



Penyrheol

Easter Newsletter

Young Scientists Seek Answers at Technquest...

GCSE Drama Students Terrified in London...

Barnado's Help Eco-Pupils to Rock the Denim...

Music, Animals, Food & So Much More!



A Message from the Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Pupils,

I never thought I would be writing my termly letter under the circumstances we are currently facing! I trust that everyone is keeping well and is following the guidance we have been given by the government in order to bring the spread of coronavirus to an end across Wales and the UK.

The key actions we must take are:

- Washing our hands regularly and thoroughly using soap and warm water or hand sanitiser.
- Maintaining 'social distancing' of about 2 metres or 3 paces between ourselves and other people.
- Only going out for essential reasons, such as daily exercise or weekly food shopping.

If we have Covid-19 symptoms, such as a high temperature, persistent cough or shortness of breath, we must self-isolate within our homes for 7 days. We should only contact the NHS if our health deteriorates and we require hospital treatment. If someone else in our house has suspected coronavirus, we should remain at home for 14 days as this gives the time to see if we ourselves have become infected.

In the vast majority of cases, the coronavirus illness is mild to moderate. The biggest risk is that we pass the virus on to somebody else who is more vulnerable than us because of their age or because they have underlying health issues that make fighting the virus much harder.

While we are all in this 'lockdown' period at home, it is so important that we keep ourselves mentally and physically well. We can do this by exercising daily, establishing a routine to get us through the day, getting on with all the jobs we have been putting off for lack of time, being kind to one another and enjoying some 'me time'.

As a school, we remain open to provide emergency childcare for the children of key workers within our school community. The safest place for children is at home, but if key workers require their children to be looked after so that they can continue their work, we are providing that supervision. If you believe that you fall into this category and need to receive this support, please contact us on the number above and we will get in touch with you to discuss your situation and your needs.

We have also provided ongoing remote learning for pupils in Years 7-10 through Hwb using Google Classrooms. Pupils should be undertaking this work for 2 hours per week day following the timetable that we have provided on our website. It is vitally important that pupils maintain their learning throughout this time of enforced closure so that, when things do return to normal, they will be well-placed to pick up their school work again. The system appears to be working very effectively, but if you have any problems, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

The rest of this school year looks set to be very different. We are not anticipating re-opening as normal until September 2020. You will be aware that summer exams have been cancelled. Year 11 will be awarded a fair grade based on the work they had already completed. We are waiting to hear exactly what will happen for Year 10 pupils who should have been sitting some GCSE modules this summer. We will complete the Year 9 options process by getting in touch with those families over the next few weeks. Please note that there will be no national reading or numeracy tests this year, nor the awarding of end of key stage levels, nor any further annual

reports. Unfortunately, we had one more Parents' Evening to go this academic year, for Year 7, and that, too, won't be taking place.

These are extraordinary and challenging times, but there are already glimmers that the restrictions put in place across Wales and the UK are beginning to bring the rate of the spread of the coronavirus down somewhat. The fewer people become infected, the fewer severe cases and deaths there will be. So let's persevere in following the government's guidance.

I'm sure you would all join me in saying a massive thank you to our front line NHS staff for their bravery and dedication at this time of national health emergency. THANK YOU!!

Before this crisis took hold, term had been as typically busy as ever with many activities and trips taking place. You can read about some of these in this newsletter and I hope that will provide you with some enjoyment today!

Yours faithfully,



ALAN TOOTILL

Headteacher



Important Dates & Information

Summer Term 2020

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
SUMMER TERM	MON 20 APR	FRI 22 MAY	MON 25 MAY	FRI 29 MAY	MON 1 JUN	MON 20 JUL

Autumn Term 2020

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
AUTUMN TERM	TUE 1 SEP	FRI 23 OCT	MON 26 OCT	FRI 30 OCT	MON 2 NOV	TUE 22 DEC

Bank Holidays

8 May 2020 - May Day

25 May 2020 - Spring Bank Holiday

The above dates represent our usual term and holiday dates which are under constant review during the current outbreak of Covid-19.

At the moment, the school remains closed until further notice except to children of Key-workers, who continue to be educated on site, even over the holiday periods.

Our school reception is being manned Monday-Friday 0800-1700 should you have any queries.



European Languages Day

Our annual European Language Day was celebrated this year with a visit by 22 year old, Lily Johnstone, sister of our Head of Languages, Mrs. C. Young.

Lily is currently working for a firm based in Zurich and spoke to our Year 9 pupils with regards to the importance of learning another language and how this skill can improve your chances of securing excellent jobs abroad.

The pupils were engaged in this visit, especially when they realised how much higher the salaries were, for additional language speakers and the superb opportunities that were on offer.

The Year 9 pupils at the time of the visit, were all in the process of choosing their option subjects for their Year 10/11 GCSEs and many displayed a interest in choosing French or Spanish following Lily's visit.



Canned Cabaret Cymru

On Thursday 12th March the Performing Arts Departments presented “Canned Cabaret Cymru” a concert featuring Welsh themed items and performances from prize winners from the school Eisteddfod.

Our Junior Choir performed a stirring medley of “Time after Time” and a fitting Welsh medley and the Year 9 Drama group presented selections from Dylan Thomas’ “Under Milk Wood”.

Performances from prize winners ranged from music by ‘Tones & I’ to ‘Queen’! Rather than charging for entrance, we asked for donations to the local Foodbank and collected over 200 items!

The volunteers were very grateful for our donations, particularly in light of the current circumstances, so THANK YOU and well done to all involved!

Violin Exams

Congratulations to Grace Kimse and Mollie Prothero, both in Year 7, who recently sat their Grade 1 violin examinations. They performed superbly and we wish them luck on their results!



Geography & Art Department Visit to Bristol Zoo

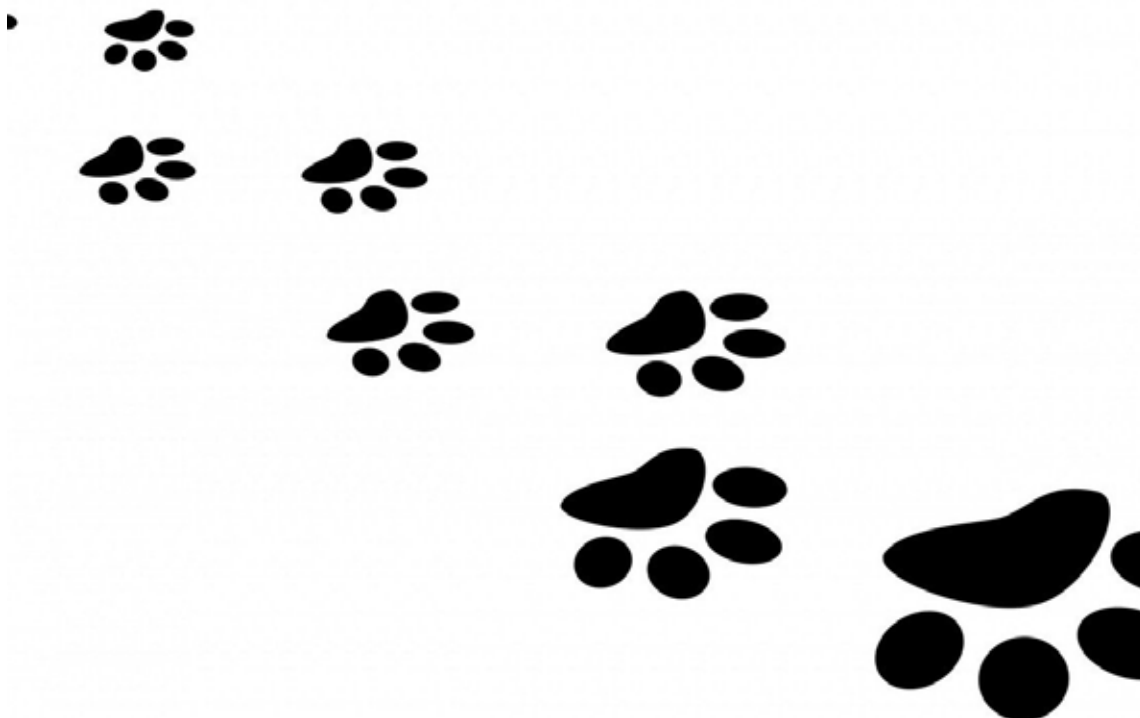
On 19th February, both our Art and Geography Departments, enjoyed a visit to Bristol Zoo.

Pupils were able to explore the Zoo and take photographs or sketch the animals. The Art and Geography pupils were then split into two groups and visited appropriate exhibitions for their studies:

Art - The Art Alive Exhibition

Geography - A Rainforest film and discussion in the Education Centre.

All pupils enjoyed the trip, where they learned about the many animals, their habitats and the dangers they face day to day in the wild...
...unfortunately most of which are caused by us humans!





Penyrheol School is delighted to have been awarded the
'Secondary School Autism Aware Certificate'

This certificate which was presented in March 2020, means that all school staff, pupils and the Governing Body have completed a series of activities to become more aware of Autism.

All teaching staff have completed training in the following areas:

- Introduction to Autism
- Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
 - Adapting day-to-day practice
 - Subject specific advice
 - Working with ASD pupils

In addition to the teaching staff, all Associate staff, Governors and pupils have also undergone 'understanding autism' training.

We hope this training will allow Penyrheol School to continue to provide good support for our pupils with ASD and other additional learning needs (ALN).

For more information on ASD Info Wales and advice for parents and children, visit the website below:

<https://www.asdinfowales.co.uk>

or contact :

Mr. A. Mackay – Additional Learning Needs Coordinator at Penyrheol.

POP-UP PROM!

On the 13th February, we launched a Pop-Up Prom Shop, where pupils can rent dresses for just £20, instead of feeling under pressure to buy one. The charge of £20 is in order to cover the cost of the dress being dry cleaned.



The stock of nearly new dresses (usually worn only the once) have all been kindly donated and we are so grateful to everyone who made this kind gesture.

A huge selection of the garments were donated by Lynda Morgan, who runs the clothes shop, 'Chrysalis'. Miss Fussell, who organised the Pop-Up Prom Shop, popped into Lynda's shop on the scrounge for hangers, and left with over 40 dresses!

'Chrysalis' has grown to become one of the foremost Special Occasion & Bridal Boutiques and is based in Gorseinon, Swansea and is certainly worth a visit!

Pictured left is the generous Lynda Morgan with Penyrheol Teaching Assistant, Tanya Fussell.

The Pop-Up Prom Shop has been so successful that we are now looking to obtain mens suits, trousers and jackets to our stock and despite our 2020 prom being postponed due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we are positive that the success of this venture will be ongoing and sought after.



The Girls 'Spring' int



Netball

The Year 7 Netball team reached the semi-finals of the Afan Nedd Tawe Plate competition. Team members were: Tia Broome, Katie Robinson, Hattie Hughes, Hannah Beech, Shannay Rees, Maddison Jones, Darcy Chapman, Carys Ryan, Amy Wake and Ellie Tench

Olivia Francis (Year 9) has represented Afan Nedd Tawe at U14 level and Holly Bainbridge (Year 9) has recently been selected for the LA HUB Netball Squad.

Football

The U13 Girls Football team have had an outstanding season reaching the semi-finals of the Welsh Cup competition.

The semi-final was due to be played on the 20th March but has been postponed!



Team members were: Sasha Hurst, Layla Kerr, Macy Jenkins, Annalina Phelps, Ellie Paige-Smith, Daisy Thomas, Megan Griffiths, Millie John, Lacey Bissmire, Ella Foley, Lea Jones, Lowri Dymond and Keira Knight.



The U13 team also finished 3rd in the Swansea Schools 5-a-side tournament.

Team members were: Megan Davies, Millie John, Ellie Paige-Smith, Macy Jenkins, Layla Kerr, Daisy Thomas and Sasha Hurst.

to Sporting Success!

The U15 Girls team were winners of the Swansea Schools 5-a-side tournament.

Team members were: Ellie Latronico, Mali Scoberg, Ashleigh Grove, Katlyn Williams, Grace Hughes, Jasmine McLean, Millie Everest and Olivia Francis.



Olivia Francis (Year 9) has represented Wales at U15 level and has played in a number of international fixtures this season, including matches against Scotland and Portugal.

Megan Davies (Year 11) has been successful in securing a place at Yeovil Women's Football Academy. This is a dual career course which will allow her to study for her A-levels whilst training with Yeovil Town Women's FC.

Gymnastics

Ffion Colwill (Year 8) represented Wales at the Gibraltar Rhythmic Gymnastics International in March. She won Individual Gold and Silver and a Bronze medal in the team event.



Ava Williams and Megan Griffiths (both Year 8) finished 3rd at the Welsh Schools Sport-Acrobatics Championships in February.

The U14 team (Megan Griffiths, Ava Williams, Mia Lee, Valentina Sias, Brooke Morris and Maisy Thornhill) won a silver medal at the same event.

Cross Country

Kelcy Hooper and Nia Davies (both Year 11) represented Afan Nedd Tawe at the Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships earlier this month.

Technquest!

On Wednesday 12th February 2020, a bright, sunny morning, 50 year 7 pupils left Penyrheol for their journey the Capital City of Cardiff. Technquest awaited us and the young scientists had many questions on their minds. Such as; 'How far away are the stars in the sky?' 'Why can we only see the stars when its dark?' 'Why do the stars twinkle in the nights sky?'

They were excited to explore and enter Technquest's digital Planetarium and take a journey through the Universe, discovering stars, planets, and distant galaxies. During the Planetarium, they were enthused to watch as clusters of binary stars appear to dance around each other. They watched exploding stars, planetary nebulae, supernovas and black holes. Our Year 7 scientists listened intently and loved learning about the if the Big Bang could happen in reverse? Or will the universe continue expanding forever?

After the Planetarium experience, all pupils enjoyed investigating the interactive exhibition area (see photos below). After lunch, we all cued for the shop and purchased some very fun scientific stationary. (I was extremely excited by my Periodic Table cup and ruler!). We all arrived back safely to Penyrheol by 3pm.

An excellent educational day out, which was enjoyed by all.



Head of Year 7, Ms. Rees said:

"My year 7 scientists made me incredibly proud to be their head of year and I am looking forward to more exciting adventures in the future".



Food Glorion

Year 11 Food and Nutrition Pupils, completed their practical NEA 2 i dishes that showcased traditional Welsh recipes and/or used Welsh prod of dishes to fulfil the brief. Many pupils produced



ous Food!



2 in February. The brief was to research, plan, prepare and cook three produce. The pupils worked exceptionally hard to create a suitable range of outstanding work in just 3 hours. Well done all!



Go Green - Design

Young Penyrheol Designers su

From September lower KS3 pupils in Mrs O'Sullivan's and I have been studying the environmental and social issues of fashion. They have learnt a lot about the impact of disposing of our clothes and one of the most harmful

Denim pollutes rivers and precious water resources from all the time the world are exposed to this leading to health problems. Also water has a big impact on the planet. But we wanted to turn

Pupils were asked to offer solutions to these issues by designing a case, using jeans that would normally be thrown away. While it was no longer the case anymore, many of Mrs O'Sullivan's pupils/families didn't normally throw away jeans anymore, many of them were starting to p

Mrs O'Sullivan contacted the local Barnardo's charity shop in Gort to sell because they were damaged. The lovely manager Michele was "Give me a couple of days and I'll see what I can do". When Mrs Barnardo's had donated approximately 40-50 items. This meant the pupils pro

Both Mrs O'Sullivan and Mrs McElroy were amazed by the work design innovative and fashion forward

We would like to say a huge well done to the pupils for saving so
but also a HUGE thanks to Michele at Barnardo's for saving our
Penyrheol comm



Denim Upcycling Project!

supported by Local Charity!

and Mrs McElroy's classes have been learning all about the impact about the damaging impact during the making, using and disposal of products is the classic favourite... denim jeans.

the toxic chemicals needed to process it. Many people all around the world so when we use and throw away clothes this also has a lasting impact. We turn all of these negatives into positives!

ing and making some sort of container, such as a bag or pencil case. While some pupils brought in old pairs of jeans they didn't need or didn't usually wear jeans so didn't have any old ones to bring in. We were a bit to panic...

Gorseinon to see if they have a few pairs spare that they couldn't use. She was so helpful and really wanted to support the school, she said: 'Yes, I'll do it'. Mrs O'Sullivan returned she was blown away by the generosity, she brought in 10-50 pairs of jeans and other denim items! The project could continue!

Work the pupils created and really stepped up to the challenge to create forward products using old jeans!

g so much fabric from landfill and creating some fantastic work for our project...it really was an excellent example of the amazing community spirit!

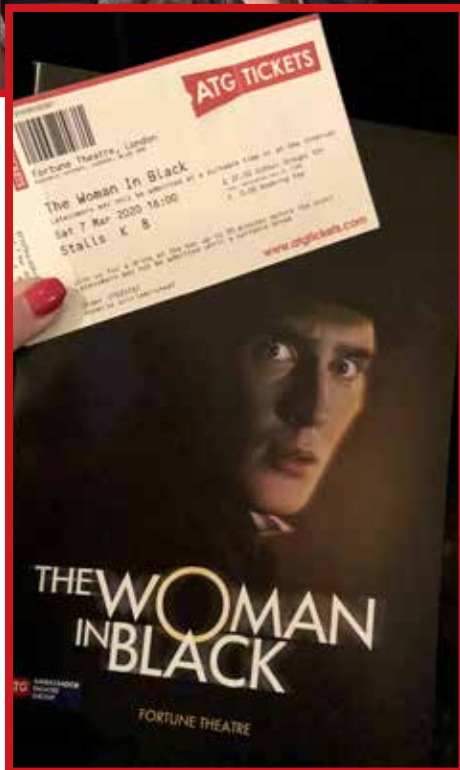


The Woman in Black

On Saturday 7th March 2020, we set off bright and early, our destination was London's West End!

The GCSE Drama classes from Years 10 & 11 had eagerly awaited the adventure, the aim of which was to watch a production at the Fortune Theatre of the theatrical classic '**The Woman in Black**'.

The promise of a bus tour of the capital, ably narrated by our tour guide – Mrs Davies-Jones, accompanied with a stroll along the South Bank, some lunch, street theatre and shopping in Covent Garden was an added bonus!



The Woman in Black is a ghost story by Susan Hill, in which Arthur Kipps relates his haunting experiences at Eel Marsh House. The tale begins on Christmas Eve, when Arthur's step-children invite him to tell a ghost story. Arthur is too disturbed by his memories to share his story aloud, so he writes it down and employs the services of an actor to recount his tale.

In his story, a young Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is sent to settle the affairs of Alice Drablow. He sees a woman dressed in black at her funeral, though apparently no one else does.

At Eel Marsh House, a house beyond a causeway, Arthur is haunted by noises and sightings of the woman. Eventually a local man, Sam Daily, reveals the full story of how Alice Drablow's sister, Jennet, haunts the house. He explains that a child dies each time the woman in black is seen. At the end of the story, Arthur sees the woman in black again and his wife and son die in a terrible accident.

The Woman in Black

is a ghost story about heartbreak and revenge.



I felt that it was vitally important for the pupils to experience a performance that is accomplished in its performance and direction, but also in technical terms. It is a production that involves an excellent use of sound and light effects, the intimate setting of The Fortune Theatre really makes the performance come to life. The story is very well scripted and skilfully played as the actors both multi-role the characters involved in the telling of the chilling tale. The audience are engulfed in a narrative that's gripping and dramatic. The pupils were very curious to experience a play that could be terrifying and they were not disappointed.



Mrs Davies-Jones and I have seen the production several times and we were still in the edge of our seats. However, the best part for me was witnessing the reaction of the pupils and Miss Evans as first timers. There were gasps and squeals aplenty!

As ever the students of Penyrheol behaved admirably and were a true pleasure to spend time with. We would love to visit London again soon, so watch this space!