



Penyrheol

Easter Newsletter

- Remote Learning
- Free Books
- Eisteddfod 2021
- Hollywood Calls!



A Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Pupils

It has truly been an extraordinary term with almost all of it spent under lockdown restrictions because of the continuing coronavirus pandemic. We have provided remote learning for all our pupils, primarily through lessons posted on Google Classrooms, but also increasingly through live lessons via Teams. I hope that all our pupils have been able to make progress in their learning through these means. We have also run the hub provision in school for children of keyworkers and vulnerable pupils, which has been very successful and well attended. My heartfelt thanks go to all our staff who have stepped up to the mark, learning new skills and putting these into practice, when many other sectors of society have had to largely shut down.

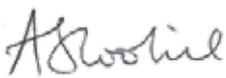
Of course, an even greater vote of thanks goes to those on the frontline in the NHS, who have put their own lives at risk to provide care for people suffering serious illnesses from Covid-19. Our thoughts and prayers are also with those who have lost a loved one or who remain debilitated by coronavirus.

It was wonderful to welcome back our Year 11 pupils on 15th March to some semblance of normal learning, albeit with some additional safety measures in place. 95% of Year 11 pupils have returned to school and 94% of Year 10 pupils joined them from Thursday 18th March. These year groups are studying GCSE/BTEC courses which have been severely affected by the pandemic. We have to make the most of every minute of face-to-face learning time that we can. We are now embarked on the process of determining grades for Year 11 pupils for summer 2021 and will make this as fair and valid a process as we can.

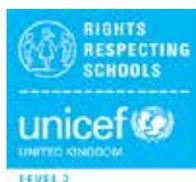
Years 7, 8 and 9 will be checking in and preparing for the Summer Term during one day each in the final week of this term. We look forward to welcoming them back and to seeing all of our pupils together in school from Tuesday 13th April.

Term ends for pupils on Thursday 25th March. Friday 26th March is an INSET day for staff. The Summer Term begins with a planning day for staff on Monday 12th April and all pupils are back in from 13th April. Pasg hapus pawb!

Yours faithfully



ALAN TOOTILL
Headteacher



Terms & Important Dates

Summer Term 2021

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
SUMMER TERM	MON 12 APR	FRI 30 MAY	MON 31 MAY	FRI 04 JUN	MON 7 JUN	MON 16 JUL

Autumn Term 2021

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
AUTUMN TERM	THU 2 SEP	FRI 22 OCT	MON 25 OCT	FRI 29OCT	MON 1 NOV	FRI 17 DEC

Notable Dates

Monday 12th April - Planning Day

Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday Monday

Thursday 12th August - GCSE Results Day



Staff News



This term we say farewell to our receptionist Alison Gower who has been at Penyrheol for 14 years.

Alison is moving on to a brand new venture, much nearer her home and we wish her every success in her new role.



It's all Happening at the Hub

During the period between Christmas and Easter, our Library Resource Centre was again used to provide education to the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils.

The area, temporarily named 'The Hub', has a large study area and a full size ICT suite. This meant that pupils could remain socially distanced. Pupils were allocated their own resources for repeat use, keeping any possible transmission to a minimum, and the usual hand sanitisers and cleaning equipment were provided. This Hub was staffed by a mixture of Pastoral Support Officers, Cover Supervisors and Teaching Assistants.

Once school work was completed, other resources such as art materials and board games were provided to keep the pupils occupied. There was a lovely atmosphere in the Hub and it was clear that the pupils enjoyed attending and appreciated the opportunity for social interaction as well as educational purposes.



Remote Learning

During the latest lockdown, a mixture of online lessons and live lessons were provided for all our pupils who remained at home. In order to track pupils' engagement, a traffic light system was used:

GREEN – completing all (or almost all) of their remote learning.

AMBER – completing some of their remote learning.

RED – completing none (or almost none) of their remote learning.

This was done on a subject-by-subject basis, and our support staff made phone calls to every pupil/parent to provide an update on the progress being made. These phone calls actually served two purposes:

1. Feedback for the pupils and their parents on their engagement with the remote learning resources that had been provided.
2. A well-being check.

Remote Learning:

- How was the pupil managing with their remote learning?
- Was the pupil logging into Google Classroom every day?
- Was the pupil completing the lessons provided and following their normal timetable each day?
 - Were there any specific problems?
 - Did they have access to laptops etc?

Well-Being:

- How was the pupil coping with the lockdown restrictions?
 - Was the pupil keeping in touch with friends?
- Was the pupil in a good routine? Getting enough sleep? Getting up at a reasonable time?
 - Were there any particular problems the pupils were facing?

This huge task was undertaken by our support and associate staff, providing an excellent opportunity for some much needed personal contact and a chance to ensure that the pupils had everything they needed to access the remote lessons. Where necessary, laptops were provided along with writing materials and other resources and pupils needing extra help or who had specific concerns were able to be re-directed for further help.

Our staff were delighted that the calls were very well received and much appreciated.

Remote Learn

“Mrs O’Sullivan would like to say a huge well done to all the pupils who have done their own work, including dyeing and painting with bleach, ice tie dye and even getting their own designs on their clothes.”

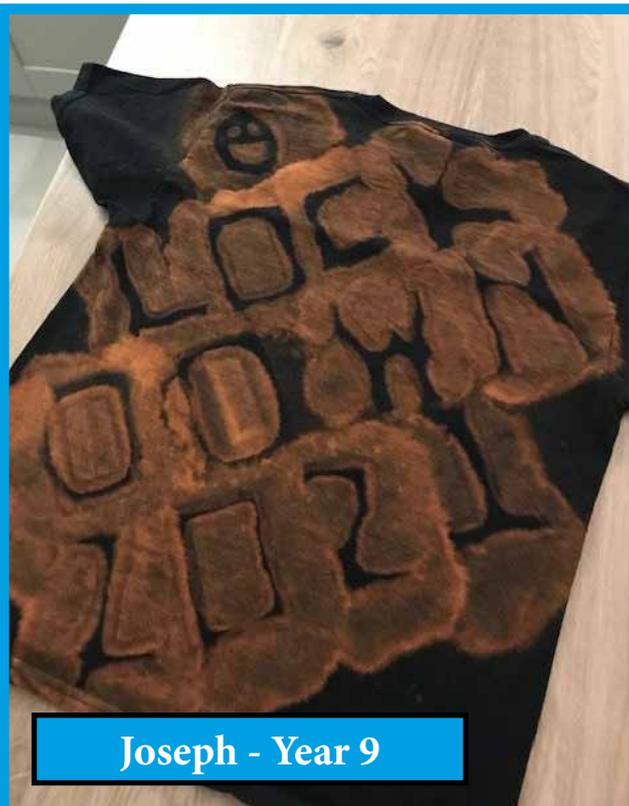
Looking forward to welcoming you all back to school.



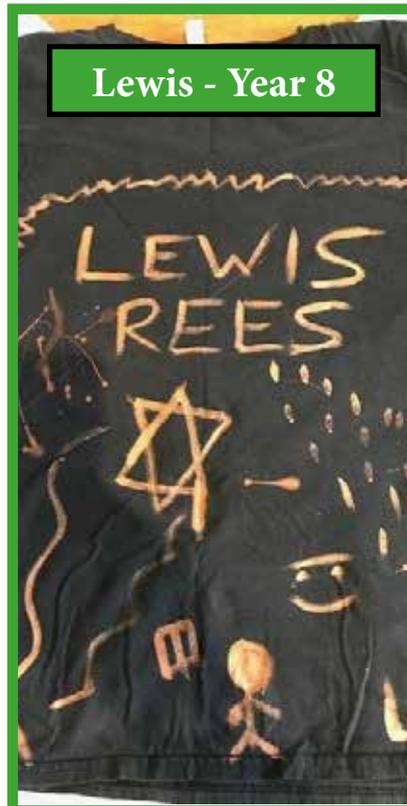
Amy - Year 7



Thoryn - Year 7



Joseph - Year 9



Lewis - Year 8



Joseph - Year 7



Emily - Year 7

ing Practicals

created some incredible practical work at home. Just look at all this amazing
g their own logo design activity professionally printed onto a t-shirt! WOW!

ll back into the DT workshops soon!”



Ieuan Year 7



Darcy - Year 8



Sam - Year 7



Joshua - Year 7



Connor - Year 8



Ella Mae - Year 7

2021 Eisteddfod

Although our annual Eisteddfod couldn't take place in school this year, pupils excelled by participating in off-stage, at-home competitions. The results speak for themselves and are testament to many departments who promote Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which states:

You have the right to a name and a nationality.

A Power Point based on Saint David's Day celebrations was put together by Mr. Binding (Head of Welsh) and shared to all forms in school by Mme. Hyndman (Siarter Iaith Coordinator). A winners' Power Point was also put together and shared with Year 7-9 forms.

Winners received their certificates and £5 WH Smith vouchers in time for St. David's Day and we say:

llongyfarchiadau (congratulations) to you all!

The joint winners were Kleo Bowen with her poem titled 'The Welsh Rose' and Noah Cartmill-Pearce for his homemade biscuits.



**Welsh biscuits by
Noah Cartmill-Pearce
8M**



2021 Eisteddfod

The Welsh Rose

A yellow rose sleeps behind the trees
Dew drops of rain flowing with the breeze
Its petals dancing with the wind
The serenity starting to begin.

No matter how much time decided to fly
The passion of the rose will never die
Its glories and pride will never cease
It will never be crushed with such ease.

The rose holds many names
From those who came
To the grassy hills of soft sheep
And the rivers colliding with earth heaps.

The rose provided a bed
For the war-broken dragon of red
Its blood seeping through the ground
As to the rose, the dragon bowed down.

May the sun shine warmth
And Moon its glow
On the pride of the Welsh:
The yellow rose.



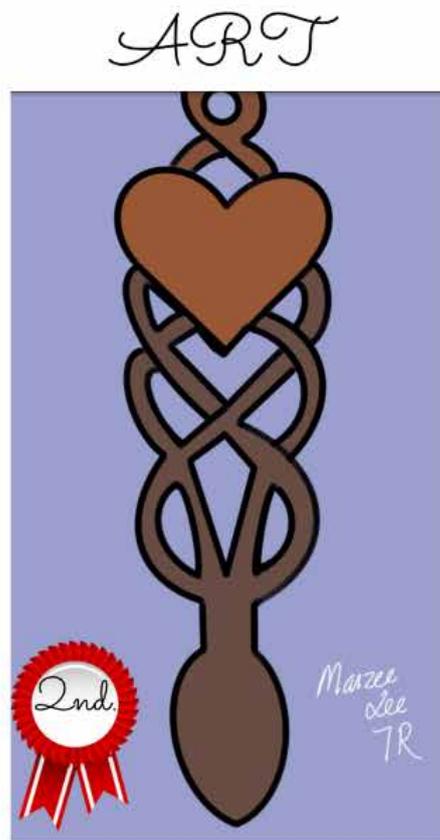
Full List of Eisteddfod Winners

Pwnc / Subject	Yn gyntaf: 1st	Yn ail: 2nd	Yn drydydd: 3rd
Cymraeg/Welsh	Lucy Harvey 7E Grace Kirmse 8M Millie John 9D	Mollie Bird 7D Abbie Williams 8D Megan Sanger 9D	Charlie Para 7E Reuben Rees 8Y Kieran Cresdee 9M
Gwyddoniaeth/Science	Shey Jones 7U Darcy Chapman 8C Kieran Cresdee 9M	Sophie Brewer 7R Ayden Ali 8E Valentina Sias 9M	Mylee Todhunter-Jones 7M Grace Kirmse 8M Ieuan Povey 9E
Ymarfer Corff: Bechgyn/Boys PE	7E 8Y	7S 8M	7U 8E
Ymarfer Corff: Merched/Girls PE	7E 8M	7R 8E	7M 8D
Ffrangeg/French	Sophie Brewer 7R Darcy Chapman 8C	Olivia Davies 7R Cerrys Morgan 8R	
Cerddoriaeth/Music			
Piano	Mollie Prothero 8M Oliver Evans 9D	Joseph Salter 7D Mollie Bird 7D Felicity Caswell 9S Megan Sanger 9D	Sarah Williams 7M Oscar Allen 9R
Strings	Mollie Prothero 8M	Joseph Salter 7D	Grace Kirmse 8M
Vocal	Darcy Chapman 8C Paige Bowen 9U	Tianna Boast 8C Maisy Thornhill 9D	Charlie Para 7E Kirstie Scoberg 7E Valentina Sias 9U Ffion Morris 9M Eleanor Page-Smith 9E
Instrumental	Amber Treharne 9E	Ella-Mae Jones 9M	
Saesneg/English	Shey Jones 7U Alick Karim 8E	Josef Nisbet 7D Katie Robinson 8E	Lucy Harvey 7E Javan Bambridge 8E
Daearyddaieth/Geography	Josef Nisbet 7D Thomas Dunderdale 8H	Rhys Morgan 7S Noah Cartmill-Pearce 8M	Amelia Prosser 7M Grace Kirmse 8M
Celf: Llwyau caru /Love spoons	Shey Jones 7U Megan Sanger 9D	Maizie Lee 7R Ella Mae Jones 9M	Josef Nisbet 7D Mollie Bird 7D Jordan Marles 9S
Ffotograffiaeth/Photography	Darcy Chapman 8C Aydin Ali 8E Emily Isaac 9E	Ieuan lewis 8C Amelia Chetty 9M	Samuel Robinson 8C Reuben Wilkinson 9S
Cystadleuaeth Agored/ Open Competition	Noah Cartmill-Pearce 8M Kleo Bowen 8M		

Llongyfarchiadau i bawb!

Congratulations to all!

Eisteddfod Art Winners



Year 7

1st Shey Jones 7u

2nd Maizie Lee 7r

3rd Joseph Nisbet 7D

3rd Mollie Bird 7d

The Easter Bunny Visits Early!

As a Half Term treat, every pupil at Penyrheol had an unexpected visit from the Easter Bunny!

Hope you have had a great half term.

Enclosed is a little treat to let you know that we are thinking of you.

We miss you all very much and look forward to being able to welcome you back in school very soon.



Remember, this lockdown will NOT last forever.

Stay safe!

*From,
All the staff at Penyrheol Comprehensive.*



Every pupil received a note, a book token and a chocolate bunny which were posted out as part of a huge operation arranged by some of our support staff.

The pupils have told us that were thrilled to receive our little gift and, in the main, were looking forward to returning to school and seeing everyone again.



Free Books for Pupils

In order to encourage the continuation of reading whilst in lockdown, Penyrheol Comprehensive bought a large selection of reading books that were distributed to pupils at home.

The brand new books covered all sorts of genres and were both fiction and non-fiction. The pupils were able to pick a book of their choice and keep it!

Yes...at the end of lockdown, we are happy for the pupils to keep these books- a gift from the school during such a difficult time, but many pupils have already said, that they would like to donate them to the school library when they eventually return to school. This is such a lovely gesture and once cleaned, these books would be a great addition to our shelves.

The books were mainly distributed by school staff, directly to homes, but there is also a selection that remains at our school reception for pupils of key workers who are still attending on a daily basis.



Period Poverty

We are thrilled to be one of the schools taking advantage of the Period Poverty Grant, here in Wales. The grant which has been provided by the Welsh Government has been used to purchase a variety of sanitary products which will be made available to pupils, free of charge.

The funding follows a series of campaigns by local authorities and youth campaigners in Wales to highlight the issue for young women struggling to pay for sanitary goods.

Here at Penyrheol, small purses were bought and filled with spare pants, and a selection of sanitary products that could be collected discretely, from our reception or pastoral offices around the school.

Because of the recent lockdowns, some of these products have been delivered to pupils at home and some have been given to Gorseinon Foodbank to distribute on our behalf to our local families.

We are keen for every pupil to know that they have access to these products and even whilst not at school, they can still be delivered to them. Our contact at Penyrheol is Mrs. E. Morse, who will be happy to help any pupil on site or at home.



Hollywood Calls!

Imagine the surprise on the faces of our Year 9 pupils when Hollywood actor, Matt Ryan sent them a video wishing them the best of luck with their Year 9 options!



It's hard to believe when watching Matt on the big screen that he actually was born in Swansea and went to Penyrheol Comprehensive School!

Matt then went on to Gower College (then called Gorseinon College), where he completed a BTEC in Performing Arts.

He auditioned successfully for the Bristol Old Vic and after graduating, joined the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Matt is most well known for playing the role of 'John Constantine' in five television series: Arrow (2012), The Flash (2014), Constantine (2014), DC's Legends of Tomorrow (2016) and Batwoman (2019), but this month it was a video to our Year 9 pupils that was on the top of his to-do list.

Matt's message was about believing in yourself and choosing options that you really enjoy and can succeed in. He is a wonderful example of this and his message was uplifting and encouraging and much appreciated by our pupils.

To watch Matt's video,
follow the link below:

https://youtu.be/pd5MYcaF9_Q

