



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 wonderful school year and there have been so many exciting events and awesome achievements that it is hard to sum up just how proud we all are of the students at Welshpool High School.

Recently, the amazing performances of our students in Tennis, Rugby and Athletics tournaments have led to cause for celebrations. It has also been lovely to be able to host primary school sports events and our transition days, on which we had the pleasure to welcome next year's Year 7 students to the school.

Over the past few weeks, I was also in awe of the dedication and support for each other that was evident in the school Sports day and two Welsh Baccalaureate Challenge days.

I thoroughly enjoyed watching the summer concert and once again had a feeling of great pride in our students.

In addition to all the above it was a pleasure to sit and review work alongside a selection of Year 7 students and their teachers this term. Some of the work on display was exemplary and listening to the children describe their learning experiences was inspiring.



As always at this time of year, we have to say goodbye to a few members of staff, and we wish them all well in their new adventures. Some will return in different guises and others will always remain friends of the school. Mrs Poulton, Miss Black, Mrs Hamer Mrs Garbett, Mrs Rees, Ruth Evans and Shirley Jones we are all so grateful of the work that you have done with the children of Welshpool High School and we wish you all the best for the future.

Students and staff need a break, time to switch off, reflect and re-charge. They have worked so hard during the year, and we want everyone to return enthusiastic about starting again in September. There will be some new faces and a few new initiatives I am sure, but we are determined to keep the essence of what is a fantastic place to learn and grow in.

I have been incredibly grateful to everyone for the warm welcome afforded to me this year and I hope that all families and students are able to have a summer break full of excitement and exploration and that everyone returns safe for the new term.

Jon Arnold

## Upcoming Events

School term ends Thursday July 20th...enjoy the summer holiday!



Autumn term begins on Monday 4th September.

## Yr 7 & 8 Rugby

Both teams were playing in the Year 7 & 8 Powys Rugby tournament at Llanidloes.

Our teams came 3rd. Feedback was that they all played really well and did not disgrace themselves at all.

They were great ambassadors of the school.



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14/07/2023  
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## Transition Days

The transition days took place this year on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th July, giving Y6 pupils a taste of high school life.



## Welsh Bacallaureate

Once again Year 10 have been put through their paces, undertaking the Community Challenge as part of the Welsh Bacallaureate. The Community Challenge is designed to develop a variety of skills, including planning and organisation and personal effectiveness. Over 2 days, the students organise and provide coaching to Year 7 and 8 on a wide range topics. This year these included: various sports; advice on careers; sign language; safety on the railways and how to stay safe. This always proves to be an enriching experience that adds real value to the students education.



## Residential Trip to Snowdonia

Recently, Year 8 experienced what the great outdoors has to offer by going on a 3-day residential trip to Snowdonia. Around 40 students completed a range of activities including rock climbing, rafting on the Menai Strait, coasteering on Anglesey, gorge scrambling, and canyoning on the waterfalls of the lower slopes of Snowdon. We found these activities exciting and exhilarating but it was not always easy, and many students had to face their fears to complete the activities.

Every morning, two volunteers, nicknamed Sparkle and Panache, had to explain the weather for that day. They had to be loud and funny. The jokes were very predictable but put a smile on everyone's face before we headed out for the day.

After the action-packed day, we returned to the Centre to enjoy an evening meal and activities. The evening activities helped us to work as a team and to co-operate to solve complex puzzles. The behaviour was exceptionally good, and everybody listened to the instructions that were vital to safety and essential to ensure that we all had a wonderful time.

Thanks to all at the Arete Outdoor Centre for making this a memorable trip that none of us will forget. Thanks also to the Welshpool High School staff for organising this and for taking care of us over the three days.



## Welsh Judo

Year 11 pupil Rhys Handel has received the great honour of representing Wales as part of a 7 man delegation of Cadets and Junior judo players and competed at the British National Teams Championships on the 1st July, 2023.

Teams from all four nations went head to head at this prestigious event hosted this year by England at the University of Wolverhampton and the home of British Judo.

This was a fantastic opportunity and experience for Rhys to compete at such a high level.

Rhys has worked extremely hard to combine a heavy training schedule with the demands and commitments

of his GCSE final examinations at this time of year.



## Bowling

We have had the opportunity to take a group of children to the Flash on Thursday afternoons for the last 3 weeks to have some free lawn bowling sessions. This has been funded through Rebecca Mathias, the Sport and Activity Development Officer for Powys.

Their main role in schools is to try and organise/facilitate activities and interventions that support physical activity, health, and well-being by identifying areas of need or specific target groups who may benefit from the opportunity to take part in sport or physical activity.

We have taken a group of around 24 pupils each week. All pupils have worked together and have developed their confidence to take part.

They have been great representatives of the school and have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



## Sports News

### North Wales Boys Hockey.

On the 24th/25th June Leo Griffith was selected and played for North Wales Under 13 Boys Hockey. He played in the regional Cup in Nottingham where the team came 3rd out of 8 teams from all over the UK. Congratulations Leo for getting selected.

### Powys NASUWT Team Athletics Competition.

We took 4 teams to Newtown for the NASUWT Inter-School Athletics Powys Finals. The U13 girls came 4th, U13 boys came 3rd, U15 boys came 3rd and the U15 girls came 1st Powys Champions. Which means the U15 girls team go onto the Welsh schools' finals in Aberdare in July. Well done to everyone who competed and good luck to the U15 girls.

### North Powys Under 13 Boys Tennis.

On the 28th June the Under 13 Boys Tennis team (Victor Meredith, Elliot Turner, Leo Griffith and Josh Williams) won the North Powys U13 Tennis competition held at Welshpool HS. They now go onto the North Wales finals in July. Well done and good luck in the next round.

### Welsh Athletics Championships

On Saturday 1st July 8 of our pupils (Ruby Pryce, Alice Joyce, Florence Kuipers, Tom Kirkham, Mackenzie McCourt, Aled Breeze, Callum Morgan, Maddie Griffiths) represented Powys at the Welsh Schools Athletics Championships held in Cardiff. They all gave it their all and the following won medals. Aled Breeze silver in 1,500m, Callum Morgan bronze in 3,000m, Maddie Griffiths bronze in 1,500m and Ruby Pryce bronze in 4 x 100m relay. Great job everyone!

## Aberystwyth Trip

Our Sixth Form students recently visited Aberystwyth University. As part of the Welsh Bacalaureate Advanced trip Students visited the University Campus and National Library for Wales. During the day they attended various workshops which Introduced them to the Individual Research Project that accounts for 50% of their grade, they learnt about the importance of the Individual Project for their future career paths as well as learning how to reference and research effectively to produce higher level research projects.



## English Dept

- The English department will be doing a Reading Relay with Years 7 and 8 on Monday 17th July.
- The intention is to read at least 5000 pages between us.
- If anyone would like to sponsor us, the funds will go to the English department and the Library. Please could money be with school by Tuesday 18th July. Thank you!

## Sports Day Gallery



## Careers Wales

We are very proud and grateful for the help and support Careers Wales provide throughout the year. At any time, pupils can request to see our Careers advisor, Mrs Anne Jones. Our Careers advisor is based in the English block and can also be contacted via telephone and email. On our school website under documents, you will find a document titled 'Careers Wales and Your School'. This will provide you with further information and important contact details.

Our school information graphic below, provides data regarding some of our activities for this academic year.



# Welshpool Alicante trip with LLS

The LLS group at Welshpool spent a week at the Steven Gerrard Academy villa in Alicante and enjoyed many sporting activities.

They included a Padel (mixture of tennis and squash) tournament against Derry LLS (N.Ireland) which they won. Football coaching and matches on the Alicante FC football pitch which they unfortunately lost on penalties.

The villa is used by players of Alicante FC with its own private pool, table tennis table, pool table, Sky TV and games of FIFA on the XBOX.

The LLS students had time to do some relaxing and sightseeing going to Santa Barbara castle and a day at the water park. Along with a boat trip to Tabarca Island for some cliff jumping and paddle boarding.

If you are interested in studying with LLS at Welshpool please contact:

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

[www.llsonline.uk](http://www.llsonline.uk)



## Key Contacts

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Head of Sixth Form: Mrs W Jones 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