



Welshpool High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

This bulletin is dedicated
to our friend & colleague
Mr Huw Williams.

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

Message from the Headteacher

It is very rare that you meet anyone like Huw Williams.

I have only been at the school a short time, but he has left a lasting impression on me and taught me many things in that period that I shall try to carry with me through life.

Huw had a way of finding the positives in everyone and every situation. In his eyes everyone was a shining star. I watched him with the students and felt proud to know him. The way that he encouraged and cajoled the students in his care to do their best and to give their all was beyond comprehension.

Whenever we needed someone to take a football team, or a rugby team, Huw would volunteer. Officially he worked 3 days per week, but often volunteered to do so much more, just to ensure students had the chance to take part in all opportunities that were available to them.

Nothing ever prepares a school for losing someone like Huw. A colleague, a teacher and a friend to so many, and I can only hope that we managed to help our wonderful students through the immediate pain and that we can continue to support them in the future. We are very conscious that for many, Huw's passing will be their first experience of bereavement and for others this may bring back familiar emotions. In the days immediately after Huw's passing, it was incredible to see the walls full of messages from students and we are so grateful to our YIS colleagues Beki Williams and Nicky Morris and Governors Rev Adam Pawley and Alison Davies who helped support the students so wonderfully as the news broke.

Whilst we will never be able to replace someone like Huw, we will be working alongside students to ensure that his influence on the school is never lost. This will involve an opportunity to celebrate his contribution to Welshpool High School of which details will follow soon.

On a personal note, I am so proud of the way in which our community came together on Wednesday 29th November 2023 on hearing the sad news of Huw's passing.

I have a clear picture in my mind of Huw – always smiling as he approached you, a booming and infectious laugh and those red rugby tops he always wore.

We were blessed to know Huw – may he rest in peace.



school bulletin
08/12/2023 **bwletin ysgol**

Stories From An Ex Pupil

Ex pupil Robert Westworth recently revisited our school...and following his visit sent this email to us.

“My old school no longer exists but 72 years later its heart and soul still exist within the beautiful new modern school named Welshpool High School. The headmaster and staff are a credit to their profession; my brief visit and meeting with everyone on Friday 24th November aided by my two friends resulted in one of the happiest days of my life - THANK YOU SO MUCH”.
Robert Westworth

It was a pleasure to welcome Robert into our school and hear his stories of life as a pupil all those years ago!



Bags for Schools

Bags for schools will be collected on January 31st – if you require any bags these can be picked up from the school office. Thank you!

Chemistry

Mid Wales Chemistry Champions.

Alice Joyce Year 10, Noah Dearing Year 10, Elliot Turner Year 9 and Tom Rushton Year 9 competed in the Top of the Bench Chemistry competition and came first, winning the Mid Wales Regional heats.

They represented the school brilliantly and will now go on to the UK National Finals in Edinburgh in March.



Gallery



Competition

Welshpool Town Council organised their Christmas tree competition again this year.

Entries had to decorate a 3 or 4 foot tree and take it along to Santa's grotto in the town Hall.

The CALON department paid the £5 to enter with proceeds going to the community church.

They then provide a Christmas dinner on Christmas day for those who are unable to provide themselves with a meal.



Criw Cymraeg

We are excited to get the Criw Cymraeg promoting Welsh in and around our school. Students from Year 8 will be on hand to offer advice and support with the development of the use of the Welsh language in our school. The Criw will be establishing links with the Urdd to access extracurricular activities through the medium of Welsh.

Members of the Criw Cymraeg –

Cecilia Barton
Matilda Barton
Ella Rose Jones
Ruby Mae Jones
Grace Jones
Florence Jones
Robin Bishop
Bella Roberts
Evie White

Music and Mince Pies - Cancelled

Unfortunately we have had to cancel this event due to the unexpected news of our school closure during the last week of term with staff and pupils having to turn to online teaching and learning off site.

We apologise for any disappointment caused....this is a very popular event for both the school and the Welshpool community.

Sports News

Welsh Inter-Schools Cross Country

An excellent effort by all pupils on Saturday 18th November, against the best athletes in Wales, on a particularly wet and muddy course.

Jude White - 12th
Libby Loxam - 49th
Alice Joyce - 59th
Leighton Selley - 58th
Aled Breeze - 3rd
Maddie Griffiths - 4th

Rugby vs Caereinion

U14 Girls
U15 Boys
U16 Girls

All lost but fantastic effort by all. For many of the girls, this was their first proper game of rugby.



U16 Boys Basketball

Two teams travelled to Machynlleth for the North Powys Tournament. Excellent effort by all pupils. Some of our pupils even helped to umpire some of the games, **well done!**

Powys Small-Sided Girls Football Tournament

Year 7 Team - 5th
Year 8 Team - Runners-Up
Year 9 Team - Champions



Hospitality and Catering

Year 10 and 11 have been busy in Hospitality and Catering completing their Mock NEA practicals.

Pupils had to complete 2 dishes in 3 hours. All pupils worked really hard and enjoyed the practice run.

Well done to all!

Mrs Lewis



After school the cooking club have been busy finishing their Christmas cakes. Pupils have made the fruit cakes and then completed the decoration on top. All pupils have worked really hard and Mr Arnold had great difficulty picking a winner. In the end the winners were:

Ellie Shearer in 3rd position, Tiffany Jonson in 2nd and 1st was Charlie Douglass!

House points awarded for all.

Well done, I hope you enjoy eating them!

Mrs Lewis



STEM Event

The Science Department welcomed three guest speakers from Nidec Control Techniques in Newtown for our second STEM event of the term.

Pupils from Year 10 carried out a challenge to build a circuit which would be able to tell the difference between green and red peppers. This could have an application in agriculture for automated fruit harvesting. It was a tricky challenge but the pupils showed skill and determination and built circuits that met the brief very well.

Pupils also learnt about the range of career opportunities that are available in mechanical and electrical engineering and coding.

Hopefully it will inspire pupils to consider careers in STEM subjects in the future.



BBC 500 Words

Mrs Evans, one of our Learning Support Assistants had the honour of being one of the judges in the BBC 500 words competition which is the UK's largest story writing competition for 5–11 year olds. Mrs Evans really enjoyed reading and marking the selection of stories she was sent, and she said the quality of the written entries and the imagination the writers used was outstanding.



Quick Round Up

U15 Girls Football vs Llanfyllin - Won 2-1. This means the team are now Powys Champions and qualify for the last 16 schools in Wales.

U14 Boys Hockey - The boys drew 2 games and lost 3 games at the North East Wales Championships. A great effort from the boys who were up against some strong teams and players who have played a lot more hockey.

U15 Boys Football vs Ysgol Calon Cymru - Won 8-1. The team are now through to the Powys final.

We have also had a number of boys and girls this week who have been for trials for the renewed Powys Schools Football Teams. We will hopefully hear soon if any of them have been successful.

Judo Championships

Rhys Handel in Year 12 competed at the Welsh National Judo Championships in Cardiff on 25th November.

Rhys had 5 fights, 5 wins and took Gold and the title of Welsh Cadet -73kg National Judo Champion 2023.

His strong performance secured him a place on the 2024 Welsh National Judo Squad.

Rhys also competed at the British Championships in Sheffield on 2nd December - we look forward to hearing how he got on.

Picture shows Rhys with his coach Alan Jones MBE of A J Judo.



Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to Evie Lee Andrew Year 9, in Lake Efyrynwy house . Evie's card will be made into the official Christmas card for WHS this year.

The year group winners are:

Year 7 winner -

Samanta Spurava - Castell Powys

Year 8 winner -

Tilly Barton - Lake Efyrynwy

Year 9 winner -

Harrison Barnett - Castell Powys

Year 10 winner -

Jessica Davies - Lake Efyrynwy



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