



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a good start to the term other than the torrential weather and I hope that conditions improve as we head closer towards spring.

During the first week of the new term schools always have a chance to re-set and everyone has an opportunity to start again on their journey to strive towards being the best that they can be.

This week in our assemblies we have focused on getting the basics right. We would really appreciate the support of all parents/carers to ensure that standards of uniform are high, that all children are prepared for learning with equipment and also that everyone adheres to the policy on mobile phones.

We have reminded students that all mobile phones are to be switched off and placed in bags at all times during the school day. Phones are not needed during school hours and if ever a child needs to contact home in an emergency we will help them to do so. It is our wish for everyone to enjoy the academic and the social experiences in school, without the distractions that phones can bring.

I thank you in advance for your help with this.



Upcoming Events

Achievement Evening was postponed due to flooding in the area, and has been re-scheduled for Thursday 16th February at 6.30pm.

Cooking club

The after school cooking club held their annual Christmas cake club competition at the end of last term. Mr Arnold came to judge; and after asking lots of questions and spending time chatting with pupils about how and why they had chosen their decorations, he picked Ellie Shearer from 7NO as over all winner. He said it was a very high standard and difficult to judge as all the cakes were very creative.

Achievement

Taylor Hodson, in year 11, recently received a medal from the Army Cadet Force. This was for achieving the fastest running time in a circuit of exercises.



ART EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE SPRING 2023

Spring Term 2023	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime 1-1.30	Yr11 GCSE ART Miss Atkin Exam Prep Drop in session		Yr11 GCSE ART Miss Atkin Exam Prep Drop in session	Year 11 Photo Exam Prep Mrs Richards Drop in session	Year 11 Photo Exam Prep Mrs Richards Drop in session
After School 3.30 – 4.30			GCSE Art Yr10 & 11	GCSE Art/photo Yr 11 Exam Prep	

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Curriculum Focus: Music



Welcome to the Music Department

The Music department is led by two members of staff: Mrs Evans and Miss Charles. You will find us at the end of the D corridor, just below Art and English.

We are lucky enough to be a very well-resourced department with two spacious teaching rooms, a recording studio and two practice rooms.

The aim that guides us through all that we do is to provide our learners with rich opportunities to be creative, and allow them to develop their confidence, taking on challenges and striving to be ambitious and capable at every level.

Our curriculum at KS3 provides pupils with the opportunity to explore a wide range of styles and genres throughout Wales (Cynefin) and the wider world. The curriculum aims to support learners on their journey to become ethical informed citizens whilst also ensuring they develop the core skills needed to be truly enterprising and creative.

All lessons have a primarily practical focus, ensuring that pupils are provided with a wide-ranging experience, developing their skills across a diverse range of instruments: from keyboard, xylophone, samba drums and ukulele to electric guitar, bass guitar and drum-kit.

Instrument Lessons

At Welshpool High school we have a strong team of peripatetic staff who provide pupils with the opportunity to take their learning further on any instrument of their choice.

For nearly all instruments pupils have the opportunity to use one of the school's instruments to learn on, which means that the only cost is that of the lesson itself.

Once pupils have decided to take up an instrument, they are placed on a timetable that rotates throughout the session, ensuring that their 20-minute lesson moves across a different timetabled lesson each week.

Extracurricular Opportunities

We have a thriving extracurricular timetable and calendar here at Welshpool. Our extracurricular calendar is driven by the aim of ensuring that Music is accessible for all, ensuring that all pupils are provided with the opportunity to take their classroom experience to another level. One of our newest initiatives is our KS3 Live Lounge groups.

These groups provide pupils with the opportunity to be part of a band without any need to have had any experience on the instruments before, an initiative that is growing in popularity each and every week.

In addition to our Live Lounge groups we have Singing Group, Concert Band, Woodwind Group and Jazz Band. Pupils are welcome to join any and all of our groups at any point across the year. Being part of a group opens up a wide range of further opportunities in and outside of school for all pupils.

We have had a fantastic start to the school year in terms of extracurricular events. It has truly been a privilege to see our pupils grow in confidence and enthusiasm as they have taken part in the numerous events that have taken place: from the RABI Christmas Carol Service at the Livestock Market and St. Mary's Christmas lunch to the school Christmas Concert and assemblies, and the Mince Pies and Music Event. In each and every event the pupils have astounded us all by the level of performance they have achieved and the confident and professional way they have conducted themselves. They have as always been a credit to the school and a real joy to work with!

Thank you for taking the time to read this brief overview of all that we do in music. If your child would like the opportunity to become more involved in music, please encourage them to call by the music rooms and see us for more information or alternatively drop me an e-mail using the contact information below!

Mrs Evans, Head of Music

christine.evans@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk



- Our annual mock results day for year 11 was recently held on the same day as year 11 parents evening. A busy and successful day that was well attended. Careers Wales were also available to offer advice and guidance to both pupils and parents about post 16 choices.
- Attendance continues to be high profile across the school. This half term pupils are attending the McDonald's rewards trips.
- Pupils continue to be praised for their uniform, attendance, punctuality and behaviour. Pastoral leads and form tutors monitor this every day, and we are very grateful to parents for their support.

Literacy Round-Up

A number of Year 8 and 9 pupils have completed paired reading with volunteers in our Sixth Form over a ten week period and made good progress with their reading. Certificates were given to attendees during their last paired reading sessions at the end of last term. Well done for the effort shown by all involved.



As part of the Welsh Government's *Schools Love Reading* campaign, every pupil in years 7-11 has had the opportunity to have a free book to take home to keep. It was fantastic to be able to distribute almost 700 books last term.

Anyone who hasn't been able to get their book yet will have this to look forward to in the new year.



Hospitality & Catering/Music

Hospitality and Catering linked with the Music department at the end of term to hold their annual 'Music and Mince pie event'. Pupils invited people from the community and various groups like 'the visually impaired group' to attend an afternoon of fun with entertainment provided by the music department and food and drinks provided by the Hospitality pupils in Year 11.

The afternoon was a huge success and a welcome return to 'normal'.

All pupils who were involved did a fantastic job of hosting the event and entertaining guests. By the end of the afternoon everyone was ready to celebrate Christmas.

A massive well done to all those involved from Mrs Lewis & Mrs Evans



U15 Powys Champions

The boys played brilliantly from the first minute until the last in the event at the end of last term. There was very little between the teams which made for a very tight affair. Alex Siddi put us in the lead after about 70 minutes however Newtown equalised in the dying moments to take the game to penalties. Charlie Williams-Scott was superb in goal, making a couple of huge saves and we also had 2 clearances off the line. This shows just how determined our boys were. We scored all 5 penalties. **The scorers were:**

Alex Siddi, Liam Howard, Morgan Hodgkiss, Sonny Holley, Arnie Roberts

The team are now through to the last 16 in Wales, which will be played in this new year. Unfortunately, our U13 girls lost their final away in Llanfair, but again, they did extremely well to get to the final.



Key Contacts

Main switchboard: 01938 552014

Office email: office@welshpoolhs.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