



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

*Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations*

*Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau*

## Message from the Headteacher

On Tuesday 7th November we held a Business Breakfast at the school and were delighted that more than 20 local business representatives attended. It was a pleasure to be able to inform visitors about the school and share ideas about how we could work together in the future for the benefit of our students.



In the new year, we aim to move these discussions on further and potentially re-launch the Friends of Welshpool High School type approach that supports the school/or even develop a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that would again provide a significant boost to our students learning experiences.

Recently it has been wonderful to see the students practicing hard for the School show 'Mary Poppins Junior' which takes place in February. An event that we hope to see packed out as soon as tickets are released.

I hope also that you have seen the invitation to watch the presentation by Gary Wilson on Monday 8th January. This is taking place at 6:30 – 7:45pm in Theatr Clera.

Gary is one of Britain's leading experts in Raising Boys Achievement and has so many fantastic strategies to help boys navigate their way through to adulthood. Our staff are working alongside Gary during the day and he is an incredibly entertaining presenter who I have enjoyed working alongside previously both as a Headteacher and as a parent.

If you are interested in this event, and wish to join the presentation, please can I ask that you confirm your attendance via my PA:

[karen.davies@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:karen.davies@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk)



Gary Wilson

## Upcoming Events

Christmas Concert  
Thursday 14th December.

Annual Music and Mince  
Pie event \*

Yr 11 Rewards Trip -  
Trafford Centre\*

**\* Please note REVISED dates  
of the two above events will  
be released in due course.**

## Governors Report

The Governors Report to Parents 2022/2023 is now available to view on the school website.



school bulletin  
24/11/2023  
bwletin ysgol

# Sporting News

U18 Girls Netball -  
1st place in North Powys

U14 Boys Rugby vs Llanidloes -  
won 49-27

U16 Boys Rugby vs Llanidloes -  
lost 20-14

We were very fortunate recently to have some new rugby shirts for the U14s team, kindly donated by Welshpool Rugby Club. The shirts were presented by Welshpool RFC 1st Team Coach Daley Jones, along with our Rugby and Community Well-being Officer Huw Williams. This shirt presentation builds on the work of Huw in developing the relationship between the club, the school and local mental health charity Ponthafren.



# Film Competition

Dan Newcott recently won second prize in the film competition at the Royal National Mòd.

Congratulations Dan!



# World Mental Health Day

On Tuesday 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day. The theme for this year was 'Mental health is a human right' and each year group had an assembly to explore the topic and think about how this fits with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our Sixth Form leaders also hosted a lunchtime board game session for Year 7, giving them the opportunity to meet our leadership team and have some time to talk to Sixth Form students. The session was a real success and builds on the already popular Table Top Club which is run by our head boy Alan and other sixth formers. We hope to make this a monthly event, so watch this space!

**Mental Health**  
**MATTERS**



## What's On...

- Year 10 and 11 have successfully completed their mock examinations.
- We continue to offer learners quiet areas to work after school including access to a computer. If this applies to any learner, they should speak to their head of year.
- Careers interviews are in full flow for Year 11. Our careers advisor is meeting learners weekly to look at post 16 choices, helping learners with applications and signposting them to job opportunities.
- All learners in Year 10 attended the 'Choose your Future' event that was held in Newtown College in October.
- Learners in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 attended our own Careers Fair at WHS on Thursday 16th November. Over 30 different organisations attended, it was a very successful day.
- Year 10 have been given letters and information regarding work experience ready for the summer term.
- Form Tutors have nominated four learners from their form group who they think deserve a recognition certificate for their consistency and effort. The certificates will be presented in an assembly during November.
- The praise and sanction system continues to be high profile. Grade descriptors continue to be monitored weekly and we are celebrating success weekly.
- On Friday 10th November, all form groups joined a virtual remembrance assembly delivered by the Army.



## Race For Life

On the 27th of October the Sixth Form showed up bright and early to help set up the course for our Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research. The race was planned so that each year group would get one lesson each to run as many laps as possible to earn points for their house. Throughout the week there had been house assemblies to motivate the students and to get them prepared. All students showed up dressed in their house colours and it was incredible to see so many people take part, even the teachers got involved! Motivated by the intense house competition and the incredible commentary of our head boy on the microphone students and staff ran many miles over the day!

A huge thank you to all the Sixth Form volunteers who without them the day could not have gone ahead.

From the stewards along the course cheering our runners on, to the lap counters making sure that every lap was counted for, the sixth formers worked so hard to make the day run smoothly. Overall we raised £450.54 for Cancer Research between the students cash donations and our Just Giving page.

The day was amazing, it was so inspiring to see students of all ages and staff work together and cheer each other on, everyone made the effort to do their part.



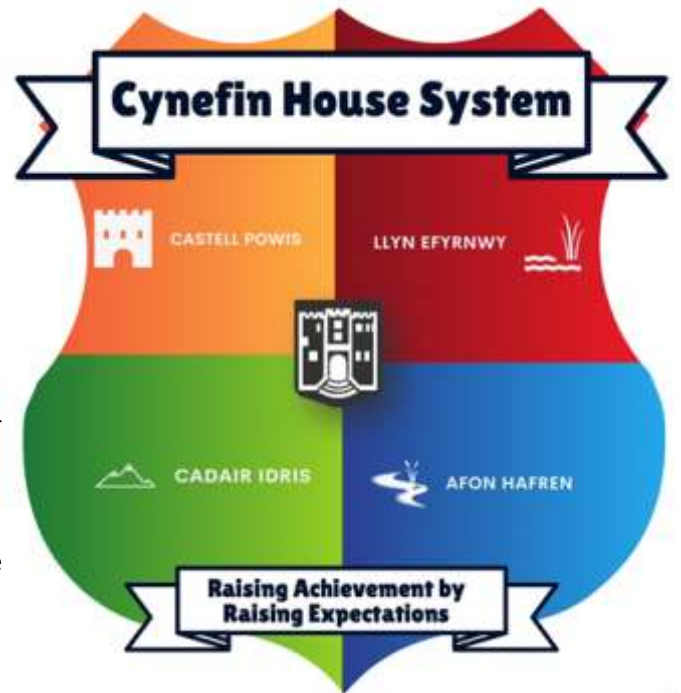
## House System

In September we introduced our new House System with four houses: Llyn Efyrrwy, Castell Powis, Cadair Idris and Afon Hafren. All pupils and staff in the school have been allocated a house with points being allocated through competitions and nominations. It has been lovely to see over 300 pupils be nominated for points ranging from being polite, showing good manners, their effort/attitude to learning, or a commendable act. In the run up to the event Race for Life day, pupils attended houses run by their 'Heads of House' Mrs Forsyth, Mr Loxam, Mr Kinsey & Mr Whitley. It was fantastic to see pupils coming out inspired and even more competitive, to music such as 'Eye of the Tiger' and 'We are the Champions'!

We currently have a joint 1st place between Castell Powis & Cadair Idris - both on 2038 points, 3rd place is Afon Hafren - 1977 points, and 4th place at the moment is Llyn Efyrrwy - 1923 points. It is all very close at the moment, and with this weeks silly challenge of searching for hidden ducks in the corridor, pupils have been thoroughly enjoying taking part.

Will Powis and Idris still be in the lead at Christmas??

We shall see...



## Geography Trip

Year 13 Geography students enjoyed a rather wet and windy day at Ynyslas Beach to collect primary data for their A Level Geography Individual Investigations. Despite the downpours it was a successful day.



## Y12 Invertek Visit

Year 12 Product students had a very successful trip to Invertek Drives this week. Invertek is a world-leading motor drive company based in Welshpool. Learners met with their education lead and several young employees all working through apprenticeships or graduate programmes. Pupils were given live demonstrations of the technology that the company produce and were able to get some hands-on experience using the drives for a variety of applications. Pupils were then taken on a tour of the facilities which allowed them to see each department in the company and also several demonstration showrooms. They spent time with the product design team and were shown the processes and techniques employed when taking a new concept from the idea phase to production. Getting experience with 3D printing machines and techniques, software and processes that are delivered in the theory element of their course in action. They were shown the innovation space, where teams are working on the cutting edge of drive technology aiming to improve both the capacity and efficiency of the product. Finally, they were taken to the production plant and shown how all of the parts were assembled and made ready for shipping, again all elements that are discussed in the theory aspect of their current course. It was a fantastic trip for a group of budding product design engineers and one that we will be ensuring happens annually.

## Music and Mince Pie Event

Our popular Annual Music and Mince Pie event takes place this term - **new date to be advised**. If you would like an afternoon of free seasonal entertainment, mince pies and refreshments then please contact Mrs Rachel Lewis at the school.

## 6th Form Bingo

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of October the Sixth Form Leadership Team hosted a fantastic Halloween bingo for the community to raise funds for their future projects. There were some amazing prizes up for grabs including six themed hampers filled with all sorts of surprises.

Along with the bingo there was a raffle and throughout the evening jokes were provided from our amazing bingo caller.

Some of the many amazing raffle prizes included four free tickets to West Midland Safari Park and a £25 voucher for The Horseshoe Inn in Berriew.

Overall the evening was incredible, we had so much fun decorating the theatre and dressing up in our costumes.

Thank you to everyone who generously donated prizes and to everyone who attended, together we raised £450!



## Moorland Factory Tour

On Monday 23rd October 2023, eight Year 12 Product Design students were given a Tour of the Morland Factory on the New Buttington Cross Enterprise Park. The tour gave students an insight into the modern manufacturing facilities that Morland have and enabled students to see industrial manufacturing happening. Students were able to see the application of CNC as well as traditional hand assemblies happening.

Students got to see what was involved in running a factory and all the logistics associated with modern production. Students were able to talk to employees and find out how their careers had developed at Morland through various routes including apprenticeships. We look forward to building our link with Morland in the future.

Mr Birch - Design and Technology



## Odd Socks Day

With the recent National Anti-Bullying Week taking place - it was a chance for students and staff to show kindness to each other in school. To acknowledge this we encouraged everyone to wear odd socks on Friday 17th November as a symbol of Anti-Bullying.

The initiative was thought up by Year 9 pupil Scarlett Davies as part of her work competing in the Junior Miss Galaxy UK Pageant.

ALWAYS *be a*  
*little*  
Kinder *MAN*  
*necessary*



# Art

For Remembrance Day this year KS3 students have created a range of different artwork. They have looked at the meaning of Remembrance and the symbolism of the poppy so that they are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world now and in the past. Year 7 have made paper poppies in a range of different media, Year 8 worked in groups to design a soldier and Year 9 have created soldier silhouettes.



## Remembrance Art Gallery



## Key Contacts

Main switchboard: 01938 552014

Office email: [office@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk)

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