



Penyrheol

Easter Newsletter

Pupils Present the News on BBC TV

GCSE Art Visit to Bristol Zoo

Multilingual Rugby Star Visits Year 9

**Magistrates Mock Trial Success
& much more!**

ON AIR

A Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Pupils

Please take the time to read our termly newsletter which gives a real flavour of the many activities taking place at Penyrheol and the talents of our pupils.

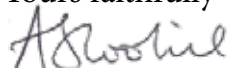
We recently received the final part of the analysis of our GCSE results from summer 2018. This was a value-added analysis that compares the progress made by pupils at Penyrheol with those from 10 other schools in Wales who are in our 'family' (that is the schools which are considered to be most similar to us in context). We are deemed to have the most challenging context within our family of schools and therefore should rightly be at the bottom of this analysis. Instead, we were at the top in 3 of the performance indicators, including the most important one (Capped 9 – the best 9 GCSEs achieved per pupil including English, Maths and Science), and no lower than third in any of them! This fantastic result is further evidence of the hard work of pupils and staff at Penyrheol and the strong support of parents for their children's learning.

We have listened to the concerns of parents in relation to aspects of our new school uniform. This year we have reviewed the changes made, especially in the light of the Welsh Government consultation on school uniform statutory guidance, consulted with parents and held discussions with pupils and governors. As you know, we have already permitted the wearing of shorts all year round. Next term we will be announcing further changes in order to provide greater choice to reduce costs for parents, which was a key concern expressed.

School budgets continue to be very challenging in this period of austerity and the current uncertainty over Brexit. However, we are prioritising the need to reduce class sizes to below 30 where we can from September 2019.

Term ends for pupils on Thursday 11th April. Thursday 12th April is an INSET day for staff. The Summer Term begins on Monday 29th April. By then there will be just one week before GCSE written papers begin for Year 11, so final revision should be in full swing. Pasg hapus pawb!

Yours faithfully



ALAN TOOTILL
Headteacher



Important Dates & Information

Summer Term 2019

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
SUMMER TERM	MON 29 APR	FRI 24 MAY	MON 27 MAY	FRI 31 MAY	MON 3 JUN	MON 22 JUL

Autumn Term 2019

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
AUTUMN TERM	MON 2 SEP	FRI 25 OCT	MON 28 OCT	FRI 01 NOV	MON 4 NOV	FRI 20 DEC

Bank Holidays

6 May 2019 - May Day

27 May 2019 - Spring Bank Holiday

Inset Days

22 July 2019

Governor News

Mr. Jeff Bowen (Chair of Governors) joined us for the second half of our Eisteddfod this year, when year 8 had their on-stage competitions. Mr. Bowen e-mailed the Head to say:

"I attended the year 8 part of the Eisteddfod. It was such a privilege to witness the talent of the year group. I am so glad I was also able to witness the excellent behaviour of the pupils who were watching, which was first class and made me proud to be chair of such a wonderful school."



Road

There has been a great deal of progress in road safety in recent years, with the number of people killed and seriously injured falling considerably. We all have a part to play.

Swansea Council's road safety team has worked over the years with the Welsh Government, South Wales Police and Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service to reduce casualties across the city and have adopted a target- driven approach.

The road safety team coordinates and delivers a variety of schemes which aims to create behavioural change in the young and old and supports the excellent work our Improvements Team is providing.

Examples of the road safety schemes which are currently being delivered in Swansea with Welsh Government funding are:

The School Run

Whether you're a parent or driver, it's important that you take extra care on the roads and encourage your children to do the same. With that in mind, here are a few simple tips to make the morning and evening commute that little bit safer.

Using the car

Check that your child is correctly restrained. If you're planning to carry any extra children make sure that you have the age-appropriate child seat. Please see RoSPA's dedicated website www.childcarseats.org.uk for more advice.

Walking to school

If you are planning to let your child walk to school on their own for the first time, talk to them about the route they will use and the dangers they may encounter. Watch your child so that you can judge whether they have the ability to cross roads safely on their route to school.

Children learn by watching adults. If walking your child to school, talk to them about how they can keep themselves safe and always try to set a good example when crossing the road.

Cycling to school

Cycling is a fun and healthy way to get to school, especially if a few simple precautions are taken: If your child is planning to cycle to school, check that their bike is in good working order. Ensure the brakes work, the tyres are pumped up and the saddle and handlebars are securely tightened.

Safety

Plan the route they will take and consider cycling it with them for the first time.

RoSPA recommends that a helmet be worn at all times.

Drivers:

Be extra observant and keep a watchful eye for children walking and cycling to school, they might be distracted and excited.

Reduce your speed where you see lots of children, especially near to schools. If you are driving at 30mph and a child runs out, your stopping distance will be at least 23 metres.

Rushing causes accidents – give yourself more time for your journey and never be tempted to speed!

Parking enforcement can help to tackle problem parking in Swansea. The launch of a parking enforcement camera car in Swansea has been hailed a success in changing motorists' parking habits. The Council launched the camera enforcement car in 2015.

In a bid to tackle parking issues outside schools and in bus stops, Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) may issue Penalty Charge Notices for numerous offences which contravene to parking restrictions for on and off-street parking. The current penalty charge is either £70 for high rate contraventions, or £50 for low rate contraventions. This is reduced by 50% if the penalty is paid within 14 days or increased by 50% if the penalty is outstanding after the 28 day payment period.

DO NOT

- park on yellow lines
- cause an obstruction
- park on bus stop or clearways even to drop people off
- park on zig zag lines
- park or wait in taxi ranks. Tow away zones apply to all taxi ranks.

To arrange for a Civil Enforcement Officer or the camera car to be deployed around your community or school please contact: car.parks@swansea.gov.uk.

For more information or to arrange a road safety visit for your school please contact: road.safety@swansea.gov.uk.

Bristol Zoo

In February, the Art Department took the Art GCSE pupils on an educational trip to Bristol Zoo. The pupils took photographs of the various creatures in order to help them with their coursework. They were able to experience direct observation of the various species, including snakes and cockroaches.

The Zoo which also has larger animals such as lions and gorillas was a fabulous trip, and the GCSE pupils greatly benefitted from their experience.





Student Voice last met on Friday 22nd March. The main topics in discussion were uniform (with regards to Transgender pupils) and pupil behaviour.

Head Teacher, Mr Tootill, led the discussion by sharing the views of the Welsh Government regarding the need to NOT gender separate uniform choices.

Student voice were fully supportive of this and were curious why it even came to debate in this day and age. It also brought to our attention the possibility of having unisex toilet facilities in the future and whether or not the school needs to review its boy/girl seating policy.

The discussion on behaviour was lively, with the general feeling that behaviour in and around school has deteriorated somewhat and that our behaviour policy is not working as well as planned. The pupils feel it is a minority of pupils that are causing problems and they should be dealt with quicker and more severely to send a strong and clear message. Pupils also expressed that they didn't feel our inclusion room is as effective as it should be, and some of those that are sent there are not bothered about going into inclusion or getting behavioural points.

Mr Tootill explained that he would take the feedback away for further discussion with senior management.

Guido Volpi

Loving Languages with Year 9



Guido Volpi is an Argentine rugby player who has recently been signed by the Ospreys.

Guido came to speak to our Year 9 pupils about the importance of him being able to communicate in another language, not only for his job, but for his social life as well.

Pupils had the chance to ask Guido questions about his career and how he had managed to settle in Wales so well. Guido explained that he loves learning languages, but has yet to master Welsh! Not surprising, since he already speaks Spanish, French and English...all fluently!

Guido is pictured above with Madame Hyndman (Teacher of French) and Mrs Young (Teacher of Spanish and Head of Modern Foreign Languages), who were both very pleased to have the opportunity of getting a photo with Guido!

Pictured below, is one of the Year 9 classes that attended the Q and A session with Guido, some of whom went on to have 'selfies' with the rugby player and some even got rugby balls signed!



Making Good Choices with Music!



On Monday 8th April, Year 8 and 9 pupils were invited to watch young dynamic singer Jean-Mikhael sing live in the theatre. The pupils clapped, danced and sung along with the singer, but this was not your usual pop concert!

The singer was invited to our school to deliver a serious message to the pupils about making good choices. They talked about alcohol, drugs and smoking and the importance of looking after one's mental health by talking to others.

The message was received loud and clear and very effectively. Through the much loved medium of music, the pupils quickly related to the singer and to the messages being conveyed.

This was a really enjoyable session, which sent pupils and staff alike, singing and dancing their way back to lessons!



Eisteddfodd Winners Showcase

On Thursday 4th April, our Music Department held a special showcase of music, performed by all the winners of our recent Eisteddfodd.

The programme was varied and included musical numbers from a wide range of genres including pop, musical theatre and traditional Welsh pieces.

The evening was a great success and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the performances. It was clear that there is great deal of musical talent in the school.

Congratulations to everyone involved!



BBC Young Reporters Day

Year 10 GCSE media studies students, were invited to the BBC Studios on 6th March for the 'BBC Young Reporters' day.

The pupils were lucky enough to have a very 'hands on' and interactive day and gained experience in a range of activities.

Pupils started the day with sports commentary, read the news off an autocue in the actual BBC Wales studio and they also read the weather '**live**' on radio Wales.

They learnt about technology and apprenticeships and had an invaluable insight into one of the biggest media institutions in the UK.

Hopefully our budding journalists may continue their interests in a career in the media in the future.



CREATIVE MATHS PROJECT

Throughout the Spring Term a group of Year 8 pupils have been involved in a Creative Maths project, funded through the Arts Council's Lead Creative Schools Scheme.

Mrs Quin's Maths class have been looking at ways that they can use creative arts to link with understanding numeracy in the real world. The group had an initial planning meeting with the two artists working on the project, Lisa Evans and Eleanor Flaherty, and decided to focus on using recycled plastic to create art work.

We started the project with a visit to the Swansea baling plant at Llansamlet and we carried out a beach clean of part of Swansea Bay in the freezing rain back in January! This was made bearable by a stop-off at McDonald's in between

In February, the group visited Cardiff and toured the Artes Mundi Exhibition at the National Museum before seeing the Trident Park Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) where waste is burned to generate energy and provides electricity for 200,000 homes annually.

Alongside the visits, pupils have been busy in creative workshops making art from plastic. The art work has included a giant turtle stuffed with plastic bottles, a wave sculpture and individual 'stained glass' panels made from plastic.

The theme of recycled plastic has supported numeracy learning about volume, space, shape, area, perimeter and the use of data from the baling plant and ERF. The whole process has been filmed and photographed as one of the contributing artists, Eleanor Flaherty, is a professional film maker.

The aim is for the art work to form an outdoor exhibition in the central quad area of the school annexe. There will be an opening ceremony for pupils and their parents early next term.

"In this project we have had fun and also learnt various skills like filming and making with plastics and other materials. We have done a beach clean and that made me see that the news often exaggerates that there's a lot of litter on the beach. We went to a baling plant, which stank, but showed me how much Swansea recycles." (Calum Hall 8U)



Pupils are on the ball!

BOYS FOOTBALL

This school year we have achieved great success on the football field.

We have completed over 20 fixtures and been *victorious* in over 70% of them!



GIRLS FOOTBALL

Congratulations to Olivia Francis (Year 8), who has been selected as part of the Welsh U13 Girls Football Squad!

Olivia Hicks (Year 8) is currently training with the West Wales Girls Performance Centre and Megan Davies (Year 10) is also training with the Welsh Squad.



NETBALL



An excellent level of commitment has been shown by all teams this season towards both training and competitive matches. All teams have competed very well against other schools in county, with some *outstanding* results being achieved across all age groups!

The Under 16 team (a combined Year 10 & 11) reached the semi-finals of the Ann Smart County Netball Tournament. Team members were:

Lia Moruzzi-Jones, Caitlin Morgan, Olivia Thomas, Thierry Evans, Sofia Evans, Taylor Derrick, Kelcy Hooper, Nia Davies and Naomi Boyes.

The following Year 10 pupils have been selected as part of the U15 Local Authority Hub Performance Pathway Programme (run by Welsh Netball): **Naomi Boyes** and **Kelcy Hooper**.

HOCKEY

The Year 7 girls' team have had a successful term winning the South West Regional Tournament and qualifying for Welsh Schools Plate Final which will be held in Newtown on 9th May 2019. **This is their greatest achievement yet!**

Participation in the hockey club continues to grow and the club is going from strength to strength in both training and fixtures. Well done everyone!



CROSS COUNTRY

34 pupils competed in the Afan Nedd Tawe Cross Country Championships in January.

The Year 10&11 Boys team won the team competition (Kai Hopkins, Jonny Donaldson, Dan Sidorenko and Luc Roberts).

The Year 10&11 Girls team finished 2nd in the team competition (Darcie Bass, Kelcy Hooper, Nia Davies and Caitlin Morgan).

The Year 7 girls team finished 3rd in the team competition (Daisy Williams, Ava Williams, Megan Griffiths and Cerys Dudden).

Four pupils (Darcie Bass, Kelcy Hooper, Kai Hopkins and Dan Sidorenko) represented the county at the Welsh Schools XC Championships in February.



SWIMMING

12 pupils competed in the regional round of the Urdd Swimming Gala. There were a number of excellent performances on the day from Elima Banicau Chloe Grigg-Williams, Ffion Johns and Anthony Luca – these pupils all achieved a top three placing in the Finals of their respective events. Elima Banicau was selected to swim at the Urdd National Finals in Cardiff in January as a result winning his 100m Breaststroke race. In this competition, he reached the final of the event, finishing a creditable 7th position.

Chloe Grigg-Williams is currently ranked No.1 in her age group in the 100m Individual Medley event in South West Wales.

GYMNASTICS

12 girls from across Years 7-11 competed in the Welsh Schools Sports Acrobatics Championships in Cardiff in February, all achieving *amazing* results!

KARATE

Jay Roberts (Year 11) has recently represented Wales at the European Karate Championships. An outstanding achievement – Well done Jay!

All Rise for

The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial

A few weeks ago, twelve of our pupils participated in the local heat of The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition at Swansea Crown Court. This competition is part of the Young Citizens 'citizenship experiences' and helps to improve young people's life skills, their understanding of the justice system and the legal system, and it helps them to understand that the law touches every aspect of their lives. This competition provides pupils with a unique introduction to the criminal justice system through an immersive, active learning experience.

For this competition, our pupils were taken out of the classroom and placed in a courtroom, where they played the key roles involved in a criminal trial: from clerks and legal advocates to ushers and magistrates. Using a specially adapted case (based on a real trial), Penyrheol pupils competed against teams from Bishopston Comprehensive and Ysgol Bro Dinefwr.

This is an extremely challenging competition and the pupils worked exceptionally hard in preparation for it.

This is their story.

An Extraordinary Saturday at Swansea Crown Court

“On Saturday, 23rd of March at 9:00am, our team arrived at Swansea Crown Court to begin the Mock Trial competition. We were led into a room with pupils from the other competing schools. We were also shown a video that would have been shown to anyone taking part as a juror in the jury service. This showed the team not only how the Magistrates' Court works but also how the Crown Court operates. We were later taken on a tour of the cells in the basement of the courthouse. This was really inspiring for the team as it showed us how scary it would be if we were kept in there.

Our case, for that trial, was the theft of a mobile phone. The phone had belonged to Vik McCarthy, and Alex Young had been charged with the theft of it.

We had been working on our case for a long time and we were all hoping that our efforts would be rewarded



Penyrheol!

Each member of the team performed a different role.

Lawyers:

Prosecution Lawyer 1: Morgan Lecrass (8R)

Prosecution Lawyer 2: Ethan Bowers (9S)

Defence Lawyer 1: Abigail Goudge (8R)

Defence Lawyer 2: Millie Lewis (8M)

Witnesses:

Prosecution Witness 1 - Vik McCarthy (Victim): Georgia Reid (8M)

Prosecution Witness 2 - Misha Novak: Millie Lewis (8M)

Defence Witness 1 - Alex Young (Defendant): Alfie Atkinson (8U)

Defence Witness 2 - Pip Romano: Sophie Clarke (8M)

Magistrates: Sophie Wilson (8M), Phoebe Hall (8S), Ella Williams (8S)

Legal Advisor: Hannah Roberts (8U)

Usher: Shona Maddocks (8S)



We participated in two rounds in the competition. Our first round was against Bishopston Comprehensive School. For this round, our team took on the roles of the Defence. This meant that the Defence Witnesses, the Defence Lawyers and the Usher were taking part in this round. We were trying to defend the defendant and to prove his innocence. It was very unnerving standing in the actual courtroom, especially with so many people watching us, but our lawyers were professional in their roles and the witnesses were very believable.

Our second round was against Ysgol Bro Dinefwr. Our team took on the roles of the Prosecution this time. This meant that the Prosecution Witnesses, the Prosecution Lawyers and the Legal Advisor were taking part. For this round we were trying to prove that Alex Young was guilty. Our team did extremely well with the cross-examination questions, and we were all happy with our performances because we knew we had tried our best.

Our magistrates had to participate in both rounds and performed well when considering the verdict of Alex Young. They had to discuss their ideas with an adult magistrate as well as the magistrates from the other schools. After we had performed in the two rounds, we waited for a long time to hear the result of the competition. Eventually it was announced, and the winning team was our school! We were all very excited! We are now beginning to prepare for the regional heat which will take place in May so there is a lot more work to be done.

Overall, we were the best team out of the three and, as a team, we can't wait for the next round! ”

By Alfie Atkinson and Millie Lewis - Year 8

Rugby Round Up!



Individual Rugby Success:

Cameron Scott, Harri Houston, Ryan Davies and Lewis Mason have continued to represent Swansea School Boys U15s. Cameron Scott and Harri Houston were recently involved in the Dewar Shield semi-final win against Pontypool which has secured a final at the Principality Stadium. Da iawn boys!



Year 7 and 10 Rugby

Both our Year 7 and 10 teams have done very well this season in the Swansea Leagues Competitions.

Both teams beat various opponents, which secured them a place in the semi-finals of the Swansea Cup Competition. Unfortunately, falling short to Gwyr on both occasions.

Year 8 Rugby

Following a successful campaign in the Ospreys Cup earlier in the year, a group of ten pupils ventured to the Rosslyn Park Sevens in March. The team finished unbeaten with three wins and two draws. We also had the opportunity of being televised through 'YouTube' for one of our successful wins. A big well done to Luke Evans, Ashton Chapman, Mitchel Jones, Iestyn Lewis, Harrison Moorhouse, James Havard, Ethan Bowen, Ryan Burder and Jayden Brewer.



Year 9 Rugby

We are especially proud to announce, that our Year 9 rugby quad beat Gwyr 45-20 at St Helens in the Swansea plate final this month. An incredible achievement! Congratulations to everyone involved!





Canlyniadau Eisteddfod 2019 Results

1st2nd3rd

CYMRAEG	Millie John 7D (Gwynt)	Jacob Hills 7D (Dŵr)	Ruby Owen 7U (Tir)
	Alfie Atkinson 8U (Tân)	Hannah Roberts 8U (Gwynt)	Dylan Davies 8U (Tân)
GEOGRAPHY	Emma Arthur 7M (Dŵr)	Chloe Eames 7M (Gwynt)	Kayla Boast 7M (Tân)
	Millie Lewis 8M (Gwynt)	Charlotte Powell 8R (Tir)	Georgia Reid 8M (Gwynt)
ICT	Tahlia James 7R (Dŵr)	Rhys James 7S (Tân)	Millie John 7D (Gwynt)
RE	Emily Meyrick 7E (Tir)	Kayla Boast 7M (Tân) Shaun Davies 7E (Tân)	Wiktoria Borycka 7S (Tân) Megan Griffiths 7R (Tir)
	Georgia Reid 8M (Gwynt)	Hannah Roberts 8U (Dŵr) Alfie Atkinson 8U (Tir)	Connor Richards 8D (Tir) Elina Banicau 8S (Dŵr)
	Ethan Bowers 9S (Dŵr)	Joe Bates 9R (Tir)	Rhianna Carmichael 9E (Dŵr)
SCIENCE	Megan Sanger 7D (Gwynt)	Jordan Marles 7S (Tir)	Jade Williams 7M (Gwynt)
	Libby Evans 8R (Tir)	Hannah Roberts 8U (Gwynt)	Ellie Banks 8U (Dŵr)
TECHNOLOGY	Abigail Goudge 8R (Gwynt)	Ruby Owen 7U (Tir)	Emily Isaac 7E (Tir)
MATHS	William Mears 7E (Tân)	Jacob Hills 7D (Dŵr)	Millie John 7D (Gwynt)
	James Havard 8D (Tân)	Sophie Clarke 8M (Tân)	Miles Reilly 8U (Dŵr)
ART	Julia Muc 7D (Gwynt)	Mia Lee 7U (Dŵr)	Joshua Pennino 7D (Dŵr)
	Ryan Banks 8U (Tir)	Georgia Reid 8M (Gwynt)	Hannah Roberts 8U (Gwynt)
	Mia Evans 9S (Dŵr)	-----	-----
PE BOYS: 5 a side	Bl. 7 Tân: 30	Gwynt: 29	Dŵr: 20
	Bl. 8 Gwynt: 42	Dŵr: 33	Tir: 24
PE Girls: Run Test	Bl.7 Tir: 21 average score	Gwynt: 20 average score	Dŵr: 19 average score
Fitness Test	Bl.8 Tir: 5.9 average score	Dŵr: 4.8 average score	Gwynt: 4.7 average score

Overall Homework Winners

Yr 7: Millie John 7D (Gwynt) **Yr 8:** Georgia Reid 8M (Gwynt)

Llongyfarchiadau, ferched! Congratulations, girls!

Most Promising Musicians

Yr 7: Alex James 7S (Dŵr) **Yr 8:** Morgan Lecrass 8R (Dŵr)

Llongyfarchiadau, ferched! Congratulations, girls!

Winning Houses:

Yr 7: Gwynt

Yr 8: Tân*

* Competition 19 was judged on Friday, 22nd February resulting in Tân beating Gwynt, who were in the lead at the end of the Eisteddfod, by just two points.

