



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng



Happy St David's Day

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

Message from the Headteacher

Following on from the success of the school show before half term, the annual Achievement Evening took place last week. It was a pleasure to see so many delighted faces collecting their awards on stage, and so many proud parents in the audience.

We are lucky to have so many supportive parents/carers and students that try their best at everything they do.

In recent conversations with the Student Council, it has been a pleasure to hear them so enthused about their experiences in school. Our thriving Student Council report that they are pleased that we continue to tackle any 'high tariff' behaviour and feel that the introduction of mandatory education programs for any students excluded for any level of violence and discrimination, has had a positive effect in school and has contributed to us having extremely low exclusion data for this term.

Alongside this, the Student Council have expressed their gratitude toward the lesson grading system that was introduced in September 2022. There are so many students achieving positive comments and scores every day and we are all so proud of their efforts.

The Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Team regularly take snapshots of the excellent efforts students make. They also monitor closely any concerns that arise through the grading system. In our most recent snapshot, we identified a minority of students who appear to be causing a concern and consequently we have arranged parental meetings with myself and their Head of Key Stage. Such meetings are compulsory, and the consequences and sanctions will be very clearly explained to all concerned.

In September 2024, it is our intention to introduce a further pathway for any students that cause disruption. There will be a clear and graduated response to poor behaviour.

Since arriving at Welshpool High School, it is very clear that our students are determined to succeed. Our Student Council recognises the team effort and we must not rest on our achievements and continue to have very high standards. Many schools deflect from discussing behaviour in their bulletins and newsletters because, as soon as behaviour is mentioned, people will automatically think there is a problem. For this reason, it was a dilemma as to whether to inform parents/carers of these steps that we are taking to further improve things for your children. My view is that it is, therefore, a positive to inform parents of our intentions and it is clear that our students appreciate the progress and teamwork. From my vast experience in secondary education, I am able to state that finding a school like ours, with such positive behaviour, is extremely rare and we are determined to uphold these standards.

To refer, once again, to last week's Achievement Evening, it was such a pleasure to receive so many positive comments from families and students and, in conclusion, a standout comment from the evening was as follows: 'an amazing school, with so many fantastic students.'

Upcoming Events

Thursday 14th March - deadline to return Year 9 Option Forms.

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Safeguarding

Everyone's Responsibility!

We take the safeguarding of all pupils seriously and have procedures in place to ensure that any concerns raised are dealt with confidentially, sensitively and in a timely manner.

We appreciate the support of any adults who play a part in ensuring our pupils safety by advising us of your concerns.

Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mr J Arnold - Head Teacher

Mr J Kinsey - Deputy Head Teacher

Mrs J Baines - ALNCo

Out of Hours / Holidays

If you have concerns about a child that needs to be passed on out of hours or during school holidays, you can contact Children's Services Front Door, who can offer advice and take action if required.

Tel: 01597 827 666 (Mon-Fri 8-5pm).

There is an emergency number if you need to call outside these hours on their voice mail message.

If you feel that a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, please dial 999 for emergency services.

Many thanks for your continued support.

school bulletin
01.03.24 bwletin ysgol

NEA Projects

6th Form pupils are working hard on their NEA projects. As a school we would like to thank Morlands for their help and support with some of these projects. Pupils have been able to access some of their equipment and facilities, this has enabled pupils achieve their project makes.



Early Entry Maths

In November all of the students in Set 1 sat their GCSE in Maths early.

Of the 30 students, 17 achieved an A*, 11 an A and 2 students achieved a B. These results represent the highest number of A* and A grades for any year group for early entry exam groups that the school has ever achieved.

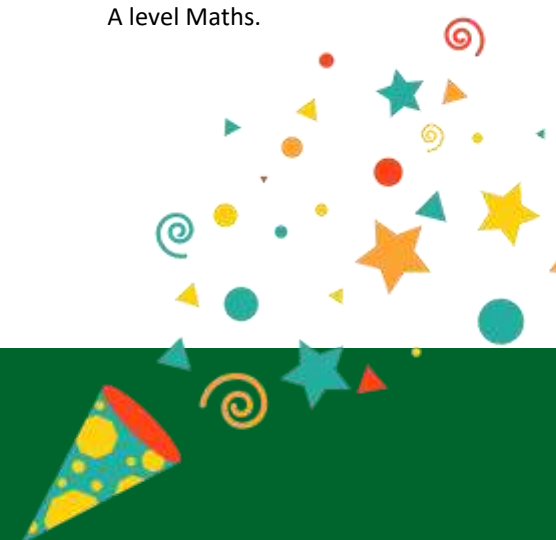
The results are a testament to the hard work that these students have put in during the last 5 years.

Following completion of the Maths GCSE they now have the opportunity to study Additional Maths which helps bridge the gap between GCSE and A level Maths.

Judo Championship

Recently Ryan Davies and Rhys Handle competed in the Welsh Schools Judo championship in Cardiff. Rhys achieved a gold and Ryan got bronze. Congratulations to you both!

Picture shows Rhys and Ryan with their coach Alan Jones MBE.



Scribbler's Tour

On the 29th January, 23 of our Year 7 pupils, along with 20 pupils from our cluster primary schools, took a trip to Wrexham University to attend the Scribbler's Tour. Organised by the Hay Festival, this is a great opportunity for our learners to hear directly from professional writers and find inspiration to have a go at producing their own creative writing. Thanks to the generosity of the Arts Council Wales, the trip was completely funded and allowed us to hear from award winning author Emma Carroll, who has written many books, including 'Letters from the Lighthouse' and 'The Week at World's End'. Emma encouraged her audience to think about the experiences that they have had which could form the basis of their own writing and then to complete a 'writing sprint' of 3 minutes, with some fantastic results.

Our second writer was the fabulous hip-hop poet Karl Nova, who had us all joining in with his lively rap poetry and talked about how he used rap to address his own life story and the issues that are important to him. His lively, upbeat style had some of us up on our feet and all of us clicking our fingers in a poetry-appropriate style of appreciation! We also had a very interesting insight into life at Wrexham Uni, thanks to some of their student ambassadors, which gave many of our pupils a very tempting taste of university life.

Following on from our very enjoyable day, we look forward to inviting the primary pupils to visit us in Welshpool High School during the summer term for our next Writers' Workshop, where I am sure the inspiration of our trip will be put to good use. Mrs V Jones



Tim Penn Visit

Tim Penn, founder of Signature Leather, recently visited the MFL Department once again to talk to Year 9 as part of our ongoing quest to tackle the National decline in the number of students studying languages at GCSE and beyond. Tim has developed a range of presentations to generate and provoke pupil conversations around the topic of Global Communication and works in partnership with Big Ideas Wales.

He discussed the importance of Foreign Language skills in the workplace, from an employer's perspective. He also spoke about Languages increasing study opportunities abroad and enriching travel experiences.

In addition, this year he spoke to some Year 8 learners as part of the new Curriculum for Wales.

This year we hosted Mr Penn's talks in the newly refurbished 6th Form Study Room: many thanks to all involved for facilitating this.

He was very impressed with how learners conducted themselves and commented that "they were great ambassadors of the school".



Blood Brothers

These 25 students attended a touring production of Blood Brothers at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury on Tuesday February 13th (yes in half term!) This trip was offered to those either thinking of or already studying Drama as they have to create a review on a piece of live theatre for their theory exams. Both Miss and Mrs Fletcher have already watched this production 5 times so they assured all students it would be brilliant, and not just because it is based in Liverpool! All students represented the school extremely well and had a great evening out, even though it did involve a late night and missing Pancake day!



Geography

On Monday 19th February, Year 12 Geography students visited Shrewsbury to collect primary data for their Unit 2 AS exam. Students looked at the environmental quality of different areas and compared shopping facilities. Students will analyse the data collected to investigate the impact out of town and internet shopping has had on central areas. Yet again there were some very smart fieldwork outfits on display!



Year 6 visit us in High School

Over Friday 9th and Monday 18th February over 180 Year 6 pupils visited the school for another opportunity to experience high school life.

As part of this session some pupils took part in a healthy eating activity with Mrs Lewis in Technology. Pupils learned about healthy eating and nutrition with a hands on experience, linking with the upcoming event of Shrove Tuesday or pancake day. Pupils made a healthy snack of pancakes and fruits, and of course enjoyed tasting them. Some pupils sampled fruits they had never tried before!

Other pupils experienced lessons in Maths, Computer Science, English, PE or Science, before going on to work with our Sixth Form LLS group on some team and confidence building games. Thanks to all of the Year 6 and their teachers for coming to visit us again, we're delighted to see how excited they are becoming to join us next year!



Phil Jones 10k Run Challenge

On the last day of this term (Friday 22nd March), Welshpool High School will be supporting Phil Jones (former Caereinion High School Headteacher) in his quest to run seven 10k runs in seven days to raise money for Parkinsons UK and Dementia charities.

Phil lost his father in November to Parkinsons and dementia and is determined to raise funds and awareness to support these causes. This is a cause very close to my heart also, as I lost my father to dementia in August last year.

Mr Kinsey ((Deputy Headteacher) and myself will be joining Phil on Friday 22nd March and we will be joined by many of our students as the route takes in Welshpool High School and the surrounding area.

In order to further support Phil's fantastic effort we will also be holding a non-uniform day on this day, where learners are encouraged to donate £1 to help celebrate the efforts.

We are really looking forward to helping Phil achieve his fundraising goal and if you are happy to support, please see his Just Giving page which can be found at:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/philip-jones-1699815653624?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fphilip-jones-1699815653624&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=pfp-email

Gallery



Picture credit: MyWelshpool

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.



BOOK DRIVE



Help with our Drop Everything and Read events by donating your old books to our school.

We all have piles of books at home that are no longer needed, so make some space for more by donating your old books.



Books donated will be used to support our students and give them more choice in what they are reading.



Donations

Uniform/Hygiene Donations

Many thanks for all of the donations of old uniform and toiletries that are very gratefully received and distributed.

We have also been lucky enough to have had some brand new school shirts donated to us by Tesco (ages 10-11 to 12-13) - if you, or any family you know of would benefit from these please don't hesitate to get in touch .

Mrs Forsyth

Y11 Rewards Trip

As a reward for having over 98% attendance, pupils were invited to visit McDonald's at Buttington Cross over Period 4 and lunch. We were lucky with the weather which was dry and warm. 14 pupils and 3 staff went for a speed walk along the canal, arriving at the venue in plenty of time to enjoy our food. The walk back was a little more sedate!

Mrs Frank Head of Year 11



Achievement Evening

On Thursday 22nd February Welshpool High School held their annual Achievement Evening. The evening celebrated the achievement of students from Years 7 to 11.

Certificates, cups and special prizes were presented to the pupils in recognition of their commitment and accomplishment.

During the evening the audience listened to an inspirational talk from two guest speakers, Miss Elana Phillips and Mr Connor Phillips.

Both previously attended Welshpool High School and delivered an inspirational talk to explain to the audience their career pathway to becoming a Dental Hygienist (Elana) and a Business Manager (Connor).

The School's Jazz Band also performed a number of excellent musical items.

Mr Arnold, Head Teacher said, 'It is an honour to celebrate the academic achievements with staff, parents and pupils. The evening, once again, was very enjoyable and a great success because of the dedicated team effort of the staff, the excellent support of parents and most importantly the talent and consistent effort from the pupils. Well done to everyone'.

The evening was concluded with the 'Ardua Semper' prize. This celebrates outstanding achievement, and the successful student receives a prize of £1000 very kindly donated by a past pupil and friend of the school, Mr Murray Chapman.

This year's recipient was Elliot Turner in Year 9 and he is pictured with Mr Chapman and Mr Arnold.

Head students, Madeline Wilson and Alan Wiltshire-Fessey also gave an inspirational speech and congratulated the pupils for their achievements and thanked all the teachers and parents for their continued support.



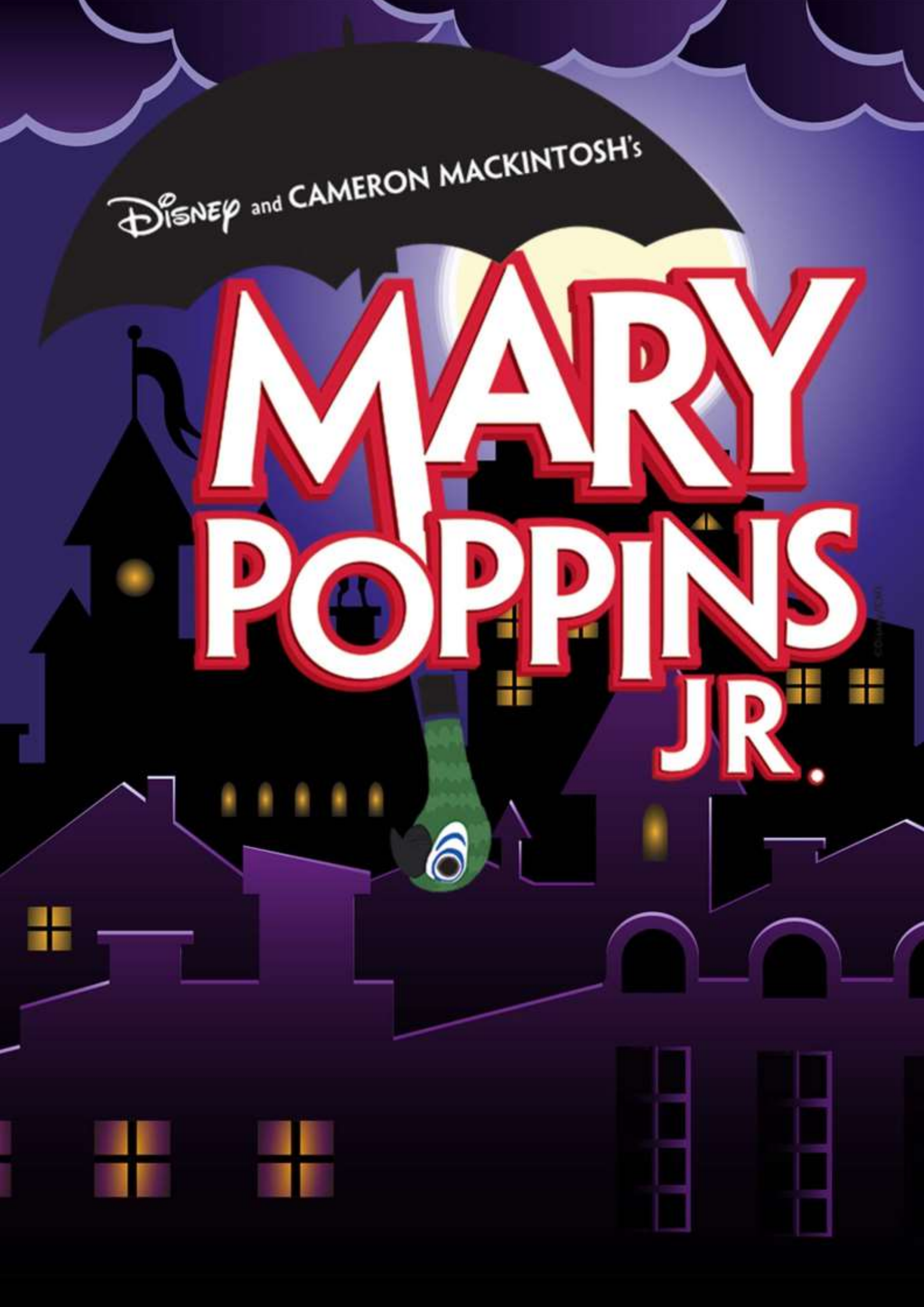
Left to right, Mr Murray Chapman (Friend of Welshpool High School), Elliot Turner and Mr Arnold (Headteacher).



Left to right
Connor Phillips (Guest of Honour)
Mr Loxam (Assistant Headteacher)
Elana Phillips (Guest of Honour)

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH's

MARY POPPINS JR.



Mary Poppins 'Over and Out'

The New Curriculum is governed by an ethos of rising to the challenge, working effectively as a team, having the confidence to participate in performance and developing the knowledge and skills needed to play an active role within the community. We would struggle to find a better example of all of those skills working so seamlessly together than on the stage on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th February 2024.

The cast of Mary Poppins performed to a sold-out crowd of over 400 people across the two nights. Performing in front of such a large audience takes determination and resilience, something that our cast certainly had in abundance. Every single member of the cast gave everything that week and the enthusiasm and confidence that they displayed really made for an electric atmosphere on stage and hardly a dry eye in the house! The cast took the musical beyond any of our expectations and certainly made it a week of memories that will stay with us all for many years to come.

However, the most impressive and important part of this process has got to be the community spirit and supportive vein that ran through the school throughout this year: the number of staff that helped in numerous ways without hesitation, the enthusiasm of pupils to help with the scenery and backstage or simply to operate the backing tracks or help transport equipment without a second thought. This was something that extended far beyond the school community: the number of local companies willing to sponsor the production really did again allow us to take it to another level and is something that words cannot go far enough in terms of expressing our gratitude.

And there can be only one way to end . . . with a massive thank you to the cast and crew of Mary Poppins 2024! They have been an absolute joy and pleasure to work with and have really shown us yet again how proud we should be of the fantastic community we have here at Welshpool High School.

Thank you!

'Over and out'

The Expressive Arts Team



Mary Poppins



North Powys Badminton Tournament

On Friday 2nd February sixteen pupils travelled to Newtown to represent WHS at the North Powys badminton tournament. Most of the players have been playing regularly with the Wednesday lunchtime badminton club at the Flash. For many of the players it was their first time representing WHS at a sporting event and they were delighted to do so.

The Year 8 Girls team only started playing this season and with two players missing due to injury it was great to see new players step in to take part. Well done girls!

The Year 8 Boys team, all from 8JBi, are regulars at Wednesday badminton club and even met up to practice for the tournament during the school holidays! Their hard work paid off and they gained 2nd place in their event and have qualified for the next round. Well done lads!

The Year 9 / 10 Boys and Girls teams were a mixture of regular and new club players and GCSE PE pupils. Both teams won their competitions and have also qualified for the next round. Well done all!

Badminton club meets on Wednesday lunchtimes. Trainers are essential and places are limited, so pupils need to sign up early in the day to secure a place. Pupils also need to remember to pre-order food from the canteen so we can maximise playing time. For further information see Ms Bridgland in A10 or a member of the PE Department.

Key Contacts

Main switchboard: 01938 552014

Office email: office@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk

Head of Sixth Form: Mrs W Jones

Head of Year 11: Mrs L Frank Head of Year 10: Miss 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