



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

Upcoming Events

School Christmas Concert — Wednesday 14th December

Achievement Evening – Thursday 15th December

Good News

Lola Rogers and Sian Muscroft, year 11, took part in a national dance competition in Skegness at the end of October. They were competing in a team event in the 19-35 age category!

Their team really excelled themselves especially as only one member of their team was of the age category. They achieved second place overall for their category and best performance for the entire competition.

Well done girls, a fantastic achievement!

This week in school we held our second 'Drop Everything and Read' event of the academic year. Following on from the successful Year 7 week held in October, this week Year 8 students got a chance to explore the joys of reading in every lesson across the week. It is fantastic to see the student's enjoying books and being able to talk about them with a critical eye as to why they have enjoyed them, or

Message from the Headteacher

even why they have felt that the author could have taken a story in a different direction.

The vital skill of reading has sometimes become a little lost as technology takes over our lives increasingly. We must encourage our children to read both for pleasure, and to be able to access key information and to be able to interpret examination questions correctly.

I remember as a young boy, waiting for my dad to return home from his job in London and always being excited to be able to read the newspapers he would collect, that had been left on the train. I would scour the sports pages, desperate for information about my favourite teams and sporting heroes. Now as a father of three, I can see the value that reading every night has had on my two youngest children. I also see the other side of this as my eldest son, who is almost 14, is reluctant to read regularly. There are so many untold joys of getting lost in a book and I am persevering and ways in which to try and inspire him. My most recent plan is that on a Sunday evening he gets to choose the music and I sit down with him and my 10-year-old son for 45 minutes and read. Sebastian won't admit it, but I now secretly believe that he enjoys reading the sports pages of the newspaper. Jasper delights in how many pages of his next David Walliams book he has to read and it's a



chance for me to relax and catch up with the rest of the weekend news. We have now managed to do this for 7 consecutive weeks, and so it is almost becoming a habit. I must admit, even the music is growing on me! There are many exciting new things happening in school currently. It was lovely to meet many of our parents and carers this week at the 'Meet the Headteacher' event. I hope that I can encourage parents and carers to become a part of the Parents Advisory Group (please see email that was sent 14.11.22). This will be a great opportunity for parents to hear about developments in school and to help shape some of the practice for future years. I am delighted that we have forged a partnership with Shrewsbury Town FC Foundation, so that from September 2023 we will be delivering degree level courses from the school, and I hope that this is a partnership that will cascade through the school community eventually, as the school continues to develop innovative practice.

'If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking.'

Taken from 'What I talk about when I talk about running' by Haruki Murakami

BULLETIN

Friday 18th November 2022

Curriculum Focus: Science

Meet the team:

Welcome to the Science Department!

Mrs Phillips (Head of Science), Miss Brown (Second in Science), Mr Bass (Head of Biology), Mrs Garbett, Mrs Lewis, Mr Whitley, Ms Williams.

Technicians: Mrs Gannon, Mrs Thomas

The Science Department is found in 'B' block (next to the school field), and we have 9 laboratories in total. As a department, we want to develop students who are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed in this ever-changing modern world in which we live. By inspiring our learners to independently search for their own answers they will become skilled critical thinkers, problem-solvers, collaborators, designers and innovators



Our aim:

Students are initially taught in tutor groups in year 7 and then set for the remainder of Key Stage 3. We are currently developing an exciting new curriculum that is underpinned by the four purposes, as identified in the Curriculum for Wales. Students are given the opportunity to study topics which are engaging and challenging, to develop inquisitive young minds. We ensure that lessons have a strong practical element which allows pupils to develop key skills such as teamwork, problem solving and resilience. We explore knowledge in local, national and global contexts in all branches of science tailored to the interests and needs of our students which allows them to fulfil their potential.

Science is key to a wide variety of career choices, so at Welshpool High School we ensure that students have the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in equal measures. Most students in Key Stage 4 will follow the WJEC Double Award Science route which gains them two GCSE grades. However, those students with a special interest and aptitude for science who are likely to continue their studies at A-level, may opt to study separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



Extra-curricular activities:

Science Club is an exciting opportunity for KS3 pupils to engage in various science practical activities, helped and encouraged by some of our Sixth Form pupils who study Science. During our second Science Club, pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 had a go at making 'Oobleck', used skittles to show diffusion and carried out a sugar density challenge. Year 7 pupil Annie Wilson said, 'Science club is one of the most interesting and fun things I've done since starting high school!'

Science Club will return this half term on Wednesday 30th November – keep an eye out on the Science Noticeboard and Instagram page (@whs.science) information and pictures!

This half term we will be nominating two Science Ambassadors per Year Group. We are looking for pupils with an interest in Science, who will be able to communicate with both pupils and staff, to strive to improve and promote the success of the Science Department.

Miss Brown, Second in the Science Department

Key dates:

Year 10 Science Mock exam: Wednesday 23rd November 2022

Year 11 Science Mock exam: Thursday 24th November 2022

KS3 Science Club: Wednesday 30th November 2022

Year 7 Mid-Year Test: Friday 13th January 2023

Year 8 Mid-Year Test: Monday 23rd January 2023

Year 11 GCSE Practical exams: Thursday 26th and Friday 27th January, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd February, Thursday 9th and Thursday 10th February 2023

Year 9 End of KS3 Test: Thursday 30th March 2023

Art

Former WHS A-level Art students have been in touch to share how Art continues to enrich and inspire personally and professionally. It's great to see their enthusiasm and progression and hear what they are up to.

Bridget Agg is living in Colorado RN, USA and due to start college studying 2D & 3d animation in spring. Bridget has shared some of her recent imaginative and skilled compositions. Bridget studied A-level Art with us last year.



Lottie Hardy is working and enjoying her new career as a children's support worker. The team she works with love her vibrant compositions and she enjoys being able to use her art skills in her job. Lottie studied A-level Art with us last year. Here are some of Lottie's recent work.

Mrs Richards
Art Teacher



Girls PE

Girls sport the week before half term:

On Tuesday 25th October.

U14 Girls rugby and U16 Girls rugby played Llanfyllin. The U14 lost 2 tries (Anaya S and Lylla S scored) to 5 tries. But played very well for their first game of contract rugby.

U16 girls rugby lost to a strong Llanfyllin team, but seem to enjoy the experience of their first game of contact rugby.

On Wednesday 26th October.

The girls played in the North Powys U18 Netball at Llanfair Caereinion HS and played 3 games. They beat Bro Hyddgen 13 – 11, they beat Llanfair Caereinion 16-6 and then lost to Llanfyllin 7-27, but overall come 2nd. The girls played really well and did the school proud.

Miss Black
PE Teacher



History

Sixth Form History Ambassadors

It is my pleasure to introduce our 6 new History Ambassadors at WHS.

The 6 students have volunteered their time during free lessons every week since the start of term to support KS3 & KS4 pupils during lessons. As 6th form students who study History and/or Government & Politics in Year 12, they have just completed their GCSE History Course. All our History Ambassadors show a flair in History and have natural ability, but they also show a commitment to the subject too, and it is good to witness them helping other students. With their experience of the skills needed as pupils progress through their History studies, they have offered invaluable support to younger pupils with their learning during this first half term.

Their presence in class has also proved popular with the students, especially when supporting the new Year 7 pupils.

The History Department are really grateful for their help in supporting students.

Mrs K Grindley
Head of History



Top (l-r) Libby Kaye, Jay Williams, Eleri Jones.

Bottom (l-r) Alan Witshire-Fessey, Ffion Evans & Sam Cadwallader.

Table tennis

On Friday 28th October, the Sixth Form had the finals of their Table Tennis Tournament, organised by the Sixth Form Leadership Team. After 2 weeks of matches with 10 participants, the three finalists came head-to-head in a Round Robin format to determine the winner. While the lower matches had been held at the open table in the common room, the finals were (with permission from the PE department) held in one of the school gyms, with an audience of Sixth Form members welcome to spectate and support. In the end, Freddie Jones (right) was crowned the winner of the tournament and took home the prize of £10. We are eager to organise more activities in the future and maintain a competitive but friendly atmosphere in the Sixth Form.

Ethan Magness
Head Boy

Girls Football

The U13 girl's football team beat Newtown 6-2 yesterday. Scorers were Anaya Shuker (x2), Tilly Jones, Maisy Jones, Chloe Turk and Bella Roberts. It was the team's first match playing together and they put in an impressive performance. Phoebe Heighway was brilliant in defence. Our next game in the Welsh Cup will be confirmed after half term

Miss Brown
Second in the Science Department



Shrek

33 of our GCSE/A Level Drama students attended Shrek! the Musical performance at Theatr Hafren on 10th November. This show will be reviewed as part of their upcoming theory exams. They all represented the school immaculately and enjoyed the show which included our own Miss Charles and Miss Breakwell! Massive thanks to Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Gannon and Mrs Baines for their support and a very late evening!

Miss Fletcher
Drama Teacher



WHS—Shrewsbury Town FC Foundation

If your child is interested in studying a degree level course at Welshpool High School from September 2023, in partnership with Shrewsbury College & University and the University of South Wales.

Courses include:

- Sports Business & Management
- Community Football Coaching & Development
- Sports Coaching & Development

We are hosting an information evening at school, 6.30pm on Tuesday, 6th December 2022

Please click on the link for more information:

<https://www.foundationstfc.co.uk/stcu-expands-to-welshpool/>

Parent / Carer Advisory Group

We are looking for parents/carers to join this new initiative.

It's a chance to hear more about the school and to advise on key elements of practice important to your children.

If you are interested in joining the group, please click on the link for more information:

https://www.welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ParentsCarersAdvisoryGroup_14th-Nov-22.pdf

Sports Results

Sports results from the last couple of weeks:

U14 Girls Rugby vs Llanfyllin - Lost 35-10

U16 Girls Rugby vs Llanfyllin - Lost 45-0

U13 Boys Rugby vs Llanfyllin - Won 57-10

U18 Girls Netball Tournament - 2nd place in North Powys

U16 Boys Football vs Llanfyllin - Lost 4-3

U12 Boys Football vs Llanfyllin - Won 7-2 (Through to the Powys Final)

U13 Girls Football vs Newtown - Won 6-2

U16 Boys Football vs Elfed High School, Buckley - Lost 4-3

North Powys Boys Small-Sided Football Tournament -

Year 7s - 1st place

Year 8s - 2nd place



Fundraising

The non-school uniform day held on Friday 28th October Raised £495 - Acting on the feedback from our recent 'financial barriers to school engagement' survey, £150 of the money raised will be used to purchase essential uniform, personal care, and stationery items that all students can access, and the remaining £345 will be donated to Teenage Cancer Trust.

Miss M Jones
Fundraising Coordinator

D & T

Ken Toop from Dawson Shannahans came in to talk to the Yr 11 Design and Technology groups about the company and possible career roots. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the talk.

The annual **Music and Mince pie Event** will be taking place at 2pm on Tuesday 20th December. There will be seasonal musical entertainment, with free mince pies and hot drinks. All ages welcome.

Please let Mrs Lewis know if you would like to attend, or you know of any local groups who would be interested at rachel.lewis@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk as soon as possible to organise numbers. Thank you.

Mrs Lewis
Head of Design and Technology

Attendance

Assemblies have focused on the importance of attendance, and this has been related to attainment. Students have requested that we revisit our rewards trip to McDonalds and information regarding this has been shared with all the students

Mr Loxam
Assistant Headteacher

Art

Last week all key stage 3 students created remembrance artwork. Year 7 made poppies in red, black, white and purple and learnt about their different meanings and symbolism. Year 8 worked in groups to create mixed media soldiers using a range of colours and patterns incorporating symbols of remembrance and year 9 looked at the origin of the poem Flanders Fields by John McCrae and created a giant poppy scroll that is on display in the main reception.

Miss Atkin
Head of Art



Careers

This year's Careers Convention took place on Thursday 17th November in Theatr Clera. Over 25 organisations attended. Students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 had the opportunity to speak to local colleges, employers and universities about their career aspirations.

Mr Loxam
Assistant Headteacher

PSE

On Thursday 10th November, Yr 8 pupils had the opportunity to see a **live**, professional drama performance in Theatr Clera performed by Arad Goch. They watched a drama by Mared Llywelyn Williams that deals with the problem of *County Lines*. Following the performance pupils took part in a workshop and Q & A session with the actors.

The performance was very thought provoking and engaging.

Miss Haycock
Head of KS3

Key Contacts

Main switchboard: 01938 552014

Office email: office@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk

Head of Sixth Form: Mr R Pengelly

Head of Year 11: Mrs V Jones

Head of Year 10: Mrs M Poulton

Head of Year 9: Miss G Charles

Head of Year 8: Miss J Haycock

Head of Year 7: Mrs R Aldridge