



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

Message from the Headteacher



On the back of a half term that started and ended with every day in darkness and featured flood warnings and closed roads that presented us with the very real threat of potential school closures, it has been a delight to finally see the light emerge again and with it a very real sense of optimism growing once more.

There have been so many fantastic things going on in school over the last few weeks that have given us all a boost, but a special mention must go to the U14 girls Hockey team who have won through to the Powys finals and the Year 8 & 10 boys Football teams who have qualified for the ¼ finals of the Welsh National Cup. These achievements are not to be underestimated. A former headteacher of mine once told me that 'outstanding schools are built on academic rigour and the opportunities that students have in performing arts, sports participation and climbing up mountains.'

More excellent news followed as we successfully appointed a fantastic Languages teacher who will start with us after Easter. It is always brilliant to see our former students flourish and we are delighted to welcome back Miss Rhiannon Williams who I am sure will be a fantastic addition to the teaching staff at the school. Recruiting can sometimes be difficult in schools, and it has been challenging at times during this half term without the full compliment of language teachers, so finding a candidate with such obvious commitment and an affinity with the school and the local area is a real boost to the school.

This week in school we have hosted a leading professional in education, Kim Popratnjak MBE, who, at our request, has worked alongside governors and staff in school to undertake an ALN review across the school. We are very grateful to Kim and hopefully we have a steer that will help us further improve ALN provision across all areas of the school.

It was fantastic to meet so many parents/carers at this week's Achievement Evening and to hear so many positive comments about the direction that the school is going. I will be holding a follow up meeting to the one that I hosted in November 2022, on March 14th. During this evening I will give an update on the events that have happened during the academic year so far and future plans moving forward. Mr Whitley (Assistant Headteacher) will be joining me to present and listen to opinions and ideas around reporting procedures, especially in light of the new Curriculum for Wales. We would like to have the opportunity to meet interested parents/carers at this event and are really looking forward to developing this area of the school, so it meets the needs of our families.

Upcoming Events

Half Term Monday 20th to Friday 24th February.

We look forward to seeing pupils back on Monday 27th February.

The annual year 11 photo takes place on **Friday 3rd March**. During this event year 11 pupils have a year group photo followed by individual photos.

MFL

A reminder to GCSE Spanish students to attend their lunchtime "Speaking Exam" preparation sessions, every Tuesday.

A reminder to Year 7 that they have their French Spelling Bee competition coming up. So please ensure they are learning their 25 words in preparation for it.



school bulletin
17/02/2023
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Doddie 555 Challenge

On Thursday 9th/Friday 10th February, the school hosted over 100 cyclists and support staff taking part in the Doddie 555 Challenge. The challenge aim was to cycle 555 miles from Cardiff to Edinburgh to deliver the match ball ahead of the Scotland v Wales Six Nations game. The group aimed to complete the challenge in 48 hours in a bid to raise money for the My Name's Doddie Foundation.

It was an absolute honour to be able to provide our support to those taking part which included ex-rugby international legends from Scotland, England and Wales. Staff at the school volunteered to come in overnight to provide food and a friendly face for those arriving into the early hours. The group were complimentary about the hospitality shown to them during their stay.

A big thank you to Holdworth Foods and Powys Produce that provided food items while the meals for the visitors were prepared by Powys Catering staff.

My Name's Doddie Foundation WHS Fundraiser

Prior to hosting the cyclists school staff and students took part in their own cycle challenge supported by a non-school uniform day. The aim was to use stationary bikes to cycle 555 miles in order to raise awareness of the event and to provide donations for the main challenge. As a team staff and students managed to beat the target completing a total of 718 miles during the school day. The amount raised during the day was £654. Top Cyclists on the day were Mr Pengelly who cycled 25 miles in 50 mins, Mr Kinsey who cycled 13 miles and sixth form student Tudor Jones who cycled 40 miles (throughout the day). A big thank you to the Flash Leisure Centre who kindly lent us the spinning bikes for the challenge and to the sixth form who supported throughout the day and their behaviour and attitude were a credit to the school.



Meet The Head

We are holding another 'Meet the Headteacher Event' on Tuesday 14th March - 6pm – 7:30pm
 Headteacher Presentation to parents 'Welshpool High School 22-23 & next steps'
 Focus on reporting processes both now and ahead of the New Curriculum for Wales – a chance for us to listen to parents/carers to gather opinions and advice ahead of implementing any necessary changes – this session will be led by Mr Drew Whitley (Assistant Headteacher) & Mr Jon Arnold (Headteacher)

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2022/23	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime: 1.10pm – 1.40 pm	KS3 & 4 Singing Group (D4)		YEAR 7 Live Lounge (D4) All Years Woodwind Group (D5)	YEAR 8 & 9 Live Lounge (D4)	
After School: 3.30pm – 4.30pm		All Years (G3 Upwards) Jazz Band (D5)	All Years Concert Band (Drama Studio)	Year 11 Coursework Drop In Session	

Follow us on social media for updates:

 **WHS Music Dept**
@WHS_MusicDept

 **Welshpool HS Music Dept**
whs_music_dept

Scribblers Tour

On Tuesday 7th February 23 year pupils attended Aberystwyth Arts Centre to take part in the Hay Festival Scribblers Tour writers' workshop. We were joined by 20 pupils from year 5 & 6 who attend Welshpool Cluster primary schools. The day featured writing workshops hosted by bestselling author Maz Evans and 'rebel writing' poet Matt Goodfellow. Our year 7 pupils thoroughly enjoyed participating in the workshop tasks and putting though-provoking questions to the writers, along with sharing their own crazy and creative ideas for characters and poetry. This was a fantastic opportunity for our budding writers and one that we hope to build on throughout the school year.

Science Club

'Pupils enjoyed making towers and bridges using cocktail sticks and sweets in our Science Club last week.

The STEM challenge got them working as a team, using their problem-solving skills and being creative!'



Gallery



Judo Champion

Year 11 pupil Rhys Handel recently represented Welshpool High School at the Welsh Regional Schools Judo Championships which took place at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff. Rhys had 5 fights and 5 wins to claim GOLD and the 66 kg Welsh Schools Judo Champion title 2023.

A staggering result due to the fact Rhys suffered a devastating collarbone fracture in October leading to a 3 month recovery process and only returning to the mat and competitive judo on the 9th January.

Rhys has been a judoka for over 10 years and is a brown belt. He has been a continuous member of the Welsh Judo Squad since 2017. He trains twice a week at AJ Judo Llanfyllin and Ford with his coach Alan Jones MBE.

He will represent the School again in March at the British School's National Judo Championships in Sheffield.

U14 Girls Hockey

North Powys U14 Girls Hockey tournament, held at Welshpool HS. The girls played Newtown and won 4-0 (Katelin Brooks 3, Isobel Park 1). Second game they played Caereinion and won 2-1 (Shona Park 2). Third game they played Llanidloes and won 3-0 (Katelin Brooks 2, Shona Park 1).

Overall result was Welshpool winners of the North Powys tournament. The whole squad played really well as a team and everyone gave their all.

Great job girls!
I couldn't ask for any more from them. Miss S Black

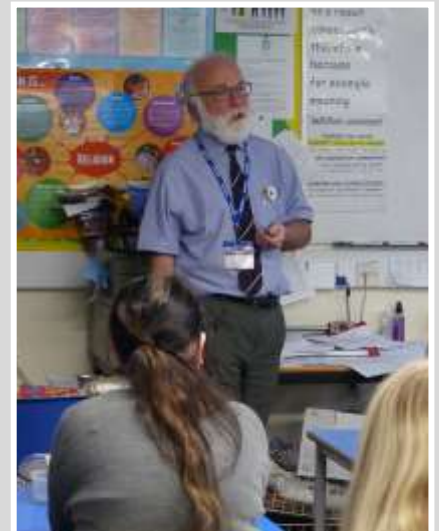
Holocaust Memorial Day

In recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day which took place on Friday 27th January, the Religion Values and Ethics department welcomed Mr Mark Michaels of Montgomery in to Welshpool to speak with year 8. Mr Michaels is an advocate of Judaism. He spoke about the variety of beliefs and practices in Judaism showing artefacts of the faith.



Further, he covered elements of the Holocaust and addressed the modern prejudices which continue to challenge Jews and Muslims with the rise of anti-Semitic and anti-Islamic views in Britain.

Pupils were very engaged during the lesson and we look forward to welcoming him into school again.



Technology news

Last month there was a great STEM event offered to some pupils in Year 9. Eva build, with Phil Jones arranged for a digger simulator to come to school. Pupils got to experience a 'real life' job situation. All pupils really enjoyed this new opportunity.
Mrs Lewis - Design and Technology.



Over the weeks during December and the start of January year 11 Hospitality and Catering students worked through a mock coursework assessment. This ended with pupils creating two dishes within a 3 hour time limit. Pupils worked fantastically well, producing a variety of dishes from Lasagne to profiteroles, all working independently.



U12 Boys Football

Welshpool U12 Boys Football Team progressed into the quarter finals of the Welsh Cup after a victory over Ysgol Penglais (Aberystwyth). Penglais took the lead in the first half however Welshpool fought back and were 4-1 up at half time thanks to goals from Ollie Brooks, Leon Isaac, Theo Hodgkiss and captain, Robin Bishop. However huge credit must go to Penglais, who managed to turn things around in the second half and the game finished 4-4.

This meant that the winner had to be decided by the dreaded penalty shoot-out!

The Welshpool boys held their nerve, with all 5 penalties hitting the back of the net to win 5-3, meaning they progress to the next round.

They now face Bishopston Comprehensive School, Swansea - which is due to be played at home before the end of February.



Dance Star

Betsy Mills-Hogg (8MD) has secured a place as a CYD Dance Star 2023 at the prestigious Can You Dance? the UK's biggest touring and industry leading dance convention company.

The company is formed from the UK's best youth dancers aged 8-18 years. Each year CYD? host an annual audition that puts the dancers through a vigorous audition process. Betsy has managed to be selected.

Betsy was chosen by a panel of leading dance industry experts, including CYD? Directors Matt Flint, a creative director & choreographer for TV, Film and Theatre including shows such as Strictly Come Dancing and Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway; and Tom Shilcock, a professional dancer and choreographer that has danced for a multitude of artists including Rita Ora, Rihanna Dan, Jason Derulo and many more!

They will now have the privilege of representing their hometown of Welshpool at the hugely anticipated Can You Dance? events, working alongside International Choreographers and Dance Educators.

Betsy has an exciting year ahead with the CYD? Dance Stars team!



For more details about Can You Dance? please visit www.canyoudancelive.com

'Grill A Christian' lesson

Year 11 pupils recently had the opportunity to 'Grill a Christian' and have welcomed in a group of Vicars/Ministers (both past and present) from Welshpool churches. We were very grateful to Rev. Adam Pawley (St Mary's Church), Rev. Rob Saunders (Welshpool Baptist Church), Rev. Roger Brown (former Vicar of St Mary's) and Rev. Keith Fantham (former minister of Welshpool Baptist Church) who volunteered their time throughout the week to meet with Y11 during their Ethics lessons.

They were able to ask the views about a variety of ethical issues, moral opinions, question religious beliefs and philosophies and compare the, sometimes different responses that were given. During the week pupils engaged in some fantastic discussions and voicing their opinions whilst listening to, and considering, ideas that were different to their own. All of our pupils were highly praised for how they positively represented Welshpool High School, their mature approach to the topics discussed and their thought-provoking ideas.



Key Contacts

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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