



Penyrheol

newsletter

Battlefields Trip

Review & Photographs



Plus:
School Awards Evening
Imperial War Museum Trip
Charity Week
& More



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Article 28: Your right to learn and go to school



A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Pupils

The Year 11 cohort that left us in July 2014 had lower examination results than previous year groups at Penyrheol for the first time in five years. This didn't mean that there weren't some outstanding individual achievements – there were – but on average the year group didn't do as well. This reminds us of the crucial importance of the home-school partnership in ensuring that all our young people reach their full potential. We cannot assume the best grades are ours for the taking. It always involves very hard work by pupils and teachers and the encouragement and nagging of parents!

Very significant changes are on the way to the curriculum that we deliver in schools in Wales. These changes begin with new exam specifications in English and Maths and a complete revamp of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, all starting from September 2015. All other KS4 courses are being revised for September 2016. A review of curriculum and assessment arrangements at KS3 is being carried out by Professor Donaldson and he will present his recommendations to the Welsh Government in January 2015. In response to the changes that we know about, we have carried out a subject time allocation review at Penyrheol and will be consulting with pupils and parents on this in the New Year. Further developments will no doubt follow.

As ever, our pupils have been involved in many visits and activities this term, some of which you can read about in this newsletter.

Our Christmas Carol Concert takes place at St. Catherine's Church, Gorseinon, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 17th December. We would love to see you there supporting our orchestra and choirs as we celebrate together the Christmas story and our pupils' talents. However, the church was so full last year that it is a ticket-only event in 2014. Please don't turn up if you don't have a ticket!

Term ends at lunch time on Friday, 19th December, and the Spring Term begins for pupils on Monday, 5th January.

Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda i gyfeillion Ysgol Gyfun Penyrheol.

Yours faithfully,



ALAN TOOTILL
Headteacher



Important Dates

Spring 2015	Term Dates		Holiday Dates		Term Dates	
	5th January 2015	13th February 2015	16th February 2015	20th February 2015	23rd February 2015	27th March 2015

Inset Days - Spring Term 2015

Friday 13th February 2015

Friday 27th March 2015

Other Important Dates

Friday 16th January 2015

Thursday 22nd January 2015
5.30pm)

Monday 26th January 2015

Friday 30th January 2015

Friday 13th February 2015

Wednesday 4th March 2015

Thursday 5th March 2015

Monday 9th March 2015

Wednesday 18th March 2015

Monday 23rd March 2015

Wednesday 25th March 2015

Thursday 26th March 2015

Y8 Llangrannog Trip Departs
Options Fair (2-4pm and 4.30-

Y11 Parents' Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

Y9 Initial Options Deadline

Ski Trip Departs

Spring Concert (7-8.30pm)

Eurodisney Trip Departs

Y8 Parents' Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

Whole School Review Day

Y9 Parents' Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

Y9 Final Options Deadline

Non-Uniform Day

Staff News

This term, we say farewell to the following members of staff, thanking them for their time here at Penyrheol and wishing them well for the future:

Mr J Rogers (Head of Music) who leaves us to teach A Level Music at Gower College. Mrs Eve Morse (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs A Evans (Head of Business Studies).

We welcome Mrs K Rogers (Music Teacher) and Mr S Troake (Business Studies), Mr B Jenkins (Teaching Assistant) and Mr E Battini (Technician - Design & Technology) to the school and wish them happy times here.

Governors

We welcome Mr B Harland as the new Teacher Governor, who replaces Mr J Rogers on the school governing board.

Student Voice

Representatives for 2014/15

At the start of the Autumn term Mr Tootill welcomed and introduced the Student Voice Representatives for the 2014/15 year . They are as follows:

- Y7 Ellie Jones, Siara Walker, Damon Watts & Luke Roberts
- Y8 Aimee Davies, Caitlin Grigg-Williams, Mathew Newcombe & Marshall Sargent
- Y9 Lera Sidorenko, Caitlin Cavallucci, Ryan Smith & Dylan Hughes
- Y10 Geraint True, Kieran Pritchard, Niamh Walsh & Jodie Black
- Y11 Lori Milsom (Head Girl), Matthew Richards (Head Boy), and Megan Coslet (Deputy Head Girl) & Jonathan Williams (Deputy Head Boy)

Topics of discussion this term have been: 5x60 Activities, Rights Respecting Schools, Concerns regarding ICT equipment and Charity Week.

Charity Week

Our annual Charity Week took place during the week commencing 10th November and ended on 'Children In Need' day, Friday 14th November, when we had a non-uniform day raising £860.

During Charity Week, pupils and staff raised a staggering £2351.00 in total.

Student Voice is responsible for choosing the charities that the school support and from the proceeds of Charity Week, allocating the money raised as they see fit.



One of the charities supported this year is 'Educate the Kids'. £625 was donated to this worthwhile charity which enables children in poorer parts of Africa to attend school and to receive an education. Student Voice also collected unwanted school uniform from Penyrheol and sent it to an 'Educate the Kids' supported school in Mombassa. Here they are pictured right, sending their thanks!



The Cheque for £625 was presented to the charity at Penyrheol on 4th December and we were thrilled to have Rachel Selick, Anthony Gould and Brenda Jones visit us to receive the cheque.

Another £625 was donated to Clic Sargent - Supporting children and young people with cancer and £850 to Children in Need.

Sport Report!

Netball Success at Penyrheol

We have had an excellent start to the 2014/15 season with over 50 pupils training and playing games. Well done to those involved. The latest Netball results are as follows:

Year 7	Played 4 matches - Won 3 matches, Drew 1
Year 8 a	Played 7 matches - Won 7 matches
Year 8 b	Played 1 match - Lost 1
Year 9	Played 3 - Won 2, Lost 1
Year 10	Played 1 - Lost 1
Year 11	Played 2 - Won 2

A number of Year 11 GCSE pupils have also been attending some sessions assisting with coaching and umpiring. In County Netball, Lauren Francis, Lauren Evans and Grace Thomas, all from Year 8 have been training with the U14 squad. Well done girls!



Catrin Thomas (Year 8) has been training in the Development Squad. Da iawn Catrin!

Swimming

The following pupils should be commended for their success in the County Urdd Swimming Championships:

Kyle Job (Y11), who achieved 1 x Gold & 1 x Silver medal and Zac Spakman (Y9), who achieved 1 x Gold and 1 x Bronze medal. Both boys will now be representing the county in the National finals! Congratulations also to Alisha Job and Thomas Weeks (Y8), who both won silver medals. Fantastic!



Wheel Chair Rugby

A group of Year 7 pupils along with Miss Heard and Mrs Doel, attended a fun day with the GB Wheel Chair Coach.

After learning the skills needed to pass the ball and use the specialist wheel chairs, everyone lined up for the first match. We soon discovered it was more like bumper cars than rugby as the player with the ball is blocked by other players by bumping into chairs!

Miss Heard found out it was very difficult to move forward when trapped by all the Penyrheol boys!

Passport to Leisure

If you are entitled to free school meals you and your family are also entitled to a Passport to Leisure (PTL) card which offers a discount of up to 60% at over 50 attractions including Active Swansea Leisure Centres, Plantasia, the Wales National Pool, Taliesin, the Grand Theatre and the LC. There are also discounts at restaurants including Nando's, Chiquito's and Frankie and Benny's.

You can join at an Active Swansea Centre for only £2 per person. A member of staff will take your photos free of charge and enrol you onto the discount scheme.

For more details on PTL contact 01792 635473 or visit www.swansea.gov.uk/ptl

The Imperial War Museum

Pupils from Year 9 write about their recent trip to London



In November, the R.E. Department took us to London to visit the Imperial War Museum. I had a great time looking at all the things from World War One, but was especially interested in seeing the Holocaust Exhibition with its model of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. This was a really interesting experience. On the way home, our driver took us past some famous London sights and we saw Big Ben and The London Eye amongst others. This was a fun day!

William Davies

I learned a lot from all the exhibits we saw. This was a very emotional trip as far as the Holocaust Exhibition was concerned.

Georgia Williams

This was a great day out! The Holocaust Exhibition was very informative and interactive, but what really blew me away was a Spitfire which had actually taken part in the Battle of Britain!

Rhys Newport

I was very excited for this trip and it met all my expectations, but the Holocaust Exhibition really shocked me, especially the model of Auschwitz. I learned many interesting facts about both World Wars.

Jenna Davies

This trip was insightful and interesting.

Dominc Waters

On the 24th November, I visited the Imperial War Museum in London for the first time. When we arrived, I was able to look around and saw many models of planes, cars, bikes and much more relating to World War One. I enjoyed this as it showed me how life would have looked and felt during this time. In the second part of the visit, each of us had an audio description with headphones talking and leading us around the Holocaust Exhibition.

This was very helpful as it was like having your own tour guide.

This trip helped me learn in detail, about the Holocaust. I was interested in learning about the survivors and listening to their experiences. My favourite but upsetting part, was seeing the remains of the Jews' possessions such as shoes, clothes and buttons. This helped me realise how real the Holocaust was. It was all so horrific and very difficult to believe.

Bethan Evans

I enjoyed going to the Imperial War Museum because there was a lot that I didn't know about the Holocaust and it helped me to understand. I was interested in looking at the belongings of the people that sadly didn't survive, but the best part of the trip was looking at the planes and cars that were used during the war.

Cara Lloyd-Goulding



Autumn Term with Year 7

By Mrs J Ball

New Intake

September saw a new intake of pupils join Penyrheol School. The move between primary and comprehensive schools can often be an anxious time but transition has gone well with pupils making new friends and settling into school life.

Enterprise Activity

To start the term, we had a special Enterprise Activity which gave the opportunity for pupils to get to know each other and to encourage teamwork and leadership skills. Alyssa Patrick (7E) tells us all about it:



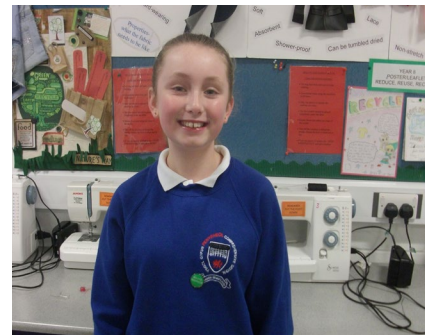
On the 19th September Year 7 were taken to the theatre and given a short introduction about the activity.

We had to arrange ourselves into groups of 5 or 6 according to age. There were 15 groups in all and each group was given equipment and some card. Each group had to make 5 themed teddy bears and had to decide how much they would sell each bear for and work out the profit they would make. We also had to come up with a name, creative description and sales pitch which we then had to present.

Each group had a unique and brilliantly designed teddy bear but in the end it came down to 2 winners. Group 7 won the best presentation and Group 2 the best sales pitch. No matter who won, everyone enjoyed the event and learned a great deal about entrepreneurship, leadership and most importantly teamwork. It was also about making friends with people from other schools'.

Assemblies

In October we had an array of interesting assemblies. In the Gideons assembly, all Year 7 pupils were given the opportunity to receive a Bible and we had an informative and thought provoking Remembrance Assembly which made a huge impact on everyone present. This particular assembly was led by Dr Rees and 7S. Ellie Jones in 7R (pictured left) gave an interesting and confident Year Assembly based on her visit to Llansamlet baling plant with Miss Kingdom and the Eco Club. Everyone in the year group now knows what happens to our rubbish whether it is household waste or old unwanted furniture when collected from our homes.



Welsh Awareness Day

A special thank you goes to Mr Binding for arranging such an enjoyable Welsh Awareness Day despite it being a very wet day. Pupils travelled to Cardiff to visit a number of venues, including St Fagans (Pictured left: Mr Benney keeping the pupils in line the old fashioned way!), ITV Cymru Wales, the Millenium Centre and the Welsh Assembly Buildings. Pupils who visited the Millenium Centre particularly enjoyed seeing back stage and were lucky enough to see the masks and preparation going on for the current production of the Lion King!

Autumn Term with Year 8

By Miss S Collier

100% Praise for Year 8

We currently have nearly 60 children in year 8, who still have 100% attendance for this academic year and Form 8R had one week where the **entire class** had 100% attendance all week! Mrs Gwyther was so thrilled she bought them all a chocolate prize! Currently 8Y hold the Attendance Cup for best overall attendance during the first half of the Autumn Term and we shall soon know which form has won the cup for the full term !



Footie Fundraising!

This term we had a really exciting 5-a-side football tournament between the Year 8 forms for Charity Week. 8R won the tournament and we raised money to be donated to the charities chosen by Student Voice.

Driving Our Way to Success...

Year 8 had a wonderful presentation this term in the form of maths-based classes during PSE day. During the day, pupils were challenged to design a car within specific parameters, buy the parts using their budget and make sure the car would drive safely for a certain distance. It was a fun and memorable activity, with lots of positive feedback from the pupils.



Netting the Prize!

This term our Y8 Netball girls have really enjoyed their training and matches. They are particularly proud to have beaten off all their opponents this season, including their biggest rivals...Bishopston. Well done girls...a wonderful achievement!

Annie

Many of our talented Year 8 pupils were part of this year's school production of Annie. Da iawn, you were all brilliant! Special mention to Aimee Davies in 8M who played one of the main orphans.

We look forward to the announcement of next year's show with bated breath!



Autumn Term with Year 9

By Ms S Ensell-Lewis

'An Icy Reception for P.E. Staff During Charity Week!'



As part of the school's Charity Week this November, Year 9 challenged the P.E. Department to take the famous 'Ice-Bucket' Challenge. As you can see from the photos they accepted the challenge and raised loads of money in the process.

A special thank you goes to Miss Heard and Mr Clapperton for being such great sports!

Purple Hair Tempted Pupils to Raise Money!

Head of Year, Miss Ensell-Lewis and Pastoral Assistant Mr Howells promised pupils that if they raised £500 the pupils could spray their hair purple! Not to be beaten, the pupils worked hard at raising the money by organising several events including a cake sale and many took part in the Spinathon that was in the school foyer.

Since the year group was successful in meeting their target, Molly and Georgia both from 9C had the enviable task of spraying Their Head of Year's hair purple in assembly!

Annie

We were thrilled that both Shauna Lewis and Megan Jones had been selected to play the lead role of 'Annie' in this year's school production of the same name. Both gave fabulous performances as the red-haired orphan, both acting and singing so well in front of packed audiences every night!

Thoughtful Y9 Pupils

Isabella Viggers has recently raised £500 for children in Zambia as part of an organised project run by her local church. She continues to volunteer within the local community. We are very proud of you Isabella!

Ellie D'Auria completed a 7 mile walk for the Welsh Air Ambulance charity recently and ran the 5K Race For hat an amazing achievement Ellie!

Autumn Term with Year 10

By Mme C Hyndman

Charity Week



Charity Week, was once again successful this year and we thank all our year 10s that took part.

Our pupils collected around 185 tins and packets of food which were donated to the Gorseinon Foodbank.

Pictured left, are a few of the pupils that were instrumental in the success of this year's collection.

Year 10 also raised just under £400 by running a tuck shop in the Annexe at break and lunch times. Healthy eating put on hold for just a couple of days in light of this worthy cause!

Young Business Dragons

Eight pupils from Year 10 represented the school at the 'Young Business Dragons' Competition at the Marriott Hotel in Swansea Bay.

After being successful at their Enterprise Day in Year 9, "The Magic Mirror" idea, competed against many other products from comprehensive schools across the county. The group pitched their product and business plan in front of a full conference room and gave a private pitch to the 3 guest judges who were local entrepreneurs and business owners in the area.

Unfortunately the team didn't progress to the next round but Geraint, Josh, Lewys, Tara, Lydia, Savannah, Cloe and Amy certainly did the school proud.



Rugby and Football Teams

The Year 10 Rugby and Football teams have been busy this term, although, unfortunately, due to bad weather over recent weeks a number of the games have had to be postponed.

Year 10 girls have been having regular training sessions on Thursday afternoons and had their first match against Pontarddulais this year. Some of the results didn't go in favour of Penyrheol but all the pupils are enjoying representing their school!



Autumn Term with Year 11

By Mr M C Luckwell

'SRTRC' National Winners Claim Their Prize!

Year 11 girls who won the 'Show Racism the Red Card' competition this year, for their song written in Welsh, visited the Millennium Stadium to claim their prize!

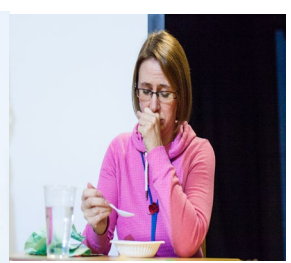
Megan Coslett, Olivia Brayley, Caitlin O'Brien, Lori Milsom and Aimee Davies were part of an exclusive audience watching the Welsh Rugby team train the day before the big clash with Australia.

This was the first of TWO visits for some of them as they also sang on the pitch before the Fiji game as part of Gorseinon Youth Choir!



'I'm a Teacher...Get Me Out of Here!'

Yes, once again, back by popular demand, Year 11 organised the ghastly bug-eating competition during a Charity Week lunchtime. The theatre was packed and the contestants, Mr Harland (Child Dev), Mrs Gwyther (Pastoral Y8), Mr Wallace (Science), Mrs Doel (Teaching Assistant) and Miss Keenan (School reception) sat nervously on the stage awaiting their culinary delights! Mrs Gwyther went on to become the eventual winner and was crowned 'Queen of the Jungle' and nearly £400 was raised in the process!



'DIY SOS visit Jack Morris!'



Last year, whilst in The Heath Hospital, Cardiff, undergoing a huge back operation, Jack's nurses nominated his family for DIY SOS. In July, the BBC team including Nick Knowles, arrived along with loads of volunteers (one of them being our own Mr Benney – pictured here with Jack, his mum Helen, and Mark from the TV programme). Over 9 frantic days they completely transformed Jack's home, making it much more accessible for Jack. The programme can be seen on 18th December, 8pm on BBC1

'Mock Exams Predict Success!'

Mock exams went well this December and the Year group will now be working hard in the coming two terms setting their sights on achieving the best results the school has ever had.

Careers Fair and 'Have A Go'!

As part of our regular PSE programme, our annual Careers Fair took place on 9th October in the theatre.

The fair offers our students (and parents) the opportunity to research various colleges, universities, professions and apprenticeships as well as looking into future job opportunities. A big thank you to Mrs Steel who organised this event.

Those who attended, were also given the chance to 'Have a Go' at many of the training stations that were available in the Sports Hall, run by lecturers from Coleg Sir Gar. Everything from Map Skills to Childcare, Music to Cooking! This was a great success and the both events will undoubtedly take place again next year.

Have a Go Childcare!



Have a Go Music!



Have A Go Map Skills



Have A Go Cooking!



Have A Go Public Services!



Have A Go Hairdressing!



Penyrheol Comprehensive

Hard Work and Perseverance Rewarded!

On Thursday 20th November, we enjoyed our annual awards evening that is always such a pleasure to attend. Last year's Year 11 pupils were invited back to school to receive their prestigious awards which were presented by past pupil Stacey Jeffreys in front of a full audience consisting of proud families, friends and school staff. Stacey gave an excellent speech about hard work and perseverance being the absolute keys to success, something which she has experienced herself as she at first graduated with a Maths degree, then, after converting to Law, went on to train as a corporate lawyer in London, before becoming a solicitor with law firm Blake Morgan in Cardiff.

We were also treated to a superb performance by the the Y11 girls that won the 'Show Racism the Red Card' competition. They sang their winning song to rapturous applause! This was a lovely evening with a splendid atmosphere which ended with a light buffet whilst award winners had their photographs taken.

And The winners Are...!

The following pupils were the proud recipients of a trophy and a small financial gesture.

The Memorial Award for Outstanding Service to the School	Joseff Williams
Penyrheol Award for Outstanding Service to the School	Karina Dove
English Excellence Award for GCSE Performance in English	Amy Jones
English Achievement Award for Most praiseworthy effort in English	Alexandra Dalton
Mathematics Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Mathermatics	Matthew Nelson
Mathematics Achievement Award for most praiseworthy effort in Mathematics	Lauren Mould
Marion Williams Science Award for best GCSE performance in Science Subjects	Caitlin Thomas
Science Achievement Award for most praiseworthy effort in Science	Aimee Herbert
Art Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Art	Taylor Jones
Business Studies Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Business St.	Lewis Rees
Child Development Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Child Dev.	Caitlin Harris

School Awards 2013/14

Design Technology Award for best performance in Design Technology	Rachel Jenkins
Drama Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Drama	Karina Dove
Gower College Swansea Vocational Award for best performance in Engineering	Deniss Sidorenko
Geography Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Geography	Michael Thomson
History Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in History	Kate Jones
ICT Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in ICT	Charles Goss
Media Studies Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Media Studies	Joseff Williams
Lloyds Bank Cup for best GCSE performance in Modern Languages	Karina Dove
Music Achievement Award for best GCSE performance in Music	Mollie Allen
Performing Arts Achievement Award for best contribution to Music and Drama	Joseff Williams
Physical Education Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in P.E.	Sophie Root
Sporting Achievement Award for commitment to Physical Education	Sam James
Religious Studies Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Religious Studies	Alicia Deacon
Vocational Education Award for best performance in Vocational Studies	Lauren Mould
Welsh Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Welsh	Amy Jones
Thomas Award for Special Effort	Thomas Peek
Community Council Millennium Award for the best contribution to the Community	Cydney Whiley
Headteacher's Award	Joshua Dickens
Catherine Williams Award for outstanding GCSE performance	Caitlin Thomas Matthew Nelson

Article 29: Your right to become the best that you can be



Battlefields Trip 2014

In October, the History Department took 56 students from Years 9-12 on a tour of the First World War Battlefields, accompanied by 6 members of staff. Dr Rees led the party with assistance from Mr Fuge, Mr Rees, Mr Thomas, Ms Heard and Mrs Evans. It was a particularly poignant tour, it being the centenary of the start of the Great War and was an outstanding success, with the students representing the school and the local community magnificently.



The tour took place over five days and four nights, the first two days spent in the wonderful Belgian town of Ypres, the scene of four years of bitter battles between the British defenders and German attackers. Here the party visited the new Welsh memorial at Langemarck and several cemeteries, including Tyne Cot, the largest CWGC cemetery in the world, where Mr Rees was able to find the name of a relative killed and whose body was never found, and Essex Farm, where John McCrae wrote his famous 'In Flanders Fields' poem.

It was a very special trip for Joseph Williams (Y9), Callum Davies (Y10) and Sian Waters (Y9) who were able to visit the graves of relatives killed in the war.





Saturday morning was spent in the magnificent In Flanders Fields Museum at the Cloth Hall in Ypres and the afternoon at Sanctuary Wood trenches and museum. During the evening the party joined literally thousands of people at the famous Menin Gate for the last post ceremony. It was a very emotional occasion and staff who had visited before were overwhelmed by the sheer number of people present, paying their respects to the soldiers who defended Ypres during the war.

On Sunday, the party had a tour of the infamous Somme battlefields. We were guided around the Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge, through the tunnels and trenches, with everyone marvelling at the enormous memorial on the ridge. A visit to Beaumont Hamel memorial park, where the Newfoundlanders were wiped out on the first day of the battle, followed. Here, the pattern of trenches has remained unchanged since the war and many of the party found this particularly poignant. A visit to the massive Thiepval memorial to the missing of the Somme was followed by the party leaving a wreath to the Welsh who were killed capturing Mametz Wood in 1916, a ceremony that concluded the tour. We were also delighted to be able to visit the grave of a Corporal Pickett, a relative of Sian Waters in Year 9, and Dr Rees visited the grave of Thomas Whitney, his great uncle.

Throughout the tour of the Battlefields, we were indebted to Eifion our driver who also turned out to be a superb tour guide, full of anecdotes and information that Dr Rees said he couldn't match! The students conducted themselves superbly and the feedback from them was overwhelmingly positive. All the staff agreed that it had been a pleasure and a privilege to accompany such a fine group.

The final two days were spent at Disneyland Paris – something the students needed after such an emotional three days.

There is no doubt that the tour was a resounding success and Dr Rees would like to thank all his colleagues for their valuable contributions and of course great company. He is considering running a trip to Krakow and Auschwitz next year and any expressions of interest are welcome!

Beyond the School Gates

Many of our Penyrheol pupils are involved in outside school activities. If you would like to shout about it...here's your chance!

Outdoor Sports

Isaiah Walker and Corale Hughes (Y11) were the recipients of the 'inaugural Leigh Halfpenny Bursary'. They even received a congratulatory tweet on the Year 11 Twitter site from the rugby legend himself!

Ethan Rigby (Y8) competed for Wales in Hockey. Excellent achievement

Thomas Carmichael (Y9) came 1st place in shooting competition with Loughor Scouts

Kurtis Russ (Y9) won The Parents' 'Player of the Year' award at his local football club. Well done!

Morgan James (Y9) Returned to fitness, scoring a hat-trick in his second game. William Davies' FC won the league 4 years in a row.

Kirsten Lea Thomas (Y9) Achieved Star 1 Signal Award, passing shooting test with Gorseinon Army Cadets

Indoor Sports

Christian Wade (Y9) Congratulations to Christian who competed in the Welsh Novice Boxing Championships on 19th October and won his Novice Welsh Vest in the 42kg weight class. Christian is a member of Penyrheol Boxing Club.

Holly Edwards (Y9) Won the British Karate Championship. She trains with Shiru Karate Kai in Pontarddulais

Robert Potter (Y8) competed for his country in the European Wadokai Championships in Italy. Amazing accomplishment.

Jac Elsey (Y8) Competed for Wales in the Kickboxing Championships in Llanelli in August. He came second. Well done Jac!

Isaac Thorne (Y9) Won 1st place in the Gorseinon Scouts Chess competition.

St John's Ambulance

We are thrilled that Charlie Saunders (8M) is continuing to enjoy her involvement with St John's, which she attends every Wednesday. During her short time there, Charlie has already achieved 2 certificates, one for 'Communication with the blind/deaf' and another for 'Young Lifesaver' skills. Well done Charlie. What a great and worthwhile hobby!

Performing Arts

Many pupils from Penyrheol past and present were on stage at The Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot on 13th December in 'Now That's What I Call Musicality 2'. This vibrant and entertaining evening of musical theatre included performances from current pupils [Robin Haley \(Y11\)](#), [Jamie Williams \(Y11\)](#), [Ellie Evans \(Y7\)](#), [Catrin Thorne \(Y7\)](#) and [Isobel Bass \(Y9\)](#) and was Stage Managed by [Jonathan Williams \(Y11\)](#) with help from [Amelia Maguire \(Y10\)](#). Well done to all concerned for yet another fantastic show. We look forward to your production of 'The Addams Family' next July and hope to see many of our pupils involved again!

Congratulations to [Niamh Jewell \(Y8\)](#) who came third in the World Irish Dance Championships recently and to [Tamzin Baglow \(Y9\)](#) who won the Street Dance Championships. Great job girls!

'High Five' to Heledd

At a special ceremony at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea this October, Swansea City Midfielder, Leon Britton, presented prizes to local children who have made a difference in their communities or have succeeded against the odds. The 'High 5 Awards' run by Swansea Council and its partners highlighted inspirational people, one of whom was our very own [Heledd Fenn \(11E\)](#).



Heledd, along with her friends, Morgan Thomas and Aisha James, gave up their own time during the holidays to create a DVD to highlight the issue of domestic abuse and young people. The topic they chose was 'sexting' which is a hugely relevant issue affecting lots of young people and their families.

The film has been received extremely well since its launch and other local authorities and the Welsh Government are all interested in using it in various forms.

Congratulations Heledd for your part in this excellent and worthwhile project, We wish you much deserved success with the DVD.

Past Pupils



Our congratulations go to [Alexander Murphy](#) who left Penyrheol in 2013. Alex has successfully auditioned and been accepted at the prestigious 'Arts Educational School' in London, where he will study Musical Theatre. Alex who was also the recipient of the 'Performing Arts Award' at Penyrheol in 2013 will begin his 3 year training in September 2015. We wish him the very best of luck as he wends his way to London's West End!

Following her success as 'Grace' in the C4 series 'Skins', our very own [Jessica Sula](#), can now be seen starring in the hard-hitting film 'Honeytrap' set in Brixton. We are thrilled that Jess has gone on to enjoy such a fabulous career and look forward to seeing the film.

