



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

Message from the Headteacher

That's it! Another school year has ended.

The academic year 2023-24 has flown by, so much has happened; we have had much joy sharing time with the fantastic students and we really have learned something new every day.

Sometimes at home I look at my children and wonder how they have grown so big, the same feeling happens at school. When the students we remember welcoming on transition days, go on their work experience weeks, or make the move from Key Stage 3 into Key Stage 4, it can be difficult not to wonder, where did that time go?

In recent weeks there have been some important events taking place in school; the Welsh Bacallaureate Challenge Days provided a wonderful opportunity to see the older students working alongside the younger ones, displaying great maturity and patience whilst doing so. The culmination of the House System Competition – with the 'live' result announcement being broadcast across all lessons in the school; and the practice sessions ahead of yet another hugely successful Summer Concert.

All of these events add excitement to the school calendar and provide students with opportunities to grow and showcase their talents in different ways.

At this time of the year, it is important to acknowledge that the students are incredibly well supported by fantastic families and carers and an amazing body of staff. Without this teamwork, lots of the 'extra learning opportunities' could not take place.

We are saddened to say goodbye to the following staff members, who have all done a sterling job at Welshpool High School for many years and we wish them all the best for the future: Amanda Swift (Librarian/Sixth Form Support Officer), Gill Gannon (Senior Science Technician), Hilary Benfield (Reprographics Manager), Mandy Davies (Senior Learning Support Assistant).

We have recently written to parents regarding uniform and standards ahead of the return in September and we are grateful for the wonderful support that we receive on this front. Please can I encourage you to read the letter (printed at the end of the bulletin) to familiarise yourself with important details and any changes.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and the Governing Body at Welshpool High School, I hope that all of our students have a chance to rest, a chance to explore, a chance to laugh and a chance to grow during the summer break. Please do all of this safely and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.



Upcoming Events...

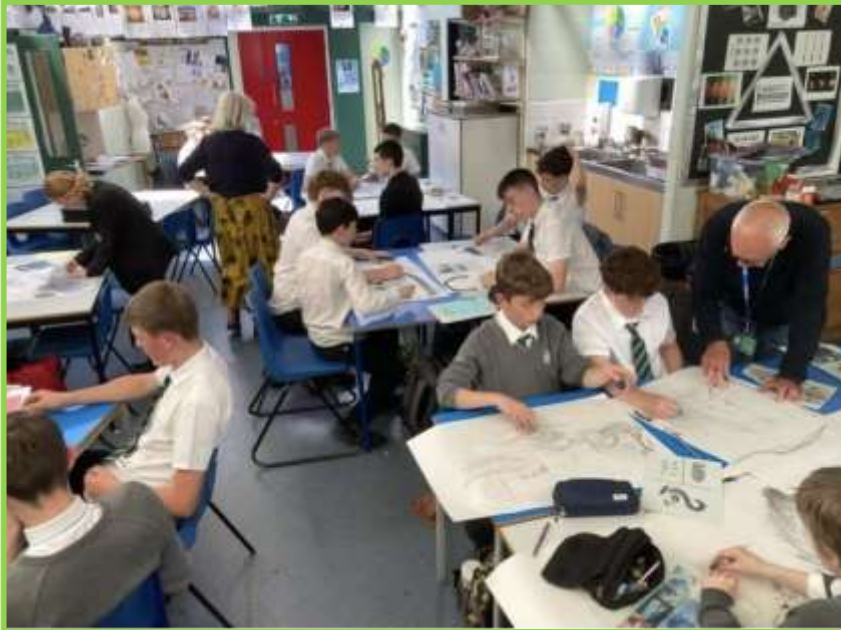
Autumn Term begins:
Tuesday 3rd September.

Cluster Training Days:
30th September
1st October.

school bulletin
19.07.24
bwletin ysgol

Community Art Project

Over the past few weeks a group of students from Years 7, 8 and 9 have been working on a collaborative project in connection with Arts Connection Powys. Working with local artist Linda James and Paul Butler the team have been exploring the history of Welshpool and in particular the connection between Welshpool, Powys and Welshpool Nova Scotia, Canada. They have experimented with a range of different media to develop imagery for a mural that will be put up somewhere in the town centre. Linda and Paul will use the groups drawings and paintings to develop a final design which will then be painted up large scale.



Junior UK Maths Challenge

30 students in Maths Year 8 Set 1 recently participated in the UK Maths Challenge. This involved competing against the best mathematicians in the UK in their particular age group.

The competition consists of 25 challenging multiple choice questions. Competitors who perform particularly well can earn gold, silver or bronze certificates.

All of our students did well and the following 12 pupils gained certificates:

Silver:

Will Tuffin and Dylan Langford

Bronze:

Conner Lenihan, Hugh Humphreys, David Greenwood, Olivia Jenkins, Emily Stevens, Evie Langford, Amber Nisbett, Dexter Schofield, Mischa Bishop and Ivy Kuipers.

A big well done to all who took part.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Idris Wood in Year 11 who has been awarded an Arkwright scholarship.

Arkwright scholarships at the forefront of identifying and nurturing promising young engineers and this year there was a record number of 1532 applicants!

Idris had to complete a detailed application form, a formal exam and interview to succeed.

Every Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is sponsored by an industrial company, university, charitable trust, trade association, professional institution, armed service, worshipful company, industry regulator or personal donor.

Well done from all the Design and Technology department!

Y7 Humanities Castles Trip

Over a course of three days on Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th June, over 110 Year 7 students participated in the Humanities Castles Trip. As part of their RSVE studies, the students started their day by visiting St Mary's Church in Welshpool. A warm welcome and an interesting presentation was given by Reverend Pawley who had organised a quiz for the students and guided them through the role of the church in the local community. We would like to extend our thanks to Reverend Pawley as always for making the students and staff feel so welcome. The day continued with a bus trip to two local castles, which supports their History studies in Year 7.

The first castle visited was a climb to Dolforwyn, followed by a further bus trip to Montgomery. The students were rewarded with amazing views at the top of both castles and were given the opportunity to explore in both locations with their friends. The weather was kind to us all and we were able to enjoy a picnic in the sunshine at the top of Montgomery Castle on all three days. The trip continued in the town of Montgomery with a study of the town as part of their Geography studies. This allowed the students to explore the town and the facilities, in addition to allowing time for a well-deserved ice cream stop in the Spar. The Humanities Department were delighted to receive such positive feedback about the students the following week from the local Spar shop in Montgomery, showing how well the students represented the school in the community whilst on the trip.

"Last week we had the privilege of the children from your school for three consecutive days visiting our shop before or after visiting the castle. We just wish to highlight how well behaved and well-mannered all the children were. They could be seen to be helping each other count their money and the cost of their items and they all queued patiently. There were many children who were particularly delightful and well-mannered".

The staff would also like to extend our thanks to our Humanities Sixth Form student ambassadors for joining us over the course of the three days to help with the smooth running of the trip. We would like to thank Dylan Forsyth, Leighton Blagg, Teilo Gittins-Turner, Liam Gordon, Lola Rogers, Seren Davies, Reid Corbett, Bryony Roberts and Brooke Hanmer. Not forgetting Alan Wiltshire-Fessey, who returned to school for his last role at WHS as our ex-Head Boy following his exams.

The Humanities Department, June 2024



Snowdonia Residential Trip

On Wednesday 8th May to Friday 10th May a group of year 8 pupils went on the Arete Residential Trip in Snowdonia. An outdoor adventure trip with plenty of fun activities, here's what some of the students had to say... On Wednesday 8th May we participated in the Arete outdoor trip, we did many activities that were really exhilarating and enjoyable. But a few of the activities such as coasteering and gorge-walking were challenging and also quite scary. In addition, we participated in evening activities which were surprisingly challenging like the blindfolded obstacle course. We got to visit the slate mines which were enthralling - we got to learn about the history of the mines and a local legend connected to them. The rooms were spacious, and the food was inclusive. There was vegetarian options and options for people who disliked the normal food. The instructors were very kind, helpful and cool.

Overall, this trip was really fun and exciting, and we had an amazing time.

Written by:

Olivia Jenkins,
Emily Stevens,
Ffion Bennett-
Wilson,
Maja Fornal and
Eliza Majkowska.



Eco Committee

The Eco Committee restarted this half term and we have worked on three projects.

Project 1 – Energy Conservation

In June we carried out a lunchtime survey around the school to see if lights and overhead projectors are switched off when not in use. The results were encouraging.

We surveyed a total of 40 rooms. The pupils then met to analyse the data and use their Numeracy skills to work out that in 92.5% of the rooms all lights and projectors were switched off. We plan to repeat this survey next term. **What can you do?**

Remember to switch off lights when not using them at home. You'll be conserving energy and saving money too.

Project 2 – Bug Hotels

We used some of the bug hotels which Year 8 had made in Technology. We added in some bracken and moss to attract the bugs. We also placed chicken wire on the front to deter predators. Then we placed our bug hotels outside and monitored which ones were being used and by what. **What can you do?** If your Year 8 pupil has brought home a bug hotel, have you got somewhere outside you could put it to encourage its use?

Project 3 – Monitoring Air Quality

We measured the air quality outside the school. In particular we wanted to see the effects of car and bus engines at the end of the school day. We will continue to see if improvements can be made. **What can you do?** Please remember to switch off your engines while waiting to pick up your children from school.

If any pupils would like to get involved in these projects or have ideas for future Eco Committee projects then please come and speak with Ms Bridgland in A10.

Rewards Trip

Year 11 had a wonderful time at the Trafford Centre. This was the annual rewards trip for Year 11 as we said our final goodbyes. Year 11 now have a long summer ahead as they await their examination results in August.

Work Experience

Year 10 have fully embraced their two-week work experience; it has certainly been very successful. Over 150 placements have been found and we are extremely grateful to all the employers for their continued support.

Music End Of Year Round Up

Well, what a year!

Ambitious? Enterprising? Capable? I don't think the words go far enough in terms of describing the achievements and progress made by so many of our learners through Music this year.

The concerts, production and vibrant atmosphere within the department at lunchtimes and after school go a long way in painting a picture of how motivated our learners are, but there are also so many other achievements and new initiatives that have gone unmentioned and unrecognized this year. Below are just some of the highlights.

Music Ambassadors Initiative

Look out September 2024! This year we launched our Music Ambassador initiative and cannot be prouder of the quality of the applications we received and the enthusiasm with which the initiative was met. The group will meet regularly to consider how we can enhance our provision for Music both inside and outside of the classroom moving forward: watch this space!

Tomos Haine

Tomos has been a dedicated and enthusiastic member of the department from the first day he stepped inside our doors. This year his exceptionally hard work came to well-deserved fruition as he was chosen to represent the county and school in the National Youth Brass Band of Wales and also within the same term passed his Grade 8 award with Merit. He also earned a coveted place on the six counties orchestra residential which he attended this week. We are so proud of all you have achieved Tomos, and while we will be sorry to see you leave at the end of this year, wish you all the best as you start the next chapter in your education.

Ethan Pawley

Ethan only started with us in September but what a mark he has made within the department already as a dedicated and enthusiastic member of Concert Band, Jazz Band and Live Lounge. We are also proud to say that he is now attending Junior RNCM at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester every Saturday to take his studies to the next level, and on top of that has recently passed his Grade 5 performance exam with a distinction.

A fantastic achievement Ethan!

Tommy Kaye

Tommy will be a familiar face to many, and you may be forgiven for thinking this is just through appearing in our school Music events. However, Tommy has this year taken his passion for drumming to another level as he has won the opportunity to become the Welsh Ambassador for Red Kite Cymbals. Through this achievement his social media presence has grown, and he has been able to take the advantage of representing Wales and the company at many online and face-to-face events. Well done Tommy!

Primary Workshop

In support of the National Plan for Music in Powys the department ran a primary workshop involving over 80 pupils performing alongside our school Concert Band. If only you could bottle the excitement and atmosphere: over 80 voices singing Mamma Mia with gusto to the accompaniment of Concert Band was a very special moment to witness.



School Concerts

To round off the year we ran our usual two-night concert program featuring a number of our cluster primary schools: over 70 pupils from six primaries performed alongside the school groups across the two nights. The two-night program featured performances from Jazz Band, Concert Band, Singing Group, three Live Lounge groups and a number of soloists, all of which performed exceptionally well.

We really could not be prouder of their achievement: the dedication shown by each and every pupil and the standard they reach time and time again really does never cease to amaze us!

And finally . . .

Can we take this opportunity to thank you all, pupils and carers alike, for the support that you have given to the department across the year.

There would be no concerts or productions without the keen dedication and enthusiasm of our pupils, but in the same vein there would be no concerts and productions if you were not there to support this enthusiasm and dedication . . .

Thank you!



Criw Cymraeg - Our Yearly Roundup

Our Criw Cymraeg have had a busy year with promoting the use of Welsh around our school. They have read in assemblies, assisted with the presenting of the school Eisteddfod, launching the whole school Ymadroddiad yr wythnos (Phrase of the Week), updated signage around the school to be bilingual and are looking forward to new members joining in September to further develop the use of Welsh at Welshpool High School.

Below are some of our Criw Cymraeg highlights from the past academic year.

Riley Owen - The Criw has developed phrase of the week being displayed on classroom doors and screens around the school to encourage staff and students to start conversations in Welsh, gaining points for their houses.

Kieran Ashley - The Criw Cymraeg has expanded with more Year 8 students joining, we will be adding more members in September also with new Year 7 students joining us. We've been having regular meetings and now we have badges to show people that we are in the Criw Cymraeg and can speak Welsh fluently. This year, we have had a big push with trying to encourage students across the school to use more Welsh and award house points for doing so.

Ella-Rose Jones - I really enjoyed being involved in the Ymadroddiad Yr Wythnos launch. I enjoy updating posters around the school and being able to assist teachers with their pronunciation of new Welsh phrases.

Tilly & Sissy Barton - We enjoyed being able to speak in different year group assemblies about various different topics such as Santes Dwynwen and the Urdd Eisteddfod.

Ruby-Mae Jones - I enjoyed meeting with the Welsh pupils from primary school who will be joining us in September.

Bella Roberts - We have been doing many things as a group to promote the use of Welsh around the school. One of our best ideas was the Ymaroddiad Yr Wythnos for staff and students to use. We have more plans for the future with our main aim for September to create a display board around the school promoting the benefits of being bilingual.

Oriel Davies Visit

This term Beth Clewes from Oriel Davies came to speak to a group of students from across all year groups about a new youth arts programme at Oriel Davies in Newtown.

Crew Celf is coming to an end and Beth is working on developing the new Cynulliad/Youth Assembly. In order to secure funding Beth is canvassing as many young people aged between 11 -18 to find out what activities they'd like to take part in and how they could promote the arts in the local area. Part of the new Youth Assembly is a student council who will help to develop ideas and activities that would take part at the Gallery and in the community.

There is a QR code on the Google Classroom for all students to share their ideas and opinions about the development of the new Arts programme.



Praise & Sanction

As all parents will be aware, we continue to embed our praise and sanction system within school. During this academic year over 95,000 grade 1's have been awarded to our pupils for their efforts in lessons. This is an increase from last year by 12,000. This is a fantastic achievement and demonstrates the team effort in making sure everyone achieves their potential during lessons. Our grade 3's and 4's have also been reduced significantly as well by nearly 1000. This information was recently shared in assemblies and demonstrates great progress. Well done to staff and pupils for making such a positive impact.

In September, we will be introducing a graduated response to our grade descriptors, and this will further reinforce our praise and sanction system.

Welsh Baccalaureate

Once again Year 10 have been put through their paces, undertaking the Community Challenge as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate. The Community Challenge is designed to develop a variety of skills, including planning and organisation and personal effectiveness. The plan was to run this over three mornings but unfortunately the weather intervened on Day 3. So, over 2 days, the students organised and provided coaching to Years 7 and 8 on a wide range of topics. This year these included: various sports; advice on careers; sign language; safety on the railways; how to look after a dog responsibly and fire safety. This always proves to be an enriching experience that adds real value to the students' education.



Literacy Transition Morning

On Wednesday 3rd July, 19 pupils from local primary schools came to a creative writing workshop in our school library. They worked alongside members of Year 7, all of whom had attended the 'Scribblers' Tour' in Wrexham in January and are all keen readers and writers. The aim of the morning was to allow pupils to produce their own piece of writing, with a focus on creating a sense of place and atmosphere.

Having looked at models of writing from different novels, the pupils then wrote about a place that felt warm and welcoming. These locations ranged from a beautiful beachside sunset to Tesco! All of the pupils engaged really well with the writing tasks and, hopefully, the morning allowed some of the Year 6 pupils who will shortly be joining us in Year 7 to gain confidence in working with older pupils and finding their way around at least a small part of Welshpool High School. Once again, this was a very enjoyable and productive morning and an occasion that we look forward to repeating in the future.



STEM Event

Staff from Birmingham City University visited the school on Friday 5th July to talk to pupils about careers in the medical sciences.

Year 9 pupils Scarlett and Angharad said "We really enjoyed the visit and found the session very fun and educational. There were good activities, but also it was highly academic and made us think about our careers".



Showjumping

Four students from Welshpool High School loaded up their ponies/horses and travelled to Beaver Hall near Leek in Staffordshire on Sunday the 7th of July to compete at NSEA - showjumping, regional grassroots qualifier.

The team comprised of Livi James, Tesni Edwards, Lili Harries and Chloe Jones with their horses Tango, Tom, Ace and April.

Each rider had to go into the ring with a course of show jumps set to a height. They had to complete the entire course and get as least amount of faults as possible ,all four girls rode in the 60 cm and the team did so well they qualified for the final grassroots at Hickstead taking place in August.

Three of the riders in the 60 cm also qualified individually, then two of the riders went on to do the 70 cm and qualified; unfortunately in the 70 cm we did not have a team get through on this occasion.

All the riders had an absolutely super day. I can't highlight enough, what a fantastic sport this is and if anybody would like to join, please get in touch with Mrs C Jones in school.

Wendy Harries.



Eat Smart Save Better

On Tuesday 9th July Welshpool welcomed Kate Williams and Luke Carter from Public Health Wales running sessions on Eat Smart Save Better for all Year 9. Luke and Kate explained the importance of healthy eating, recapping the information pupils have covered in their hospitality lessons. Pupils then went on to place food cards in the correct places on very large Eatwell guide mat. Kate and Luke then went on to discuss sugar content of drinks and pupils had to rank the correct order from smallest to largest. This was very enlightening and surprising which ones were the highest. Pupils listened to the information and generally agreed there were improvements they could make!

Mrs R Lewis Hospitality



Challenge

Congratulations to Ryan Edwards who recently sat the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, Ryan was successful in achieving a Silver Award.

This competition aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry, and provides an excellent experience for anyone considering taking their studies further.

Da lawn Ryan!



UCAS

Sixth Form Students recently attended a UCAS preparation morning.

The event was well attended by students who all benefited from the time to focus on their next steps.

Thank you to Rhys Morgan from Cardiff Met University who took time to speak to students about creating personal statements.



Uniform Reminder for September

WELSHPOOL HIGH SCHOOL

Ffordd Salop
Y Trallwng
Powys
Cymru
SY21 7RE
Tel: 01938 552014 *ffon*



Salop Road
Welshpool
Powys
Wales
SY21 7RE
Fax: 01938 555711 *ffôn*

YSGOL UWCHRADD Y TRALLWNG

Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mr J Arnold

4th July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of a successful academic year, we are starting to make preparations for September. It is at this time of year we make our expectations for September very clear with regards to uniform and organisation.

In September we expect all students to adhere to the school uniform standards as published on our website. In a recent school bulletin, Mr Arnold has referenced the changes to footwear and this information has been shared with the students in assemblies this week. From September 2024, school footwear must be entirely black. There must be no visible logos (in any colour different to black) on any part of the footwear that is worn.

The choice is available for parents/carers as to whether they wish for their child to wear traditional school shoes or alternative all black footwear.



Ahead of the summer holidays we have in assemblies reminded students that they will also be instructed to **remove** any item of clothing that is not school uniform, for example **branded jumpers or hoodies**.

In addition, we have explained and reinforced the **rules regarding extreme hairstyles, studs, bars and facial piercings** to students as well as the **mobile phone** use in school.

Punctuality and **attendance** to school has also been referenced and we have also reinforced the essential **equipment** that is required everyday such as a pen, pencil, ruler and calculator.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Loxam.
Assistant Headteacher.

Miss J. Haycock.
Associate Senior Leader.

Key Contacts

Main switchboard: 01938 552014

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

Head of Sixth Form: Mrs W Jones/Miss M 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