



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 real pleasure to welcome all of our students back after their summer holidays. They have returned to school with a spring in their step, happy to see their friends and happy to pick up their learning.

I took the decision to allow students to wear PE strips for the remainder of the week as on the first day temperatures were so high that students were very uncomfortable. As temperatures continued to rise for the rest of the week, I hope this measure was appreciated by everyone. Students learn better when they are comfortable.

Having returned to normal uniform I was pleased with the high standards on display, and I am grateful for the support of all parents and carers to ensure that these standards were met.

So many of our new Year 7 students have settled into school very quickly and they talk a lot about the kindness shown to them by older students whilst they are getting used to finding their way around what must seem like a big school, when compared to their Primary Schools.

We do have a new initiative starting this year with the launch of our 'BE KIND' campaign. The idea behind this emanates from our Student Council and we are hoping that positive messages will permeate throughout the school. As Maya Angelou said, 'It takes courage to be kind'.

If you are a new parent to the school and this is your first time reading the School Bulletin, it is important to know that as a school, we try to use the Bulletin to get important messages across and provide a flavour of the fantastic activities that students take part in, as well as being able to celebrate their achievements.

Over the next few issues, the fortnightly Bulletin will be slimmed down slightly to enable us to capture and collate up to date events and celebrate successes and following this we will be full steam ahead once again.

Here's hoping for a brilliant school year in 2023-24.



Upcoming Events

There are 2 inset days on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th September - school is closed to pupils on these days.

School open evenings take place next month.

Mountain Running

Recently, Mackenzie McCourt in Year 11, ran in the U17 British and Irish Junior Mountain Running Championships 2023 and won the gold medal.

Fantastic effort - congratulations!



There is always something TO BE grateful for

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Championships

Over the summer break Amelia Tomkins - the leading equestrian event rider for Wales and West Midlands in the U18 100s represented the team at the championships at Bishop Burton college in Yorkshire. Amelia is the youngest member of the squad—we look forward to hearing how she got on.

WSWS Visit

Mrs Bartley and Ms Haycock visited Severn Farm Pond Nature Reserve with four pupils at the end of last term. They took part in the launch event for phase two of the 'Wild Skills Wild Spaces' Ecotherapy group funded by the National Lottery and in partnership with NHS Powys Teaching Health Board. Pupils enjoyed taking part in willow-weaving and a walk around the nature reserve.

Pictured are:

Robbie Parkes, Shyanne Walford, Zoe Kelday and Pippa Sarson.



Beach Trip

A fabulous day was spent at Borth beach at the end of the summer term. It was nice to see everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves - paddling, playing games, chatting, building sandcastles and eating ice-cream.

The trip was 'made possible' by some very kind sponsors: Rikki Lloyd, H Ballard and Son Motors and the ice-creams were also donated.

The children said "that the staff were so well behaved they might take them again next year!"



STEM

Last term 12 Year 7 students took part in the North Powys School STEM Team Challenge. The event was organised by Powys Schools Science and Technology SIA supported by the Army who provide the kits for the day. The event started at 9:30 and challenge 1 saw teams needing to develop a structure to support a bottle of squash as high as they could off the floor. Team 1 from Welshpool built the highest tower but were pipped to first place by Llanfyllin High School who's structure was deemed to be more stable.

Challenge 2 posed the question "what is the smallest rectangle you can create using 15 specific pieces of the construction kit with all piece touching a flat sheet of paper?" Both teams came up with innovative solutions but were again relegated to 2nd and 3rd place as Llanidloes High School developed an even more innovate proposal.

The final "Big" design and make challenge saw students developing self propelled vehicles to knock over and possibly even collect plastic bottles set up like a set of skittles. 1 point was to be scored for every bottle knocked over and 2 points for every bottle collected.

Students got 2 attempts to score as many points as possible. Both teams engineered working solutions that had been incrementally developed during the session. Before testing their vehicles students presented to the judging panel their solution and how their design had developed. Team 2 again placed in the top 3 and developed a solution that successfully knocked over a number of skittles.

A special mention was also made by the judges about the impressive and clear way Ivy spoke during the presentation and her use of a wide range of science and design and technology vocabulary in describing and explaining the design process the team had gone through in developing their solution.

All students were commended on the way they had conducted themselves during the event and we are looking forward to the next challenge when it happens again.

Year 7 pupils for STEM that term:

Team 1

Hugh Humphreys
Evie Langford
Molly Jones
Ella-Rose Jones
Owen Hughes
Llion Richards

Team 2

Bella Roberts
Lacey Evans
William Tuffin
Jude White
Joseph Parr
Ivy Kuipers



Oxford Trip

Pupils from Welshpool High School's Sixth Form recently enjoyed a chance to experience life on the campus of a historic Oxford University. New College Oxford gave the opportunity for eight pupils from Welshpool, and a larger group from other schools in Powys, to attend an open day at the college where they stayed overnight in the architecturally impressive college buildings. New College, founded in the fourteenth century, is a beautiful campus. Pupils enjoyed a meal in the impressive dining hall and were given a tour of the medieval site. They were able to see several famous locations, a few of which popularised as location shots in the Harry Potter franchise! They were then given a talk by Jesus college graduate Daniel Powell where he stressed the historic links between several of the older colleges and Wales. Organisations such as the Dafydd ap Gwilym Welsh Society in Oxford University were explained and prospectuses were made available in both English and Welsh.

The talk included useful advice about the nature of life in the Oxford collegiate system (with around thirty-five separate colleges), likely costs and advice on applying to Oxford to become a student. Pupils were then able to tour Oxford and visit many of the other colleges, which were open to visiting students and providing talks and information for prospective undergraduates.

The experience helped the students to think about possibly applying to an Oxbridge university and helped to provoke conversation and thought about university in general. The cultural experience of visiting such a historic town with so many points of interest was also much appreciated by all the pupils from the visiting Welsh schools.

Key Contacts

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Head of Sixth Form: Mrs W Jones

Head of Year 11: Mrs L Frank Head of Year 10: Ms G Charles Head of Year 9: Miss J Haycock

Head of Year 8: Mrs R Aldridge Head of Year 7: Mrs J Loxam and Mrs S Lewis