



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

NEGES O'R PRIFATHRO MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome back everyone!

It has been a pleasure to welcome back our fantastic learners.

Our new Year 7's have settled in really confidently and seem to be enjoying high school.

The 2025 Summer Examination results were very pleasing, and they serve as an aspirational target for our learners and provide evidence that hard work and acceptance of high challenge do pay off.

We are aware that it is a few weeks since the disappointing Estyn report was published and we can assure parents that a lot is happening to ensure that these recommendations are met.

Schools are required to submit a Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) within 20 working days of the publication of the report, and we have been working to ensure that this is a robust document.

The next stage for this is for Estyn to approve this plan, that sees the school supported by the Local Authority.

As soon as this has been approved, we will be sharing this with all stakeholders to help communicate the way forward in the areas of recommendation.



Upcoming Events

Friday, 3rd October

U18 Boys Basketball Tournament, Machynlleth

Friday, 3rd - Sunday, 5th October

Condover Netball Trip

Week Beginning Monday, 6th October

Year 9 Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Week

Tuesday, 7th October

Year 12 D&T Newmor Factory Tour

Wednesday, 8th October

U15 Boys Rugby Tournament

Thursday, 9th October

Year 13 Geography Field Trip
U16 Girls Hockey Tournament, Newtown
Open Evening for Years 5 and 6 Pupils
(6.00 – 8.00pm)

Tuesday, 14th October

U18 Girls Hockey Tournament, Welshpool

Wednesday, 15th October

Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 Pupils
(5.30 – 7.30pm)

Friday, 17th - Monday, 20th October

Football Tour to Alicante

Tuesday, 21st October

Sixth Form D&T Invertek Visit
Year 13 Geography Field Trip
U18 Girls Netball Tournament, Caereinion

Wednesday, 22nd October

Welsh Inter-Schools Cross Country Championships, Brecon
A Level PE Wrexham University Trip

Friday, 24th October

Welshpool Cluster Inset Day (Non-Pupil Day)

CANMOLIAETH A CHOSB PRAISE AND SANCTION

During the first few weeks back to school, pupils have once again embraced our lesson grade descriptors. The grade descriptors can be found in your daughter/son's planner and are well received by the pupils in lessons.

In the first two weeks of our new academic year, 7265 grade 1's have been awarded. This demonstrates excellent behaviour, consistency and effort from our pupils. If a student receives a 3 or a 4 then a sanction will be applied.

Importantly, throughout the year, we will continue to recognise and celebrate the hard work and effort of every pupil, and we will be using assemblies to celebrate their success.

PRESENOLDEB ATTENDANCE

At the start of every new academic year, we always make attendance a priority. Research highlights that early patterns of absence can become very problematic if support is not given to the child and/or family. Heads of Year monitor attendance and will meet fortnightly with our Educational Welfare Officer in an attempt to do everything possible to support every pupil.

Recently two letters have been sent home to parents/carers highlighting fixed penalty notices and lateness to school. Importantly we have explained that attendance relates to attainment.

Compared to previous years, the data for the first two weeks in school is extremely positive and we are very grateful to our parents/carers for their support in helping our attendance.

GWISG YSGOL UNIFORM

Similar to attendance, we are very grateful to parents for their support with uniform. Pupils have set high standards with regards to bringing the correct uniform and equipment to school and we hope this continues.

LLWYDDIANT ARHOLIAD 2025

2025 EXAMINATION SUCCESS

As a school, we are so incredibly proud of the fantastic examination results achieved by our students in the Summer of 2025.

The overall figures were the highest that they have been in three years, and there was a huge increase in performance of pupils receiving free school meals. Pupils with additional learning needs also performed well.

When we send the results to the local press, we are asked to do this in a short timescale, to ensure that we are able to publicly celebrate some of the highest achievements. As a school, we would love to send many, many more details, because we recognise that success comes in different forms for different pupils.

This year, however, whilst endeavouring to ensure our pupils were celebrated, we made an error with one of our pupil's grades. We want to correct this by congratulating Seren Jones who achieved:

4 x A*'s

6 x A's (including Welsh Baccalaureate at National Level with the Skills Challenge Certificate at an A grade)

1 x B

1 x Merit in Additional Maths

Apologies to Seren for the initial error.

Well done to Seren and well done to everyone who sat exams in 2025.

CYFLAWNIAU DAU DISGYBLION

PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Lili Mai Harries (Year 10) had an action-packed summer, which was largely dedicated to her equestrian pursuits with the Mounted Games Association (MGA) and her pony club, Berwyn and Dee.

She travelled extensively across the country to compete in various events, including:

- Representing Dyfed at David Broome's Equestrian Centre in Monmouth.
- Competing at the Pony Club Area event at Higher Farm near Chester.
- Attending events at the Royal Three Counties Showground in Malvern.
- Participating in Mounted Games in Aston le Walls, Northamptonshire.
- Competing at the Dallas Burston Polo Grounds in Warwickshire.
- Taking part in Mounted Games at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club near Windsor.
- Competing at The Pony Club Championships in Offchurch Bury.

To finish the summer on a high note, Lili Mai and her pony, Colin, won the Ridden Championship at a local show in Glyn Ceiriog.



NEWYDDION GAN GYFEILLION YSGOL UWCHRADD Y TRALLWNG

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF WELSHPOOL HIGH SCHOOL

Charity Number 1211578

Notice of Annual General Meeting

to be held on Tuesday, 14th October 2025
at PYC Offices, Buttington Cross Enterprise Park,
Welshpool



AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Apologies for absence
- Chairperson's report to 31.07.2025
- Treasurer's report to 31.07.2025
- Any other business
- Date of next AGM

Everyone is welcome to attend

The Friends have had a very busy August, with stands at Guilsfield and Berriew Shows and a very successful coffee morning at Welshpool Church House.

We will have a stand at the Welshpool Winter Festival on 29th November so do call by and say hello! We are holding a Christmas Draw with cash prizes:

1st Prize - £100

2nd Prize - £50

3rd Prize - £25

If anyone is able to sell some tickets for us, or would like to buy tickets, please let us know. The draw will take place at the Winter Festival.

We would like to thank Tesco (especially Andrea) for donating a huge amount of uniform to the Friends for the school. Tesco has been very generous in their support of the Friends, for which we are very grateful.

We are shortly arranging a Bingo night so watch this space and our Facebook page (Friends of Welshpool High School) for details.

Mary Owen

mary.owen@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk

LLETYGARWCH AC ARLWYO

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Budding chefs 'rice' to risotto workshops challenge at Welshpool High School

Budding chefs at School have been putting their culinary skills to the test with guidance from the leading independent training provider to the Welsh hospitality industry.

Hospitality and Catering pupils in Years 10 and 11 were challenged to cook the perfect risotto at two culinary arts workshops held at the school on Monday, 15th September by Cambrian Training Company, which has its headquarters in Welshpool.

Cambrian Training Company Training Officers, Andy Addis-Fuller and Jobe Davies were on hand to provide expert tuition and the students were praised for rising to the cooking challenge. "The workshops were an opportunity to promote and raise awareness of vocational education, work-based learning apprenticeships and skills career paths with school students, parents and the wider community," said Andy. "Full marks to the students for taking onboard our tips and advice, as they produced some excellent risotto dishes. Hopefully, some of them will choose to become chefs in the Welsh hospitality industry and follow an apprenticeship pathway."

Cambrian Training Company has chosen September - and its 30th anniversary - to launch a new competition for Years 10 and 11 students in Powys and the Company's culinary arts apprentices. Two competition finals will take place in the Cambrian Training Company Pavilion at the Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd on the second day of the Royal Welsh Winter Fair on 25th November. A pupil from each school in Powys could enter if they apply. The finals coincide with the first day of the UK WorldSkills Finals being hosted by Wales for the first time and the opening day of registrations for Skills Competition Wales 2025/26.

"We hope this new competition and the WorldSkills Finals encourage more work-based learning apprentices from Cambrian Training Company to enter Skills Competition Wales 2026," said Cambrian Training Company's managing director Faith O'Brien.

Pupils really enjoyed the workshops, they enjoyed the experience and getting to speak with people from the industry. The pupils from both groups really impressed the chefs with their cooking skills. I would like to thank Cambrian for hosting the event. Well done to all!



TEITHIAU GWOBR ARIAN DUG CAEREDIN SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPEDITIONS

Our Year 13 students have successfully completed both their training and final assessed expeditions for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, demonstrating remarkable resilience and teamwork in challenging conditions.

The training expedition took place from Thursday, 10th to Saturday, 12th July 2025 across the stunning landscape of the Long Mynd in Shropshire. However, the extraordinarily hot conditions presented unexpected challenges for our intrepid students. With temperatures soaring well above seasonal averages, the group had to adapt their plans, incorporating additional rest stops and significantly increasing their fluid intake to maintain proper hydration levels.

Despite these demanding conditions, the students excelled in their route planning, taking in some of the most spectacular sights the area has to offer. Their carefully planned journey included the picturesque Carding Mill Valley with its dramatic glacial landscape, the mysterious ancient quartzite ridge of the Stiperstones with its distinctive rocky outcrops, and the impressive summit of Pole Bank, the highest point on the Long Mynd at 516 metres above sea level.



Throughout the three-day training expedition, the students worked cohesively as a team, mastering essential outdoor skills including map reading and navigation, campcraft techniques, cooking nutritious meals on portable stoves, and carrying all their personal equipment and supplies. These fundamental skills would prove invaluable for their upcoming assessed expedition.



The final assessed expedition took the group to the rugged beauty of the Berwyn Mountains near Llangollen, where they encountered conditions that were the polar opposite of their training experience. The stunning terrain of this Welsh mountain range provided a spectacular backdrop as students navigated through diverse landscapes including the historic Offa's Dyke path at World's End, with its dramatic limestone escarpment offering breathtaking panoramic views.

Their route incorporated several significant landmarks, including the iconic ruins of Dinas Bran Castle perched high above Llangollen, the challenging ascent of Moel y Gamelin with its rewarding summit views, and the demanding traverse of Vivod Mountain. Each location tested different aspects of their outdoor skills and mental fortitude.

However, the weather conditions during the assessed expedition proved far more challenging than the scorching heat they had experienced during training. Heavy rain showers persisted throughout much of the expedition, testing the students' mental toughness and their ability to persevere when conditions became uncomfortable. The persistent rainfall made navigation more challenging, equipment heavier, and required careful attention to staying warm and dry.

Cont...

TEITHIAU GWOBR ARIAN DUG CAEREDIN SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPEDITIONS

Both groups covered impressive distances of between 40-45 kilometres over the three-day expeditions, demonstrating excellent physical fitness and determination. The students' ability to adapt from extreme heat to persistent rain and challenging terrain showcased their versatility and resilience.

Evie Foster and Ffion Owen, reflecting on their experience, said:

"The training day had us sweating buckets in the blazing sun, then the final expedition decided to give us the full British weather experience and absolutely drenched us! It's definitely not for the faint-hearted - your legs will ache, your pack will feel like it weighs a ton, and you'll question your life choices at least three times. But honestly? It's completely worth it. Just make sure you choose your tent buddy wisely - nobody wants to be trapped in a tiny tent with someone who snores like a freight train or has questionable digestive habits! Despite the weather throwing everything at us, we came back with incredible memories, new friendships, and a real sense of achievement. Plus, the stories we'll be telling for years!"

Mr Pengelly, the former Head of Geography at Welshpool High School, who has been involved with the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions as both trainer and assessor, shared his thoughts on this year's group: "This marks my nineteenth year working with Welshpool High School's expedition training programme, and as an assessor, I continue to be amazed by the exceptional character of our pupils. Their kindness towards one another, their willingness to support fellow team members when the going gets tough, and their positive attitudes in the face of adversity never cease to impress me. These young people embody the very best qualities we hope to develop through the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme - they're not just capable outdoor enthusiasts, but genuinely caring individuals who look out for each other and approach every challenge with determination and good humour."



The successful completion of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions represents months of preparation, training, and personal development. These experiences will undoubtedly serve them well as they continue their educational journey and beyond.

Congratulations to all the Year 13 students who participated in this challenging and rewarding programme.

GWERSYLL PRESWYL RHYDYCHEN

OXFORD RESIDENTIAL CAMP

This year, I had the amazing opportunity to attend a residential camp at **Jesus College, Oxford**, organised under the **Seren Space programme**. It was an unforgettable experience that gave me a glimpse of student life at one of the world's top universities.

One of the highlights of the camp was an activity called “*Good Cop vs Bad Cop*.” We were split into groups, each representing a different country, and had to negotiate together on new steps to reduce climate change by 2030. It was exciting, challenging, and taught me the importance of teamwork, compromise, and global responsibility.

The days were always full and inspiring. A typical schedule included breakfast, morning lectures, a student Q&A or icebreaker, lunch, another lecture, a university or city visit, a group activity, dinner, and then free time to explore Oxford in the evening before returning by 10.00 pm. I loved the balance

between learning, socialising, and independence.



One lecture that really stood out was from a student who is a psychological expert. They explained that instead of thinking of homework or any task as a “chore,” we should see it as an opportunity for improvement. This advice has already helped me avoid procrastination and approach my work with a more positive mindset.

The camp also gave me the chance to explore some of Oxford's historic colleges, including New College and St Catherine's, in addition to staying at Jesus College. Walking through their beautiful courtyards and halls gave me a real sense of what life at Oxford could look like. Along the way, I also picked up lots of fun facts about Oxford and Cambridge - for example, did you know that Cambridge students traditionally jump into the River Cam to celebrate finishing exams?

At the end of the programme, we visited Magdalen College and enjoyed a fantastic dinner there, which was the perfect way to finish such a memorable week. The camp was so well-organised and supportive that I didn't face any challenges. Instead, I came home with new friends, unforgettable memories, and a clearer vision of my future goals.

My advice to anyone thinking of applying to this camp is simple: *don't hesitate!* It's a brilliant opportunity that will inspire you, challenge you, and give you a taste of university life.

Elena Joel
Year 13



PWYLLGOR ECO ECO-COMMITTEE

The Eco Committee have made a prompt start to the school year. Committee members from Years 8, 9, and 10 have been visiting Year 7 forms to introduce themselves and encourage new pupils to get involved.

A few Year 7 pupils have already joined and are keen to get involved, with many of these also having experience of Eco Committees from Primary School. We are delighted to welcome such enthusiastic pupils and look forward to welcoming more pupils from Year 7 who are interested in getting involved (no experience needed).

This term we will be doing an Eco Review and using this to set our Action Plan and projects to work on during the year. Last year pupils decided they wanted to grow their own vegetables in the school garden. This was a really popular project and pupils are keen to expand it further this year. Our other project was to write some new eco themed 'Thoughts for the Day' which will now be used across the school during the regular 'Thought for the Day' time and will help inform and involve more pupils.

We asked some of our new Year 7 members why they decided to join the Eco Committee -

"I joined because I am keen to reduce plastic waste and want to get involved in projects in the school garden."

"I joined because I want the school to be aware of how they can help and affect the wildlife. Also, it's a great opportunity to make friends who enjoy doing the same thing as you!"

Tip of the Month - If you have access to fruit such as apples/pears/blackberries then this is a great time of year to harvest and use these in your family meals. This helps reduce food miles and excess packaging. You will also know exactly what has and has not gone into your food. Children and young people are often keen to get involved with baking at home.

YMWUNWCH Â SGWAD MARCHOGAETH YSGOL UWCHRADD Y TRALLWNG! JOIN THE WELSHPOOL HIGH SCHOOL EQUESTRIAN SQUAD!

What is the NSEA?

The National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) runs school-friendly competitions across the UK. By affiliating with them, our school can compete in a range of events - from show jumping and dressage to eventing - at all levels, from Grassroots to National Championships!

Who Can Join?

- ✓ Riders of all ages and abilities
- ✓ Girls and boys - everyone competes as equals!
- ✓ You can join as an individual or as part of a team
- ✓ One rider can affiliate now - others can be added later

What Can You Take Part In?

- Grass Roots Qualifiers & Regional Finals
- Regional Points Leagues (team and individual)
- Dressage & Show Jumping, Express eventing
- One Day Events & British Eventing Leagues

What Do You Need?

- Your own horse/pony (with up-to-date vaccinations)
- Your own transport to events
- Annual membership (approx. £25)
- Passion and team spirit!

Upcoming Qualifiers & Events:

We have qualifiers coming up at venues like Kelsall, Allens Hill, and Eland Lodge.

This is our chance to qualify for Championships - so let's giddy up! 🐾

Wendy Harries

Email: wendy.harries@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk

Reflecting on a fantastic two years for our school! In 2024, our grassroots team had an amazing achievement by qualifying for the August championships with Tesni and Tom, Chloe and Tango, Liv and Ace, and Lili Mai and April.

"The success continued into 2025! Our school team qualified for the May championships in the Express Eventing class with Nancy and Freddie, Bea and Brody, PJ, and Lili Mai and April. A special congratulations to Chloe, who also stepped in as a wild-card rider and had a busy week qualifying for the 80cm and 90cm showjumping championships.

"Furthermore, the team qualified for the October final at Addington. Unfortunately, due to a pony being lame and a rider leaving the school, we are unable to attend this year. "We are now excited to start a new chapter! If your child is interested in joining our community and being part of our future successes, please don't hesitate to contact us.



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAK	All Year Groups HOMEWORK CLUB D3	All Year Groups HOMEWORK CLUB D3	All Year Groups HOMEWORK CLUB D3	All Year Groups HOMEWORK CLUB D3	All Year Groups HOMEWORK CLUB D3
LUNCH TIME (1.10)	ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 MUSIC Year 8 & 9 Live Lounge (D4) ART CLUB 'Into the Woods' Props and Sets D21 PRODUCT DESIGN Technology SPANISH Year 11 Revision C24	ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 MUSIC Upper School Live Lounge (D4) GCSE ART/PHOTOGRAPHY Drop In Coursework	ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 MUSIC Year 8 & 9 Live Lounge (D4) GCSE ART/PHOTOGRAPHY Drop In Coursework ECO COMMITTEE Ms Bridgland (A10)	ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 MUSIC All Years Singing Group (D4) GCSE ART/PHOTOGRAPHY Drop In Coursework KS3 ART CLUB Mrs Richards D22 HISTORY NEA Catch Up F25 WELSH BACC NEA Yr 10/11 Catch Up F25 MUSIC ALL Years (G3 Up) Jazz Band (D5) SPANISH Year 11 Revision C24	ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 MUSIC Year 7 Live Lounge (D4) WELSH BACC NEA Yr 10/11 Catch Up F25
AFTER SCHOOL 3.30 - 4.30		ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 CHEMISTRY Year 11 Mrs Frank MATHS Year 11 Set 1 Revision ART COURSEWORK GCSE Year 11 Miss Atkin	MATHS Year 11 Set 2 Revision MUSIC ALL Years Concert Band (Drama Studio) PHOTOGRAPHY COURSEWORK GCSE Year 11 Mrs Richards		

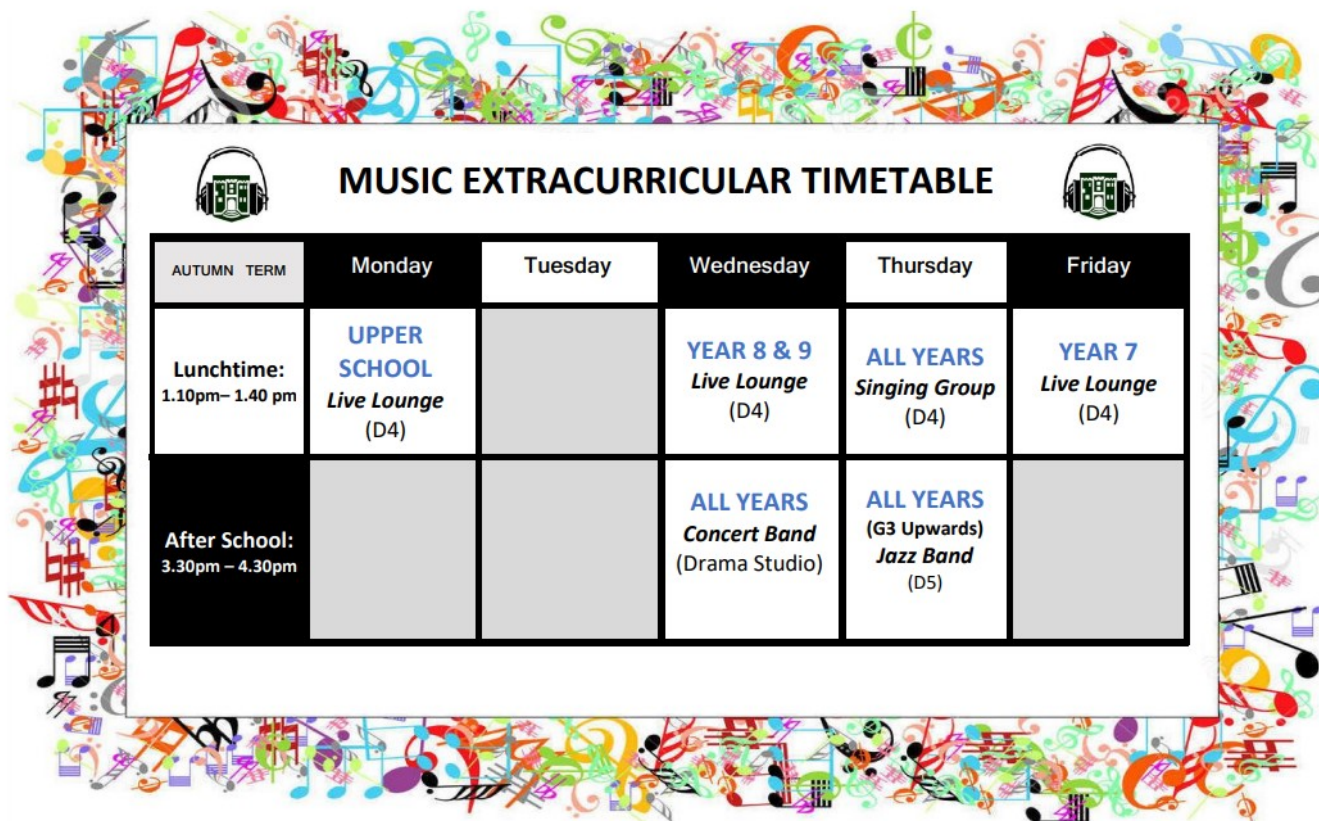
ART EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE AUTUMN 2025

Spring Term 2025	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime 1-1.30	Art Club 'Into The Woods' Props and Sets D21	GCSE ART/ PHOTO Drop-in Coursework	GCSE ART/ PHOTO Drop-in Coursework	GCSE ART/ PHOTO Drop-in Coursework KS3 Art Club Mrs Richards D22	
After School 3.30 – 4.30		Yr 11 GCSE Art Coursework Miss Atkin	Yr 11 GCSE Photography Coursework Mrs Richards		



Follow us on Instagram @ whs_art_department





MUSIC EXTRACURRICULAR TIMETABLE					
AUTUMN TERM	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime: 1.10pm – 1.40 pm	UPPER SCHOOL <i>Live Lounge</i> (D4)		YEAR 8 & 9 <i>Live Lounge</i> (D4)	ALL YEARS <i>Singing Group</i> (D4)	YEAR 7 <i>Live Lounge</i> (D4)
After School: 3.30pm – 4.30pm			ALL YEARS <i>Concert Band</i> (Drama Studio)	ALL YEARS (G3 Upwards) <i>Jazz Band</i> (D5)	



WHS Music Dept
@WHS_MusicDept

Follow us on social media for updates:

Welshpool HS Music Dept
whs_music_dept



PE Extra-Curricular Timetable (Sept/Oct) 2025



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime (1:10pm) Uniform and trainers to be worn for lunch time clubs, no changing	Year 8 Girls Inter-House Netball (Gyms)	Hockey Turn up and play Year 7, 8 & 9 (Astro)	Year 7 Boys Football Turn up and play (Astro)	Badminton All Year Groups (Sports Hall) Sign up sheet in A10 Girls Football Turn up and Play All Years (Astro)	Darts All Year Groups (Girls Gym) Football Year 8 & 9 Boys Turn up and play (Astro)
Afterschool (3:30 – 4:30pm)		Hockey Year 10, 11 & 6 th Form (Astro)	Girls Football U13s, U15s, U18s (Astro) Boys Rugby Year 7, 8 & 9 (Field)	Boys Football Year 7 & 8 (Astro) Netball All Year Groups (Courts)	

Follow us on social media for updates



@PEWHS WHS PE Dept



whs_pe Welshpool HS PE