



Penyrheol

Easter Newsletter

Red Nose Day



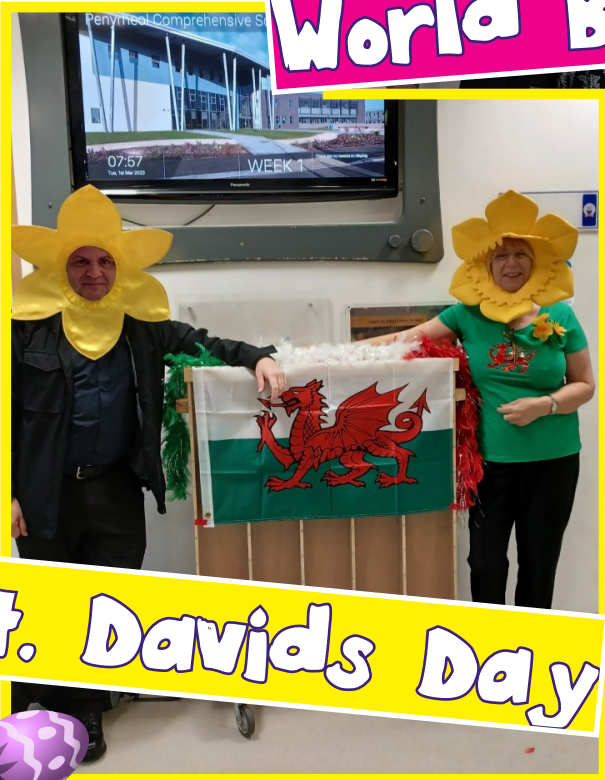
St. Patrick's Day



World Book Day



St. David's Day



Stand Up for Ukraine Day



A Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers,

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

It has been an interesting term in that many things in school have felt back to “normal”. These have included the Year 7 and 8 trip to Llangrannog, an Art trip to Cardiff and a Drama trip to the theatre. We have also had lots of sporting fixtures and events including (yet) more medals at the Welsh Girls Gymnastics Championship and representation at the prestigious Rosslyn Park Sevens Tournament. We have also been able to book a Prom for Year 11 pupils; the first in three years. Having said all that, school still isn’t completely normal. We are still continuing with virtual Parents’ Evenings. Staff absences due to Covid-19 have meant that on occasions we have not been able to run at full capacity. This has meant home learning for some pupils. My genuine thanks go to all parents/carers for their support when this has happened.

The budget for the next financial year is in and we are looking at how we can best achieve genuine value for money for the pupils of Penyrheol. We will look to prioritise smaller class sizes for next year’s Year 9 and in Maths and English across the school. This will help in our efforts to close the learning gap caused by Covid-19 school closures. We are also developing a bespoke, onsite alternative provision that some of our learners will be able to access from September. Despite all the recent challenges, I feel it is an exciting time to be at Penyrheol.

Term ends for pupil on **Thursday 7th April**. Pupils will return on **Monday 25th April**. We then have the Queen’s Jubilee Bank Holiday on **Friday 29th April** followed by Bank Holiday Monday on **Monday May 2nd**. The official Queen’s Jubilee bank Holiday is during Whitsun Half Term so most Swansea Schools have chosen Friday 29th April for their bank holiday. Year 11 exams will be starting from Monday 16th May.

This is my second opening letter for a Penyrheol Newsletter but my first since being appointed permanent Headteacher. I am very proud to be the permanent Headteacher and I understand the privilege of leading our school community. We have wonderful pupils at Penyrheol.

I’d like to sincerely thank parents and carers for their continued support of the school. The partnership between home and school has never been so important.

I wish the whole school community a happy and peaceful Easter. Pasg Hapus!

Yours faithfully,



Damian Benney
Headteacher



Terms & Important Dates

Summer Term 2022

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
SUMMER TERM	MON 25 APR	FRI 27 MAY	MON 30 MAY	FRI 03 JUN	MON 7 JUN	FRI 22 JUL

Autumn Term 2022

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
AUTUMN TERM	MON 5 SEP	FRI 28 OCT	MON 31 OCT	FRI 04 NOV	MON 7 NOV	FRI 23 DEC

Notable Dates

Friday 29th April - Bank Holiday for Queens Jubilee

Monday 2nd May - Bank Holiday Monday

Monday 30th May - Spring Bank Holiday

Thursday 25th August - GCSE Results Day



Our New Headteacher

Permanent Headteacher Appointment

At the start of the Spring Term the Governing Body put out a national advert for a permanent Headteacher to replace Mr Alan Tootill following his resignation on 31-08-21. In line with all Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher vacancies the post was advertised nationally, and interviews of four candidates were held on Thursday 3rd March and Friday 4th March.

I would like to thank the five governors on the Headteacher Appointment Committee, the pupil panel and Mr Nigel Jones the Authority representative who supported the governing body through the appointment process.

It is my pleasure to announce that following the interviews the committee recommended that Mr. Damian Benney be appointed which the Full Governing Body ratified on Friday 4th March 2022.



I wish to congratulate Mr Benney on his appointment and I am sure the whole school community will join the Governing Body in wishing Mr. Benney every success in his new role and support him in taking the school from strength to strength for our pupils.

Jeff Bowen

Chairperson of Governors

The following pupils also played an important role in the interview process and were present at the Millennium Stadium where the interviews took place.

Head Boy: Harvey Thomas 11Y

Head Girl: Millie Lewis 11R

Deputy Head Boy: James Havard 11H

Deputy Head Girl: Sophie Clarke 11Y

Henry Davies 7R, Joanie Peacey 8S, Charlie Griffiths 9M, Jacob Hills 10D

Year 11 - Making a Meal out of it!



Year 11 pupils studying Food and Nutrition completed their food preparation practical in March.



A busy week saw our school chefs working in small groups for three hour practical cooking sessions, planned and led by the pupils.



They completed a range of dishes, demonstrating their culinary skills and showcasing the versatility of chicken and vegetarian cuisine.



Well done to all those who took part and demonstrated huge personal achievement in a challenging and fun task.



STAND UP FOR UKRAINE



Thursday 10th March was Stand Up for Ukraine Day, an initiative initiated by Swansea County Council and one that all schools in Swansea took part in.

The idea was for pupils and staff to have a non-uniform day, but to wear something blue and yellow to represent the colours of the Ukrainian flag. Every person taking part made a donation of a £1 and the money is being forwarded to The Red Cross, who will ensure that provisions reach the families on the front line.



The school also collected donations of baby products, nappies and sanitary items from pupils and staff at Penyrheol. Following a Facebook post by Mrs Morse (Cover Supervisor at Penyrheol), masses of donations were made and within 48 hours, the school minibus was absolutely full!

The donations were then transported to Dover, as part of a larger convoy and will be distributed to the Ukrainian refugees at the earliest opportunity.



International Women's Day

Tuesday 8th March was International Women's Day and to celebrate, girls from various year groups gathered together in the library for a special virtual celebration, hosted by The Wave radio station. and Tata Steel. The event called 'Women of Steel' was presented by The Wave' Claire Scott.

Guest speakers included women who had achieved success in traditionally more male dominated careers:



Rebecca Edwards-Symmons - Rebecca is the Head of Commercial at Swansea City Football Club and not only holds the most senior female role at The Swans, but is the only female Head of Commercial in the whole of the EFL Championship.



Rebecca John -Rebecca is an award winning author originally from Pwll, Llanelli. She's had her short stories published on BBC Radio 4, shortlisted for the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award, winner of the PEN International New Voices Award and named on Hay Festival's 'The Hay 30' list.



Anna Ryder Richardson – Anna became famous when she was one of the interior designers on BBC's Changing Rooms, and in later years, as contestant on 'I'm a celebrity, get me out of here' but she joined the 'Women of Steel' event in her role as owner of the Manor House Wildlife Park.



Jackie Ball – Jackie works as a firefighter with Mid and West Wales Fire Service and came into fire-fighting later in her career. She spoke at the event to prove to young women that they can achieve their dreams later in life and to never give up on what they want to do.

The purpose of the session was to inspire our young women at Penyrheol (and other schools that took part). A short discussion following the event, proved that the pupils already have big dreams with pupils hoping to have careers as doctors, engineers and even working for NASA!

GO GIRLS!



OUR TRIP TO LLANGRANNOG

On Friday March 18th 2022, the Welsh department along with Miss Francis, Miss Brace, Mr Clarkson and Mrs Wilmot took 65 Year 7 pupils to Llangrannog for the weekend.

On Friday afternoon, we were lucky enough to go on a coastal path walk to the beach and this was followed by fun group activities in the evening including bingo and 'It's a knock out' in the sports hall.

On Saturday and Sunday, the pupils took part in numerous activities including Quad biking, go-karting, tobogganing, skiing, swimming, high ropes and rock climbing.

The weather was beautiful all weekend and pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed.

We can't wait to go again next year!!



FIRST AID



A selection of pupils have had the opportunity to attend the FAA Level 2 award in Student First Aid at Penyrheol this term.

The course consisted of 2 sessions which ran after school and consisted of both practical and theory activities. The courses were delivered by Ms. Steel.

The qualification will provide the pupils with the skills and knowledge required to provide first aid treatment confidently and safely. Each pupil completed a work booklet during the sessions and received a certificate on completion of the course.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils and will be of great benefit to them as not only does the course cover basic First Aid, but their certificate will be valid for 3 years.

“We learnt to carry out CPR and how to put someone in a recovery position, if someone is choking, if they were burnt, had sprains or muscular injuries, fractures and even cuts and grazes.

I wanted to do this course because it would top up and expand my knowledge that I already have from my time lifesaving. I also fell that first aid is an essential life skill to have.

I jumped at the opportunity to attend this course and I wish that everyone could attend a course like this, so we can preserve more lives.”

Ethan Bowen



“I Immediately knew that I wanted to attend this course as it would provide me with the opportunity to save a life.

The two-day course was extremely informative and educational . It taught me a series of skills such as CPR, using a defibrillator, response to choking, how to identify and resolve breaks and burns.

At the end of the course, we were examined on our ability to recall the information we had learnt in the two sessions. Furthermore, we were assessed throughout the sessions on our skills and the way we responded.

The sessions were delivered to an exceptional standard and it was a very supportive and friendly environment.

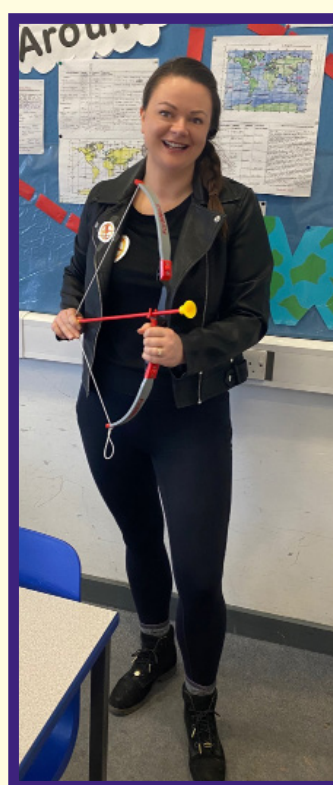
I now have a qualification that will last three years and this makes me more confident to respond to any medical situation.

This was an exceptional experience and the course was a credit to the school.”

Leah Spackman

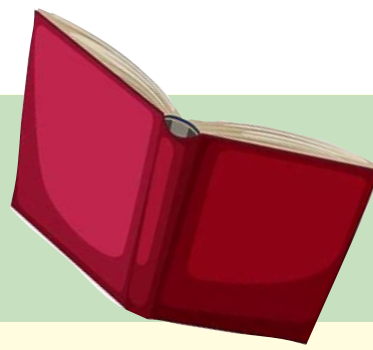


World B



This year.. World
 celebrated by the staff
 just the pupils! Staff w
 up as characters from b
 see, made a fab
 From Paddington Bear
 and characters from
 Harry Potter, we saw
 Our library had a love
 books on display and
 Book Day book tok

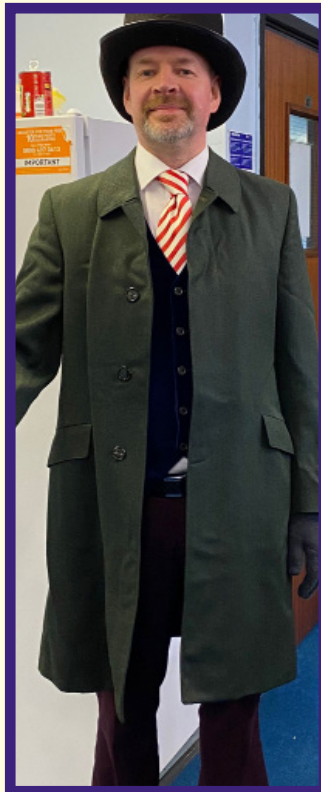
Book Day



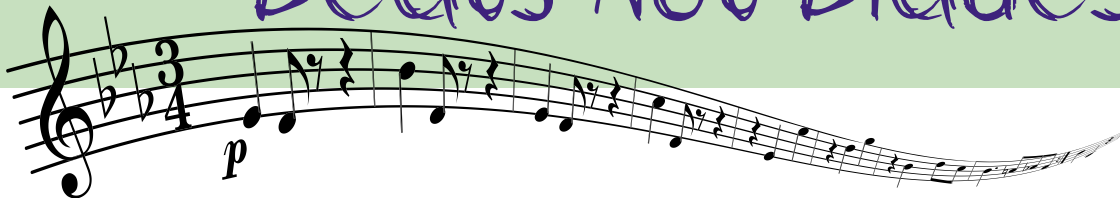
World Book Day was a success for all staff at Penyrheol,...not all staff were invited to dress up in books, and as you can see, it was a fabulous effort!

From Bear to Mary Poppins, from Brave Heart to Snow White, we saw some great outfits.

We had a lovely selection of new books and gave out free World Book Day tokens to the pupils.



Beats Not Blades



In March, we were thrilled to welcome 'Beats Not Blades' to the school to deliver a fascinating workshop on knife crime, to some of our Year 9 pupils.

These amazing workshops aim to raise awareness and tackle the increase in knife crime offences across England and Wales through the medium of music. The pupils were encouraged to speak freely and turn their thoughts into song lyrics. The pupils were then able to turn their lyrics into songs by using special music software. Each song was then uploaded to the 'Beats Not Blades' website.



Beats not Blades use music to inspire young people to think positively about their future, become more confident, better communicators and more motivated in order to achieve their dreams. The music aspect helps build confidence and self esteem in a creative way by taking young people out of their comfort zone.

Pictured right, is Oliver, one of the 'Beats Not Blades' staff, mixing some music with one of our pupils, using the special software brought in especially for the session.

The Workshop was so successful that the school has now booked in some extra sessions for other year groups.



Pupil Achievements

Hollie Bamford (Year 8)

Congratulations to Hollie Bamford, who won the GOLD medal recently at the NDP Regional Qualifying Championships in Newport, Wales.

Hollie will now be going on to compete in the British Championship Finals in May. We wish her the very best of luck!



Ex-Pupil Harri Houston

We are very proud of Harri Blu Houston was selected to play in the under 20s Six Nations competition, that recently finished.

Harri started for four out of the five matches and performed well, especially as he has only just turned 18. Congratulations Harri!

Harvey Thomas and Jessica Kelly (Year 11)

Your Vote is Your Voice

The Law has changed...you can now register to vote in the Senedd elections from the age of 14 ready to vote at 16. In readiness for this, Swansea Council have chosen two representatives from each Swansea comprehensive school to join a team of 'Votes at 16' Ambassadors.

We are thrilled that Penyrheol pupils Harvey Thomas and Jess Kelly have both been chosen as the ambassadors for Penyrheol.

The Ambassadors will promote and encourage young people in Swansea to register to vote and promote participation in the upcoming elections. The first meeting took place in half term on Tuesday 22nd Feb, when the ambassadors made plans about how they are going to implement their ideas. We wish both Harvey and Jess every success in their new roles.



Pupils Recognised for Attainment

SUBJECT	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
ART	Eluned Botzaropoulos Rhys Wonnacott	Naomi Davies Ben Hughes	Nico Lucia
BUSINESS STUDIES			
COMPUTER SCIENCE			
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	Henry Davies Charlie Mooney	Hannah Evans Josef Nisbet	Morgan Niamh
DRAMA	Dylan Mc Comas Lowri Gambell	Hannah Evans Joseph Salter	
ENGLISH	Megan Kavanagh Rhys Wonnacott	Ffion Weed Cadie Isaac-Hamer	William Leo
FOOD & NUTRITION			
FRENCH	Cody Jones Ashton Southard	Lexi May Bowen Josef Nisbet	
GEOGRAPHY	Josh Wood Griffith Henry Davies	Archie Harris Emily Matthews	Abbie Rui
HISTORY	Dylan Humphries Evie-Jo Cole	Catrin Jones Darren Taymoori	Cerris Grace
ICT	Finn Walsh Bridget Caswell	Serenity Green Jimmy Elliott	Oli Leo
MATHS	Kate Garland Eluned Botzaropolous	Namila Bargiel Harrison Williams	Grace Ayden V
MEDIA STUDIES			
MUSIC	Eluned Botzaropoulos Thomas Clapham	Hollie Austin Tomos Davies	Noah C Mollie
P.E BOYS	Griffith Cadogan Thomas Clapham	Ashton Maybank Rhys Morgan	Jayden Bailor
P.E. GIRLS	Bridget Caswell Sophie Penino	Catrin Jones Holly Bamford	Katie Leo
PHOTOGRAPHY			
R.E	Isabelle Jewell Rhys Wonnacott	Archie Woolway Ruby Davies	Hannah Charlie
SCIENCE	Griff Cadogan Melissa Grasis-McGregor	Ffion Weed Lillie Ahern	Emilia Ethan
SPANISH			Grace Isobel
WELSH	Leon Beavers Andrew Nolan	Jimmy Elliott Joseph Salter	Lela Jack
WBQ			



Overall Winners : **Year 7** Tom Clapham 7E & Faith Evans 7E
Year 8 Mia Howells 8R, **Year 9** Mia Howells 9R, **Year 10** Megan Berrell 10R & Sam Seager 10R

and Effort: January - Easter 2022



YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Nicole Farcas Lucian Williams	Megan Sanger Abigail Williams	Ellie Banks Jessica Kelly
	Ruken Coskun Winnie Liu	Haydn Jones & Alfie Morrizi Jones Ryan Williams & Daniel Gemine
	Jac Kavanagh Carwyn Jones	Joshua Stokes Owain Griffin
Morgan Parry Sam Bird Bevan	Elis Graham Tomos Rees	Grace Hughes Harvey Wakefield
	Sasha Hurst Theo Budski	Bethan Griffiths Sean Jenkins
William Courtney Leon Wood	Cian Owen-Colclough Abigail Morgan	Ellie Banks Jack Hill
Abbie Williams Ruben Rees	Liam White Callum John	James Havard Leah Spackman
Cerrys Morgan Grace Kirmse		
Olivia Evans Lea Jones	Digital Technology: Abigail Williams Paige May	Ben Jones Julia Bargiel
Grace Kirmse Ben Wood-Griffiths	Millie John Lili Richards	Elli-Jade Latronico James Havard
	Ellie Page-Smith Rhys Lawrence	Harley Finselbach Libby Evans
Ch Cartmill Pearce Mollie Prothero	Amber Treharne Nox Dudden	Iestyn Colwill Ben Jones
Hayden Thomas Bailey Porter	Rhys Lawrence Reuben Hall	Ethan Bowen Rokko McCarley
Katie Robinson Leah Jones	Eleri Williams Ava Williams	Ffion Williams Olivia Francis
	Sophie Brannigan Megan Berrell	Marnsa Doble Ella Williams
Hannah Beech Charlie Griffith	Phoebe Williams Scarlet Pugh	
Emily Rowley Ethan Matthews	Millie John Abigail Williams	Josh Stokes Alfie Atkinson
Grace Kirmsy Isobel Jones	Jade Williams Annalina Phelps	Ervine Bongat Leah Phillips
Leland James Jack Parslow	Kenzo Morgan Finley Dalton	Sophie Clarke James Harvard
	Ffion Williams Daisy Thomas	Nicholas Luca Mia Williams

as 7D, **Year 8** Joanie Peacey 8S & Joseph Salter 8D **Year 9** Brandon Price 9E &
er 10U and **Year 11** Harvey Thomas 11Y & Jessica Kelly 11D

Boys Rugby Update



Y8 Rugby Team

Our current Swansea School Boys U15's Representatives are:

George Davies, Emrys Jones and Reuben Hall

Our current Ospreys West U16's Representatives are:

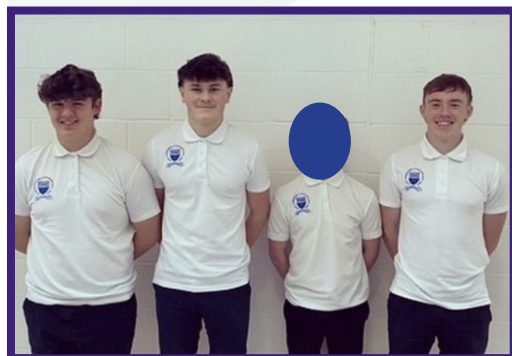
Daniel Gemine, Ashton Chapman, Iestyn Lewis and Luke Evans



Y7 Rugby Team

KS3/4 Rugby Results:

Our Year 7, 9 and 10 rugby teams have all qualified for the Swansea Plate semi-finals.



Ospreys Rugby

Our Year 8 and 11 rugby teams have both qualified for the Swansea Plate and Bowl finals respectively.

Rosslyn Park 7's and Bishopston 7's

Our Year 8 rugby team travelled to London for the National 7's Tournament. They won two games, lost two and drew one. Pupils played some excellent rugby against some difficult English schools; they were a credit to Penyrheol.



Ashton Chapman, Luke Evans, Iestyn Lewis, Jayden Brewer, Daniel Gemine, Conor Walsh

ST. DAVID'S DAY

Even though it was not possible for the School's Saint David's Day Eisteddfod to take place this year, our fabulous Music department made sure that our KS3 musicians didn't miss out on showcasing their talents.

During February, various competitions were filmed and the winners of these heats were shown to our year 7 & 8 pupils during registration. As usual, the quality of the performances was superb.

Here are the winners:

Guitar winners:

Sam Parkash, Zac Willis, Mollie Bird

Keyboard winners:

Ebony Byrne, Lowri Gambell and Lea Richards

Woodwind/ Brass winners:

Joseph Salter, Josh Williams and Sophie Brewer

Drum Winners:

Dylan McComas, Griffith Cadogen and Preston Thomas

Year 8 ensemble doing Dakota:

Joseph Salter, Mollie Bird, Kaitlynn Phillips, Oxana Olaru

Year 9 group performing Everything Must Go:

Mollie Prothero, Darcy Chapman, Jess Lacey

Congratulations to everyone who took part.



Girls P.E.

GIRLS NETBALL

Despite some disruption to the Netball season this year, the teams have continued to show excellent commitment to both training and after school fixtures, competing well against other Swansea schools in the Netball league. It has been really pleasing to see an increase in participation this season, especially in Year 8. It is hoped that this level of enthusiasm will continue across all age groups moving forward into next year!



CROSS COUNTRY

In January, a number of pupils from Years 7-11 took part in the Afan Nedd Tawe Schools Cross Country Championships. All pupils competed very well in difficult race conditions. However, the most notable performance of the day came from Sophia Edwards in Year 7. Sophia finished 6th in the Under 13s race and was selected to represent Afan Nedd Tawe in the Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships in Brecon.



GYMNASTICS

Six of our pupils competed exceptionally well in the Welsh Schools Sports Acrobatics Championships in Cardiff in March. Ava Williams (Year 10) and Holly Bamford (Year 8) won gold in the Under 19 Pairs event and have subsequently been selected to represent Welsh Schools at the British Championships in Stoke-on-Trent at the end of this month. Megan Griffiths and Valentina took bronze in the same event.

In the team event, Megan Griffiths, Valentina Sias, Ava Williams, Ffion Colwill, Brooke Morris and Holly Bamford won gold and the team has also been selected to represent Welsh Schools at the British Championships in April. An outstanding achievement by all the girls! Wishing them the very best of luck for the upcoming Finals!



Huge congratulations must also go to Ffion Colwill who has also qualified for the British Rhythmic Gymnastics Finals in May.

Round-Up

FOOTBALL

Girls football continues to thrive at Penyrheol! The Under 13 and Under 15 teams have competed very well against other Swansea Schools in the Swansea League, producing some excellent performances. Six pupils have gained selection for the Swansea School Girls Football team in their respective age group. Macy Jenkins, Annalina Phelps, Sasha Hurst and Layla Kerr as part of the Under 16 squad, and Lowri Dymond and Lea Jones as part of a very strong Under 14 squad, who have recently qualified for the final of ESFA Cup – the first Welsh squad achieve this accolade! Huge congratulations to all involved and good luck for the final!

Emily Tucker has been selected as part of the Swansea City Ladies Academy and Ella Foley for the Swansea U15 Development team.

We have also seen two of our pupils gain representative honours this year in Football. Olivia Francis (Year 11) continues to excel, representing Wales on numerous occasions this year at Under 17 level. Our Goal-keeper, Annalina Phelps (Year 10), has gained selection for the Under 17 Welsh Schools FA Squad to face England in the coming weeks. Fantastic achievements by all girls!



BRONZE AMBASSADORS

Our Bronze+ Ambassadors continue to shine! In December, three pupils from Year 7 (Ellie Pennino, Sophie Pennino and Annabel Williams) were selected to represent Penyrheol as Bronze+ Sports Ambassadors, a sports leadership programme run by the Active Young Persons Sports Development Department.

The Ambassadors have started volunteering at Morganite Netball Club with the Under 10s and will very soon be assisting with the organisation and running of a Netball Club at one of our local primary schools. Well done girls for all your efforts so far in your role – keep up the good work!



The Politics Project

On May 5th, for the first time in the history of Penyrheol Comprehensive School, pupils who have reached the age of 16 will be able to vote. In preparation for this, the school has been running a Digital Dialogue 'project' with some of our Student Voice pupils.

The sessions, which concluded with an interview with Rebecca Evans MS - Constituency Member of the Senedd was an initiative to develop pupils' understanding of the democratic process and encourage their participation in it, not least as individuals aged 16 and over will now be able to vote in Local and Welsh Senedd elections.



Pupils who took part in the sessions were:

- Year 11 - Jessica Kelly
- Year 10 - Millie John, Ffion Williams
- Year 9 - Grace Kirmse
- Year 8 - Darren Taymori, Mollie Bird, Joseph Salter, Charlie Griffiths
- Year 7 - Dylan McComas, Bridget Caswell, Lacey Mae Ford, Henry Davies

“At a time when 16 year olds in Wales are about to have the opportunity to vote for the first time in the awareness of the democratic process with pupils from Year 7 to Year 11. From the workshops Rebecca Evans MS, the experience has been an enjoyable and highly beneficial one for our pupils and hopes for the future to the open and honest way in which Ms Evans answered the pupils' questions for many years

Mr. H. Evans - Assis

- A Digital Dialogue

On the 9th of March, 2022, select Student Voice pupils from all year groups were chosen to take part in the Digital Dialogue: Wales politics project.

This was split into four, one hour, sessions - three workshops after school, and the 'digital surgery' during the school day. The three workshops educated pupils who attended on Welsh politics and current issues.

The first session was a fun and pleasant introduction to the project. It was very interactive, and got all pupils involved. We did activities to share opinions on prioritizing issues, and shared opinions on general statements that may be important in politics.

The second session was more informative, and taught us about Welsh politics. This included information on the Senedd, councilors and their responsibilities, the different types of political issues, etc.

The third session was all about putting the previously learned knowledge to the test. We learned about Constituency Member of the Senedd (MS), Rebecca Evans, and came up with a series of questions to ask her during the final session. Pupils were given the ability to come up with these questions independently, while ensuring they were challenging, well-thought questions.

Finally, the fourth session was the 'digital surgery'. This included a virtual meeting with Rebecca Evans who was happy to answer our questions, and asked us some questions of her own. Rebecca gave thorough answers, and made sure everyone was involved.

As a Year 11 pupil who was a part of this project, politics are very relevant to me, as the legal voting age in Wales is only sixteen. I found these sessions very educational, and it was a wonderful experience to be a part of, as I know it was for the other pupils who took part.

Jessica Kelly (Year 11)

in their lives I cannot over emphasise how valuable the Digital Dialogue project has been in raising pupils delivered in school - supported by high quality teaching resources - to the digital surgery with pupils. The maturity and challenge of the questions posed by the pupils, the sharing of their concerns and questions made, I am sure, for one of those moments in a pupil's time in school that is remembered years to come."

Assistant Headteacher

NEW VIEWS

A number of pupils from Year 10 and 11 have been involved in a playwriting project with the National Theatre. The project is called 'New Views' and its intention is to empower young people to tell the stories that matter to us, to present an image of the world through our lens.

Every Wednesday since October, pupils have been involved in a playwriting session and have been experimenting with ideas for our own original dramas. In December, we were visited by a professional playwright, Christopher Hill.

We were very fortunate to have Chris spend time with us as he is an award-winning playwright, radio dramatist and children's author. He spoke about his own experiences of writing, and more importantly, spoke about the origin of many of his ideas. So often, many of his ideas come from just listening (or eavesdropping) on other peoples' conversations. He told us many interesting stories of how some of his plays have started.

In January, we then started writing our own dramas. Some of our pieces are very serious, but there are also many comic moments. Our first drafts were submitted to Chris in February and we were all privileged to have an individual feedback session with him on our work. He gave us all some great ideas for how we could develop our dramas, but the final deadline is fast approaching, so we will all need to submit our final drafts soon.

The winning drama of this national competition will eventually be performed in the National Theatre. Obviously, it would be wonderful if one of our own scripts were to win, but whether we are successful or not, we have all enjoyed the experience of writing these dramas. We have had fun reading through the scripts in our Wednesday sessions; perhaps, one day, our scripts could be performed by our GCSE Drama pupils. Now that really would be fun!

“

Overall, it was a brilliant experience. I don't think that any of us had spoken to a playwright before, so it was interesting to see how they worked out their ideas. The playwright told us about how he wrote and seemed genuinely interested in what we had to say. Everyone seemed to be engaged in some way or another, which is a rare thing to see in a classroom! Actually writing the play has been a joy which I would recommend to anyone who sees themselves doing it in the future!

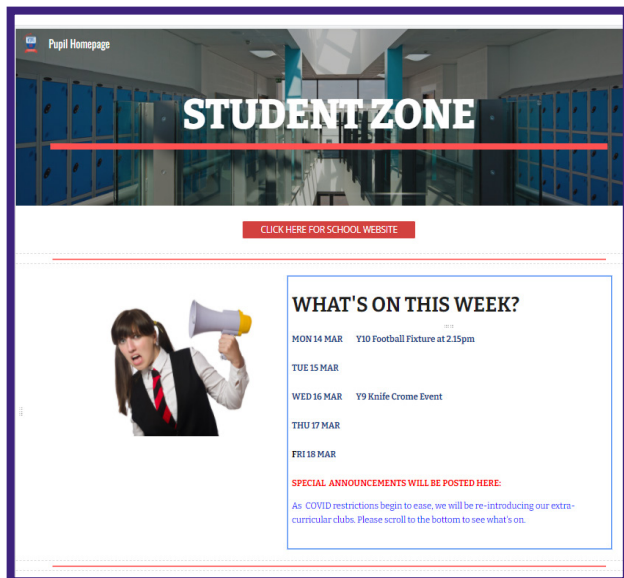
By Sophie Wilson



Pupils involved were:
Lucy James, Millie John,
Emma Arthur, Daisy Thomas,
Ruby Smith & Sophie Wilson



STUDENT ZONE



In September, we introduced 'Student Zone', an area that's accessible on every school PC.

When pupils log on to the Internet, they automatically get access to this page and its information.

The page includes details of events happening in school that week, along with any special announcements such as sports fixtures, exams or important deadlines.

The page also provides information on how to access the library online system, our counselling services, careers information and details of all the extra-curricular clubs that take place in school.

The page is constantly updated and provides a fresh and useful area for the pupils to read on a daily basis. Feedback from the pupils has been really positive and we hope it provides a great addition to the way in which we communicate at school!

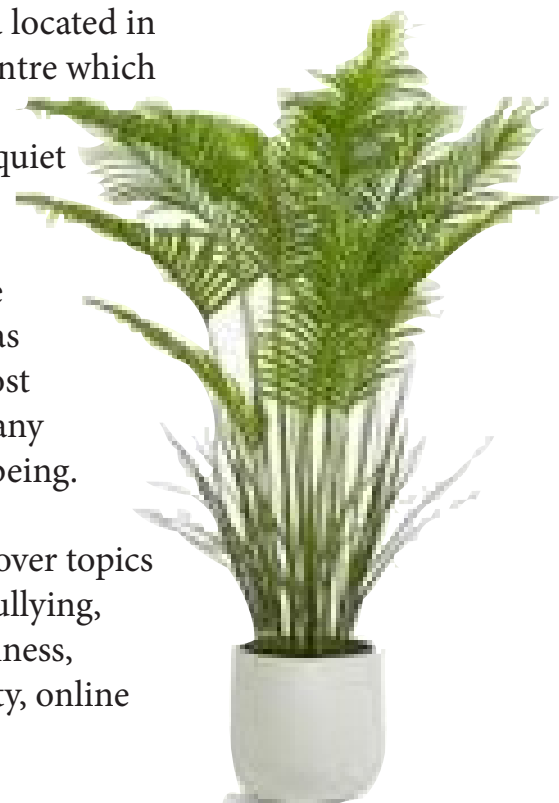
The Cwtch



The Cwtch is a quiet area located in our Library Resource Centre which may be accessed by anyone in need of some quiet and/or reflective time.

The area has comfortable chairs and coffee tables, as well as two desks and most importantly, access to many resources related to wellbeing.

Our selection of books cover topics such as healthy eating, bullying, families, Grief, Crime, Illness, LGBTQ, Feelings, Puberty, online safety and self-harm.



YEAR 10

It has been another full term for Year 10. With just the summer term left to complete, it seems so surreal that in a few months' time they will be entering their final year of compulsory education!

Year 10 have just completed their mock examinations; their first experience of a 'real' exam with external invigilators, as well as GCSE exam conditions. We are very proud to report that conduct from our pupils was exemplary! We have everything crossed that all their hard work will pay off. We wish them all the very best of luck for their formal GCSEs in May and June.

We continue to be amazed by the wide range of talent within our Year group and this term there have been a number of personal achievements for us to be extremely proud of, with pupils particularly excelling in the field of sport. You will find of these reported elsewhere in this newsletter. The following achievement however, was something a little different:

On 22nd March we received the following email from Mr D. King, a local resident:

"I'd like to commend two of your Year 10 students for a conscientious, civic duty they performed today after school hours that almost went unnoticed. At about 3.15pm on Monday 21st March, they voluntarily and without direction or request removed a large branch of a tree that had been left strewn across a path very near the school and blocking the path in a way that would almost certainly have posed a danger to pedestrians and cyclists, especially at night had it been left where they'd found it. The two boys' names are: Logan Russ & Kyle Driscoll. Perhaps you might have a way of celebrating and rewarding such edifying behaviour. Thank you."

Logan and Kyle both received a personal thank you, and an Easter egg for their 'eggcellent' act and 'cracking' contribution to the local community. Well done both!



Our punctuality prizes this half term have been won by:

Emily Meyrick, Emily Isaac, Henry Uzzell.

Head Boy/Girl and Prefect Interviews

Opposite, you will find information on our prefect vacancies. Please encourage your child to apply for these positions. We welcome applications from all pupils.

POSITION OF PREFECT, SENIOR PREFECT, HEAD BOY & HEAD GIRL **VACANCY**



ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

YEAR 10 PUPILS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION OF Y11 PREFECT IN PENYRHEOL SCHOOL.

- ❖ You will undertake a series of weekly duties around the school
- ❖ You will represent the school and be seen as a role model for younger pupils
- ❖ You will be given a position of trust and responsibility
- ❖ You may be asked to meet and greet visitors to the school and take them around the building
- ❖ Senior prefects will support senior members of staff by joining them on stage for assembly

WHY APPLY?

- ✓ Boost your CV
- ✓ Demonstrate leadership qualities & key characteristics that are desirable in college, university and employment.
- ✓ Work as part of a team.
- ✓ You will be considered for the role of Head Boy/Girl and Senior Prefect.

INTERVIEWS WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER EASTER!

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP TO C

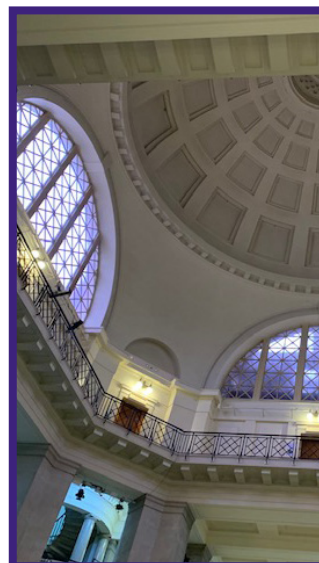
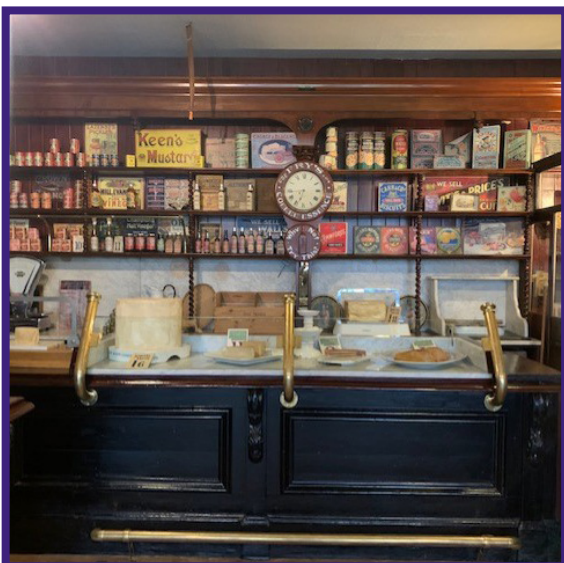


On 2nd March, 65 Year 10 and 11 art/photography Pupils visited Cardiff National Museum. Covid the pupils couldn't contain themselves with excitement.

We arrived at Cardiff museum where the pupils were able to go independently into the various parts of their GCSE course work. Unfortunately, there were still some restrictions due to the pandemic, but they were able to see other exhibitions and learn about the history of the city.

At lunch time, we transferred to St Fagan's. The pupils took photographs and particularly enjoyed the bakery. The bakers were very friendly and showed them around the bakery.

The pupils were a credit to the school. Every single one of them had excellent photographs and a great time.



CARDIFF MUSEUM & ST. FAGANS

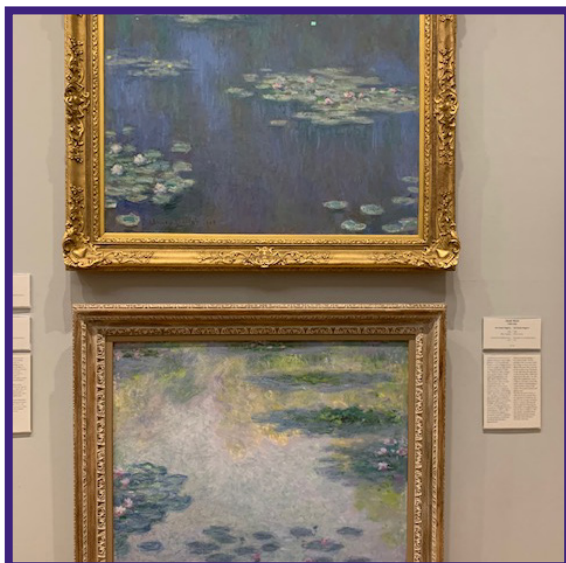


useum and St Fagan's Cardiff. After two years of not being able to go on any trips due to
nt when getting on to the coaches... and that was just the staff!

ne various art galleries and take photographs which will be used in their sketch books as
to Covid but there was plenty of various, artefacts, stuffed animals, gems and numerous
and galleries to see.

ularly enjoyed going into the school house, the terraced houses, the sweet shop and the
kery.

emplary behaviour and were respectful of the surroundings they were in.



Pop-Up Prom Event

In March, we had a wonderful couple of days hosting a pop-up Prom event in our Library Resource Centre.

Pupils were invited to look at, and try on ball gowns in readiness for our School Prom in June. All of the gowns had been donated and the pupils were able to have them totally free of charge!

The majority of the dresses were donated by Lynda at Crysalis Special Occasion Wear in Gorseinon, whom we cannot thank enough. Some were short, most of them long and they came in every colour and style imaginable!

The staff involved in the day found the experience quite emotional and seeing the pupils trying on the dresses and feeling like a million dollars was priceless.

Quite a few pupils chose dresses and some even went to our textiles department for alterations in order for them to fit perfectly.

A special thank you goes to Mrs. T Fussell who sourced the dresses and organised the event and to the staff who ran the event on the day and helped the pupils feel super-special.



Photographs of the Prom which is taking place this June will be featured in our Summer Newsletter.



Pictured left is Lynda from 'Crysalis' and Mrs. Fussell who organised the event.

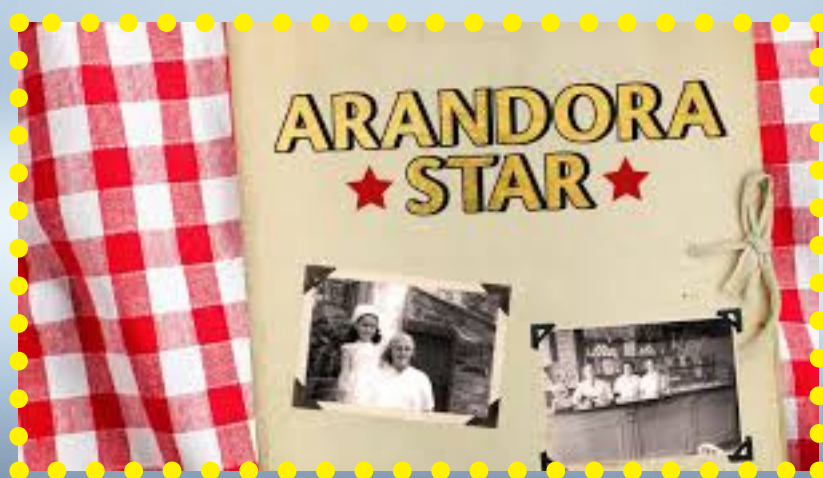
About Time We Had Some Drama!

At last...we had the pleasure of taking our Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students to the theatre...Our first outing to watch live theatre in over 2 years!

The play took place at The Dylan Thomas Theatre, Swansea and was performed by Theatre Na n'Org. 'Arandora Star' is based on a true story, exploring the life of Italians living and working in Wales during World War 2. When Italy entered the war in the summer of 1940, Italians living in Wales and the rest of the UK were branded as enemy aliens. On the 1st of July 1940, The Arandora Star, mistaken for a troop ship, is torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland, and sunk with 446 Italian men's lives lost.

The play, tells the emotional story of Lina as she struggles to cope with the loss of her father, Guido, and how she and her mother Carmella survive in a time of war and prejudice. The play highlights the issues of immigration and integration which we found to be particularly pertinent in the current climate.

It was a most engaging piece of Theatre in Education and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



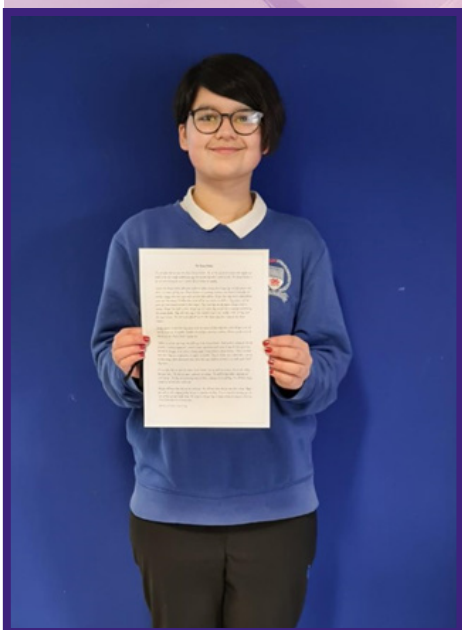
Year 11 Writing Competition – F

Ruth Seavers attended Penyrheol Comprehensive School between 2004 and 2007. Tragically, Ruth passed away in 2021. In honour of her memory, Ruth's mum has organised an annual bursary, exclusively for Year 11 pupils at Penyrheol Comprehensive School. The bursary will fund a week's writing retreat at Ty Newydd Writing Centre in Gwynedd in July/August.

A writing competition was held to decide on the winner of the first Ruth Seavers Bursary. All interested Year 11 pupils were invited to submit a piece of descriptive writing by using one of the following writing prompts to describe a moment in time:

- **Dreamcatcher**
- **The Letter**
- **Unrequited**
- **Outside the Window**

We had 5 fabulous entries from Tamara Swistun, Sophie Wilson, Hannah Roberts, Jess Kelly and Abigail Goudge. The entries were so good that the entire English Department took part in the judging.



The winner was Abigail Goudge. The other pupils were awarded gift vouchers to acknowledge their sterling efforts.

Abigail will now be attending the writing retreat later this year. Her winning entry, The Dream-Catcher is published on the next page.

Ruth Seavers Memorial Bursary

The Dream-Catcher

It is not often that one spies the elusive Dream-Catcher. No, not the superficial ornament that dangles and drifts in the wind, easily available from any bits and bobs shop that's worth its salt. The Dream-Catcher is far too extraordinary for such a mundane life of drifting and dangling.

Instead, the Dream-Catcher flits from rooftop to rooftop, dreary town to busy city, and only appears when there is no chance of being seen. Dream-Catchers are predatory creatures, most known to habitually visit bustling, smoggy cities that cough smoke and belch light pollution. Did you know they revel in light-polluted areas more than humans? It allows them to find all the more shadows to skulk in. They prance, with the grace of a more seasoned acrobat to their target. They reach long and wily fingers through cracks in windows, through the drafts in doors, through any such orifice they can find that is commonly overlooked by the average family. They make their way to their harmless prey's room, usually a child, and they steal the prey's dreams. The task sounds difficult, but it's like taking candy from a baby for the Dream-Catcher.

Spindly fingers, so dark that they appear to be the absence of light altogether, reach through an ear and coax the dream out. It is golden. A golden wire of hopes, admirations, ambitions, all drawn gently out of the mind and into the Dream-Catcher's gaping maw.

Children are not the only beings that fall prey to the Dream-Catcher. Desk-workers, wishing for that big promotion, or parents praying for a moment's peace, may become quick victims if they let their guard down and wish too strongly. If the dream is strong enough, it must attract a Dream-Catcher. There is no doubt about that. They are so mysterious, so cryptic, so invisible. They are darker than a black hole; a mass of swirling nothing. White fluorescents shine where their eyes should be and there is no visible mouth. Until they pounce.

It is not often that one spies the elusive Dream-Catcher, but one feels its presence. An ice-cube, sliding down your spine. The taste of copper, unpleasant and numbing. The smell of damp mildew, disgusting and vomit-inducing. The long and perpetuating sound of silence, deafening and ear-splitting. It is all these things, wrapped up and tied with a rotten bow.

And you will never know that one has visited you. You will never know that you have lost a dream. Maybe you wake up with a nagging feeling that you've forgotten something. It was an important something, you are sure of that, yet you simply shrug. You carry on with your day as though nothing has happened at all and the Dream-Catcher fades into non-existence again.

Until the next dreamer dreams too big.

Spoof Awards 2022

A group of our pupils represented the Evolve Centre Gorseinon in a Spoof Dance Competition. They recorded an excellent version of the Steps song 'Five, Six, Seven, Eight', and a pop video was recorded in the Botanical Gardens in Swansea.

They were up against the Evolve Youth centres in Townhill and Blaen y Maes. At the end, our pupils attended a prestigious awards ceremony where they were presented with certificates and met lots of local celebrities including drag artiste 'Ruby Slippers', who once attended Penyrheol as a pupil themselves!

A great experience for all involved and loads of fun!

Pupils involved were:

Sarayah Maybank-Jones, Chloe Holloway, Annelise Bollom, Summer Phillips, Jessica Bake, Faye Pedrick and Grace John.



Music to Our Ears



Now that Covid restrictions are beginning to lift, it has been a pleasure to see Extra-Curricular activities start back up within the Department.

The following activities are now up and running:

DAY	REGISTRATION	AFTER SCHOOL
Monday	KS4 rehearsal platform Year 8 MAT ensemble	Orchestra
Tuesday	Senior Choir-Years 9-11	Chamber Choir- Years 10&11 Year 10 Ensemble
Wednesday	Boys Ensemble Year 9-10	
Thursday	Guitar Group Year 7-11	
Friday	Junior Choir- Year 7 & 8	

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Our instrumental and vocal lessons are quickly filling in, with only limited spaces available for the Summer term. If you are interested in any of the following lessons, please see a member of the Music Department:

DAY	INSTRUMENT
Monday	Brass Woodwind Keyboard/ Piano
Tuesday	Singing Drums
Thursday	Guitar
Friday	Keyboard/ Piano Strings

Music Congratulations

Congratulations to Mollie Prothero Year 9 for passing her Violin Grade 2 exam with a Merit!

Well done Mollie!



It's All About the Parents!

Penyrheol Parent & Teachers' Association

Penyrheol Comprehensive School is very excited to announce the introduction of a new parent and teacher association. **Can you help?**

Help us to make a difference!

We are looking for parents/carers to join our PTA.

If you are friendly, enthusiastic and community spirited, we would love to hear from you. Together, the PTA will be organising events and raising funds that will directly support our pupils.

We expect to meet approximately once per half term and you can help as much or as little as you wish.

Please register your interest by emailing:
pta@penyrheol-comp.swansea.sch.uk



Welcome NEW Parent Governors

Following our recent request for parent governor nominations, we are delighted to report that the following five parents have now been appointed:

Helen Huelin, Jo Phillips, Joanne Ralph, Drew Shepherd & Anna Griffiths

