



Ysgol Penglais School

October
Newsletter
2023

Headteacher's Message

It's been a busy half term as ever at Penglais. It has been lovely to welcome new students to our community this year, whether in Year 7, Year 12 or across the year groups. Our Year 7 students have settled in very well and have enjoyed a busy half term both in their learning and socially. At the higher end of the school, we have also welcomed many new students to the 6th form, who also seem to be settling in well into the school community.

It was good to see many parents and families joining us for the Introductory evenings at the start of the term where we shared our goals for this year as well as ways that families can help support their children in the school. The Curriculum booklets and the presentations from the evenings are all on the website for anyone who was not able to attend.

We also had an excellent turn out to the PTA this half term and welcomed many new parents to the association. Thank you to the parents who turned up and then contributed to the slightly scary Halloween Disco that was held last Friday for Years 7 and 8. The students had lots of fun and are already looking forward to the next disco! The next event to look out for is the Christmas Fair on Friday 24th November. Everyone is welcome and if you are interested in joining the flourishing PTA, please look out for emails and just turn up to the next meeting.

We welcomed hundreds of Years 5 and 6 pupils and families from the local schools to our Open Evening at the start of October. Lots of fun was had trying different activities in various subjects as well as doing the treasure hunt around the school. We look forward to future transition events during the year.

In September, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 were fortunate to attend 'Ffair Iaith', 'Language Fair' in the Main Hall. This was an opportunity to experience how Welsh is used in everyday life. Students enjoyed trying out activities such as Welsh dancing, Silent Disco, Virtual Reality, DJing, podcasting and video recording, all through the medium of Welsh.

Our visitors have also come from further afield this half term, as we welcomed 15 visitors from Taiwan. They were teachers, Headteachers and educationalists from Taiwan who were interested in seeing how minority languages are taught in other countries. They learned about how Welsh is taught in Penglais and enjoyed visiting Year 8 Welsh lessons and were very impressed by our Year 8 students. We also learned a little about their minority language in Taiwan, which is Hakka.

Having had a busy and welcoming half term, we are now certainly ready for a week's break! I hope that everyone has an enjoyable and restful week and we look forwards to seeing all our students again on Monday 6th November.

Key Dates

- Progress report 1 for Year 12 & 13 - November 2023
- Year 12 Parents Evening - 16/11/2023
- Progress report 1 for Year 10 - November 2023
- Year 11 Mock exams - 28/11/2023 to 08/12/2023
- Year 10 Parents evening - 07/12/2023
- Year 9 Full report - December 2023
- Year 12 & 13 Mock exams - 13/12/2023 to 19/12/2023
- Carol concert - 18/12/2023
- Certificates evening - 20/12/2023
- Inset Day - 22/12/2023
- Christmas holiday 25/12/2023 to 05/01/2024
- Inset day 08/01/2024
- Students return to school - 09/01/2024 (**Week 1**)



Sports News

Gymnastics

Owen, a student in Year 10 qualified for the Tumbling Inter- Regional Challenge Cup Final to be held at the Utilita Arena Birmingham on Sunday 24th September. Owen will be representing Wales.

Hockey

Penglais U14 and Senior sides have been entered into the Ceredigion league and will play their final matches away against Lampeter before half term. The U14's won their first match against Newcastle Emlyn 4-0, lost 2-0 to Penweddig, won 2-0 against Tregaron, 2-2 at home to Bro Teifi, 0-0 at home against Aberaeron.

Senior girls also won their first match 2-0 against Newcastle Emlyn, drew 1-1 against Tregaron and lost to both Bro Teifi and Penweddig.

Football

Welsh Cup Competition

Senior girls beat Aberaeron away 5-2, Bro Teifi home 6-3 and Welshpool away 4-2. We are now waiting to see who we will play in the knock-out rounds.

U15 girls lost in the final in the tournament winning 2 and losing 1, U13 girls lost 2 and drew 1 in the tournament.

Year 7 boys lost a hard-fought game v Penweddig, eventually going down 7-0 with a scoreline that didn't reflect the performance. Year 8 came 2nd in their group in the Blaendolau tournament and unfortunately did not progress to the national rounds this year. Year 9 have a place in the Ceredigion final after wins against Lampeter (4-0) and Bro Teifi (5-0). Year 10 are into the national rounds for the first time after beating Bro Teifi 5-4 on penalties during the Blaendolau tournament. Finally, the Senior team are into the Ceredigion final after beating Bro Teifi 4-0 with goals from Luke B x2, Steffan G and Ruadhan.

Rugby

Rugby Schools League

With the foundations laid last year, the number of players taking part in extracurricular rugby has increased enormously. Over 70 students have been involved in trainings and games. With the standard of rugby at an all time high in Ceredigion, it was always going to be tough. Playing Penweddig and Bro Teifi was a learning curve and we had to come together to bounce back with strong performances against Aberaeron and Tregaron.

Next term will be equally exciting, with a tournament planned for years 7 and 9 and the remaining fixtures. A special mention to Michael, Harri, Austin, Steffan and Carter who have represented Ceredigion U16's in the National Dewar Shield Competition.



Spike ball

A new lunchtime club has launched this half term to attract new players to the sport. Mr Stubbs introduced this new game to our younger players and runs the club every Monday lunchtime.



ALN News

Canolfan Ni is officially 'Rockin' All Over The World'



Henry meets Francis Rossi

Students from Canolfan Ni were visiting the Arts Centre to look at a new exhibition. While there Henry spotted a tour bus. It turned out that the bus belonged to none other than Francis Rossi from Status Quo. Francis kindly gave Henry a personal tour of his bus and posed for photos with the group. What a great experience!

World of Work

Key Stage 5 students from Canolfan Ni have started back at their work experience placements. Work experience is a great opportunity to build confidence and provides the opportunity to get used to the routine of work. It gives students a chance to practise timekeeping, maintaining the right appearance, and building relationships with colleagues. If you know of an organisation that would be willing to support our work experience programme, please let us know!

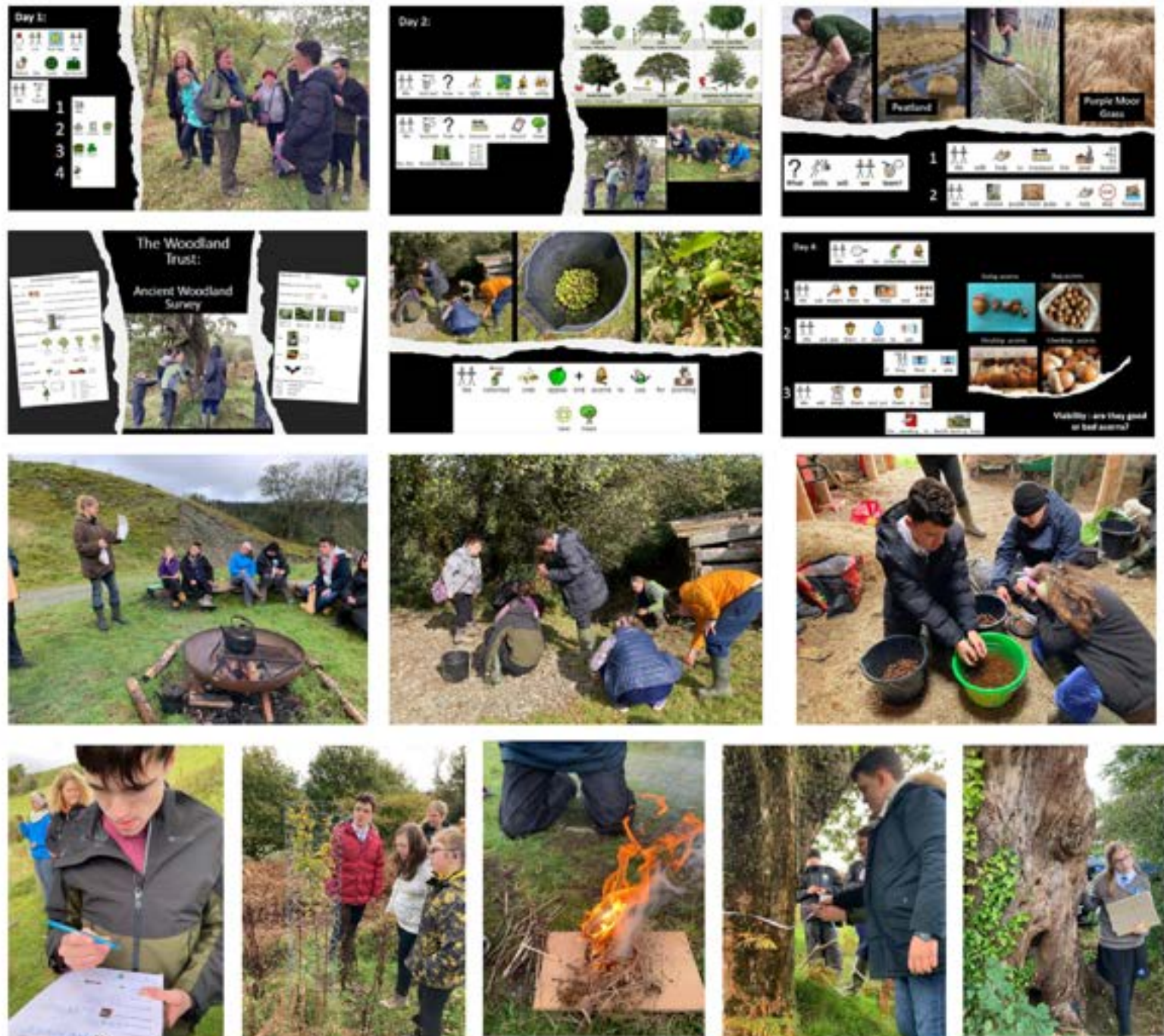


HRC News

Hearing Resource Centre

Rewilding and habitat restoration project

Students from HRC and Canolfan Ni who are studying Entry Level Science have been taking part in an outdoor project learning about habitats, wildlife and rewilding at Cambrian Wildwood. This is a European funded project designed to help people to reconnect with nature and learn about restoring habitats and species. Students have been attending for one day a week over a 6-week period. Take a look at what we have learned below:



HRC News

Dewiswch Eich
Dyfodol

Beth Nesaf?

Choose Your
Future

What Next?



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

The Welsh Government held several careers events specifically for pupils with additional learning needs across Wales this term. Pupils from HRC attended the Careers event in Trinity College, Carmarthen where there was a fantastic opportunity to visit stands and talk to professionals from all areas of work as well as colleges and universities.



Library News

Black History Month takes place every October in the UK. It gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

For 2023, the theme is Saluting our Sisters. People are being encouraged to find out more about the exceptional achievements of black women, especially those who have been forgotten.

Penglais Readers book group had a talk from the head of EAL Ms Erica Gwynne-Hughes on the history of the month. The book group students then became very competitive in naming all 54 of the countries in Africa. Please see our possible book suggestions for Black History Month, all of which are available in our Library.



#PenglaisReaders



Penglais Readers Book Group

- Book talk, reviews & recommendations
- Bookish activities and crafts
- Create displays in the library and throughout school
- Promote reading to the whole school
- Plan special literary themed events to take place

PLEASE SEE THE LIBRARIAN FOR DETAILS

EVERY TUESDAY LUNCHTIME IN THE LIBRARY

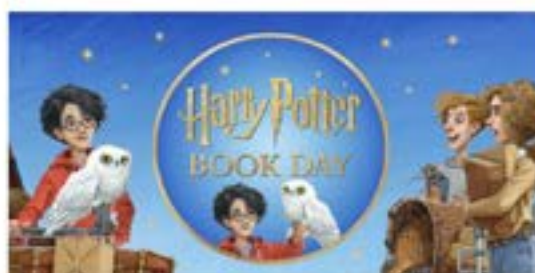
Penglais Readers Book Group activities this half term have included the following:-

- Bookmark making
- Introduction to Book trailers
- Presentation on Banned Books Week
- Harry Potter Book Day Event
- Black History Month talk and activities
- Halloween games

Please see Mrs Kennedy if you wish to join.

#PenglaisReaders

The Library held a special lunchtime event on the 12th October to celebrate Harry Potter Book Day. The theme this year was Magical Places. 35 students attended and took part in Harry Potter Kahoot, Ministry of Magic Magical Memos, Would you Rather and Diagon Tin Can Alley. A great time was had by all!



Well done to Year 7 students who are currently breaking book borrowing records in the school Library with their enthusiastic reading! They have had an amazing start to the year.

Keep up the good reading! Remember you can make book requests or seek recommendations from our Librarian Mrs Kennedy E.Kennedy@penglais.org.uk

SIX SENTENCE SCARY STORY COMPETITION

We are currently running a Six Sentence Scary Story Competition and are thrilled by the number of fantastic entries we have received. Ysgol Penglais School seems to have a talented pool of horror writers! Thank you to all the students who have entered. Winner will be announced at the end of this half-term. #PenglaisWriters

Design Technology News

Part of the Design Technology new curriculum involves our department partnering with local and Welsh companies as well as design industry professionals. In Year 7 students undertake a design project for local company 'Aber Outdoors' to design a beach product. In Year 8 our students undertake a design project for 'Zest 4 Leisure', who are a product design company based in Wrexham, to design a product for use in the garden and outdoor living.

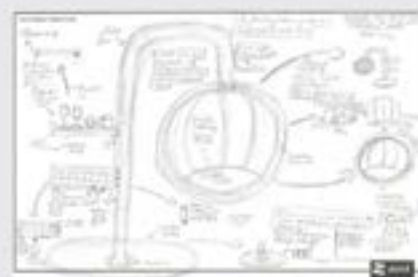
These links bring careers experience and knowledge to our curriculum whilst also giving students the opportunity to work on design briefs set by real companies and not just teachers in our school. They also broaden the students understanding of Product Design in the real world and the type of work real designers undertake. As students are not tasked to make their designs for these briefs, the short projects allow the students to be as creative as they can be without any restrictions from making skills. Over the past year we have found these projects to be a great success and there have been plenty of examples of excellent design thinking from our youngest two year groups.

During the past year our teachers identified the top three designs in each class and at the end of the year judged these and shortlisted the top five in Year 7 and top five in Year 8. These were then sent to Jack Edwards owner of Aber Outdoors and Luke Roberts a former Penglais Student who works as Product Designer at Zest 4 Leisure and both chose a winner for each design task.

In Year 7 the winner was Zofia and in Year 8 the winner was Brooke with both receiving vouchers.



Year 7 Zofia



Year 8 Brooke

Jack at Aber Outdoors was very impressed with the high quality of design work and the creativity of our students. Zofia had identified a problem around accessibility of the beach for those who use wheelchairs and had designed an innovative wheel cover for wheelchairs which would allow the wheelchair to move over the sand. A very functional idea that would be of benefit to many users and an idea that makes the beach more accessible.

Luke at Zest 4 involved other product designers from the company to judge the overall winner and they chose Brooke's garden swing egg chair with multiple other functions. Their reasons included the concept clearly demonstrating the function (sketching), clearly highlighting additional features of the product (good communication skills), consideration of the materials used and how it's fitted together (design for manufacture and assembly), and including a costing which is always very useful when selling concepts. Brooke's concept demonstrated great design thinking and she had applied the design process well in her final concept pitch.

Due to the success of the links with these professionals, the design tasks are both going ahead again this year and both Jack and Luke, as well as our Design Technology teachers, are very much looking forward the students' work.

Modern Foreign Languages News

International languages

Language learners at Key Stage 3 are making a great start this term with their studies in International Languages with French, Mandarin and Spanish being taught here at Penglais. As part of the New Curriculum for Wales and supporting our learners to become informed citizens of Wales and the world Year 8 French students researched "La Francophonie", the world community of French speaking countries as their first homework and below is example of an excellent homework piece by Maya, Year 8



MENTORA ITM
MFL MENTORING

MFL Mentoring Project.

We will be participating in the MFL Student Mentoring Project again this term, with a student from Aberystwyth University, who is currently studying German and International Politics. Our student mentor will be running a combination of language workshops for Year 9 and mentoring sessions for Year 8. During the sessions our student mentor uses bespoke multilingual resources, which focus on themes not typically explored in the classroom. Pupils will be able to explore which ever language and culture interests them.



cross-curricular links



all languages and cultures



essential skills



intercultural communication



multilingual citizens of Wales and the world

French club

French club is running this term and is open to all KS3. Students can enjoy fun activities in the French language at lunchtimes on Wednesdays in E6.

Don't Forget!

NE PAS OUBLIER!

Sixth Form News

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 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 sustained-contact scheme. Students have regular, consistent contact with the College's Outreach team over three years.

New College's Step-Up Programme

New College's Step-Up programme is a sustained contact programme for state schools, supporting bright students across the UK.

- #1 Introduction**
This step introduces the Step-Up programme and give students a firm understanding of what university is, what the benefits of University are, and why Oxford is a little bit different. This step happens in Autumn, here in school with Year 11 & 12 for both forms.
- #2 Visit to New College**
This step involves a visit to New College in the spring term. Students get a tour of the College and have their chance to ask questions from current leading students. For both forms we undertake this visit with Day 1.
- #3 Application Process**
This step is all about understanding the application process from start to finish. Students will get a sense of what is expected from successful candidates. We also launch our reading competition during this step.
- #4 Personal Statements**
This step focuses on Personal Statements writing workshops in the summer of Year 12.
- #5 Interview Practice (Optional)**
If Step-Up students have been invited to interview there is a further Step-Up activity focusing on Oxford and Cambridge interview prep.

Unless otherwise stated, all Steps happen in school and are delivered by New College's Outreach officer



Penglais years 11 and 12 were inspired and motivated by Shelby, New College Oxford's outreach officer and are looking forward to visiting New College Oxford in February.

The Sixth Form prefects, particularly the Charities prefects, Alys and Beca, worked extremely hard organising a Macmillan coffee morning to support people living with cancer. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments at break and £500 will be sent to the charity from the school.



Penglais News



October Open Evening for Year 5 & 6

It was wonderful to welcome so many families to our Year 5 & 6 Open Evening.



Taiwan Visitors

We were delighted to welcome 15 educationalists from Taiwan who were interested in learning about how minority languages are taught in other countries. It was interesting to compare the teaching of Welsh with the teaching of Hakka, a minority language in Taiwan.



Here is the photo of Penglais staff who completed the Cardiff Half Marathon on Sunday 1st October. Congratulations on a great achievement; many charities including Mind, Macmillan Cancer support and Cardiff Women's Aid have benefitted from the donations received.

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.