

Penyrheol

Christmas Newsletter

A Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Pupils and Parents

Attendance in school is almost the most important element to ensure success in your child's education. There is a direct link between excellent school attendance and better qualifications achieved at GCSE level. Attendance at Penyrheol has fallen over the last four years from a peak of 94.6% in 2015 to 93.6% in 2019. That reduction of 1% may not seem very much, but it actually equates to an extra 8,500 lessons missed by pupils! Every pupil should be aiming for 100% attendance and only hitting that figure gives an 'Excellent' for this aspect of their performance. Of course, if a young person is genuinely ill or has another valid reason why they can't be in school, that is fine, provided they make every effort to catch up with what has been missed. In the UK, pupils only attend school for 190 days per year, so they already have 175 days when they aren't in school. Our young people are competing against thousands of others in schools and colleges across Wales and the UK, so we need to maximise their opportunities to learn and gain good qualifications, which will give them a solid foundation and positive choices for their futures. So please think carefully before making appointments for pupils during the school day or taking them out of school for any non-essential reasons.

From January 2020 we intend to send a weekly email to parents celebrating successes at Penyrheol and informing you about important events that are coming up. We hope that this will help you to keep thinking about your child's education. Did you know that parents showing a real interest in their children's education, for example by asking them regularly about their studies and attending Parents' Evenings, is a better indicator of success in GCSEs than parental income? We are also looking at whether we need to move to a digital method of communicating information about homework and other important aspects of school life from September 2020.

Our Carol Concert takes place at St Catherine's Church, Gorseinon, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 18th December. All pupils and parents are welcome to attend. Term ends at 1.30 p.m. on Friday 20th December. The Spring Term begins for everyone on Monday 6th January 2020.

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

Yours faithfully



ALAN TOOTILL
Headteacher



Important Dates & Information

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
SPRING TERM	MON 6 JAN	FRI 14 FEB	MON 17 FEB	FRI 21 FEB	MON 24 FEB	FRI 3 APR
SUMMER TERM	MON 20 APR	FRI 22 MAY	MON 25 MAY	FRI 29 MAY	MON 1 JUN	MON 20 JUL

Bank Holidays

Friday 10 April 2020 - Good Friday
 Monday 13 April 2020 - Easter Monday
Friday 8 May 2020 - May Day
 Monday 25 May 2020 - Spring Bank Holiday

Inset Days

14 February 2020
 3 April 2020
 20 July 2020

Parents Evenings

27 January 2020 - Y11 Parents Evening 3.30-6.30p.m.
 2 March 2020 - Y8 Parents Evening 3.30-6.30p.m.
 16 March 2020 - Y9 Parents Evening 3.30-6.30p.m.
 30 March 2020 - Y7 Parents Evening 3.30-6.30p.m.

GCSE Results Day

Thursday 20th August 2020

Governor News

This term, we welcome three new Parent Governors to the school: Megan Griffiths, Rhian Watts & Tara Murphy and welcome back Michael Cahill as our Community Governor.

We bid farewell to Karen Lawrence whose 4 year term of office has come to an end and a special thank you goes to Christine Richards, who has served as a governor for approximately 20 years at Penyrheol. We wish her a long and happy retirement.



The Addams Family



Last year in June, theatrical enthusiasts prepared to audition for a musical based on a quirky mysterious family who have featured in a number of films. We auditioned for a role in this musical. Once auditions were over, we spent several weeks of learning dialogue, songs and choreography. We were all eager to get stuck in learning all the parts.

We started by having leads in every day to rehearse various dances with our choreographer and songs with Mrs Phipps, Mrs Finney and Mrs Griffiths. We learned many music numbers and learned company numbers on Thursdays when the whole cast stayed after school to rehearse. Everyone enjoyed and it encouraged many people to take part.



After weeks of rehearsals it was nearing the big performance. We had two working weekends when we had microphones and props. We had two working weekends when we were performing for the year six pupils from our catchment area and the pupils seemed to enjoy it.

The musical lasted for four nights from the 21-24th of October. On Monday and Wednesday the family was played by Naomi Thomas as Pugsley, Summer James as Grandma and Samuel Heywood as Gomez. The quality and excellence of the show. Then on Tuesday and Thursday we had a performance by Naor Mould as Gomez, Ellie Griffiths as Morticia, Alfie Atkinson as Pugsley and there were many compliments on the professionalism of the cast.

For me, the experience of being a part of the school musical was so much fun and although there were many hours of rehearsals, it was worth it! I made many friends from various other year groups which I may never have talked to before, so it was a great opportunity to make new friends. I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this experience.

If you are thinking about taking part in the school production next year, I would highly recommend you do so, as it is such an amazing opportunity!

Family

Written By Millie Lewis

...tion for the school's annual musical. This year's musical was **The Addams Family**, a...
...ured in their own beloved sitcom and multiple movies. Myself, along with many others...
...ver and characters were assigned, it was time to prepare for the musical with just a few-...
...phy in preparation for the performances which would take place in October.
...of the steps, harmonies and acting tips needed to make this show great.

...ographer Ms. Murphy, scenes and dialogue with Mrs Sheaf...
...als numbers that took a couple of weeks to master and we...
...o practice. We also performed for every year group which...
...eople to buy tickets.



...formance as we were putting finishing touches to musical numbers and testing out...
...ere we ran the musical to make sure that everything was ready and before we knew it,...
...ent schools. Apart from one or two minor mishaps, the performance went smoothly...
...enjoy watching it and found it engaging and funny.

...ber and many of our family and friends joined in anticipation to watch. On Monday...
...Wednesday, Connor Mould as Gomez, Ellie Griffiths as Morticia, Elima Banicau as...
...as Lurch. Both nights were very successful and many people complimented the matu-...
...day's performance, the alternative cast performed: Katie Randell as Wednesday, Con-...
...nson as Pugsley, Mia Graham as Grandma and Samuel Heywood as Lurch. Similarly,...
...ne musical and many of my friends who went to watch thought that it was amazing!



The Sky's

The following pupils have all been nominated
in a subject this term, and

YEAR 7

Cerrys Morgan (E - Science)
Evan Smith (A - French)
Grace Kirmse (A - English)
Grace Kirmse (A - R.E.)
Hannah Beech (E - R.E.)
Hattie Wakefield-Hughes (E - D&T)
Jaden Thomas (A - P.E.)
Jessica Lacey (E - French)
Jonny Davies (E - P.E.)
Keira Knight (A - P.E.)
Kleo Bowen (A - D&T)
Lowri Dymond (E - P.E.)
Max Morgan (E - Welsh)
Mylo Hunter (E - ICT)
Niamh Bevan (E - English)
Nicole Farcas (A - Science)
Reuben Rees (A - Welsh)
Shoaib Ali (A - ICT)

YEAR 8

Ashleigh Bevan (E - Welsh)
Alex James (E - P.E.)
Alex James (E - French)
Ellie Page-Smith (E - Science)
Emily Isaac (A - French)
Emily Meyrick (A - Science)
Erin Williams (A - D&T)
George Davies (A - ICT)
Joshua Penino (E - English)
Joshua Penino (A - P.E.)
Kayla Boast (A - R.E.)
Kaylee Brain (E - R.E.)
Kenzo Morgan (E - P.E.)
Kyle Driscoll (E - ICT)
Millie John (A - P.E.)
Sam Seagar (A - English)
Wiktorija Borycka (E - D&T)
Wiktorija Borycka (A - Welsh)

YEAR 9

Alfie Atkinson
Connor Walsh (E)
Danny Lewis (A)
Diesel Woods (E)
Ella Brown (A)
Ellis-Shaun Bend
Georgia Reid (A)
Georgia Reid (A)
Jay Jones (A)
Joshua Girletz (E)
Kacey Rees (E -
Kieran Holloway
Luke Evans (A)
Maddi Bonham-Clatwo
Maddison Garfort
Olivia Francis
Phoebe Hall (E)
Phoebe Hall (E)
Romeo-Jay Thoma
Ryan Leigh Burd
Shona Maddocks

A = Achievement

E = Effort

**When the right attitude
the sky's**

the Limit!

and for their outstanding achievement or effort
should be congratulated.

9

(A - R.E.)
E - Spanish)
- Science)
E - English)
- Welsh)
e (E - D&T)
- English)
- Spanish)
- ICT)
E - English)
Science)
y (E - ICT)
A - P.E.)
orthy (A - French)
h (A - D&T)
(A - P.E.)
E - P.E.)
E - R.E.)
s (E - Welsh)
er (E - P.E.)
(E - French)

YEAR 10

Amber Kavanagh (A - Science)
Amber Kavanagh (A - Computer Science)
Bethan Thomas (E - R.E.)
Brionni Fox (E - Science)
Bryony McCumsky (E - P.E.)
Caitlin Thomas (E - Business Studies)
Ethan Bowers (A - French)
Grace Poole (A - P.E.)
Holly Isaac (A - English)
Jie Liu (A - Business Studies)
Jie Liu (E - Welsh)
Joe Bates (E - Computer Science)
Joe Bates (A - WBQ)
Kelsi Rudd (E - WBQ)
Lillie Sloots (A - Welsh)
Oscar Scott (A - P.E.)
Ryan Adams (E - ICT)
Ryan Baker (A - D&T)
Shane Rice (E - P.E.)
Thomas Baglow (E - English)
Tyrhys Varcianna (E - D&T)
Uthman Mohammed (A - ICT)
Zara Lee (A - R.E.)

YEAR 11

Alannah Finselbach (E - WBQ)
Amy Christmas (E - Business Studies)
Brandon Logan (A - P.E.)
Cerys Dymond (A - ICT)
Dylan Rees (E - Computer Science)
Emily Ling (E - R.E.)
Emily Sanger (E - Science)
Joshua Willis (A - Science)
Kelcy Hooper (A - P.E.)
Kyle Harries (A - Welsh)
Luca Rabaioti (A - R.E.)
Luca Rabiaotti (A - WBQ)
Nia Davies (E - P.E.)
Sam Davies (A - Computer Science)
Sophie Gammon (E - ICT)
William Picton-Jones (E-P.E.)
Zia Hart (A - Business Studies)

and effort is applied...
the limit!



“I had never considered a career in law until my teacher made me think about it.”

When I was in Year 11, an English teacher at my comprehensive school suggested we form a mooting team. Once the team was formed, I took on the role of Junior Defence Barrister – at the time I didn't even know what mooting was. We had to write submissions and opening/closing speeches. Our teacher was phenomenal, she really believed in us, and pushed us to do our best both in and after school – our English classroom became our courtroom.

As the jury filed in...I felt the nerves.

On the day of the Regional Heats at Swansea Crown Court, we all certainly looked the part – the “barristers” (the Defendant) case, I felt both the nerves and the adrenaline kick in. Our client had been charged with a crime that was going to be easy. Finally getting “on my feet” and presenting to both the jury and a local QC (who played the role of the Prosecution) felt like a dream. We defended our Defendant and we won the round! I was proud to be a part of it.

The team were successful in winning the Regional Heats at Swansea and we progressed to the national finals. Those grand courtrooms left us all truly inspired – quite a few members of the team went on to study Law at university and have had successful careers in the legal profession.

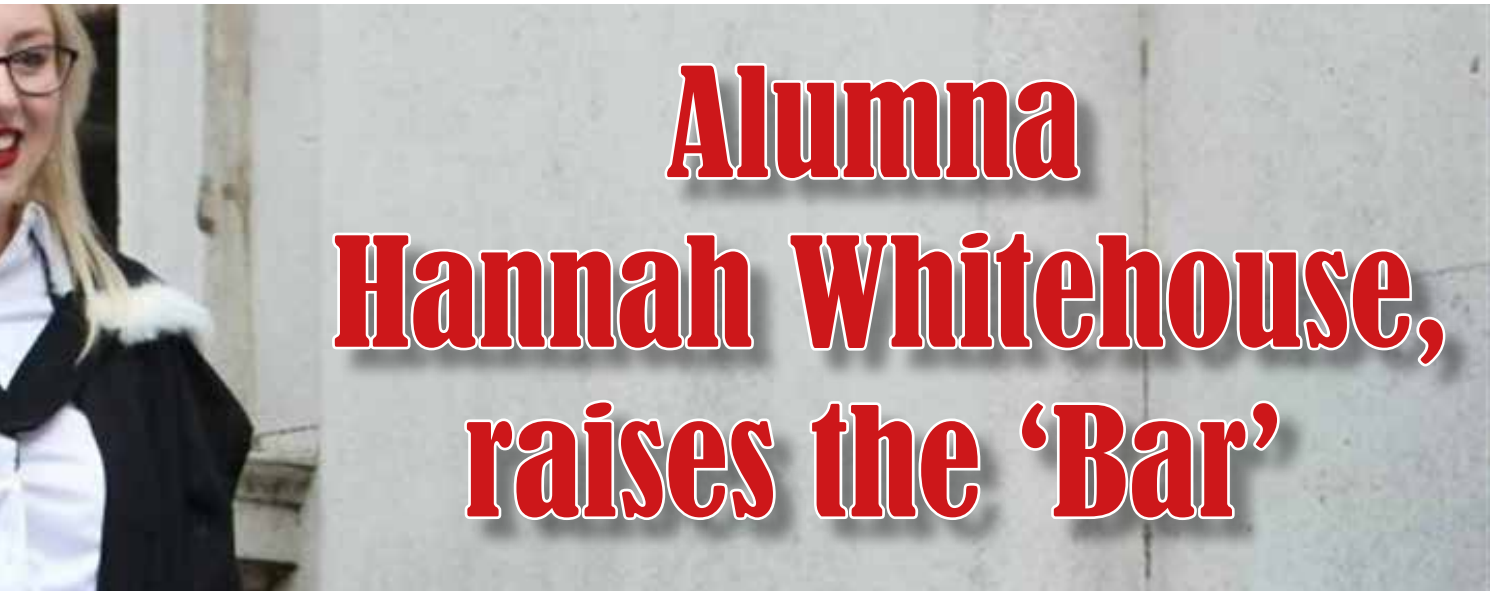
I discovered I had a real interest in both the academic and practical aspects of law.

At the time of the Bar Mock Trials I had been selecting my A-Level subjects; following some work experience at a law firm one day at my local Further Education College I decided, following my experience at the Bar Mock Trials, that I wanted to study Law. I was interested in both the academic study and practical aspects of law.

In the August after I finished my GCSEs, I was afforded the opportunity to shadow a Barrister at a local law firm. I was able to attend conferences with clients. Watching real-life barristers in court following the trial of a defendant was a truly inspiring experience.

This week, 8 years on, I passed the BPTC (Bar Professional Training Course) with a distinction. I am not sure that I would have ever discovered my true passion for law without the help of my English teacher.





Alumna Hannah Whitehouse, raises the 'Bar'

...ade me aware of the Young Citizens mock trial competition.”

...ggested that I take part; I had always enjoyed giving presentations in class. I know what a barrister was! As soon as roles were assigned, we began preparing, practising our questions to be our very best. As a team we were extremely dedicated, preparing during our lunchtimes which morphed into a mini courtroom.

...rves and the adrenaline kick-in.

...barristers” even got to borrow a wig and gown! As the jury filed in and we waited to present our client (charged with joint enterprise Grievous Bodily Harm following a gang attack in a local park. This was not played the judge), after weeks of practise and preparation, was a feeling like no other. The jury acquittal was a moment that I would never forget.

...nal finals at the Old Bailey. Whilst this was as far as we got, the rush and buzz that we experienced in my Law at A-Level and even Degree. I really felt that this was something I could do for the rest of my life.

...ademic and practical application of the Law.

...experience earlier in the year, I had been left very unsure as to what I wanted to do next. At a taster event, to try an introduction to A-Level Law. It was from here that I discovered I had a real interest in the practical application of the Law.

...local Chambers in Swansea. During my week I was taken to watch various trials, meet colleagues and the competition was captivating and confirmed that the Bar was the place for me.

...an “Outstanding”. If it had not have been for Young Citizens and its Mock Trials, I would not have had my love for the law nor considered a career at the Bar.

It's All About Giving...!

Our Annual Charity Week

This year, our Student Voice have chosen to donate the money raised during Charity week to some fabulous charities:

**NICU- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Singleton Hospital
Breast Cancer Awareness**

The money was raised in a variety of ways including:

A Spinathon

Cake Sales

Guess the Lego pieces in a jar

Win a slab of Chocolate Brownies

Copper Collection,

Hot chocolate and crepes at Break time,

A photo booth,

Eco Glitter Face Painting

and our very own...

I'm A Celebrity' competition, which you can read about, later in this newsletter.

£1195

RAISED FOR
**OUR CHOSEN
CHARITIES**

**Our thanks go to
everyone who helped to
make this years'
Charity Week such a
great success!**

Especially at Christmas!

Shoe Boxes for Romania

In October, our collection of present-filled shoe boxes were collected from the school, ready to wend their way to an orphanage in Romania. This has become an annual gesture at Penyrheol and one the pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 look forward to.

This year, we also sent along some of our 'Swap Shop' items. These are items of uniform, coats and shoes that have either been lost and uncollected by pupils or donated by pupils who have out-grown them. A selection of items were chosen to send to Romania and these particularly included lots of coats and shoes.



Non-Uniform Day

£700 was raised from our non-uniform day and will be donated to Children in Need

Christmas in the

Tuesday 3rd December saw the Music department hold its annual "Christmas in the Community" concert at Gorseinon Hospital.

We managed to sing at all wards and the outpatients department of the hospital and I

We had lots of positive feedback from shoppers in Sainsbury

Thank you to the patients and staff at Gorseinon Hospital for their appreciative audience and to Sainsbury's for their support.

Y11 Music Showcase

On Thursday 14th November, the Year 11 Music department had prepared for the performance.

The concert took place in our beautiful theatre and the audience responded with applause and

Students sat the exam a few days after the showcase. Year 11 students

"The showcase was so special as I could perform for my family and friends. I think it definitely

Well done to all!



Please join us for our 2019 Christmas Carol Concert at St. Catherine's Church.

The Community

event. This year a group of Key Stage 3 students sang a selection of carols and festive songs at
al and Sainsbury's.

oved spreading festive cheer to those unfortunate enough to be ill at this time of year.

y's which certainly lifted our spirits after singing for hours!

Gorseinon hospital who were such an
y's for allowing us to sing in your store.

Music Showcase

Music GCSE class gave a concert featuring items they
forming element of their qualification.

tre and the supportive audience of family and friends
cheers to each and every performance.

Showcase with many of them receiving the highest
dent Connor Mould writes:

*form my song, 'Why, God, Why?' - from Miss Saigon,
y gave me extra confidence for my performing exam."*

All pupils who took part!



Catherine's Church, Gorseinon on Wed 18th December at 7pm.



Shw Mae Day

Our annual **Shw Mae Day** was a great success this year, with pupils from Year 7 taking part in a variety of activities about Wales or using the Welsh language.



Activities included making lovespoons, quizzes and attending a special presentation about the Welsh Youth Parliament. MP Tonia Antoniazzi came along to speak with the pupils and to answer questions.



The Holocaust Exhibition

Haydn Jones

“When I first stepped onto the ground floor of the Imperial War Museum, I was amazed at the size of the vehicles and weapons that were used by the armies. The Holocaust Exhibition made me feel sadness, not only for the victims but also for those that were responsible. I cannot imagine that anyone could leave the museum without being affected and without scars.”

Phoebe Hall

“In my opinion, going to the Imperial War Museum was a privilege. I now feel more informed about the tragic history of the Holocaust and I found the evidence that was displayed around the museum alarming but intriguing.”

Leah Baker-Fox

“I was really interested in the model train at the Holocaust Museum. It showed how the Jews arrived into the camp and how they were treated. Men and women were separated and taken to different places.”

Isobel Wenham

“The most memorable part of the trip was seeing the belongings that the Jews took to the Concentration Camp. The Jews had been forced to leave their homes and leave everything they owned behind, so the few things they brought with them, must have meant a lot to them. This visit brought everything we have been learning about the Holocaust to life and it was very moving.”

Airen Miller

“On the way back from the museum trip, I spent some time thinking about what I had seen and learnt. It made me think how lucky I am and we should all be thankful for what we have.”



Penyrheol Comprehensive School



UNIFORM SWAP SHOP!

Swap or Not - The Choice is Yours!

FREE! - Please take what you need. Our donated and sometimes brand new items are here waiting for you. You don't have to have items to swap.

FREE! - Perhaps you have out-grown your uniform or coat...Swap it here, for a new size.

And please don't forget to **donate** your 'good as new' uniform when you have finished with it and help our school re-cycle, re-use and re-educate!

**POLO SHIRTS * TROUSERS * SKIRTS * SWEAT SHIRTS * SHORTS *
P.E. KIT * COATS * KIT BAGS * SHOES**

(All uniform MUST have school crest and/or logo)

Re-Use



Re-Cycle

Re-Educate

Order!

Hot on the success of last year's competition, our Mock Trial team are going for it once more! Having won both the Local and Regional Heats, they got as far as the National Heat last summer and had the opportunity to try a criminal case in The Royal Courts of Justice in London where they were commended for their presentational and analytical skills, as well as their knowledge of the law.

This year's team is made up of experienced members who were personally praised for their efforts last year (Hannah Roberts, Sophie Wilson, Abigail Gouge, Millie Lewis, Georgia Reid and Alfie Atkinson) – as well as fresh blood (Ellie Banks, Millie John, Ffion Davies, Maddie Bonham-Clatworthy, Nicholas Luca, Sasha Hurst, Jessica Kelly, William Mears, Shaun Davies and Mayya Ali).

We have a strong team and preparations are already underway for the Local Heat which will take place in Swansea Magistrate's Court on the 21st March, 2020. Before then, the team will have the opportunity to visit Swansea Magistrate's Court to get a 'feel' for the court in which they will first perform against other local schools, as well as the opportunity to be 'taken down' to the holding cells where the condemned are led after trial. We also look forward to a visit from Phil Gill, a local magistrate who has kindly offered his time and his expertise in order to make sure our team are fully prepared for the competition.

We wish the team the very best of luck in both their preparations, and in competition. I'm sure they shall
'ALL RISE'
to the occasion!

Since September a large number of rugby and football fixtures have been played. Once again this is largely down to staff commitment, our wonderful 3G pitch and the support of the senior leadership team for lesson cover etc.

RUGBY

Year 7 have had a good start picking up convincing wins against Olchfa and Bishop Gore in the Swansea league. They also won both their games at the Morriston Rugby Festival against Bishop Vaughan and Gowerton.

Year 8 won two of their four Ospreys league fixtures against Morriston and Pontarddulais. The team qualified for the Plate Competition but lost in the semi-final by a try scored in the final few minutes by Bryntawe.

Year 9 won five of their six Ospreys League fixtures including wins against Bishop Gore, Maesydderwen, Pontarddulais and Morriston. However they lost in the Ospreys Cup semi-final against a very strong Gwyr team.

Year 9 now play Cwmtawe for the final place in the upcoming Welsh Cup knockout stages. Good luck boys!

Year 10 pupils are playing extremely well and **Dylan Griffiths, Oscar Scott, Leo Thomas** and **James Caldon** are all enjoying a successful season with the Swansea School Boys U15s Rugby team and we watch their progress with interest.

Individual Rugby Successes

Year 11 pupils **Hari Houston** and **Cameron Scott** have been performing very well for the Ospreys under 16s team, although Cameron is currently awaiting a shoulder operation, so we hope to see him back on the pitch soon!



SWIMMING

Several pupils from Years 7-11 recently competed in the Urdd Regional Swimming Championships. There were a number of excellent performances on the day that included:

Elima Banicau (Year 9), who finished 2nd in the Year 9 & 10 Butterfly event. He also finished 4th in the individual Medley.

Anthony Luca (Year 11) finished 2nd in the Year 11 & over Backstroke event.

FOOTBALL

The Year 8 and 9 football teams are showing excellent progress and have both reached the semi-finals of the Regional Welsh Cup.

The following pupils are all doing well with the Swansea Schools Boys Team:

Jacob Dennis (Year 10)

Daniel Gemine (Year 9)

Ryan Bond Morgan (Year 8)

We also have five Year 11 pupils who are a fundamental part of the Llanelli Reds Academy, which is run by Llanelli Town AFC.

These are: William Picton Jones, Hari Cannon, Ryan Davies, Tom Davies & Sam Lovell.

For regular updates, please follow us
on: Twitter @penyrheolPE
and Instagram PenyrheolPE

GIRLS FOOTBALL

The U13 Girls Football team have shown excellent commitment to training sessions and have won all the matches they have played so far. They beat Cefn Hengoed in the first round of the Welsh Cup and have now progressed onto the next round which will take place in December.

The U15 Girls team lost 3-2 to Pontarddulais in the first round of the Welsh Cup competition. It was a very tight match and they were unlucky to concede the third goal in the last two minutes of the game!

Individual Football Successes:

Olivia Francis (Year 9) has represented Wales in Football at U15 level, in two matches against Scotland. In both matches, Wales came away with the win! Not only is this an outstanding achievement in itself, but Olivia was also 'playing up' a year!

The following pupils have been selected for the Swansea School Girls Football Squad: **Layla Kerr** (Year 8), **Lowri Dymond** (Year 7), **Lea Jones** (Year 7) and **Pippa Puddefoot** (Year 7).

Anna Phelps (Year 8) has been selected for the Swansea School Girls, West Wales and Welsh Schools Squads for this season.

GIRLS RUGBY

Ceri Williams, **Elizabeth Thomas** and **Hannah Beech** have all been selected to represent the Ospreys and Scarlets Academy for Rugby.

GYMNASTICS

Ffion Colwill (Year 8) won silver at the Welsh Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships and has since been selected for the Welsh Rhythmic Gymnastics Squad.





CRUNCHING CRITTERS

As a perfect end to our charity week, pupils will take part in their very own version of...



Much like the ITV series, our charity event has become an annual tradition, but this year, who was going to 'volunteer' to enter camp? To be fair, it didn't take too long to encourage some of our newer members of staff to take part and we soon had 6 people willing to partake in our disgusting culinary challenges!



- Mrs. R. Davies Jones (Deputy Head)**
- Mr A. McKay (ALNCO)**
- Mr. G. Roberts (Head of Maths)**
- Mr. D. Brown (Maths)**
- Ms. E. Rees (Head of Year 7)**
- Miss. S. Evans (Science)**



The competition took place at lunchtime and the theatre was full of pupils waiting anxiously for someone to be sick!

They were not disappointed...Thanks to the large screen displayed behind the nauseous contestants, they could clearly see who was struggling and it wasn't hard to see why, as the dishes presented to them were genuine critters just like the TV show!



TEACHERS FOR CHARITY!

were invited to the theatre to see staff and pupils of 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here'!



THE MENU

Starter - **Critter** Cocktail
Main Course - A **Bug** Burger
Desert - Chocolate **Ant** Truffle



The atmosphere was electric in the theatre as the pupils cheered (and booed) the contestants and as you can see from the photos, all meals were digested...some more easily than others! The competition went to a tie-breaker where two contestants had to hope for the biggest round of applause!

Our eventual winner and newly crowned '**King of the Jungle**' was **Mr. D. Brown (Maths)**, who wore his crown with pride! Quite right too, since the event raised a mighty **£300**



Penyrheol Comprehens

Our Annual Awards Evening, is one of the highlights of the year. Over 30 Awards were presented in total, in front of an appreciative audience of over 100 people on this special occasion. Our guest speaker this year was **Owain Thomas QC** who gave a motivational and inspiring speech. Our huge congratulations go to all the winners.

1	Memorial Award for outstanding service to the School
2	Penyrheol Award for outstanding service to the School
3	English Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in English
4	English Achievement Award for most praiseworthy effort in English
5	Mathematics Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Mathematics
6	Mathematics Achievement Award for most praiseworthy effort in Mathematics
7	Marion Williams Science Award for best GCSE performance in Science Subjects
8	Science Achievement Award for most praiseworthy effort in Science
9	Art Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Art
10	Business Studies Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Business Studies
11	Child Development Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Child Development
12	Design Technology Award for best GCSE performance in Design Technology
13	Drama Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Drama
14	Welsh Baccalaureate Award
15	Geography Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Geography
16	History Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in History
17	ICT Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in ICT
18	Media Studies Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Media Studies
19	Lloyds Bank Cup for best GCSE performance in Modern Languages
20	Music Achievement Award for best GCSE performance in Music
21	Performing Arts Achievement Award for best contribution to Music and Drama
22	Physical Education Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Physical Education
23	Sporting Achievement Award for commitment to Physical Education
24	Religious Studies Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Religious Studies
25	Vocational Education Award for best performance in Vocational Studies
26	Welsh Excellence Award for best GCSE performance in Welsh
27	Thomas Award for Special Effort
28	Community Council Millennium Award for the best contribution to the Community
29	Headteacher's Award
30	Catherine Williams Award for outstanding GCSE performance

The Leigh Halfpenny Bursary to help pupils who are demonstrating excellence in their studies.
Jessica McNulty, Nia Davies and

Comprehensive Awards 2018/2019

...s of the school calendar and this year was no exception.

School Governors, Pupils, Staff and Parents who equally enjoyed this momentous traditional speech that was so well received, we have published it on the pages that follow.

...the winners that are listed below:

	Ethan Roberts
	Ffion John
	Alyssa Patrick
	Shannon Phillips
	Edan Reid
	Toby Moran
	Edan Reid
	Kieran Swistun
	Alyssa Patrick
	Katie Broome
...ment	Aimee Griffiths
	James Davies
	Ellie Jones
	Emily Thomas
	Jack Vincent
	Eleri Thomas
	Molly Bates
	Celyn Willicombe
	Katie Broome
	Isobel John
	Jacob Sheaf
...ion	Jay Roberts
	Shane Devey
	Harriet Powell
	Sarah Feraru
	Alyssa Patrick
	Carl Garbett
	J. B. Amos
	Alexandria Wilson
	Edan Reid & Molly Bates



...ent potential in Sport, was also presented, and went this year, to three pupils:

Kelcy Hooper. Congratulations!

Awards Evening Speech

Good evening everyone and thank you Mr Tootill for inviting me tonight. The last time I remember being in this theatre was when I was sitting where you are now. Unlike tonight, I think the whole year was invited, and I don't think I won anything!

Congratulations to those who have won prizes tonight and well done to you all because you all now stand on the threshold of the next big step in education and training, one which will provide many of you with the key, or at least a clue, to what you want to spend your lives doing.

It is a privilege to be here because I owe a lot to this school and the teachers who taught me here a little while ago. I did not realise it then but the hard work which I started to put in at school and the encouragement of my teachers gave me a solid foundation for everything that has happened since. There's lots going on in your lives apart from school and work but it's important I think to make time to think deeply and widely about what you might want to do and then to devote yourself to it. That is not the same thing as being obsessed with something or letting it rule everything else but hard work is important if you are to succeed; that goes for those of you whose sights are on A levels and beyond and those of you who are heading for different courses or opportunities. Grasp those opportunities because it is easier, much easier, to do that now when you have the support of the system and your friends are going through the same thing. Those opportunities will enrich your experience of the world.

Working hard too is important for other reasons, not just for getting qualifications but it brings with it many rewards. Not just money and success but the skills you will learn, the friends you will make, the colleagues you will meet and learn from, and the self-esteem that comes with doing something well; that is its own reward.

So ambition is important, hard work is important but it is also important to choose something that will satisfy you, make you happy, and provide you with a basis from which to accomplish the other things which make life worth living, whatever projects you may set yourselves.

I've had the enormous good luck to have had a brilliant education which gave me the confidence to go on to study law, become a barrister, a judge and develop interests in all sorts of areas of life. I've been a school governor for 20 years, a member of a medical research ethics committee and more besides, all as a result of the grounding I got here. I have learned to enjoy the challenges that all this brings.

Is there a secret to success? Not really, and you would probably and rightly be suspicious if someone said there was. But I would say that life is a balance. Believe in yourself but not too much; ask for help but learn to do things yourself too; put in the hours but enjoy your friendships and life outside school. Grasp opportunities for the future but also value what you have.

Above all, have the confidence to do what you want to do and the courage to try and do it. Don't let anyone tell you that things are beyond your grasp because they are not. If someone had told the slightly timid 16 year old boy that I was all those years ago that I would be a QC and a judge and standing here, I would not have believed them. In 10, 20, 30 years' time I hope a lot of you might look back and be as shocked as me. Thank you again for inviting me, well done to the winners and good luck.

Owain Thomas QC

Y11 Mock Interviews

In November, our Year 11 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to each engage, in a mock interview situation, that took place in our Library Resource Centre.

Before the interviews, pupils were taught how to fill in an application form and how to conduct themselves in an interview situation. This was done as part of our PSE day.

On the actual interview days, volunteers from local businesses, gave their time to interview each pupil and provide valuable feedback. Feedback was varied and included:

- * Offering a firm handshake to the employer and thanking them for the interview.
- * Ensuring their CV included information on their achievements outside of school.
- * Not being afraid to pause and think of an appropriate answer, rather than panicking.
- * Having questions ready for the end of the interview.



Our interviews were employers from companies that included: The DVLA, Citizens Advice, Admiral, Plantasia and Swansea University.

At Penyrheol, we believe, this is one of the most important and productive opportunities offered to our Year 11 pupils and we thank all those who helped make the days successful.

Penyrheol has just become a DofE Licensed Organisation and we attended a presentation at the Liberty Stadium to mark the occasion.

Nia Davies and Kelsey Hooper, who have just completed their DofE Bronze Award, attended the event which saw inspirational guest speaker, Tori James, talk of her challenges in being the first Welsh woman and youngest British woman to climb to the summit of Everest.



DofE Bronze Award 2019

2019 has been another successful year with the participating pupils achieving their Bronze Award. Through torrential rain, tears and tantrums (but that's enough about the staff!), we all survived!

Mrs Steel and her trusted volunteers are always amazed by the transformation, confidence and skills the pupils achieve from the first expedition, where they are guided like untrained puppies, to the final expedition, where they are left to their own initiative to survive the Gower elements.

The skills learnt, the friends made and the memories will stay with them for life.

Congratulations to all!

IMPORTANT CAR SAFETY NOTICE

The safety of the pupils, staff and all of us that use the school site will always be our priority. With this in mind, we ask for your support and cooperation with a Health and Safety matter which is giving us great concern.

During the pupil drop off time in the mornings and pick up time in the afternoon, we have high levels of traffic. The school employ a Traffic Management Plan which reduces the risk level of contact with moving vehicles, but in order to achieve this, we require the cooperation and support of parents and carers.

Please drop off or pick up your child in the swimming pool car park.

Do not drive around the drop off sign and stop outside the green gates. This increases the risk of contact with moving vehicles, yet it can be easily reduced if we keep to the drop off and pick up plan.

If your child has mobility problems and you need to drop them closer, then please use the yellow area to drop off and drive slowly when entering from the main road.



**Penyrheol Comprehensive School, thanks you for
your commitment to keeping everyone safe.**