



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER NEGES O'R PRIFATHRO

Students have returned to school following the Christmas holiday in a very positive manner.

The Year 11's have come back with renewed energy and seem determined to build on the success that they have achieved in their Mock Examinations. It was good to hold a replica of the GCSE results process with them last week and follow this up with such a well-supported Parents' Evening.



This term is crucial for these students and our Sixth formers who are working towards the crucial examination season. A lot can be done now to secure knowledge and close any gaps in learning and it is also crucial that students take all the additional opportunities on offer to them before school, at lunchtime and after school to boost their final chances.

Lower down the school, students continue to amaze with their passion for extra-curricular opportunities and the recent results in the Cross Country were stunning, as was the Year 7 Boys Football team and U18 Girls Football Team reaching the quarter finals of the Welsh National Cup.

As we are deep into the academic year please can I remind all parents/carers about the upcoming Parents' Evenings for their children. These events and high standards matter in school to help all pupils work together to achieve their very best.

Upcoming Events

Monday, 3rd February

Year 7 English Department
Scribblers Tour Trip

Wednesday, 5th February

U13 and U15 North Powys
Badminton Tournament,
Newtown

Thursday, 6th February

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Tuesday, 11th February

Year 12 Geography Field
Trip

Wednesday, 19th February

Welsh Schools Cross
Country Championships,
Brecon

Thursday, 20th February

Achievement Evening

KEY REMINDERS AND MESSAGES TO PARENTS/CARERS AND PUPILS

NEGESUON ALLWEDDOL I RIENI/GOFALWYR A DISGYBLION

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE - Student Drop-off and Collection (before and after school)

The school entrance area, at the start and end of the school day, is strictly reserved for buses and emergency access only. Parents and carers must not use this area for dropping off or collecting students, except in cases of:

- Medical emergencies
- Disability-related access requirements

We have recently witnessed several dangerous incidents where vehicles have used unauthorised routes to get closer to the building, rather than using the designated drop off area in The Flash car park. This is particularly hazardous during bus arrival and departure times, when buses obstruct clear lines of sight.

Furthermore, please do not use the Staff Car Park for dropping off your child, as this can restrict staff being able to park their cars.

Previous accidents and near-misses have occurred due to unsafe driving practices in this area. To prevent any future incidents and ensure student safety, please:

1. Park briefly in the Flash car park if you need to speak to a member of staff
2. Never attempt to navigate around buses or through the school entrance
3. Observe the one way system at all times

The safety of our students is paramount, and we rely on your cooperation to maintain it. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our pupils and to thank parents/carers for their continued support with attendance. This is always going to be high profile within our school due to the links with wellbeing and achievement and we are making strong progress with our overall percentage. Attendance data is also added to every report that you receive for your child, and we ask that you make reference to this when discussing your child's progress with them.

Thank you.



KEY REMINDERS AND MESSAGES TO PARENTS/CARERS AND PUPILS NEGSEUON ALLWEDDOL I RIENI/GOFALWYR A DISGYBLION

FACIAL PIERCINGS - NOT ALLOWED

We would like to this opportunity to remind parents/carers that the wearing of facial piercings including nose studs is not permitted as highlighted in our uniform code (see below, taken from the school website).

STUDS/BARS, HAIR AND FACIAL PIERCINGS

Governors appreciate the inherent danger in studs/bars being worn and so advise that only **one stud** in each ear will be allowed, but these must be removed for P E and Games lessons because of the increased danger. No make-up or other form of ornamentation is allowed. No extremes of hairstyle, including tram lines and designs shaved into hair, or **inappropriate colour**, will be permitted. No facial piercing, i.e. lip, tongue, nose or eyebrow studs.

Clearly this also applies to any new piercings that have taken place during a holiday period. The wearing of plasters or clear nose studs are not allowed as an alternative.

If a pupil is wearing a nose stud, they will be asked to remove it on arrival to school. A refusal/inability to follow this reasonable instruction will result in sanctions being issued. Our policy is clear regarding this as set by the governors. Exceptions will NOT be made for new piercings.

From Monday, 3rd February, if a pupil is unable to remove their nose stud parents will be contacted and they will be given a letter to take home. The pupil will be asked to stay at home until the nose stud is removed. This short absence will be authorised, but we would expect the student to return to school as soon as possible, hopefully by the next day. Extended absences may be unauthorised. Clearly, we hope this does not apply to any pupil.

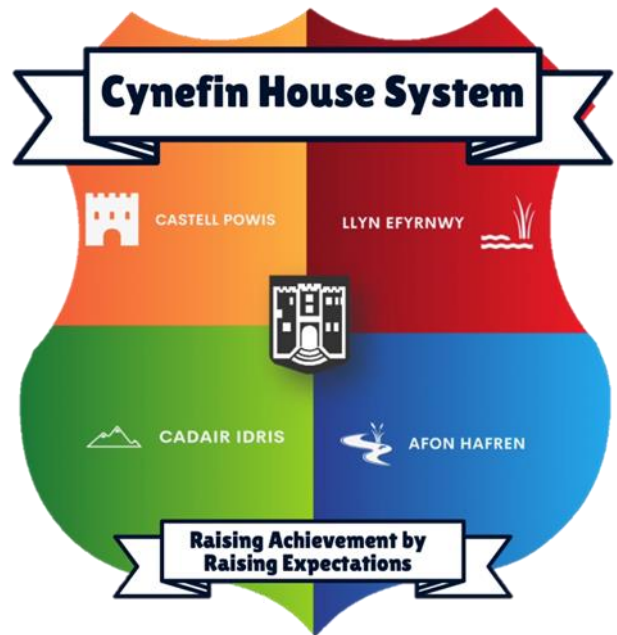
Thank you for your support.

CYNEFIN HOUSE SYSTEM

Game Show

Well done to all the teachers who got involved in the Game Show on the last day before Christmas. A big thank you to the student leadership team for arranging the event!

- 1st - Idris
- 2nd - Hafren
- 3rd - Powis
- 4th - Efyrnwy



Additional Points

Henry Seddon, Evan Haine, Noah Dearing and Ryan Davies – not only entered their amazing Hiraeth video in a national competition – but they won! Another 100 points each – congratulations!



1 st	Idris	8946
2 nd	Efyrnwy	8644
3 rd	Hafren	8500
4 th	Powis	8310

CLUBS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR SESSIONS CLYBIAU/CLYBIAU ALL - GYRSIOL

ART EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE SPRING 2025

Spring Term 2025	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime 1-1.30	GCSE ART/PHOTO Drop-in Exam Prep	Art Club – Mrs Richards D22 GCSE PHOTO Drop-in Exam Prep	Yr 7 Art Club! D21	GCSE ART/PHOTO Drop-in Exam Prep	GCSE ART/PHOTO Drop-in Exam Prep
After School 3.30 – 4.30			YR11 GCSE ART/PHOTO EXAM PREP	YR11 GCSE ART/PHOTO EXAM PREP	



Follow us on Instagram @ whs_art_department



Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable (Jan/Feb) 2025



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime (1:10pm) Uniform and trainers to be worn for lunch time clubs, no changing	Dance Years 7-9 (Boys Gym)	Year 7 Boys Interhouse Basketball (Boys Gym)	Badminton All Year Groups (Sports Hall) Sign up sheet in A10 Girls Inter-House Netball (Gyms)	Girls Basketball Turn up and Play Years 7 - 9 (Boys Gym)	Year 10 Boys Inter-House Basketball (Boys Gym)
Afterschool (3:30 – 4:30pm)		Basketball Years 7-10 (Sports Hall)	Boys Rugby Years 7 - 9 (Field)	U18 Boys Football (Astro) Netball Years 7 & 8 (Courts) Girls Rugby All Years (Field)	

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Welshpool HS PE

YEAR 11 SUPPORT SESSIONS (JANUARY 2025 - FEBRUARY HALF TERM)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School					
Break Time	History (drop-in) – F3		History (drop-in) – F3	History (drop-in) – F3	History (drop-in) – F3
Lunch Time	Welsh Bacc (drop-in) - F25 IT (drop-in) – D3 Art & Photography (drop-in) – D21 History (drop-in) – F3 Engineering, Product Design & Hospitality	Welsh Bacc (drop-in) – F25 Numeracy for girls (intermediate level) - RP Art/Photography (drop-in) History Catch-up Club 13:15 to 13:45 – F3 Drama Rehearsals/Revision Engineering, Product Design & Hospitality	English Literature 13:10 – 13:45 – D28 Art & Photography (drop-in) History (drop-in) – F3 Engineering, Product Design & Hospitality	Art & Photography (drop-in) History (drop-in) – F3 Engineering & Product Design Drama Rehearsals/Revision	Welsh Bacc (drop-in) – F25 Art & Photography (drop-in) History (drop-in) – F3 Engineering, Product Design & Hospitality Business (drop-in) – D1
After School		Set 2 Maths - MD Set 5/6 Maths - RA Engineering – D10 Spanish Revision Club – RW – C25	English – VJ – D28 Art & Photography Coursework Year 11 GCSE Art & Photography Exam Prep Business – D1 Music Product Design – D7 Welsh GCSE support - 3.40- 4.30	Art & Photography Coursework Year 11 GCSE Art & Photography Exam Prep Maths (sets 3 & 4) – A5	

Year 11 Spanish GCSE Revision Sessions

Every Tuesday after school from 3:30 - 4:30 pm in C25.

Focus on speaking skills to prepare for the upcoming speaking exams.

Drama

Drama club has started again, on Tuesdays after school 3:30 - 4:30 pm for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 pupils.

The Drama Department are also taking 45 Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 students to watch 'Six The Musical' at Theatre Severn on Wednesday, 19th February. This will be a brilliant opportunity for our students to help them with their live theatre review in their written exam.

WELL-BEING DOG CILLES

Pupils were happy to see Miss Charles' dog Buzz in school as one of our wellbeing dog visits. Buzz enjoyed lots of attention from all the pupils in a few lessons and at break and lunchtime.

Thanks to Sam Eeles in Year 7 who took him for a walk too. He was very tired afterwards!



ART COMPETITIONS CYSTADLEATHAU CELF

There are currently two Art Competitions you can enter:-

'The Montgomeryshire Society's Annual School Competition' AND

'The Hafren's Graffiti Art Competition' for Sixth Form students

See Google Classrooms and posters below for entry details and deadlines.

A vibrant graffiti-style poster for the 'GRAFFITI MURAL COMPETITION 2025'. The word 'GRAFFITI' is written in large, bold, white letters with a thick pink outline. Below it, 'MURAL COMPETITION 2025' is in white. The main theme is 'WHAT DeMOCRACY MEANS TO YOU' in white and yellow. The background is a dark brick wall covered in colorful graffiti. Text on the poster includes: 'for Montgomeryshire High Schools & Colleges Art Department', '“Speakers Art Fund”', 'Date of Entries: Monday 9th December 2024 – Friday 14th February 2025', 'Judging: 17th February 2025', 'Please send entries to The Hafren, Llanidloes Rd, Newtown, Powys SY16 4HU by 5pm on Friday 14th February 2025.', 'Hafren is inviting all post 16 Montgomeryshire students to design a piece of Graffiti Art to be placed on a wall outside Hafren's bar area. The competition is part funded by the House of Commons Speakers Art Fund. The theme is “What Democracy Means To You”.', 'Mural On Wall: Wall measurements: Height 2.7m x 3m', 'Who Can Enter: Post 16+ High school and college students from Montgomeryshire.', 'The competition will be judged by renowned North Wales based Graffiti Artist, Dime One (Andy Birch) and Montgomeryshire MP Steve Witherden. Judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. For further information please contact Mel Pettit on community@thehafren.co.uk or 0330 818 9428.' The Hafren logo is in the bottom left, and The Speaker's Art Fund logo is in the bottom right.

GRAFFITI
MURAL COMPETITION 2025
“WHAT DeMOCRACY MEANS TO YOU”
for Montgomeryshire High Schools & Colleges Art Department
“Speakers Art Fund”

Date of Entries: Monday 9th December 2024 – Friday 14th February 2025 Judging: 17th February 2025
Please send entries to The Hafren, Llanidloes Rd, Newtown, Powys SY16 4HU by 5pm on Friday 14th February 2025.

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Mural On Wall: Wall measurements: Height 2.7m x 3m
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HAFREN

The Speaker's Art Fund

THE MONTGOMERYSHIRE SOCIETY ANNUAL SCHOOLS' COMPETITION 2024-2025 PRESIDENT: PETER BENNETT-JONES, CBE

WORK OF ART- 2D or 3D in a non-digital medium eg painting/ drawing/ collage/ textile on one of the following themes:

- Market day
- Climate change
- A Welsh tradition or festival
- A scene inspired by a dream or a nightmare
- A mythical or imaginary animal
- Own choice

Please note that entries using the medium of photography may not be entered.

GROUPS- For the purpose of adjudication, the competition will be organised in three groups:

Group A: Years 7 & 8

Group B: Years 9 & 10

Group C: Years 11-13

PRIZE MONEY

First prize: all groups £80

Second prize: all groups £40

The closing date for the submission of entries will be Friday 28th Feb To Miss Atkin

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

GWOBRAU CHWARAEON

DARTS COMPETITION

Congratulations to Bobby Gough (Year 11), Theo Davies (Year 11) and Oscar Hyland (Year 9) for their efforts in a recent local darts competition.

An Under 25's singles event was held by the Welshpool and District Darts League at Molto's Nightclub and attracted 25 entries.

In the quarter-finals, Bobby Gough beat Theo Davies, 2-0, while Oscar Hyland progressed at the expense of Jack Pryce.

In the semi-finals, Gough beat Hyland 2-0 to progress to the grand final which he unfortunately lost 2-0 in a superb game watched by a big crowd

Below is a picture, courtesy of MyWelshpool of Cameron Williams (left), the U25 winner, with runner-up Bobby Gough (right) and Dave Rix presenting trophy.



STUDENT BRINGS HOME

WELSH SCHOOLS JUDO GOLD

Rhys Handel, Year 13, has claimed the gold medal in the 81kg category at the 2025 Welsh Schools Judo Championships. This victory marks Rhys' final year competing in this prestigious tournament, representing both Welshpool High School and Mid Wales with distinction.

Currently completing his 'A' Levels, Rhys continues to train under the guidance of coaches Sue and Alan Jones at AJ Judo Llanfyllin and Ford. He is now preparing for the upcoming British Schools Championships, set to take place in Sheffield this March.

This achievement reflects both Rhys's dedication to his sport and the excellent support provided by his coaching team. Da iawn Rhys!



SPORTS NEWS NEWYDDION CHWARAEON

U14 Boys Rugby won 75-12 vs Ysgol Morgan Llwyd (Wrexham) and are through to the next round of the Welsh Cup.

Before Christmas we saw another emphatic win for our U14 Rugby Team as they booked their place in the next round of the Welsh Cup. It was a cracking display of attacking rugby with 13 tries scored between the two teams, with Welshpool scoring the lion's share. The defence and set piece was also in fine form with some huge tackles going in throughout the match. Well done to all players involved, including those who stepped in last minute!

Tries from:

Oscar Barker-Jones (x3)

Eli Pryce (x2)

Borys Jedrzejewski (x3)

Will Roberts (x3)

Theo Hodgkiss with 10/11 conversions



U15 Girls Football lost 4-2 vs Llanidloes in the Powys Final

Our last fixture of 2024 saw the U15 girls travel away to Llanidloes in the North Powys final. Despite their best efforts, the girls were defeated by a well organised Llanidloes team.

Luck was not on our side, with a deflected clearance seeing us go 1-0 down early on. Another two goals went against us to make it 3-0. However, right before half time a super free kick from Maisy Jones hit the back of the net to make it 3-1. Welshpool were not giving this up without a fight!

After the break, Welshpool came out strong with the right attitude to make it 3-2 with another goal from Maisy! In an extremely end-to-end game, the final score was 4-2 to Llanidloes. Good luck to them in the National round.

A massive well done to our girls, I cannot fault the effort and desire they have shown to get this far. We will learn from this and come back stronger!

Miss B Davies

PE Department



SPORTS NEWS

NEWYDDION CHWARAEON

North Powys Swimming Gala

On Monday 13th January, a group of WHS students travelled to Newtown for the North Powys Schools Swimming Gala. It was an excellent day of competition with events ranging from individual strokes over 50 metres, individual medley and a host of different relay events. All pupils that competed in the gala returned home with a medal which is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their commitment and skill in the pool.

A special mention to our gold medal winners -

Teilo Gittins-Turner (Year 13)

Cian Gittins-Turner (Year 12)

Efe Mutlu (Year 12)

Noah White (Year 11)

Jude White (Year 9)

Archie Collingridge (Year 9)

Ryan Burnside (Year 8)



Powys Schools Cross Country

On 15th January, around 70 pupils took part in the Powys Schools Cross Country Championships at Dolerw Park, Newtown.

We were lucky that the weather was particularly nice for this time of year, which made the perfect conditions for running. A huge well done to all of our athletes for the effort they put in, everyone was a credit to the school!

As a result, we have had 11 pupils selected to run for Powys at the Welsh Championships in Brecon on Wednesday, 19th February.

Da iawn pawb!

Notable Results:

1st - Year 7 Boys Team

1st - Seb Loxam
5th - Ben Turner
6th - Micah Bain
8th - Evan Walton

3rd - Year 7 Girls Team

5th - Rosie Pritchard

2nd - Junior Boys (Years 8 and 9) Team

1st - Jude White
5th - Charlie Lewis

5th - Junior Girls (Years 8 and 9) Team

2nd - Bella Roberts

3rd - Middle Boys (Years 10 and 11) Team

4th - Noah White

1st - Middle Girls (Years 10 and 11) Team

3rd - Libby Loxam
6th - Jodie Addinall
8th - Lexi-Mai Burrows



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: Miss G Charles Head of Year 10: Mrs L Frank Head of Year 9: Mrs R Aldridge

Head of Year 8: Mrs J Loxam and Mrs S Lewis Head of Year 7: Ms J Haycock