



Welshpool High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

*Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year*



Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations

Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

NEGES O'R PRIFATHRO MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The end of a long term brings with it the joy of seeing the talents of so many students. The Christmas concert was an absolute pleasure to watch this year, with so many outstanding performances.

My only wish is that our brave and talented performers in Years 7 and 8 carry on wanting to showcase their talents as they get older. Everyone in the audience was really proud of the exceptional quality on show.



After one term of the academic year, it is amazing to see how the Year 7s have settled into secondary school, and how each year group has matured that little bit more, all the way up to the Year 11s, 12s and 13s who have either recently sat mock examinations, or are about to do so in January.

In addition to examinations, following the Christmas holidays, there will be much to do again in school, with a series of Parents Evenings and the school show on the horizon. We also look forward to being able to update you on the progress the school has made this term, following the Estyn Inspection and some recent meetings that have taken place.

In the meantime, I sincerely hope that everyone has a restful and enjoyable break. I hope that the magic of Christmas is still truly alive in many households.

We look forward to seeing our students, refreshed and ready to go in January.

Nadolig Llawen pawb

Upcoming Events

Monday,, 5th January
Non-pupil Day

Tuesday, 6th January
Non-pupil Day

Week beginning Monday, 12th January
Year 12 and 13 Mock Examinations

Wednesday, 14th January
Year 11 Science Practical Exam

Powys Schools Cross Country
Championships, Newtown

Thursday, 15th January
Year 11 Mock Results Day
Year 11 Parents Evening

Friday, 16th January
Year 11 Science Practical Exam

U13 Boys Rugby North Powys and Clwyd
Cup Qualifier

Week beginning Monday, 17th January
Year 7 Drop and Everything and Read
Week

Wednesday, 21st January
Year 11 Science Practical Exam

Powys Indoor Athletics Finals, Newtown

Friday, 23rd January
Year 12 Geography Field Trip
Year 11 Science Practical Exam

Sunday, 25th to Saturday, 31st January
Years 10 and 11 Ski Trip, Sestriere, Italy

Friday, 30th January
School Musical Dressed Rehearsal

CYSTADLEUAETH CARDIAU NADOLIG CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Congratulations to Joshua Haley in Year 7, who has won this year's Christmas Card Design Competition! His design will be made into the official card for Welshpool High School 2025.

Safia-Rose Haley in Year 8 and Alexa Coipan in Year 7 were runners-up.

Well done to all entrants, there were lots of fantastic designs. Each entry will receive house points.



WINNER

Joshua Haley - Year 7



RUNNER-UP

Alexa Coipan - Year 7



RUNNER-UP

Safia-Rose Haley - Year 8

CLWB GWYDDONIAETH SCIENCE CLUB

'Our Science Club got into the festive spirit this December with some hands-on Christmas practical activities.

Pupils created Christmas chromatography baubles by decorating filter paper with felt-tip pens and watching as the colours separated into patterns. They also used universal indicator and acid-alkali reactions to match colours to festive items, bringing the pH scale to life!

A highlight was exploring non-Newtonian fluids by making "melting snowmen" from ooblek, a fascinating substance that is solid when you squeeze it but liquid when left alone. Pupils were amazed as their snowmen appeared to melt in their hands.

A huge thank you to all the pupils who attended - keep an eye out for more dates in 2026!



TEITHIAU TECHNOLEG TECHNOLOGY TRIPS

GCSE Product Design Pupils Take Flight with Inspiring Visit to Airbus Broughton

Year 10 GCSE Product Design pupils enjoyed an unforgettable behind-the-scenes experience in December, as they visited **Airbus Broughton**, one of the UK's most advanced manufacturing facilities and home of the wing production for the Airbus A320, A330 and A350 aircraft.



The visit offered pupils a rare chance to see their classroom learning brought to life on an industrial scale. Guided by Airbus degree graduate students, pupils explored the vast assembly lines, observing cutting-edge processes such as automation, precision machining, composite manufacturing and quality-control systems used to meet the exacting standards of the aerospace industry.

Throughout the day, pupils gained valuable insights into:

- **Product development cycles** and the rigorous testing required for air safety
- **Lean manufacturing principles** and efficiency in large-scale production
- **Careers in engineering and design**, from CAD modelling and prototyping to robotics to sales and marketing

Our pupils impressed Airbus staff with their thoughtful questions and genuine enthusiasm, demonstrating how their GCSE studies are helping them develop as designers, and critical thinkers.

The visit not only deepened their understanding of materials, manufacturing and industrial processes but also broadened aspirations, with many pupils leaving inspired to pursue future careers in engineering, product design and aviation.

A huge thank-you to Airbus Broughton for hosting us and to all staff involved in organising this enriching and memorable experience.



TEITHIAU TECHNOLEG TECHNOLOGY TRIPS

A-Level Product Design Students Explore Cutting-Edge Engineering at Invertek, Welshpool

Our Year 12 A-Level Product Design class recently had the exciting opportunity to visit **Invertek Drives in Welshpool**, a global leader in the design and manufacture of high-performance variable frequency drives (VFDs). The visit provided a fascinating insight into how innovative engineering, smart manufacturing, and thoughtful design come together to create world-class products used in industries across the globe.



Students were given a guided tour of Invertek's state-of-the-art production facility, where they observed:

- **Advanced electronics manufacturing**, including PCB assembly and automated soldering systems
- **Precision testing and quality assurance processes** essential for safety and reliability
- **User-centred product development**, from prototyping through to final assembly
- **Sustainable design principles**, with a focus on energy efficiency and reducing environmental impact



During an engaging Q & A session, Invertek engineers discussed pathways into the industry, highlighting the wide range of careers in electronics, industrial design, mechanical engineering, and product innovation. Students were particularly inspired to see how CAD, rapid prototyping, and embedded systems - topics central to their A-Level studies - are applied in

real-world contexts.

The trip proved invaluable in helping students make connections between classroom theory and professional practice, while also sparking new ideas for their NEA projects. Many left feeling motivated and ambitious about future study and career opportunities in the engineering and technology sectors.

A huge thank you to Invertek Drives for hosting such an insightful visit and to staff for organising a rewarding day of learning and inspiration.

Mr J Purslow
Product Design Teacher

DYLUNIO A THECHNOLEG

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

A Level Product Design and GCSE Engineering: WJEC Innovation Awards 2025

Following the GCSE and A Level Design and Technology moderation in May, four students' design and technology projects were recognised as showing outstanding features, and high levels of challenge and innovation were seen and noted by the WJEC moderators. The four projects were invited to be entered into the 2025 innovations awards which showcases the best design and technology projects in Wales at events in Cardiff and Bangor. We would like to pass on our congratulations to Sam Phillips and Lexi Francis Borie (Year 13 students last year), whose final A Level projects stood out to the moderators. Idris Wood (current Year 13) also produced a technically challenging project and was invited to submit an entry in the AS category along with Henry Farr (Year 11 student last year) whose GCSE project was also recognised as showing outstanding engineering problem solving. We are delighted to announce that Henry has received a prize for his GCSE engineering project, "Bike Beacon". A device which attaches to the front and rear of a bicycle like a traditional light set but with the added feature of a heads-up display and a rearward facing sensor that is able to detect traffic approaching from behind and providing the rider with a visual warning of the approaching danger without the need to look behind. The product is currently being assessed for patent potential by Abel + Imray, a firm of Patent and Trade Mark attorneys and we await to hear if an application will be made.

This exceptional achievement recognises Henry's creativity, technical skill, and dedication to designing an innovative solution that addresses real-world needs. The "Bike Beacon" project demonstrates the engagement and high calibre of work our students are producing in their engineering studies and reflects the innovative thinking we encourage across our curriculum. Henry has been invited to attend an awards ceremony at The Senedd in Cardiff Bay, provisionally scheduled for Thursday, 18th December 2025. The Senedd, home to the Welsh Parliament, provides a fitting backdrop for celebrating young innovators who represent the future of engineering and technology in Wales.

We are incredibly proud of Henry's achievements in design and technology this year and look forward to celebrating this success with him at the ceremony. This achievement not only brings credit to Henry himself but also showcases the excellent work taking place in the Design and Technology department.

We will share further updates and photographs from the awards ceremony in the new year.

Congratulations, once again, to Henry on this well-deserved recognition!

Mr Birch and Mrs Lewis

Design and Technology Department



Idris Wood
"Self-Assemble Educational Drone Kit" (AS)



Henry Farr
"BIKEBEACON" (GCSE)



Henry Farr
"BIKEBEACON" (GCSE)



Lexie Francis Borie
"Interactive Reaction Game" (A2)



Sam Phillips
"V6 Engine" (A2)

YMGYRCH HEDDLU E-SGWTERI AC E-FEICIAU E-SCOOTERS AND E-BIKES POLICE INITIATIVE

A dedicated policing initiative has been launched aimed at tackling the rise of illegal, high-powered, and dangerously ridden e-bikes and e-scooters across Powys.

The operation comes in response to a significant increase in public concerns, incidents involving individuals utilising such methods of conveyance in crime and anti-social-behaviour.

Sergeant C.J. Reed 420, Operation lead said:

“Motor and mechanically propelled vehicle use, specifically e-bikes and e-scooters, provide an environmentally friendly way to travel, but when used illegally, e.g to travel at excessive speeds, or ride through pedestrian areas, they pose a serious and credible risk to the safety of people and property. This dedicated policing initiative will focus on keeping our communities safe by combining education, engagement and enforcement. As part of the operation, we have recently seized a number of e-bikes and e-scooters and have processed individuals to court for relevant offences. We will continue to take robust action as we seek to keep our communities safe.”

Don't forget:

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act. Which means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence, insurance and tax.

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces.

If you don't have a licence, or the correct licence, or are riding without insurance you could face a Fixed Penalty notice:

- with a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for having no insurance
- up to £100 fine and three to six penalty points for riding without the correct licence

You could also be committing an offence if you're caught:

- riding on a pavement
- using a mobile phone or other handheld mobile device while riding
- riding through red lights
- drink driving: the same as if you were driving a car, you could face court imposed fines, a driving ban and possible imprisonment



Heddlu • Police
DYFED-POWYS

DIGWYDDIAD CERDDORIAETH A PHASTEIOD MINS

MUSIC AND MINCE PIE EVENT

A massive well done to the Year 11 Hospitality and Catering pupils and pupils from the Music Department, who were involved with the Music and Mince Pie Event held on Tuesday. Nearly forty guests arrived, including the visually impaired group, to enjoy an afternoon of musical entertainment, from the traditional singing choir to solo musical performances, from pupils of all ages whilst being hosted by Year 11 Hospitality and Catering pupils, who provided mince pies, Christmas biscuits and hot drinks.

A lovely afternoon which showcased the many talented pupils we have at the school. The guests had a lovely time and were very complimentary.

Well done to all those involved for their hard work and efforts!



CERDDORIAETH MUSIC

Music Termly Round Up!

Another fantastic term of amazing achievements and performances by our talented crew! I think, when reaching the end of this article, you will agree that there is much to be proud of at Welshpool High School.

Remembrance Day

We really do need to give a massive thank you again to Gwen Jones and the Year 12 Music Group. Gwen played the last post in three events for the wider community: in the Memorial Garden's Ceremony on 7th November, as part of the parade celebrations on Sunday, 9th December, and at the Town Hall on Remembrance Day itself. Our Year 12 pupils also joined Gwen on 7th November to lay crosses at the foot of the memorial as part of the service. Really well done all of you!



MYM Christmas Concert

Our Christmas season of events started on Friday, 5th December, as many of our pupils took part in the MYM Christmas Concert at All Saints Church in Newtown. They performed to a packed church, and it really was '*Beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!*'

YFC Christmas Service

This year our annual trip to the Livestock Market on the first Sunday of December came under a new guise as Montgomeryshire YFC took up the baton from the RABI. As always, the group really did perform well, lulling the audience into a false sense of security with their performance of *Pachelbel's Christmas* before bringing them back to life with their rendition of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

Jazz Band on Tour!



We certainly have been working the department hard this year, the morning after their fantastic performance at the carol service, the majority of pupils involved were catching a minibus to go on tour around some of our primaries. As part of the final showcase in the first experiences project run by the Music Plan for Wales we visited Montgomery, Churchstoke and Forden Primary Schools, giving them the opportunity to experience live music and hopefully inspiring some of them to take music further and learn an instrument. The group were yet again fantastic ambassadors for the school!

Christmas Concert

On Wednesday, 10th December, all our extracurricular groups took to the stage to showcase all their hard work so far this year, along with a variety of soloists. All groups performed to a very high standard and did themselves and the school exceptionally proud.

St. Mary's Christmas Lunch

Another event firmly locked in the festive calendar is our annual trip into town to provide entertainment for the St. Mary's Christmas lunch. For some reason it also seems to be locked into the weather calendar as a day that needs continuous rain to accompany us on our walk! Regardless of the weather, spirits still remained festive and Singing Group and soloists, as always, did us proud!

Mince Pies and Music Event

I'd like to say 'and finally' however many of the pupils involved in this event will be performing again in the final day assemblies. 'However,' on Tuesday, 16th December, Singing Group and soloists all played their part in entertaining the community at our annual Mince Pies and Music afternoon. As so many of the audience commented on, those serving on and those performing all behaved so professionally, and conducted themselves so well, that they were again a real credit to the school.

Watch this space:

There are so many events to cover in this edition that it leaves little room for individual achievements or a shameful plug of our musical next term, but ... *watch this space for further news at the start of the new year!*

And finally ... on behalf of Welshpool High School Music Department, we would like to wish you all a fantastically festive Christmas and all the very best of wishes for a wonderful 2026!



NEWYDDION CHWARAEON

SPORTS NEWS

U18 Girls Football vs Castell Alun

Won 2 - 1 now through to the last 8 in Wales

Our U18s girls recently took on Castell Alun in the last 16 of the Welsh Cup.

Unfortunately a mistake from Welshpool not clearing their lines meant Castell Alun took the lead, but the girls stayed calm and knew we could pull the game back as it was very much against the run of play!

Although the pitch was muddy, that didn't stop our fantastic football. Throughout the game we had multiple chances put just wide or saved by the keeper, until Eva set a perfect ball back to Evie who drove a powerful shot into the bottom left corner... game on!

We came into half time 1-1 with so many positives to take. More of the same in the second half, until Tilly lofted a ball from outside the box over the keeper to make it 1-2! The girls worked hard to keep possession of the ball and see out their hard earned win. A nervy last 10 minutes but we hung on to progress into the quarter finals of the Welsh Cup!

Extremely proud of every player today, well done all! A special mention to our player of the match Tilly, superb leadership and well timed tackles in defence, finished off with a goal! Also to Ruby who's worked so hard in her recovery after an ACL injury - it looked like she's never been away!

Da iawn pawb!



U18 Boys Football vs Caereinion

Won 5 - 4 Powys Champions and now through to the last-16 in Wales

Congratulations to our U18 Boys Football Team who were crowned as champions of Powys after beating Ysgol Bro Caereinion in the final.

Due to the weather conditions recently, the match had to be moved to play on the 3G pitch in Llanfyllin. Whilst the surface was immaculate, the small nature of the pitch made it an interesting game and one that could have gone either way!

The boys didn't get off to the best of starts and conceded within the first few minutes after a mistake at the back. However, it didn't take long for us to claw it back, with two goals scored in quick succession, both from corners. A third goal not long after helped us to relax, however a long range strike from Caereinion, just before the break meant we went in at half time 3 - 2 up.

The second half was a tight affair with both teams scrapping and battling for every ball. Later into the second half, a strong impact from the bench saw us score 2 goals on the counter-attack to ease a bit of pressure. Despite two goals from Caereinion, we managed to hold on for the victory and the boys have now booked their place into the last 16 in Wales, which will be played after Christmas.



Goals from: Harry Ryker Alex x 2 Charlie

Man of the Match: Theo - some amazing saves kept us ahead in the game at crucial times!

Well done to everyone involved!

NEWYDDION CHWARAEON

SPORTS NEWS

U12 Boys Football vs Newtown

Won 7 - 3 Powys Champions and through to the last-16 in Wales

Welshpool claimed the U12 Boys Powys Football title with a brilliant 7 - 3 win over Newtown. Despite conceding from a free kick just a minute into the game, the team responded with skill and confidence.

First Half Highlights:

- 9' - Teddy Langford smashed in a superb volley into the top right.
- 18' - Teddy converted a penalty to put Welshpool ahead.
- 26' - A loose keeper clearance allowed Teddy to complete his hat-trick.
- 28' - Will Sarling fired in a great strike from the edge of the box.
- 33' - Teddy struck again with a stunning 30-yard volley over the goalkeeper.

Half-time: 5 - 1 Welshpool

Second Half:

- 50' - A scramble in the box saw Newtown pull one back.
- 61' - Olly Blagg finished calmly after Teddy pressed, won the ball, and set him up.
- 67' - Another free kick conceded made it 6-3.
- 68' - Leonardo Davies rounded things off with a brilliant volley from the edge of the area.

Full-time: Welshpool 7 - 3 Newtown

MOTM: Teddy Langford

Close Second: Rhys Lloyd

Goals: Teddy Langford x 4

Will Sarling

Olly Blagg

Leonardo Davies

Well done to everyone who has been involved in the cup run so far. The team will now progress into the Last-16 in Wales after Christmas.



North Powys U14 Girls Hockey Tournament

Our U14 girls put on a fantastic performance at the North Powys Hockey Tournament, finishing an impressive 2nd place and showing huge promise for the future.

The girls opened the tournament with a 3 - 1 win against Newtown, with goals coming from our young Year 8 superstars Cadi Rook, Sophia Karaffova and Rosie Pritchard.

In a tightly contested match against Caereinion, Welshpool narrowly lost 1 - 0 in an end-to-end game full of chances. The defensive effort was outstanding throughout, with Kiarra Manuel delivering a particularly impressive performance, proving very difficult for the opposition to get past.

The team bounced back strongly in their final match, securing a 1 - 0 victory over Llanidloes, with another brilliant goal from the speedy Sophia Karaffova.

Overall, the girls finished second in the tournament - a fantastic achievement and a clear sign of the talent and potential within this squad.



NEWYDDION CHWARAEON SPORTS NEWS

U15 Boys Rugby vs Brynhyfryd

Lost 31 - 17 in the last-32 of the Welsh Cup

Our U15 Boys rugby team recently travelled up to Ruthin to take on Ysgol Brynhyfryd in the last 32 of the Welsh Cup.

The first half was very even with both teams looking dangerous with ball in hand, however it was Brynhyfryd who opened the scoring. It didn't take long for Welshpool to bring it back level after a superb run from captain, Will Roberts, who burst through the opposition line and showed tremendous pace to finish off under the posts. Conversion kicked by Theo Hodgkiss.



However later into the first, ill-discipline amongst the Welshpool ranks started to show and Brynhyfryd took advantage of this with a couple of quick tap penalties and stretched their lead to 21 - 7 at half time.

Another try after the break put Brynhyfryd into a commanding lead, however this tenacious Welshpool side weren't willing to back down and managed to reduce to scoreline to 26 - 17 and we were right back in the game. This included a stunning solo effort from Eli Pryce as he beat several defenders to touch down in the corner. In the closing few moments of the game, again poor discipline gave the opposition a penalty just 5 metres from the line and a well-planned and executed set move from the tap penalty saw a try in the corner to finish the game 31 - 17.

A cracking effort from our lads, especially with a few key players missing through injury and illness. The boys will be back in action in the new year in the North Wales Cup competition.

U15 Boys Football vs Llanfyllin

Won 6- 2 - Powys Champions and now through to the last-16 in Wales

Congratulations to our U15 Boys Football Team, who became Powys Champions today after beating Ysgol Llanfyllin in the final.

We got off to the perfect start with 2 goals from Robin and an own goal within the first 15 minutes, which helped settle the team into the game. From this point on, the first half was well controlled with some lovely football, before Ollie added a fourth goal not long before half time. Changes were made but the side wasn't weakened at all, although the second half was much closer with Llanfyllin scoring two goals for themselves in between a goal from Will and a second for Ollie. This rounded off a brilliant team performance and now sees us through to the last 16 in Wales, which will be played after Christmas.

A special shout-out to this team, who have now won the Powys title for 3 out of the last 4 years, a very good achievement. Da iawn bechgyn!

U13 Boys Football vs Bro Caereinion

Won 6 - 0 Powys Champions and through to the last-16 in Wales.

The U13 Boys Football Team made clinched the 4th Powys Football title for the season on Wednesday, clinching the title with a 6-0 win over Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

On a wet and windy day in Llanfair, despite having the majority of territory and possession, it took us about 20 minutes to break the deadlock. However once we were in the lead, we didn't look back and continued to press every ball and fight for every header, with all of the players off the bench making a big impact as well. The boys now qualify for the last-16 in Wales, to be played after Christmas.

Goals today from: Alexander Ben x 3 Jac x 2

Man of the Match: Alfie

This rounds off the Powys football campaigns. To win 4 out of the possible 5 titles for the boys teams is a tremendous achievement so a big congratulations to everyone who has been involved.

We look forward to seeing how far these teams can progress in the national rounds!

NEWYDDION CHWARAEON

SPORTS NEWS

U12 Boys Football Final - Picture Special

A big thank you to Phil Blagg who came along to the U12 Boys Powys Final to take some photos.

