thomas. The spectator seats were full to capacity, the board was projected on to a big screen and you could literally cut the tension with a knife. After a nail biting game, Ivan was crowned Penglais Grand Master. Huge congratulations to Ivan who will now have his name engraved on the Penglais Chess trophy.

The tournament proved so popular that we hope to run it over the years to come. Well done to all involved!



The Library

The noise overwhelms me,
the corridors close in.
The lights flicker on and off
the brightness burning my skin

Then I see it,
the Library
I push past the people
speaking their consistent chatter
towards the door
welcoming me
promising to block out the noisy natter

more and more people come
running up the stairs
pushing me away from the paradise
that I longingly crave

I ignore
I focus.
Looking at my goal
shoving past the talking crowds
keeping my head down

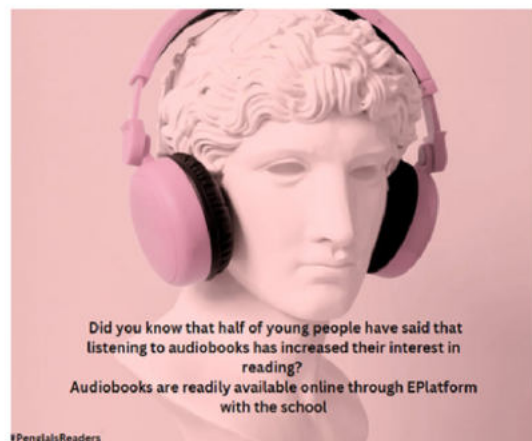
I reach to the door handle
and grip it tight.
I open the door and go in
pushing back the strife.
I'm surrounded by wondrous books,
Adventure, manga, romance
and the librarian greeting me
with a kind and nurturing look,

The Library is our world
(for the ones who like the quiet)
Where games, computers and books
give us comfort and quiet

The Library is our special place.
We all see it differently,
But in my opinion
The Library
Is the best thing that happened
In all of history!



*Evelyn
Year 8*



Did you know that half of young people have said that listening to audiobooks has increased their interest in reading?
Audiobooks are readily available online through EPlatform with the school

#PenglaisReaders

Period Dignity

The school has recently been given a storage unit which holds various sanitary products. The unit is located behind the Foyer and is available at all times. Students are welcome to help themselves to the products. Period dignity is about addressing period poverty whilst also ensuring products are free and accessible to all women and girls in the most practical and dignified way.



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.

Health & Wellbeing and Business News

Health & Wellbeing - Year 7

Year 7 students had a visit from Lona Harris and Danny Lewis from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service on 11th May. They learnt about Fire safety in the home including the dangers associated with charging electronics (e.g mobile phones) overnight, overloading extension leads, and having appliances with frayed wires. Students were also taught the purpose and importance of having smoke detectors in the home.



Business Studies - Year 13

The Year 13 Business class planned a "Careers - Raising Aspirations" event for Year 8 on 9th May. Year 13 used the event as an opportunity to demonstrate their event planning skills as part of their assessed coursework.

Year 8 students were encouraged to ask questions to find out more about several career pathways and the options available in their local area. Guests included: Callum Jones (CAVO), Aberystwth University, Arad Goch, Dyfan Rees (Sky Magic), Hywel Dda Health Board, Ceredigion County Council, Careers Wales, Mr Rees (Retired Police Officer), Ffiona Evans (Physiotherapist), Lee Coulson (Basketball coach), Lifeguards, and Tsalta Motor sports.

Year 13 are very grateful to all of the visitors for running their stands and sharing their knowledge and expertise.



French Newspaper

LE MONDE MODERN

L'ÉDITORIAL – EITHNE

Bonjour ! Je m'appelle Eithne et je suis la rédactrice en chef de ce journal. Aussi, je publie la photo du mois parce que j'aime la photographie. C'est la première édition de ce journal et il est publié une fois par mois. Il parle d'un range de choses comme, l'histoire, le sport, la science, la religion, et la littérature. J'espère que vous l'aimez et grand merci à l'équipe de journalistes qui ont travaillé très du.

LES SPORTS – LILI

Ce mois, j'ai choisi Amaury Cordeel être le mien conducteur du mois. Amaury est Belge et il disques durs pour Van Amersfoort Racing dans Formula 2. Il est né dans Temse, Belgique sur le 4th juillet.

LE PHOTO DU MOIS – de Layla



LITTÉRATURE FRANÇAISES –

LAYLA

Le Petit Prince est un romans par Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. L'histoire suivant un petit prince qui voyager des planètes dans l'espace. Il visite des thèmes d'amour, la solitude et des relations avec des copains. Aussi, ce parler sur le monde comme des enfants ; simple mais vrai. Je pense que ce livre est réfléchi, agréable et excitant pour tous les âges parce qu'il est significatif sur la vie. En tout, je recommandais lire Le Petit Prince !

RELIGION EN FRANCE – ETHAN

Dans la France, la principale religion est catholicisme. Mais le nombres de catholique est baisse parce que le Révolution française. La religion est devenue populaire dans le premier centenaire AD. Le catholicisme a commencé avec la reine de Roi Clovis d'un, mais la principale religion est catholique de romain.

L'HISTOIRE DE FRANCE – JOE

Napoléon Bonaparte était un chef militaire Française et il a gagné beaucoup de guerres avec la militaire française. Il est né à Ajaccio en août, 1769. En la révolution de France, il est devenu très riche et puissant et il est devenu l'empereur en 1804 mais après en 1812 il quitter la France et il est mort en 1821.

LA SCIENCE – ISAAC

Aujourd'hui je vais parler sur la science. Le fossile 'plateosaurus' est très célèbre en France. C'est très grande et très haute. C'est une herbivore.

RENCONTRE L'ÉQUIPE

- Je m'appelle Lili Rose, et j'ai quinze ans. J'ai choisi le sport parce que, je le trouve intéressant, utile et divertissant.
- Je m'appelle Joe, j'ai quatorze ans. J'aime jouer basket et relaxant.
- Bonjour, je m'appelle Ethan. J'écris sur la religion dans la France. J'aime la religion parce que j'adore apprend sur le Dieu et française.
- Bonjour, je m'appelle Isaac et j'ai quatorze ans.
- Je m'appelle Layla. J'écris la section de littérature française et je fais des critiques des livres.

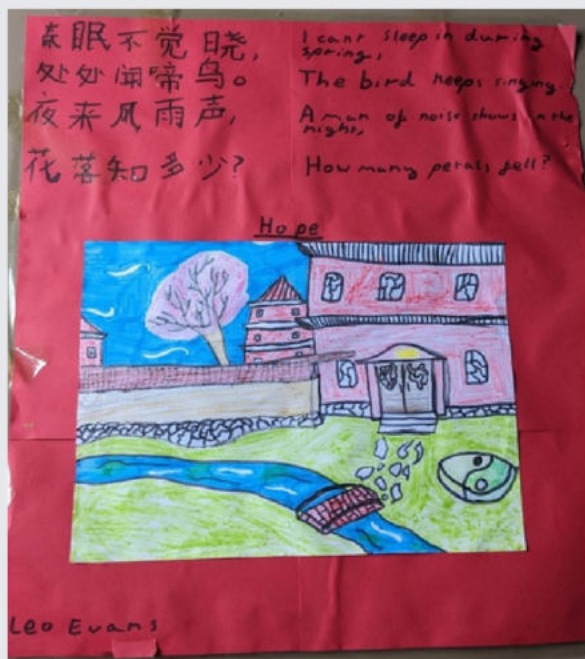
World Languages News

Responding to poetry in the World Languages classroom



In our World Languages classroom in Year 9, students have been responding to poetry in Mandarin. These poems date to the Tang Dynasty, the date being equal to that of the earliest Welsh poetry, the Gododdin. Students chose to translate the poems into English or Welsh and also responded creatively to the content of the poem.

Examples here of Leo Evans and Mai Thomas' work.



This multilingual approach to learning is a key part of the new curriculum. In addition, at Penglais we are exploring different forms of literature as a means to ignite interest in the languages we teach whilst also making connections with our own history and culture here in Wales.

Drama News

Penglais Students to Perform at Royal National Theatre

Several students from Penglais will be heading for the stage of the Dorfman theatre at the Royal National Theatre in London in June to perform Samsher Sinha's *Samphire* as part of the NT Connections festival 2023. Each year, the National Theatre commissions ten brand new plays to be performed by young people across the UK and internationally, and the programme brings together some of the country's most exciting writers and the theatre makers of tomorrow in an exciting festival of new writing. This year, over 260 schools, colleges and youth theatre companies have taken part with only ten of these groups having been afforded the opportunity to perform one last time.

The group of students, from Years 9 to 12, who are part of Aberystwyth Arts Centre's Upper Youth Theatre group, led by Mr. Barrie Stott and Mrs. Karen Evans, have been working hard since January this year, performing the play in both the Arts Centre's Round Studio and Theatr-y-Werin. They will now travel to London, after a few more rehearsals, in June to work with the creative teams at the National Theatre to perform the play one last time as part of the festival; a fantastic opportunity for both staff and students.

Congratulations to Polly, Tala (Year 9), Kacey, Ash, Eowyn, Danielle, Tobenna, George (Year 10), Alys, Fallon, Molly, Freya (Year 11), Ashe and Oscar (Year 12) on their incredible achievement!



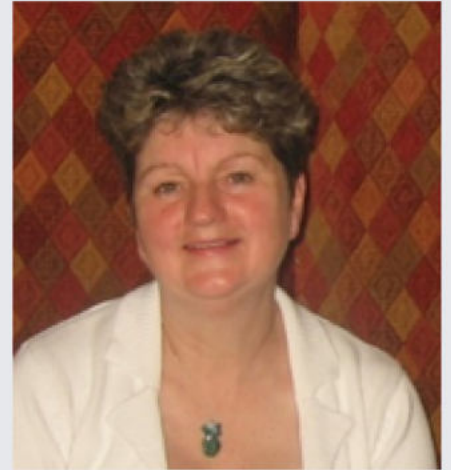
Teyrnged i/Tribute to Sandra Morris Jones

Gyda thristwch dysgom am farwolaeth Sandra Morris Jones. Bu Sandra yn aelod o staff Penglais rhwng 1979 a 2010. Bu'n athrawes yn Adran y Gymraeg cyn ei phenodi'n Bennaeth ar yr adran honno.

Gweithiodd yn diflino i hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg yn yr ysgol ac roedd yn angerddol dros yr iaith. Roedd yn athrawes ddosbarth gofalus a charedig ac adeiladodd berthynas hirhoedlog gyda'i disgyblion. Byddai'n eu cofio blynyddoedd wedi iddynt adael yr ysgol ac y neu cyfarch pa le bynnag y byddai'n dod ar eu traws.

Yn gydweithwraig ffyddlon a chroesawgar, roedd yn gefnogol ac yn frwdfrydig bob amser - a'l ffraethineb yn rinwedd cofiadwy. Gwnai Sandra i bawb deimlo eu bod yn perthyn i gymuned Ysgol Penglais. Roedd yn hael gyda'i hamser ac yn barod i helpu pawb. Gwnaeth ei gorau dros yr ysgol bob cyfle a gai.

Estynnwn ein cydymdeimlad at ei theulu.



We were sad to learn of the passing of Sandra Morris Jones. She was a member of staff at Penglais between 1979 and 2010, firstly as a Welsh teacher and then as Head of the Welsh Department.

She worked tirelessly to promote Welsh in the school and was passionate about the language. She was a kind and caring form tutor who built relationships with her students that lasted. She would greet students who had long since left the school, wherever she came across them.

A loyal and welcoming colleague she was always supportive and enthusiastic - and her wit was something we will remember.

Sandra made everyone feel that they belonged to the school community. She was generous with her time and willing to help everyone. She supported the school in all aspects.

We send our sympathy to her family.