



# Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

*Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations*

*Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau*

## Upcoming Events

Christmas Concert—Wednesday 14th December at 7pm

Mince Pie and Carols Concerts— Tuesday 20th December at 2pm

## Good News

**Zoe Castell 12JW** fought recently in the Welsh National Championships in Judo. She achieved a silver medal, which means that she is now ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the whole of Wales. Zoe is now on the 2023 Welsh Judo Squad. Well done Zoe!



It was a real pleasure to allow the students a chance to dream last Friday as we watched the Iran v Wales fixture across the school. I am really grateful for the support of all parents/carers in ensuring that attendance remained good on the day of the match and that despite the result, we managed to have the opportunity to bring the students together to watch a momentous occasion.

## Message from the Headteacher

So many students have been fascinated by the World Cup after the first week and it seems to be providing a great deal of learning experiences for them. I have been pleased to be able to talk with students not just about the games, but also, to many of the inquisitive students, about the controversies surrounding the tournament also. Our students are very knowledgeable about issues that adversely affect others, they also have a strong sense of fairness and equality.

Having worked hard on the theme of Black History Month throughout October, I feel that it is important to keep helping our students to understand many of the virtues that those we highlighted had. Recently I have been very proud of how our students have accepted new students into the school who have had life experiences that are different to theirs, and I sincerely hope that this continues.

Students in Key Stage 4 have been sitting examinations over the last fortnight and I must compliment them on their conduct and their efforts. After a few years of disruption to examinations, slowly we are returning to the world of assessments and the normal way of working. Lots of these examination results and test scores will be fed back to the students and you as



parents/carers soon, and reporting is one of the features of school life that I would like to take parents/carers feedback on soon.

I recently wrote out to parents to ask for expressions of interest to join a new initiative, a 'Parents Advisory Group'. I am grateful for the responses and will be inviting those parents/carers to the first meeting after the Christmas holidays. During this meeting I will talk through a report on the school and also listen to comments regarding any improvements we could make to the Reporting process.

If you missed the advertisement of the new initiative and would like to join the Advisory Group, it's not too late and I would love to hear from you. Please email [office@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk), giving your name, the name of your child/ward, your email address, contact number and any relevant previous experience and particular areas of interest in school life. Many thanks.

# BULLETIN

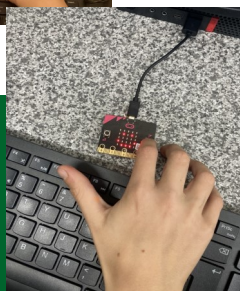
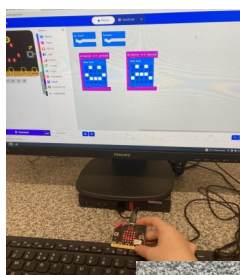
Friday 2nd December 2022

# Curriculum Focus: Computer Science

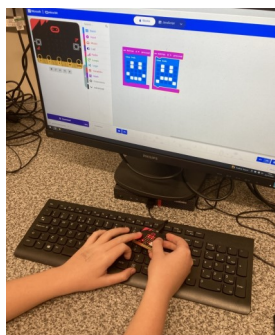
We have excellent access to technology across the school and have been fortunate to have recently refurbished a number of our computer suites. We currently have three computer suites on the D corridor - D1, D2 and D3. We also have C24 in languages, F25 in humanities and B23 in Science. In addition to these we also have two rooms in the business partnership centre and a class set of iPads and Chromebooks that can be booked.

We have recently received a Digital Cluster Coding Kit to be used in school and in each of our feeder primary schools. Most of the coding devices cover both Primary and Secondary and they will be rotated around the cluster during the academic year. We will be using these in our new Coding Club which will start on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and is open to all Year 7 students; if this club is successful then it will be expanded to include Year 8 and Year 9 students. The practical lunchtime sessions will include:

- Lego Spike Essentials
- Lego Spike Prime
- Lego Make Block
- Mini Spheros
- Tello Drones
- Rugged Robots
- Microbits



As a department, we are aware of the ever changing nature of technology and we need to ensure that our students have the ability to develop their own skills as new technologies appear. One of the biggest changes has been the introduction of the new curriculum with computer science replacing the more traditional information and communication technology (ICT). This is a fantastic opportunity for us to offer new and more exciting technologies and digital skills. The new curriculum in computer science also incorporates elements of digital citizenship that we have covered over the past few years - digital rights, licensing and ownership, online behaviour and cyberbullying, health and well-being, identity, image and reputation. Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students not studying Spanish, have one lesson of Computer Science each week. Year 7 are initially taught in form groups and later in their humanities sets, Year 8 are in their music sets and Year 9 are in their languages sets.



Our overall aim is for students to be able to independently identify, define and decompose problems and choose appropriate solutions; we want to help them be more confident. Students start by writing simple instructions to navigate their way through a maze. They then move on to computer simulation, this is the process of mathematical modelling, performed on a computer, which is designed to predict the behaviour of, or the outcome of, a real-world or physical system; learning about computer simulation helps students to understand the limitations of a computer. Students then learn about sequencing and how instructions need to be broken down into a very specific set of steps so they are writing basic algorithms. Finally, students are ready to code and use the Microbits to learn about conditions, loops and sequencing and write their own programs using blocks of code.

In addition, students also learn about how digital devices can be interconnected locally and globally and the importance of securing the technology they use and protecting the integrity of their data. Our Cynefin unit then researches famous Welsh digital inventors and Welsh technology companies; this also covers the digital skills producing strand so students can improve their DTP skills by creating posters and presentations. Covering spreadsheet skills allow students to learn to organise, calculate, graph, and analyse data; learning about databases allow students to organise data into a logical form and link related data efficiently. These skills provide a foundation in preparation for future studies and the workplace.

Mrs Deborah Smith

Head of ICT & Vocational

# LLS Sports Academy

# Wales v. Iran

## Welshpool students at the Global Coaching Conference at Anfield.

The Welshpool LLS group attended the Global Coaching Conference and had talks from global coaching companies from Dubai, Canada, USA and Northern Ireland.

Congratulations to:

Sam Evans

George William-Scott

Finn Buckley

Who have successfully secured a contract with Challenger Sports in America.

Year 11 students, if you interested in joining LLS next year, email your LLS tutor:

[dan.price@llsonline.uk](mailto:dan.price@llsonline.uk)



## Art

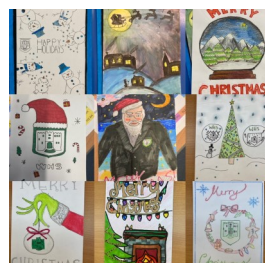
There have been so many fantastic entries for this years Christmas Card Competition! Mr Arnold is going to have his work cut out choosing a winner.

The designs could be created using any media so we've had drawings, paintings, collage and mixed media ideas. Some have even created digital designs.

The winning design will be made into the official Christmas card for Welshpool High School and there will also be prizes for the 2nd and 3rd runner up designs.



Miss N Atkin  
Head of Art





# Computer Science

The new Coding Club starts on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December for Year 7.

Pupils will have an opportunity to use the more advanced features of Microbits and try out some of the new technologies we have in school:

- Mini Spheros
- Tello Drones
- Rugged Robots
- Mini Spheros
- Tello Drones
- Rugged Robots

Mrs D Smith  
Head of ICT and Vocational

# Welsh Bacallaureate

Over the last few weeks, a number of presentations have been supplied by local and national companies as part of the Welsh Bacallaureate Individual Project preparation. The project should be on a topic that interests the student, and they are encouraged to relate to this to their next career/academic steps. With this in mind, a variety of companies have been invited to showcase the careers available and detail the skills/criteria required.

Organisations that have presented are:

Royal Navy	IPG	PYC	Dawson Shanahan
Army	NPTC	SWG	Myrick Coed y Dinias

These presentations have also helped the students develop ideas as to what career they might want to follow or which college/course they might want to move on to.

Mr S McDermott, Head of WB

# RE



Some of the classes in year 9 have been acting out the Hindu and Christian wedding ceremonies in recent weeks.

Mrs P Watts  
Head of RE

# CiN

## Children in Need

To raise money for CiN this year, we held a Children in Need Cake Sale and raised £155!

Miss M Jones

# Girls' Football

Both the U13 and U15 girls football teams competed against The Marches in friendly games.

The U13 girls won their game 10-3, with some outstanding goals from Tilly Jones, Maisie Jones, Bella Roberts and Anaya Shuker.

The U15 team battled hard against their opposition, going behind a couple of times but responding with goals from Eva Griffith, Abi Barrow and Darcy Woolley. Unfortunately, the girls gave away a penalty and lost 4-3 in what was a very entertaining game!

The girls have shown excellent commitment at training, and the turnout has been fantastic. They can't wait for more fixtures after Christmas!

Miss C Brown



## Fundraising and Uniform

Thank you for your donations during our recent non uniform day. In addition to donating to charity, essential items such as toiletries, tights, ties, socks and calculators have been bought to distribute to students as needed.

Toiletries are available in the PE area for anyone to use, other items are available via Heads of Year.

After Christmas we will be asking for donations of any unwanted toiletry gifts, and as always donations of any unused uniform is always welcome.

Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you need any essential items for your child, we will try to help where we can.

The PTA will be holding a raffle at the Christmas Concert on 14th December to raise funds for music equipment. Any donations of raffle prizes welcome.

Many thanks for your support

Mrs Forsyth  
Deputy Headteacher

## Sports Results

Results from the last 2 weeks:

Welsh Cup  
U13 Boys Football - won 8-1 - now through to the Powys Final

Friendlies vs the Marches:  
U13 Girls Football - won 10-3  
U15 Girls Football - lost 4-3  
U18 Boys Football - drew 4-4

The U14 girls, U16 girls and U16 boys all played rugby against Llanfair Caereinion and lost, however all the teams showed some excellent skill and effort levels.

U12 Boys Football won 9-0 vs Ysgol Calon Cymru. The team are now Powys Champions and through to the last 16 schools in Wales.

U13 Girls also won 8-1 vs Ysgol Calon Cymru. They are now through to the Powys final where they will play Llanfair Caereinion.

Mr A Humphreys  
Head of PE

## Geography

We have recently had 2 Aberystwyth Geography lectures for the AS and A level Geography classes.

Year 13 have had a lecture on the Carbon Cycle from Dr Hywel Griffiths, and Year 12 have had a lecture from Dr Tom Holt on Glaciation and Natural Hazards. Both of these were over Teams and part of the Aber Ystwyth University Geography Outreach programme.

Mr Pengelly  
Head of Geography

## Science

Science stars!

Congratulations to the following pupils who received the highest number of lesson grade 1's in Science during the first half term. Keep it up!

Year 7: Eli Pryce

Year 8: Shyanne Walford

Year 9: Chardonnay Morgan and Matthew Pawley

Year 10: Emma Fraenzel and Ffion Skilton

Year 11: Ryan Edwards and Deniz Topcuoglu

Miss Brown  
Second in the Science Department

## Key Contacts

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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