



Headteacher's Message

We come to the end of another academic year, and what a busy end to the year it is too! These last couple of weeks have seen another very successful sports day with a whole range of activities for students to be involved in. We continue to be the only school in Wales, as far as we know, who run a wheelchair basketball competition as part of sports day and students thoroughly enjoy the matches. On Tuesday we had the school trips again with students involved in trips to Heatherton, Folly Farm, Oakwood and Ninja Warriors or doing various activities in school. We also have trips in London, France and Belgium and Japan at the moment so plenty of opportunities for students to be involved in many different activities.

One of our biggest events was last Saturday when we opened the school to the community to celebrate Penglais' 50th Anniversary. This day was a huge success where we welcomed back many ex-members of staff, ex-students including some who were the very first pupils in 1973, prospective students in local primary schools as well as members of the community. People had travelled far and wide to attend and it was wonderful to see so many faces from the past. Two of our eldest ex-members of staff who attended were in their nineties and still going strong! Thank you to all staff and PTA who were involved in preparing the day. Look out for photos in the next newsletter and on our social media.

Of course, our students in the exam years have had a very challenging first half of the term with their GCSE/AS and A2 exams. We were very proud of the way the students approached the exams and I hope that they have been enjoying their extended summer holidays. We look forward to welcoming the students back and celebrating with them on exam results days.

As you will see from the newsletter, there have been many other events during the term. Enjoy reading and we wish you a very enjoyable summer holiday.

Key Dates

- A Level Results day - 17/08/2023
- GCSE Results day - 24/08/2023
- 6th Form Enrolment days - 30/08/2023 & 31/08/2023
- Inset Day - 01/09/2023 & 04/09/2023
- All students return to school - 05/09/2023
- Welcome Evenings - Week commencing 11/09/23
- Year 7 Meet the Tutor - Week commencing 11/09/23
- Year 11 Meet the Tutor - Week commencing 18/09/23
- 6th Form Information Evening - 21/09/2023
- Year 6 Open Evening - 05/10/2023
- Year 13 Parents Evening - 19/10/2023
- Year 11 Progress Grade 1 - October 2023
- Parent/Governor AGM - 24/10/2023
- Autumn Half Term - 30/10/2023 - 03/11/2023
- All students return to school - 06/11/2023
(Week 2)



Subject Awards for Years 7 and 8

Subject for Year 7	Year 7 progress	Year 7 achievement
English	Moammar	Alexandra
Maths	Lacey	Pavlos
Science	Bruno	Arwen
Welsh	Freya	Anisha
Cymraeg	Harri	Olivia
Art	Freya	Sarah
History	Iolo	Noah
Geography	Lily	George
RVE	Aaron	Anisha
French	Millie	David
Music	Xander	Sarah
Drama	Daisy	Niamh
DT food	Shirley	Siskin
DT product	Niamh	Olivia
PE-Girls	Elle	Niamh
PE-boys	Moammar	Kemsi
ICT	Jack	Oluchi

Subjects for Year 8	Year 8 progress	Year 8 achievement
English	Arina	Sarah
Maths	Alexis	John
Science	Evie	Oli
Welsh	Alexis	Clara
Cymraeg	Ffredi	Caryn
Art	Tomas	Makenna
History	Monica	Sarah
Geography	Lyle	Elsa
RVE	Dani	Rhiannon
French	Alexis	John
Spanish	Elisa	Clara
Drama	Summer	Thomas
Music	Evie	Emily
DT food	Drizzle	Charlie
DT product	Evie	Jenny
PE-Girls	Brooke	Leita
PE-boys	Austin	Connor
ICT	Mabli	Isaac

Subject Awards for Years 9 and 10

Subjects for Year 9	Year 9 progress	Year 9 achievement
English	Sidra	Seb
Maths	Neha	Osian
Science	Elin	Pranav
Welsh	Callum	Seedra
Cymraeg	Harri	Freya
Art	Jack	Rebecca
History	Ciaran	Josh
Geography	Macy	Timi
RVE	Olivia	Zephyr
French	Grace	Zephyr
Drama	Jess	Alisha
Music	Tala	Charlie
DT food	Sophie	Evan
DT product	Timi	Seb
PE-Girls	Macy	Jess
PE-boys	Jack	Austin
ICT	Pranav	Ciaran

Subjects for Year 10	Year 10 progress	Year 10 achievement
English	Malay	Eithne
Maths	Eowyn	Malay
Science	Summer	Dylan
Welsh	Lili	Julia
Cymraeg	Harri	Liws
Art	Tivon	Macy
History	Henry	Esther
Geography	Daniel	Isabelle
RVE	Zara	Ethan
French	Isaac	Eithne
Mandarin	Austin	Julius
Spanish	Liws	Henry
Drama	Isabelle	Danielle
Music	Carys	Jacob
DT food	James	Sabela
DT product	Jessica	Esther
PE-Girls	Lili	Isabelle
PE-boys	Ryan	Toby
Welsh BAC	Osian	Alisha
Health and social	Denis	Branwen
Engineering	Steffan and Ben	John
ICT	Desislava	Malay
Business and travel	Mari	Mikey

Subject Awards for Year 12

Subjects for Year 12	Year 12 progress	Year 12 achievement
English	Isabel	Summer-Rose
Maths	Zara	Anna
Art		Shannon
History	Kai	Hannah
Geography	Anna	Oliver
Mandarin	Poppy	Xenith
Spanish	Mia	Dylan
Drama	Sion	Kimmi
Music	Andrew	Paige
DT product	Kenneth	Ruadhan
Welsh BAC	Ambrose	Ella
Health and social	Alys	Evie
Business and travel	Josh	Titus
Psychology	Rhian	Hannah
Media	Elen	Charlie
Sociology	Daniel	Summer-Rose
Biology A level	Aimee	Eliza
Physics A level	Andrew	Anushka
Chemistry A level	Xenith	Anna
Further Maths	Charlie	Luca

Congratulations to all of the students who received awards in our end of year assemblies. Each subject was asked to nominate one student who had made great progress and one who had shown a high level of achievement over the year.

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.

Can we also remind all parents to ensure that your child's ParentPay account is kept topped up to allow them to purchase food from our canteen as we are a cashless school.

Maths News

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge 2023

This year the Junior Maths challenge was held on 26th April. Year 7 and Year 8 students who are in set 1 for Maths took part, applying their mathematical knowledge to solve some unusual, interesting and challenging problems. UKMT Maths Challenges are run by the University of Leeds to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Gold Certificates are awarded to the highest scoring 7% of entrants across the UK. Students in the top 20% are awarded Silver and the top 40% Bronze. John (Year 8), Chenkai (Year 7) and Pavlos (Year 7) have done exceptionally well and have been invited to participate in the follow-on round, which was held on 14th June. Congratulations to all the students.

Year 7

First Name	Result
Chenkai	Gold, Best in Year
Pavlos	Gold, Best in Year
Anthony	Gold
Izzyan	Silver
Jerom	Silver
Yosef	Silver
Macsen	Silver
Shay	Bronze
Niamh	Bronze
Marcus	Bronze
Arwen	Bronze
Willow	Bronze
Sama	Bronze
Sonny	Bronze
Ivan	Bronze
Andrew	Bronze
Nathan	Bronze
Chloe	Bronze
Felix	Bronze
Bruno	Bronze

Year 8

First Name	Result
John	Gold, Best in school
Aadvik	Gold
Liam	Silver
Lyle	Silver
Sania	Silver
Boe	Bronze
Rhiannon	Bronze
Jenny	Bronze
Elsa	Bronze
Ben	Bronze
Toby	Bronze
Oli	Bronze
Isaac	Bronze
Ruby	Bronze
Lita	Bronze
Theo	Bronze
Thomas T	Bronze
Sol	Bronze
Oliver	Bronze
Miriam	Bronze
Lisa	Bronze
Ola	Bronze
Thomas N	Bronze
Dom	Bronze
Gioele	Bronze
Drizzle	Bronze

Maths News

UK Junior Maths Kangaroo competition

Students who perform exceptionally well in the UK Maths challenge are given automatic entry to the next round of the competition – the “Maths Kangaroo”. This year, we were pleased to have three students achieving automatic entry: John (Year 8) Chenkai and Pavlos (Year 7).

We also entered Aadvik (Year 8) and Anthony (year 7) as they only just missed the cut-off for automatic entry. Pavlos and Anthony were awarded Merits for being in the top 25% nationally in this invitational competition. Congratulations to these outstanding young mathematicians on their brilliant achievement.



Pavlos and Anthony with their Junior Maths Kangaroo Merit Certificates



Many of our students have been playing TTRockstars regularly through the year to practise their times tables. Seven students have answered more than 10,000 questions correctly since September – an amazing achievement! A special mention to Jerom and Ciaran for their outstanding effort.

Jerom Y7	68964	Pavlos Y7	8937
Ciaran Y9	38183	Megan W Y8	7106
Anisha Y7	15383	Jeston Y7	7055
Alexandra Y7	13535	Thomas B Y11	6844
Moammar Y7	12493	Josh H-J Y7	6796
Penelope Y7	12331	Ava Y7	5789
Thomas C Y7	10821	Joshua C Y9	5758
Joel Y7	9932	Kemsi Y7	5192
Nivita Y7	9148	Macy Y10	5007



Penglais Pond Photos



Biology students have surveyed some of the biodiversity in Penglais school grounds. Some year 10 classes looked for lichen as part of their bioindicators lesson. They found lots of healthy lichen on the silver birch trees in the quad, which is an indication that the levels of air pollution are low. They have also been learning how to estimate plant populations by using quadrats to survey clover populations. Some Year 7 classes enjoyed a lesson pond dipping, and confirmed that Penglais's newt population is still thriving, as well as identifying water snails, beetles and hoglouse. Other classes identified the different bird species on the grounds.



Year 12 Biology A level students took a trip to castle rocks where they learnt how to use transects to survey the distribution of organisms on the rocky shore.

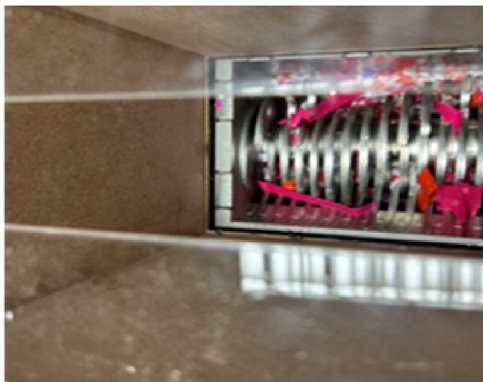
Eco Schools News

The Eco Schools group is made up of several clubs and groups at Penglais including the HRC, Waste reduction group and the Greenhouse club. On Tuesday 4th July, Bethan Evans Phillips came to assess the work that was being done around the school within the national criteria for the third green flag in the scheme. The HRC showed them the vegetable garden and what had been done with regards to weeding and clearing the area. We have also been lucky enough to receive funding from Tyfu Dyfi, a government funded scheme that have bought us tools, compost, plants and paints to brighten up the beds.

The students of the waste reduction group then spoke about the plastic recycling project that they have been working on that involves recycling plastic into coasters and plant pots. They had funding for a shredder and an injection moulding machine to create the items from plastic such as HDPE. They want to eventually sell it in local shops. They made Bethan a coaster to take with her.

At the end of the afternoon the group was awarded their third green flag for all their hard work. The next flag is the platinum which we can apply for in two years' time. Well done to Kiki, Tino, Elsa, Miriam and Ruby.

As part of the new waste reduction scheme we want plastic that has a 2 or 5 in a triangle for our coasters and plant pots. If you have any please can we ask that they are washed thoroughly and you can send them in with your child to be given to Miss Hill in D3.



Hearing Resources Centre News

Duke of Edinburgh - Youth Ambassador

Hafwen has become a Youth Ambassador for the Duke of Edinburgh for her work on equity and inclusion. She is passionate about making sure people with disabilities have equal access to clubs and activities. Hafwen was awarded her Silver DofE Award in the Autumn of 2022 and is now progressing on to her Gold DofE Award, with the support of St. John Ambulance where Hafwen is an adult volunteer.

“ Being deaf means you need to be brave and resilient but NEVER give up. Lots of people want to help but we need to keep raising awareness so that everyone knows how to help. ”



Work Experience

Students from HRC have been attending several work experience placements this year, including Hafan Y Waun, Leanda's Hair and Beauty Salon, Oxfam and Llanerchaeron National Trust. Students have been able to use these opportunities to develop their confidence and resilience when communicating with people they are less familiar with. It has also given them an insight into the world of work and what is expected in the work place. We really appreciate these opportunities and hope to continue working closely with our community next year.



Hearing Resources Centre News

Llain Activity Day

Students from HRC and Canolfan Ni went on an activity day in May. Students were able to join in with team building activities such as, raft building, archery, bush craft and the muddy assault course. It was a fantastic day where the students faced challenges and even battled some fears along the way!



The BIG HELP OUT!

Over 6 million people in the UK joined in with the Big Help Out on Monday 8th May. The objective was to raise awareness of volunteering and to provide opportunities for people to experience volunteering in their communities. 73% of volunteers say that getting involved gives them more confidence. Hafwen and Tizzy helped St. John Ambulance Cymru provide free training in First Aid, CPR and using Defibrillators (AEDs) in Aberystwyth and were on hand to chat about volunteering and demonstrate their First Aid skills.



Penglais Business Breakfast

On the morning of 5th May Penglais welcomed local businesses and companies for a breakfast to share our vision for collaboration in our new curriculum. Hywel Dda, Ystwyth Medical Group, Methodist Housing, Aber Instruments, Envsys, Pugh Computers Ltd, Belit Deer the Refill and Eco Shop, Driftwood Design, Derwent Harps, Arad Goch, Alexanders Estate Agents, Morris & Bates Solicitors, Panpathic Communications (PR), UWA, Careers Wales, New Directions, Ceredigion County Council and the Deputy Mayor all attended to work alongside members of staff from various departments and hear what we already do with regards to careers and community links. Careers Wales explained what they can do to help with the delivery of careers within the classroom and how they can facilitate the collaboration. Emma Thomas from Aber Instruments explained the importance of working with the school and how they have benefitted and even found a current employee. The session ended with group discussions and networking to see what the businesses could offer to school and how they can contribute towards the new curriculum.

An early start but a fantastic [#businessbreakfast](#) today at [Penglais Comprehensive School](#) It was great to see and speak to so many [#employers](#) who are excited about supporting the school with [#cwre](#) [#newcurriculum](#) [#wales](#) [#collaborativeworking](#)



Urdd News

Newyddion yr Urdd

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Owen ar ddod yn drydydd gydag ensemble lleisiol Adran Aberystwyth yn Eisteddfod yr Urdd eleni. Da iawn chi fechgyn ar berfformiad arbennig!

Congratulations to Owen who came third with the Adran Aberystwyth vocal ensemble in this year's Urdd Eisteddfod. Well done boys, a brilliant performance!



Oes diddordeb gyda ti?

Os hoffet ti gymryd rhan yng nghystadleuthau'r Urdd flwyddyn nesa, bydd gwahanol gyfleoedd ar gael. Yn gyntaf, rhaid bod yn aelod o'r Urdd ar gyfer 2023-24.

Dewch i siarad gyda Miss Davies yn A5 am fwy o wybodaeth neu os oes diddordeb gyda chi yn unrhyw un o'r gweithgareddau neu gyfleoedd sydd gan yr Urdd i'w cynnig.

Are you interested?

If you would like to take part in any Urdd activities next year, there are plenty of opportunities. Firstly, you need to be a member of the Urdd for 2023-24.

Come and speak to Miss Davies in A5 for more information or if you are interested in any of the activities and opportunities that the Urdd offer.



Health, Social and Childcare

A Level placements

This term as part of the Health, Social and Childcare A level, all students were sent on a week's placement to experience and observe how our partner schools in Ceredigion support children with complex care needs. This experience has been invaluable to give them an insight as to how local initiatives and Welsh Government policy is applied, making sure to promote a child-centred approach in Wales. This work is not only going to help develop the student's own coursework, but has given them the opportunity to network, think about potential future careers, and thrive in a professional setting of work. This is something that I hope will become a regular event, encouraging outside speakers from the NHS, education and social services to come in to share their experiences with our GCSE and A Level Students.

Mrs N Jenkins

Two Student experiences of placements

During my placement at Ysgol Plascrug, I learnt more than I ever could sitting in a classroom. Before my placement, I didn't realise how broad complex needs were. Since spending a week with a wide range of children in different age groups, it has given me some incredibly valuable knowledge for my coursework. The staff were incredibly helpful in supporting me throughout my visit, and explaining what each child's personal needs are to help them achieve their personal outcomes.

I attended a nurture session with 2 pupils, and it amazed me how activities they do directly benefit their development, for example, playing with clay is great for their fine motor skills, and giving them small easy tasks to sit and complete helps prepare them for sitting in a classroom. They also do circuit sessions which involve intensive interactions in the classroom with the help of a total communication approach where they involve pictures, visual aids, and British Sign Language to help them communicate with the child in the best way possible.

Alys - Year 12

As a part of my health and social care A-level course, I was given the opportunity to attend a week of placement in a childcare setting. During the week I observed and participated in interventions, speech and language sessions and mainstream classroom lessons which all centered on meeting the complex needs of some children within the school community. I gained first-hand experience about the needs of children with additional learning needs (ALN), primarily autism and ADHD, allowing me to further understand how a multi-disciplinary team such as a primary school can support a child to reach their full potential. I learnt that it is integral to support the child accordingly on the day, as each day is different and the practitioners must adapt their support methods to best suit the child at the time. Observing these situations in reality helped me comprehend the amount of adjusting and adaption which is required when working with ALN students and how important it is not to depend on a written down structured method but to also use expertise, experience and intuition to adapt to challenges or to support the child.

Whilst I gained experience of supporting children with ALN, I made a number of notes from observations and opportunities I was given with the practitioners to enquire into their own individual methods of meeting the needs of the children. These notes have been extremely helpful with my year 13 coursework. It has specifically helped me to take a perspective on my work and my understanding of what I'm writing after watching it in practise.

Amber - Year 12

Science News

Year 7 Biology fieldtrip to Parc Penglais

All our Year 7 Science classes have visited Parc Penglais this term as part of their biodiversity topic. We asked 7E for some comments for the newsletter, to explain what they did and what they learned on the trip.

Student comments:

"At Parc Penglais we learnt how to identify different plant species and how to use quadrats. I enjoyed it because I liked walking and I liked looking at the different species." Freya

"We had a worksheet to identify the different species and a quadrat to see how many species there were in a certain area"

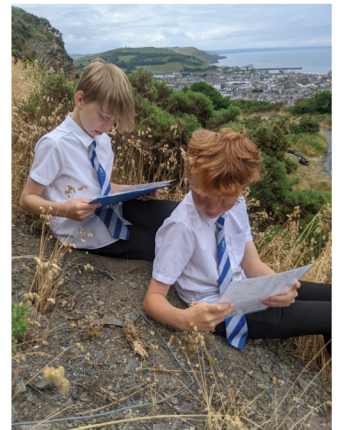
"On the Parc Penglais trip we looked at two sites. Both have been disturbed throughout history. We learnt about pioneer plants and if you leave a disturbed area for a long time plants can repopulate." Evan

"Site 1 had less species and more bare ground, site 2 had a bigger variety of species and less bare ground...I liked the scenery!" Emily

"We recorded the different types of plant that were there. To do this we threw our pencils behind us to make sure it was random, then we placed our quadrat there. We learnt that the soil is made of decomposed plants and that pioneer plants are plants like stonecrop and moss. They come to an area before the other plants. After we came back we made a bar chart about all the different species we found. It was a very fun experience." George

"I enjoyed everything except the heat! Five stars." Isla

Well done Year 7 for some very good fieldwork identifying, recording and analysing the different plant species growing in the old quarry sites. We're happy to hear that lots of you enjoyed it.



Library News

Ysgol Penglais School Library were thrilled to welcome an award winning author to the school on Friday the 16th June.

Winner of the English language category Tir na n-Og book award, and author of *The Drowned Woods*, Emily Lloyd Jones travelled from America to carry out more research in Wales for her new book. We jumped at the chance to have Emily, together with the Books Council of Wales, visit our school.



"The Drowned Woods is my loose retelling of the myth of Cantre'r Gwaelod. Mer, a 17-year-old with the magical ability to control water, sets off on a quest with an old spymaster to take down a corrupt prince. How to do this? A heist! With a motley band including a fae-cursed young man, a corgi that might be a spy, the lady of thieves, and a few others, they attempt to seek out the magical well that protects Gwaelod. But nothing is as it seems!" Emily Lloyd-Jones

Emily met with a small group of students for an interactive session, including reading an extract from her book and a Question and Answer workshop. The students asked some really interesting and insightful questions. The Books Council of Wales visitors even commented on how they were all blown away by the pupils' questions and how they listened with such interest to Emily's responses.



Emily was presented with the Tir na n-Og Award trophy by Amy Staniforth on behalf of the award sponsors CILIP Cymru Wales. Congratulations, llongyfarchiadau Emily

The Library was then open to all students at lunchtime to attend a book signing with Emily, who wrote personal messages in the books and gave out stickers and postcards. It was a pleasure to host Emily and the Books Council of Wales for this special event. We can't wait to read her new book!!