



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

As another term comes to an end, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of our families for their support so far this year with school attendance. As you will be aware, one of the Estyn recommendations for the school was to increase the attendance to school for all pupils and especially those who receive Free School Meals. This is also a national drive for all schools in Wales.



We were delighted that in the last academic year our whole school attendance rose by just under 2% and the attendance of students who receive Free School Meals rose by 7%.

These two measures have continued to improve during this academic year, and we will continue to monitor, analyse and try to encourage our pupils to attend school. It is also good news that the number of pupils who are persistently absent from school fell last year and has fallen again this year.

We are so grateful of your support in this crucial area of school life. In order to boost the attendance of pupils we have introduced many reward systems and incentives and tried to engage pupils in competitions and activities that drive them to want to come to school. We also had a good look at our praise systems within school and have recently introduced a Student of The Month recognition system for every subject and every year group.

In our first month of doing this, it was fantastic to see over 70 winners of this particular award scheme, and we are hopeful that this continued mission to recognise effort and attainment will help provide a further boost to school attendance rates.

I sincerely hope that all of our families enjoy a restful Easter holiday and that the pupils come back raring to go on Monday, 13th April.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 14th April
U13 Girls and U15 Girls Rugby Tournament, COBRA

Wednesday, 15th April
Year 7, 8 and 9 Netball Tournament, Welshpool

Thursday, 16th April
U13 Boys and U15 Boys Rugby, North Wales Finals, Colwyn Bay

Year 8 Parents Evening (4.00 - 7.00pm)

Week beginning Monday, 20th April
Design and Technology Year 12 and 13 Moderation

Tuesday, 21st - Wednesday, 22nd April
GCSE Art Exam

Thursday, 23rd - Friday, 24th April
GCSE Photography Exam

Tuesday, 28th - Thursday, 30th April
A Level Art Exam

Wednesday, 29th April - Friday, 1st May
Year 8 Outdoor Trip, Eryri

Thursday, 30th April
Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Friday, 1st May
Non-pupil day

YSBRYDOLI DYFODOL TRWY IEITHOEDD: YMWELIAD GAN TIM PENN INSPIRING FUTURES THROUGH LANGUAGES: A VISIT FROM TIM PENN

The International Languages Department was delighted to once again welcome our annual guest speaker, **Tim Penn**, who visited our school through **Big Ideas Wales** to talk to Year 9 students.

Tim is a successful businessman and entrepreneur who works with young people across Wales, helping them understand the skills employers are looking for. During his visit, he delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking talk about the importance of continuing to study languages at GCSE - not just as an academic subject, but as a powerful employability skill.

Why Languages Matter

In his engaging presentation, Tim highlighted how speaking another language can:

- Open doors to international career opportunities
- Set applicants apart in competitive job markets
- Build confidence and communication skills
- Demonstrate adaptability and cultural awareness
- Increase earning potential in global industries

He shared real-life examples from the business world, showing how companies increasingly operate on an international scale and value employees who can communicate across cultures.

Languages = Employability

One of the key messages from the session was that studying languages at GCSE compliments most subject combinations and is an investment in future career success. The highly sought after skills of communication, problem-solving, and global awareness are all strengthened through language learning.

Students were encouraged to think beyond the classroom and recognise that the ability to speak another language is not just about exams; it is about expanding horizons and creating opportunities.



We would like to thank **Tim Penn** and **Big Ideas Wales** for their continued support in inspiring our learners to think ambitiously about their futures and providing them with opportunities to see how their studies connect to the wider world.

If you are considering your GCSE options, remember Tim's mantra: languages are more than a subject - they are a skill for life.

BLWYDDYN 13 LLYWODRAETH A GWLEIDYDDIAETH YEAR 13 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

We were delighted to welcome back our former Head Boy Alan Wiltshire Fessey, who recently returned to school to support our Year 13 Government and Politics students.

Volunteering his time, Alan led a highly valuable full morning revision session focused on the American Politics unit, one of the two exams' students will sit this summer. Drawing on his recent experience of the course, Alan provided excellent guidance on essay planning and effective revision techniques, which proved extremely beneficial for our students. He also led a discussion on current affairs which, given the present global climate, proved both highly valuable and informative for all involved.



Alan studied both Government and Politics and History at Welshpool High School and is currently completing his second year at Aberystwyth University, where he is studying Law and International Relations. We wish him every success in his upcoming exams and look forward to welcoming him back for another revision session later in the summer term.

Mrs Grindley.

CEFNOGAETH I RIENI A GOFALWYR SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Have you claimed all the support you can get with school costs?

At Welshpool High School, we want to ensure that every child receives the help they need.

The Welsh Government offers support with Free School Meals and School Essentials such as uniform, kit and stationery.

Make sure you've checked your child's eligibility for Free School Meals.

If eligible, you can get up to £200 per child for School Essentials, plus extra funding for our school. Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is also available for sixth form students to help with costs such as travel, books, and equipment.

Check eligibility for all of the above using this link: www.gov.wales/get-help-school-costs

YMWELIAD I'R BRIFYSGOL UNIVERSITY VISIT

We were delighted to welcome a student representative from Aberystwyth University to work with our Year 9 learners as part of the university's Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Mentoring Scheme.

The workshop aimed to inspire students to consider studying a modern foreign language at GCSE and to highlight the many opportunities that languages can offer in the future. Our visitor shared their own experiences of learning languages and studying at university, giving pupils a valuable insight into how languages can open doors to travel, careers, and new cultural experiences.

Year 9 students engaged enthusiastically throughout the session, participating confidently in discussions and activities. They asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated a mature and positive attitude towards their learning. It was wonderful to see such curiosity and openness to new opportunities.

We are incredibly proud of how well our learners represented the school. They were excellent ambassadors, showing respect, enthusiasm, and a genuine interest in broadening their horizons.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Aberystwyth University and supporting our students as they make important choices about their GCSE subjects.



PROSIECT DIOGELWCH AR-LEIN – TAITH I'R SENEDD ONLINE SAFETY PROJECT SENEDD TRIP

Online Safety Project Senedd Trip

On Monday, 9th March, Mrs Smith and I accompanied a group of twelve Year 8 learners to an event at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay. This event marked the culmination of an online safety project that our pupils have been engaged in for over 12 months and has resulted in the publication of a report into the attitudes of young people in Wales to online safety.

The pupils' engagement with the project has taken several forms; initially they worked with representatives of the Young People's charity 'Platform' to share their thoughts and experiences of how they can stay safe online and the potential risks of using the internet. This then moved on to the 'Digital Den' competition, in which the pupils designed a resource that could be used in schools to highlight the importance of online safety. Welshpool High School entered two groups into the final of this competition and one of our groups, Click Safe, won. We were incredibly proud of the efforts and performance of the students, as not only did we have the winning team, but our other team, Guardians of the Web, were runners up.



As a result of their success in this competition, both groups were invited to attend the celebratory event at the Senedd, which marked the publication of a report into online safety for young people, co-authored by Platform and NSPCC. Our winning group were invited to speak in front of the assembled guests and explain how they had created their resource and how it has been received in school. Both groups had the opportunity to speak to guests and discuss their involvement in the project and all the pupils proved to be excellent representatives of Welshpool High School. Although the project is now complete, the voices of these pupils are represented in the final report, which is due to be presented to Welsh Government by Platform.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work of the pupils and their commitment to the project and their contributions to a national debate. Da iawn pawb!

Mrs V Jones
Head of English

GWOBRAU MYFYRWYR STUDENT AWARDS

The following students have been recognised as Student of the Month for March across a range of subjects. Each student received a personal letter of congratulations from Mr Arnold.

The next round of awards will be after the Easter holidays. Da iawn pawb!

YEAR 7

Harley Beddows	Design & Technology
Alys Cullen	Art
Josh Furnival	Science
Mollie Owen	Geography
Leon Edwards	English
Harper Thomas	Drama
Ollie Blagg	PE
Isla Langford	PE
Benjamin Loader	French
Harper Thomas	RVE/Ethics
Hannah Watkin	Maths

YEAR 8

Amelia Davies	Geography
Bethan Lewis	Art
Poppy Varty	Computer Science
Florence Court	Science
Cadi Rooke	English
Bethan Lewis	Drama
Sam Bernard	PE
Harriet Bowles	PE
Sophie Seddon	Spanish
Leah Davies	RVE/Ethics
Harriet Bowles	Maths
Joslin Joby	Computer Science

YEAR 9

Niamh Reynolds	Art
Thomas Whitehouse	Computer Science
Gracie Lobley	Computer Science
Flynn Jones	Science
Niamh Reynolds	Geography
Zac Williams	English
Scarlett Bowen-Heath	Drama
Tayvan Roberts	PE
Niamh Reynolds	PE
Verity Evans	Spanish
Zac Williams	Spanish
Leah Hipkiss	Spanish
Leah Hipkiss	RVE/Ethics
Kiarra Manuel	Maths

YEAR 10

Ellie Shearer	Art
Dylan Bramley	Business
Evie Langford	Engineering
Layla Farrah	Health and Social Care
Honey Wareham	Science
Oscar Hyland	Geography
Harry McWhinnie	English
Esme Guthrie	Drama
Harry Agnew	PE
Lily Rogers	PE
Annie Wilson	Spanish
Archie Collingridge	Spanish
Maya Fornal	RVE/Ethics
Isobel Park	Maths
Molly Skudra	Art
Marni Williams	Business

YEAR 11

Charlie Croft	Hospitality & Catering
Evan Haine	RVE/Ethics
Daria Ziolkowska	Health & Social Care
Imogen Fox	Maths
Arsenii Stepanov	ICT
Phoebe Jones	Welsh Bacc
Sophie Burn	Science
Tom Davies	Geography
Sophie Burn	English
Grace Bonsall	Drama
Cassius Wright	PE
Jess Evans	PE
Laicee Tonks	Spanish
Henry Seddon	Spanish

6th FORM

Abi Barrow	Health & Social Care
Noel Dearing	Biology
Jamie Bartley	Geography
Ryan Davies	Maths
Ffion Owen	Business
Matthew Bath	Media
Zoe Davies	Health & Social Care
Elena Joel	Biology
Cian Gittins - Turner	Geography
Hope Williams	Drama
Ryan Shearer	Maths

GWEITHDY YSGRIFENNU PONTIO LLYTHRENNEDD LITERACY TRANSITION WRITING WORKSHOP

On Monday, 2nd February, we were very pleased to welcome the author and storyteller Daniel Morden to our library to host a creative writing workshop for almost 50 Years 6 and 7 pupils. This session formed part of our literacy transition programme, which has run very successfully for the last five years and gave pupils from across our cluster primaries and Year 7, the opportunity to work together to develop their narrative writing skills.

Daniel is a very experienced and hugely entertaining storyteller, who specialises in retelling folk tales from different British cultures, and his delivery of 'The Water of Life' had the children (and staff) spellbound! The pupils had to map out the events of the first part of the tale and then decide how they would end the story, using the characters who had already appeared in the narrative.

It is always a pleasure to see how creative and imaginative our young writers are and to meet some of the keen young writers in our cluster primary schools. We are very grateful to Daniel for such an inspiring morning and look forward to our follow up workshop in the summer term to find out how this story ends!



LLWYDDIANT CENEDLAETHOL I BROSIECT PEIRIANEG TGAU NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR GCSE ENGINEERING PROJECT

GCSE Innovation Award Success for Henry Farr

Following on from the December edition of the newsletter, where I informed you of Henry Farr's place in the Innovation Awards at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, I am delighted to share the wonderful outcome of this prestigious event.

The ceremony took place at the Senedd, home to the Welsh Parliament - a fitting backdrop for celebrating young innovators who represent the future of engineering and technology in Wales.

I am pleased to announce that Henry's project, "Bike Beacon," won first prize in the GCSE Design and Technology category. Henry developed this innovative product during his GCSE Engineering NEA at school. The Bike Beacon detects vehicles approaching from behind and alerts the rider to potential danger, allowing them to maintain focus on the road ahead rather than constantly checking over their shoulder.



Henry's project was recognised by the WJEC moderator as demonstrating a significant level of challenge and innovation, particularly in the fields of 3D CAD, computer-aided manufacture, electronics, and computer programming.

Henry and his family attended the presentation ceremony at the Senedd, where he received a cheque for £250 and a trophy in recognition of his achievement. The school also received recognition for its "exceptional dedication to nurturing innovation, creativity and academic excellence," along with a cheque for £150, which has been invested in a new 3D printer to support future students in developing innovative products at Welshpool High School.

Henry is currently studying a T-Level Engineering qualification at Shrewsbury College, and we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

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

Mr Birch and Mrs Lewis
Design and Technology Department

CYSTADLEUAETH BADMINTON GOGLEDD POWYS

NORTH POWYS BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

North Powys Badminton Tournament

On Friday, 6th February we took five teams to the North Powys Badminton Tournament in Newtown. All players are regular members at our Thursday lunchtime Badminton Club. Some of them were experienced badminton players, having represented the school at the tournament last year. For other players, this was a long-awaited opportunity to play badminton for the school and for some it was their first time representing Welshpool High School in a sporting event. Every single pupil represented the school really well both in terms of their behaviour and dedication to the sport.

We were also accompanied by Cerys Ebrey from Year 13, a past competitor who now helps out at badminton club. Cerys umpired the Under 13 Girls Tournament and was highly praised in this by a representative from Badminton Wales.

It was a busy day, with around 80 pupils from Newtown, Llanidloes and Welshpool playing in four competitions simultaneously in Maldwyn Sports Centre. Pupils from all three schools behaved extremely well, making for a smoothly run tournament which was clearly enjoyed by all. It was a pleasure to see such high levels of sportsmanship even when games were fought hard and won or lost by the narrowest of margins with opponents positively congratulating each other on a well-played game.

All of our players won at least some of their games, with some players achieving a clean sweep. It was also good to see how teams stuck together to support and encourage players who had had a tough game.

The Year 7/8 Boys Team (Sam, Micah, Toby, Alfie and Flynn) were the first to win their competition. After some very tight games they managed to win overall against each of the other teams.



The Year 8 Girls Team (Ellie, Sophie, Emily and Summer) worked well together through some tough games and also managed to win their competition.

The Year 9/10 Girls Team (Olivia, Emily, Tanisha and Ceren) also pulled through some tough matches to be the overall winners of their competition.



The Year 10 Boys B Team (Loghan, Harry, Aaron, Riley and Bob) got off to a flying start with a 5-0 win over their first opponents before coming up against some very tough opposition. They competed well and played some great badminton in both singles and doubles and can be really proud of their performance overall.

Our most experienced team, the **Year 10 Boys A Team** (Jude, Will, Hugh and Jamie) played solidly throughout the day and were clear overall winners in their competition.

In a very successful tournament, Welshpool High School were 1st place in each of the four competitions and the four winning teams will go through to represent North Powys in Deeside in March.



NEWYDDION CHWARAEON SPORTS NEWS

Netball vs Ellesmere College

Recently our netball girls were involved in friendly fixtures at Welshpool. A close contested game for both all age groups and plenty of opportunity for all to get involved.

The girls adapted well with last minute changes and trying new positions. Overall, the U14s finished 10-10 and U15s 13-18 to a well organised Ellesmere side.



Our talented Year 8 team continued their winning streak! A strong, controlled performance saw our girls win 11-0! We also had a birthday celebration for one of our players, Ella. That is some commitment, and what better way to celebrate your birthday with a victory.



Our enthusiastic Year 7's have been working hard in training on skills and tactics over the past couple of months, and this was a great opportunity to put this to the test in a competitive fixture! With 15 players involved, everyone managed to get game time and valuable experience!

Although the windy conditions were tough, this impressive Year 7 team came out with the win - final score 11-4.

NEWYDDION CHWARAEON SPORTS NEWS

U12 Boys Football vs Ysgol Bro Pedr Lost 4-1 in the last-16 of the Welsh Cup

Our U12 Boys travelled down to Lampeter for their Welsh Cup Last-16 game. In wet and windy conditions, the game was even for large periods and was 1-1 at the break, thanks to a penalty from Teddy Langford. However, the opposition scored early in the second half and never looked back, eventually increasing their lead to 4-1.

A cracking effort from our lads in their first Welsh Cup campaign and hopefully something to build on for next year.

U18 Girls Football vs Bryn Celynnog Drew 3-3 (lost 5-4 on penalties) in the semi-final of the Welsh Cup

At the start of the half term, our U18 Girls footballers played in the National Cup semi-final against Ysgol Bryn Celynnog at Newtown, Latham Park.

We started strong with a powerful burst of pace by Maria who calmly finished in the corner past the keeper...1-0!

With the majority of the possession in the middle of the pitch we were disappointed to come in at half time trailing 1-2. This was some of the best football the girls have played as a team, particularly in the middle, but a strong opposition battled hard in defence. Still, all to play for and our girls were up for the challenge.

Ruby caused lots of problems with her pace down the wing, which gained us a corner. A perfect ball in by Maria landed perfectly for Ruby to volley it into the back of the net. A beautiful strike! We had the momentum again and another assist by Ruby meant Maria could hit the ball first

time, lofting it over the keeper to give us the lead!

Although our girls were battling hard, Bryn Celynnog were still pressing fast. This resulted in them winning the ball and finishing well to bring the game level at 3-3 before full time. This meant the game would go straight to penalties.

After our penalties unfortunately we bowed out of the Cup 4-5. The outcome of this game was tough to take. Although we feel this special team deserved to reach the finals, every member of the squad should be incredibly proud of their achievements. We can't fault the effort and commitment since the start of this cup run.

Well done girls - what great role models for the school!



NEWYDDION CHWARAEON SPORTS NEWS

Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships

11 of our pupils were selected to represent Powys at the national championships in Brecon.

Most notable results were:

Teddy Langford - 7th

Bella Roberts - 22nd

Jude White - 31st

Well done to everyone involved!

U12 Girls Hockey 5th place at the North Wales regional finals

What a beautiful sunny day to play hockey. The Year 7s experienced their first tournament recently as they travelled to Ruthin for the North Wales Finals. All thoroughly enjoyed their day and has made them excited to play more hockey in the future.

Well done girls!

U12 Boys Hockey - North Wales Regional finals: Team A - 2nd in their group and lost in the semi-final Team B - 5th place in their group

A brilliant day of hockey for our U14 boys at the regional finals at Rydal Penrhos School, Colwyn Bay. This group has been turning up week after week to after-school hockey, showing fantastic commitment and enthusiasm. Their dedication paid off as we were able to enter two teams in the tournament, a fantastic achievement and a great sign for boys' hockey.

Our A team had an outstanding run, reaching the semi-final after some excellent team performances. Unfortunately, they narrowly lost 1-0 to Brynhyfryd, with a last-second short corner deciding the match. A tough way to end the day after such a strong performance, but the boys can be incredibly proud of how they played.



There were some superb individual displays, with Gethin Jones producing outstanding hockey throughout the tournament. Goals on the day came from Gethin, Seb, and Charlie but it was the overall teamwork and determination that really stood out.

Both goalkeepers, Finnley and Sam, also played a huge part in the day, making some fantastic saves throughout the tournament and showing real promise in goal.

Our B team also impressed, showing fantastic progress across the day and pushing strong sides in some extremely close matches, particularly against Caereinion and Eirias.

A huge well done to all the boys - the effort, attitude and teamwork on display were fantastic. This talented group is already looking ahead to next year's tournament, and this certainly won't be the last we hear from them.

NEWYDDION CHWARAEON SPORTS NEWS

U18 Boys Hockey

Won 6-0 vs Ellesmere College

We had a range of ages for our squad from year 12 to year 8 for this friendly match. We looked lively from the off and started strong with Leo scoring two in the first 10 minutes! After a dominant performance in midfield, once again Leo won the ball and took it past a couple of defenders and after a couple of one-twos with Gethin, he finished his hat trick!

Into the second half our strong performance continued. Lovely play by Evan who used Finn's pace down the wing, Finn then produced a perfect cross to Riley who was able to slot it past the keeper. It didn't take long for Riley to get another to bring it to 5-0.

The defence provided a solid performance, and Elliot got his deserved goal, stretching to put the ball between the legs of the keeper to make the final score 6-0!

Special shout out to Theo too who had a lot of pressure on him in the last 5 minutes, he made some great saves to keep our clean sheet.

Overall, a great game of hockey in the sun!

Thank you to Miss Charles and Eva who umpired the game for us.



WELSHPOOL HIGH SCHOOL

POWYS

REQUIRES RELIEF COVER SUPERVISORS (SCH 10)

Hours and days variable

Salary Grade 6, Point 11-14

£14.59 - £15.31 per hour



Welshpool High School requires relief Cover Supervisors on short notice call up for staff absence. Hours and days to suit.


The role will include undertaking cover supervision of lessons, and designated break/lunchtime duties.

Interested parties to apply via covering letter and application form (available on the school website: www.welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk) to Mrs Karen Davies, Personal Assistant to Headteacher, Welshpool High School, Salop Road, Welshpool, SY21 7RE. Tel No: 01938 552014.

Email applications accepted to: karen.davies@welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk

Welshpool High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people along with their protection. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and The Disclosure and Barring Service.

YEAR 11 & SIXTH FORM SUPPORT SESSIONS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Period 4 (12:05 - 12:55)	ICT Sixth form Catch Up				MATHS Year 13 Revision
LUNCH TIME (1.10pm)	ENGINEERING/PRODUCT DESIGN NEA Prep time D10 SPANISH Year 11 Revision C24 PE GCSE PE Coursework support GCSE ART/PHOTO Drop In Exam Project ETHICS Year 11 Drop in F25	ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 MUSIC Live Lounge (D4) GCSE ART/PHOTO Drop In Exam Project HOSP & CATERING Exam Prep BUSINESS Drop in Year 11 SPANISH Year 11 Revision C27	ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 GCSE ART/PHOTO Drop In Exam Project WELSH Year 11 Revision C21 GEOGRAPHY Year 11 Revision KS5 Revision ENGLISH Year 11 English Lit Unit 1 MATHS Yr 11 Set3 Drop in A6	ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 GCSE ART/PHOTO Drop In Exam Project HISTORY Year 11 Revision 1:15-1:45pm F3 WELSH BACC NEA Catch Up F25 SPANISH Year 11 Revision C27	ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 WELSH BACC NEA Yr 10/11 Catch Up F25 ICT Coursework Catch Up MATHS Year 11 Higher Tier Revision GEOGRAPHY Year 10 Unit 1 Drop in F25
AFTER SCHOOL (3.30 - 4.30pm)	BIOLOGY Year 11 Revision Foundation Tier	MATHS Yr 12 & 13 Resits Pure Maths 3-4pm ENGINEERING NEA Prep time D10 CHEMISTRY Year 11 Mrs Frank DRAMA Year 11 Revision PE Year 11 Revision B22 BIOLOGY Year 12 Revision MUSIC GCSE/A level drop in	GCSE ART/PHOTO Exam Project Support ENGLISH Year 11 Revision GEOGRAPHY Year 11 Revision KS5 Revision BIOLOGY Year 11 Separates BIOLOGY (SL) Yr 11 High Tier Revision DRAMA Yr 12 and 13 Revision HISTORY Yr 10 Revision & Yr 11 Resists. Yr 12 Revision	MATHS Year 11 Set 4 & 5 Revision MATHS Year 11 Set 1 (Alternate Numeracy/ Additional Maths) MATHS Year 11 Set 2 Revision	

* Art/Photography – Sixth form open door any time for study