



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

Message from the Headteacher

Half-term has come around quickly. It is as if we returned to school in September and have gone at top speed since then. The students have taken part in so many exciting events, ranging from Football, Rugby, Hockey and Netball fixtures, Science clubs, Mary Poppins rehearsals, Careers events and even leading assemblies. In just the last few weeks alone we have also held two events that have brought the school together and shown what a determined community we have at the school. Last week's wearing red, to 'Show the Red Card to Racism' was extremely well supported and sent a clear message alongside our school-wide #BE KIND Campaign. This week watching the students take part in 'The Race for Life' to raise money for Cancer Research and to compete for their Houses was an absolute privilege. The healthy competition and charitable focus really drove the students forward to keep on running. We are very proud of the re-vamped House system and it has really added a new strand to the school and enabled many more students to get involved in new initiatives and showcase their talents.

The togetherness of the school is evident in many ways. Seeing students supported by their peers to support their mental health through effective communication is a joy.

This takes many forms, but nowhere is it more evident than in the Chess club which is run by 6th form students for younger students. The encouragement of the older students is amazing and soon I am sure there will be a younger student that triumphs in this arena against a student much more senior than them. We have been very pleased to receive feedback from students and parents about how safe they feel in school. This is especially relevant in relation to high tariff behaviour, including; violence and racism. Students are excluded from school if they are involved in incidents of this nature and it is good to know that these decisions have the full support of students and parents/carers. All students that are excluded from school for violent, racist or homophobic incidents are expected to complete restorative educational work on their return to school – as we strive to eradicate these incidents fully from our school/society. Listening to our stakeholders we know that the strong stance that the school has taken in these areas has been well received over the past year. We are aware now that the next step forward is to work alongside the students to reduce any 'low level' distractions to learning that exist. Over the next half term this will be our focus and I look forward to reporting back to you on progress.

I hope everyone enjoys a restful break and look forward to seeing everyone in November.



Upcoming Events

Half term
Monday 30th Oct -
Friday 3rd Nov.
Term starts
Monday 6th November.



school bulletin
27/10/2023 bwletin ysgol

BBC Bitesize Roadshow



As part of our extensive careers provision, in October pupils experienced the BBC Bitesize School Tour. BBC Ambassadors shared their unique and inspiring stories with the aim of giving pupils confidence to think more confidently about their future. Pupils had the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about the ambassadors - including their history and careers.

The BBC panel shared their passion for their industry; one panel member was also a past pupil and shared her successful journey from Welshpool High School through to an apprenticeship at a local solicitors. It was a really enjoyable day.



Merci/Gracias

The MFL Dept would like to say a big "Merci/ Gracias" to some of our year 10 and 11 MFL Ambassadors for volunteering to help out at our recent Open Evening.

Their assistance with encouraging our prospective Year 7 students (and their parents/ carers!) with French/ Spanish games and enticing them to try some Tapas was very much appreciated.



Sporting News

U13 Boys Tennis vs Ellesmere College. The boys lost all of their matches against very strong opposition. But well done to the 4 of them on becoming champions of North Powys and then North Wales to make it to this stage of the competition.



A successful round of Welsh Cup football matches recently against Ysgol Bro Hyddgen:

U12 Boys won 5-1
U14 Boys won 11-1
U15 Girls won 7-1

All three teams are through to the next round - well done!



An excellent set of results from the Welsh Cup Football played recently, thank you to everyone who has helped with clubs and fixtures.

U13 Girls lost 2-1 vs Llanfyllin
U13 Boys won 3-2 vs Llanfyllin
U15 Boys won 8-1 vs Llanfyllin
U18 Girls lost 3-2 vs Llanfyllin
U18 Boys won 1-0 vs Calon Cymru



Week commencing 9th October:

U16 Boys Football vs Flint - Lost 3-0
U16 Boys Rugby vs Llanfyllin - Lost 64-5
U14 Boys Rugby vs Llanfyllin - Won 62-7
U16 Girls Hockey beat Llanidloes 7-1 and lost to Caereinion 2-1 to finish 2nd place in North Powys
U18 Boys Football vs Bro Hyddgen - Won 9-5 and are now through to the Powys final.



Geography NEA

On Monday 9th October, 52 Year 11 Geography students visited Oswestry to collect primary data for their unit 3 Geography NEA. Students looked at the building age and function and also completed environmental quality surveys and pedestrian and people counts along their transect line. Pupils will now use this primary data in their NEA report ready for their NEA exam in December.



Careers Wales - Choose Your Future

On Tuesday 24th October, 145 Year 10 pupils attended a Careers Fair in Newtown where they had the opportunity to talk to colleges and universities. Employers from various organisations were also present and pupils were able to ask questions and find out more about their post 16 options.



Agriculture Talk

Newtown College recently came into school to talk to Key Stage 4 pupils. Pupils had the opportunity to sit in a John Deere Tractor and learn how the GPS system helps with field planning and seed application. Pupils also had the opportunity to deliver an artificial calf from an artificial cow. Post 16 career choices were also discussed.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be high profile within school and recently every year group experienced an assembly regarding attendance and our expectations. We are currently above the latest national figures and we will continue to monitor every pupil's attendance figure. We are extremely proud of the support we offer pupils and parents with our pastoral system and we also work very closely with several external agencies to monitor pupil wellbeing. Our new Education Welfare Officer, Mrs Lynsey Owen, will work closely with our pastoral team and our Attendance Officer, Mrs Zoe Alderson. Attainment is very clearly related to attendance and we are very grateful for parents supporting pupil attendance throughout the academic year.

Condover Netball

Miss Davies and Mrs Loxam took 30 netballers on a residential weekend to Condover on Friday 6th to Sunday 8th October. With each team playing 6-7 games each the girls made superb progress over the weekend. Working on the individual technical skills and as a team, each and every player gained confidence and improved immensely. As well as playing netball they also had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities such as the high ropes course, laser beam and silent disco. This built their team cohesion and strengthened their friendships. The group were impeccably behaved and represented the school in a positive manner. The two U14 teams consisting of Year 8 girls in the Sapphires and Diamonds team.



U14 Sapphires team



U14 Diamonds team



U15 team



U16 team

Bronllys Trip

Year 13 Health and Social Care class had a trip to Bronllys hospital on 12th October. Powys Health and Care Academy organised a state of the art visit for 8 pupils to experience a patient centred care simulation. A replication of a social worker, health practitioner and social care support worker modelling the principles of care towards a patient and carer allowed them to experience and observe how to treat an adult patient with a series of health conditions.

6th Form IKEA Visit

On Monday 16th October the Design and Technology Product Design class went on a design visit to Ikea Birmingham. When pupils arrived, they had a presentation on the history of the company and how they design and develop their products.

Pupils then had a guided tour round the showroom looking at particular 'room sets' and how they were developed and created. One of the store designers explained and went through the process and how they link with the customer base of the store and its surrounding area.

Key aspects about sustainability within design and its importance were also covered and explained how the company highlights this to the customers.

Soon, it was time for lunch so of course everyone had to sample the famous Swedish meatballs, which everyone enjoyed!

With their bodies refuelled pupils had to complete a design task of creating a product which would be suitable to sell in Ikea stores. Pupils had to present the task and a winner was picked. The staff of the marketing department were very impressed, saying that these were the best designs they had seen in a long time, that pupils had taken on board the 'Ikea' way of designing and had gone into lots of detail when presenting it. Although the final decision was difficult Oliver and Bartosz were the winners, with the prize of some Daim bars, but well done to all!

Well done to all pupils as they were a complement to the school, we were praised for their positive and excellent attitudes.

Mrs Lewis
Head of Design and Technology.



STEM Ambassadors Initiative

During October the school were fortunate to receive a visit from Dr Mark Smith as part of the STEM Ambassadors initiative.

Dr Smith works for the UK Atomic Energy Agency at the JET Nuclear Fusion Research Facility in Oxfordshire. He talked to over 100 pupils in years 10 and 11 about the science behind nuclear fusion and the engineering challenges involved in developing a large scale nuclear fusion reactor. The talk included details of the plans for the UK's first nuclear fusion power station, which will hopefully be online in the 2040s. Dr Smith's talk was very motivational and hopefully will inspire our science students to become the nuclear physicists of the future!



Miss Junior Teen

Scarlett Davies in Year 9, recently represented Powys in the Miss Junior Teen GB pageant in Blackpool. She was awarded the Crown for 1st Runner-up, and also given the award for Miss Junior Elegance. Scarlett was one of 50 contestants from across the UK to participate in the event. Over the past 12 months Scarlett has raised £2,000 for various charities, whilst being the founder of an online anti-bullying campaign called 'Forever You'. Scarlett will now go onto represent Powys at the Miss Junior Galaxy UK finals in March 2024. Congratulations Scarlett!



National Brass Band Championships



Three Welshpool High School pupils; myself Tomos Haine Yr 13, Evan Haines Yr 9 and Gwen Jones Yr 10 recently represented Wales as part of the Newtown Silver Band. We participated in the Third section finals of the National Brass Band Championships, held at Cheltenham Race Course.

Whilst it was not the result we wanted, it was a very enjoyable and valuable experience, something that we will never forget.

Tomos Haine



Key Contacts

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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