



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng



Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

Upcoming Events

Music and Mince Pie Concert—

Tuesday 20th December at 2pm in
Theatr Clera

Good News

Maisie Jones and Phoebe Heighway in 8NA performed in Beauty and the Beast Christmas Panto in Berriew Community Centre on the 8, 9 and 10 December.

After a long term everyone can feel exhausted. Students who have worked to the best of their ability, represented the school in sport or in the Arts, or even in a leadership capacity, have gone the extra mile. Students who have been leaving home in darkness to get buses to school. Students experiencing secondary school for the first time. Parents/Carers who have been supporting learning when they return home, parents and carers who have been acting as a taxi service to make sure their children can attend clubs and activities. Teachers who have strived to plan that additional bit of magic into lessons. Support staff who work tirelessly in the background to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

Exhaustion can be seen everywhere. But a rest is coming. A well-deserved rest, a chance to wind down, a chance to re-charge. Hopefully a chance to spend time with loved ones and a chance to be thankful for what we have got.

Message from the Headteacher

Personally, I am really excited to be able to spend time enjoying my children's company. Whilst at the same time I always try to remember that I too am someone's child and that it is important to remember all the sacrifices my own parents made to support me.

It has been a long term, but also a fantastic term in many ways. The return to assemblies and a more normal way of working following two enforced years of Covid-related disruption. The Christmas Concert this week was a real example of how much talent there is in our school community. On a night where there is so much awe and wonder on show, my mind sometimes drifted towards just how much practice it takes to get that good at something and also, just how many people it takes to support a child as they are developing these skills. In David Epstein's book, 'The Sports Gene', he explains the theory that it takes 10,000 hours to become a talented sportsperson, musician, or artist. In the world of a child – that's a lot of practice! In the world of a parent/carer – that's a lot of lifts, a lot of petrol, a lot of hours spent watching, a lot of hours spent sitting in cars and living with both joy and frustration along the way. After the Christmas festivities, New Year provides us all with an opportunity to start again. A senior advisor that I once worked



alongside always talked about the importance of seeing the glass as half full, rather than half empty. As the new year and a new term approach it is important that every student and every adult see this time as a fresh opportunity to strive to be everything that they can be.

The Spring term starts in the cold and turns into one where the increasing light and warmth offer a glimpse of new beginnings and opportunities. I hope that all our students, staff, and families will come back ready to hit the ground running in January. It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to some staff, as is always the way at the end of any term, but this term we are particularly sad to see Mrs E Winter leave the school. We are so grateful for her tremendous dedication to our school over 19 years. She has inspired a love of languages in many of our students and we wish her tremendous success in her new role. We also extend best wishes to Mrs Carter who has worked as an Attendance Officer since September 2022.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

BULLETIN

Friday 16th December 2022

Curriculum Focus: English

Meet the Team

Welcome to the English Department! Mrs Hamer (Head of English), Mrs Jones, Mr Corfield, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Hurst and Mrs Edwards (Intervention Teacher).

The English Department can be found upstairs in the 'D' block above Technology and we have six classrooms. Additionally, we have our *Accelerator Room* where intervention sessions take place for pupils who benefit from targeted, small-group work.



Paired reading also takes place in our Library, in the Languages block, where sixth formers read with some Key Stage 3 pupils to help enhance their reading fluency. Our school librarian, Ms Swift, runs this. Within English, we are all specialists who have a genuine passion for our subject and we aim to inspire our learners to be as enthusiastic about English as we are!

Our Aim

To support learners with their transition to high school, pupils are initially taught in forms in Year 7. Later in the year, once they have settled into high school, they are placed into groups based on ability within their bands. This process continues until they leave school, and there are three key points in an academic year when class lists across all year groups are revisited to ensure that everyone is in a group that is right for them.

As with all subjects in school, we have developed an exciting new series of units for Year 7, underpinned by the four purposes of the new curriculum. Learners' responses to these units have been positive and we are eager to engage learners in sharing their thoughts and views so that we can adapt what we do to be as engaging and motivating as possible. This momentum will be carried forward into the development of the curriculum in English for all year groups.

When students reach Key Stage 4, many study GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature, resulting in two GCSEs, whilst the examination focus for some is purely on the GCSE for Language. We pride ourselves in ensuring that pupils are provided with a learning pathway that is the most likely to result in their individual success, and we are committed to working with learners to achieve this.

Extra-Curricular

At present, we are working with 6th Form volunteers to provide KS3 learners with opportunities to join enter writing competitions in school. These will be launched soon, so watch this space!

With upcoming exams for KS4, there are also revision sessions being provided. Every Thursday morning until the January Literature exam has been sat, there is Breakfast Revision in D28 with Mrs Hamer. Students can revise *Of Mice and Men* and poetry while enjoying a croissant! Lunchtime revision sessions, which cover the same material, are also provided as an alternative. Different learners study in different ways, so we aim to provide as many different revision opportunities as possible.



This is why we have also created a Revision Wall where learners can help themselves to resources based on a range of topics relating to the English courses. Furthermore, there is a Microsoft Team that contains many paper and audio-visual resources to support KS4 pupils with revision.



Thank you for reading this snapshot of the English Department at Welshpool High School. We look forward to working with all of you over the next few years to support everyone in achieving their potential.

Sixth Form

Zoe de Zeeuw, our Head Girl from Year 13, has secured interviews to study medicine at Queens and Hertford Colleges from Oxford University on 12th & 13th December. With this in mind, an online mock interview was set up on Monday 5th December for Zoe by two of our Governors, Geoffrey Lanagan and Alison Davies, to give Zoe a taste of what the real thing might be like. Geoffrey and Alison were joined by Tony Harvey, Dr Sarah Myhill and Dr Ben Gwalchmai and the interview was chaired by Acting Head of Sixth Form Mr Pengelly.

Zoe answered a range of questions for half an hour on subjects including the pros and cons of euthanasia, the relationship between Doctors and their patients, issues surrounding medical whistleblowers, the use of languages in medicine and the changing nature of prescriptions and treatment. Zoe answered confidently and gave the panel a real insight into her thinking on some key topics that could be relevant to her in her chosen medical career. We all wish Zoe all the best for her 'real' interviews and hope that she is successful and gains a place at Oxford for next September. We now have 17 Year 13 students who have sent in their UCAS applications and all have received at least one offer from one of their chosen Universities. A reminder is worth giving to those who have not yet completed their applications that the deadline is 6pm on Wednesday 25th January 2023.

Mr R Pengelly
Head of Sixth Form

Football

Some key results from last week:

U12 Boys Football won 9-0 vs Calon Cymru - the team are now Powys champions and are through to the last 16 in Wales

U13 Girls Football won 8-1 vs Calon Cymru and are now through to the Powys final.

Mr A Humphreys
Head of PE

Workshop

On Friday 9th December Ruth Magness, an independent demonstrator for Stampin' Up, came in to run a card stamping workshop and make Christmas Cards with the Sixth Formers and teachers. No charge was made but she accepted donations which would go towards the charity The Potter's House CBO. We are thankful for the therapeutic activity and hope we can have her in again next year!

Ethan Magness
Head Boy

Art

Congratulations to Evie Lee Andrew in year 8 who is the winner of the Christmas Card Design Competition 2022! Her design has been professionally printed and will be used as the official Christmas Card for WHS this year.

A big well done to Evie Langford and Scarlett Evans in year 7 who are commended as runners up.

Ms N Atkin
Head of Art



North Powys Swimming Gala

On Friday 2nd December we took 18 pupils to the Powys senior schools sprint gala at Maldwyn leisure centre. All the pupils swim their best and we came home with 15 medals.

Jude White got 2nd in I.M, backstroke and breaststroke.

Noah White got 1st in I.M, breaststroke, butterfly, yr 11,12,13 relay and 3rd in the yr9/10 relay.

Henry Murton-Jones got 3rd backstroke and the yr 9/10 relay.

Teilo Gittins-Turner got 3rd in butterfly and 1st in the yr 11,12,13 relay.

The yr 9/10 boys relay won bronze with Cian Gittins-Turner, Henry Murton-Jones, Alex Leighton and Noah White.

The yr 11,12,13 relay won gold with Teilo Gittins-Jones, Rhys Handel and Noah White.

What a great effort by them all.

Ms S Black
PE Teacher



Netball

The girls played in the U16 North Powys netball tournament today at Bro Ddyfi, Machynlleth. They narrowly lost 2 games, lost by 1 goal in another and draw in one game. The girls played great and gave their all.

Ms S Black
PE Teacher



Rugby

The U14 girls played rugby at Llanidloes last week and won 4 tries to 2. All the girls gave their all and really got stuck into the tackles this week. Great job by all of them, great team effort.

The U13 boys played at Llanidloes and won 27-0. Great game. They boys were missing one of their key players but stepped up and played really well. Well done boys. Good team effort.

Mr A Humphries
Head of PE



Air Ambulance Fundraising

Rebekah uses some of her time in school to complete a qualification called 'science today'. As part of this, Rebekah organised a coffee morning to raise money for the Welsh Air Ambulance. This required Rebekah to set rules, establish roles and carry out given tasks. Rebekah did an amazing job and raised £107.52!



6th Form

The Student Leadership team held a cake sale to raise funds for the Sixth Form Common Room redecoration project, and raised £110!

Music Half Term Roundup

MYM Christmas Concert

On Friday 3rd December I was lucky enough to attend the Montgomeryshire Youth Music Christmas Concert, featuring their Concert Band, String Team and Rock and Pop Group. I was really impressed not only with the quality of the music we enjoyed but also how many of our pupils were involved. It is an amazing opportunity for all pupils to become involved in: it is free to join and they rehearse at Welshpool every Friday night during term time. If you play an instrument and would like to join just pop and see myself or Miss Charles for more information. **Well done all involved for a really lovely night of Christmas entertainment!**

Mrs C Evans
Head of Music

RABI Concert

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) invited Welshpool High School to lead their annual charity fundraising concert, which had been cancelled for the past 2 years due to COVID. So, on 4th December 2022, the school's concert and jazz bands and singing group went to the Welshpool Livestock Market and performed various well-known and festive songs before an audience of over 150 members of the local community. All enjoyed the heart-warming night, even if a little chilly in the Winter weather, and we look forward to joining once more next year!

Ethan Magness
A-Level Music Student

Christmas Concert

On Wednesday evening (December 14th), pupils, parents and staff were treated to a night of great entertainment from the Music department in Theatr Clera. This was our first Christmas concert back after COVID and performances ranged from solos and small ensembles to the Choir, Jazz Band and Concert Band. It was fantastic to play to such a full audience, and it could be safely said that everyone had a good time.

Tomos Haine
AS Music Student



Pumpkins

Layla Paddison Y7 came to the science garden to admire some gigantic pumpkins. The seeds came from Morrison's Good To Grow campaign earlier in the year and were planted by a Year 11 pupil. We hope to use the pumpkins in the Food Technology department - watch out for pumpkin pie and pumpkin soup!

Mrs Bartley
Student Support



Key Contacts

Main switchboard: 01938
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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

Achievement Evening

Invites for Achievement Evening will be sent very soon. Achievement Evening for this academic year will take place on Thursday 12 January 2023, starting at 6.30pm. Each department within the school nominates one student in every year group to receive a prize. This is a very difficult task for staff and is a very special evening for the students, parents, and staff.

Mr J Loxam
Assistant Headteacher

We wish you all a Merry
Christmas and a Happy
New Year

