

Y BONT





Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy
Ffordd Nebo Road
Llanrwst
LL26 0SD

Head teacher's Greeting

It's a pleasure to present the 2013 version of 'The Bont'. Another year has passed us by and this is an opportunity for you as parents, and all the school's friends to share in the wealth of experiences and activities held at the school. This year's edition is particularly special as it is a fully bilingual version.

2013 was a special year for the school with success, once again on the stage and in sporting events, as well as GCSE and A Level results which are even better than our previous best.

We are confident that we will go from strength to strength during 2014, with the website recording every success and giving further information to parents and the community. Remember our all important web address, www.ysgoldyffrynconwy.org.

Enjoy reading and reminiscing, we look forward to the memories we will create for the next edition.

Paul Matthews-Jones
Head teacher



Teachers

Farewell!

At the end of the autumn term we said farewell to a member of staff who has given 34 years of commendable service to the school. Mr Raymond Roberts decided to retire (early of course!) and we thank him for his invaluable contribution over the years. He was a prominent figure at the school as Head of Careers, History teacher and Union representative; he was a firm and fair character. We wish him a very happy retirement and good health to enjoy his interests. Rumour has it that Raymond Roberts was on top of Snowdon on the first day of the new school term!!

We also said farewell to Dr Rob Davies who has been teaching physics in the Science Department. We wish him well for the future.

Another member of staff who left us this Summer after a long period of service in the school is Mrs Janet Pierce. Janet has been a backbone of the Inclusion department at the school and keeper of the school's reward systems and positive behaviour schemes. We wish her well in her retirement where she will have time to enjoy and take care of her family – we know she is a very busy grandmother already!

New job – We give wholehearted thanks to Richard Williams who has been a prominent teacher at the school for 10 years. He led the SEN Department with a quiet resolve, and over the years many pupils benefited from his expertise. We wish him all the best in his new job in Colwyn Bay.

The end of term was also a period of saying farewell to some of our younger members of staff who have been with us over the last year or two: Mr Aron Jones who will be starting a new job at Ysgol Bro Gwydir in September; Miss Kate Beard who will be beginning a new post at Ysgol Glan y Mor, Pwllheli; and Mr Ben Elias who will be beginning a new role at Ysgol Croesati in Flint. We wish all three of them the best in their new jobs.

New Staff:

We also wish all the best to Mrs Mari Scanlon who will be starting with us as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and Technology teacher on the 1st of September.

Llais Disgyblion / Pupil Voice: School Council

Head Pupils and School Council 2012/13:

Congratulations to Angharad Evans and Rhodri Sion who were elected Head Boy and Girl at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy and Pupil Governors this year. We were also fortunate to elect four Deputy Officers: Anna Lloyd, Siwan Ellis, Guffydd Lloyd a Haydn Jenkins to support them. Under their leadership the School Council:

- *Discussed and gave feedback on the School's Anti-Bullying policy;*
- *Discussed and suggested improvements for the school's lunch time arrangements;*
- *Discussed and elected representatives for the Eco Council in order to ensure that we take the best care possible of our environment by actively campaigning against littering and wasting energy;*
- *Pupils were also grateful to them for ensuring that the AstroTurf was kept open throughout the Winter and a supply of footballs were provided for pupils to borrow;*
- *They made recommendations and lobbied for lunch time and afternoon clubs which are now in place for 2013/14; and*
- *In addition the Senior School Council planned and led this year's very successful School Eisteddfod on March the 1st.*

Members of the School Council also met and greeted many visitors to the school over the course of the year creating a very good impression of the school and of their conduct and mature attitudes.

During their last meeting for 2012/13, the Junior School Council discussed literacy and numeracy and their different experiences of developing reading and





numeracy skills across the curriculum. They were passionate in their enthusiasm for developing reading and ensuring that there enough up to date reading resources in the school.

Our year forums continued to meet on a regular basis to discuss the matters above and to feed into the School

Council's discussion through their year representatives on the Council.

Lowri Roberts, Elin Arfon and Haydn Jenkins also successfully represented the school on Conwy'r Youth Council over the year.



Eco Council

We are extremely fortunate in our Eco Council this year too. Following their election by their peers, they went on enthusiastically to discuss what needed to be done to meet the criteria for the next accreditation in Conwy's Healthy Schools Award. They are an enthusiastic group who have a very strong vision for

this important aspect of school life. During the summer term they planned their campaign for 2013/14 focusing specifically on reducing litter around the school site, increasing the recycling we do and working to make the school sustainable for the future. They undertook considerable research into these areas, leading year 8

in recycling activities during our activities week.

The group also gave an excellent presentation to Sodexo sharing their vision for their Eco-schools Plan. There is an excellent future ahead of them and their influence is already evident around the school and on the attitude of their peers.

BOBs

The BOBs group have had another very successful year. Some of their meals have been added to the school menu following their work. New members of the BOBs group this year are: Abbie Wilding, Lois Williams, Josh Williams, Dafydd Lloyd, Jordan Jones, Tyler Griffiths, Joe Flynn, Jessica Hughes, Elen Jones, Mali Cotcher, Trystan Jones a Heledd Roberts. They have been busy cooking and learning about new laws relating to 'Appetite for Life' and healthy eating. It was delightful to sample their food during the year. They were kept busy and on task by Mrs Ann Davies and our LA Healthy Schools Officer, Nia.



Pupil Activities

From September 2013 we will be running many extracurricular clubs and activities including 5x60 activities:

- Climbing and trampolining club;
- Football;
- Badmington and hockey;
- Netball.

The following clubs will run during lunch time:

- Film Club;
- Art Club;
- School Choirs and parties;
- English Creative Writing Club;
- Homework Club; and
- Games Club.

After school we will also be running:

- Art Club;
- Technology Club;
- Science Club;
- Maths Club;
- Drama Club;
- General homework club;
- Athletics club;

- Fishing and Equestrian Club;
- Supporting the 'Doniau'r Dyffryn' choir;
- Along with revision sessions in core subjects for GCSE pupils.

Year 6 visits and year 5 and 6 pupil and parents' Open Evening:

We extended a warm welcome to year 5 and 6 pupils and parents from our feeder primary schools to our Open Evening on Tuesday the 23rd of October. There were opportunities for performances and presentations and to visit the school's different subject departments. Year 6 pupils also had the opportunity to visit the school for a taster day on Friday the 19th of October.

They returned for a second visit on Monday the 24th of June when they had experiences of different subjects and joined in with year 7, 8 and 9 pupils over the lunch hour. They quickly settled in and made themselves at home! We look forward to welcoming them as full time members of the school in September.

We also welcomed visitors from the Comenius project (from Italy and Portugal) along with their year 6 hosts from Ysgol Glan Conwy. They enjoyed a day's activities including learning about the locality through the Geography Department, experienced some Welsh culture through a performance from our Cerdd Dant Choir, and took part in a tennis and netball masterclass. They were ready for some hospitality back in their Glan Conwy base after a busy day at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy!



Charities



This year both staff and pupils supported a range of charities through different activities including the following:

Parachute Jump in aid of Tŷ Gobaith

Congratulations to Ffion Hughes, Year 13 who completed a parachute jump in aid of Tŷ Gobaith. She succeeded in raising an honourable amount – £650. Quite an achievement!

Coffee Afternoon – £220.10

'Christmas Child' Boxes

Jeans for Genes – £564

Children in Need – £442.33

In addition we held our Christmas and Summer Fairs to raise money for different charities with the KS4 and KS5 BAC students enthusiastically raising money as part of their BAC course.

The school also held their annual sponsored walk under Mrs Ann Davies' leadership. The walk was a huge success and an opportunity for learners to appreciate the wonderful landscape around them through walking Gwydir Forest. It was wonderful to see so many of our year 11 pupils returning to help marshal the walk too.



Celebrating success

A very successful Awards Ceremony was held on the 8th of January, and a large number of pupils and parents came together to celebrate. Pupils from across all Key Stages were awarded for their academic, sporting and extra-curricular successes as well as for attendance. It was a pleasure to welcome Mrs Janet Hughes, former Deputy Head to the school as guest speaker, and everyone enjoyed her positive and purposeful speech. Joshua Bradnam-Smith gave splendid musical recitals on the violin, Cadi Edwards performed a vocal and piano composition, Rhiannon Hughes performed on the harp and the cast of 'Hairspray' performed a song from the musical.

Several scholarships were awarded for the incredible examination results of summer 2012.

Governors' scholarships

Dr. Harold Williams: Elin Owen and Catrin Davies

Williams J. Lewis: Dafydd Evans and Daniel Jones

Holt: Rachel Johncock, Mali Dafydd, Kyra Hamilton and Non Hughes

Llanrwst History Society Scholarships: Anna Vaughan Jones and Emily Crane

Exceptional performers at AS level were also awarded.

School AS Awards: Ben Griffith, Ffion Hughes and Haydn Jenkins (Year 13)

Three girls, who are now in Year 12, achieved a huge accomplishment by passing all of their GCSE examinations with grade A*.

Rotary GCSE Award + School GCSE Award:

Elin Arfon 10A*, Elin Wrennall 10A* and Lowri Roberts 10A*

Other pupils also received awards for their effort and achievements in several other areas.

Llanrwst Town Award: Morgan Metcalfe 10N

KS3 Awards:

Joshua Bradnam-Smith, Rachel Gates, Branwen Jones, Joachim Rigotti, Jonathan Coates, Rhiannon Hughes and Branwen Morus (Year 10)

Awards for Full Attendance 2011-12:

Annest Jones, Nicole Owens, Daniel Davies and Dion Williams (Year 9); Joachim Rigotti and Ioan Wyn-William (Year 10)

In sport, the Victor Victrix Ludorum shields were awarded for pupils in every year, as well as a special award for Outstanding Performance awarded to Rachel Johncock for her achievements in national athletics, and now international.

Award for Outstanding Achievement: Rachel Johncock (competed in the World Junior Athletic Championships)

Victor Victrix Ludorum Shields for Athletes of the Year

Year 8: Shauna Lyons and Oscar Lennon

Year 8: Megan Roberts and Owain Jones

Year 10: Lea Royle and Tom Jones

Male Athlete of the Year: Iestyn Thomas (Year 11)

Female Athlete of the Year: Emily Watson (Year 12)

The school had many successes in cerdd dant during 2012, the senior choir and the senior party did particularly well and representatives from these groups were presented with shields and trophies. The cerdd dant choir was victorious in the Eryri National Eisteddfod 2012, and the school came first in the open choir category in the Llanrwst Eisteddfod, the year came to a close with the cerdd dant party winning first prize in the Dyffryn Conwy Cerdd Dant Festival. The choir was coached by Andrea Parry and the special arrangements were by Rhian Jones, Llangwm. The Awards Ceremony was an opportunity to say a big thanks to the members for their dedication and to the parents for taxiing the children backwards and forwards to rehearsals!

So, 2012 was another outstanding year for Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, this was highlighted in the speeches Mrs Janet Hughes and the Head made to parents, pupils and staff. The Awards Ceremony was an opportunity to thank the pupils who have contributed so much to the school's success and have put Llanrwst on the map.

On Monday 4th of March 2013 the two of us, accompanied by our Headteacher Mr Paul Matthews-Jones, attended a Rotary dinner at Maenan Abbey. We gave a power point presentation about the residential Rotary Youth Leadership course we attended at Arthog, near Dolgellau last summer. We were grateful to receive the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) from the chairperson. We feel honoured to have had this fantastic opportunity which has also formed part of our Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

By Elin Wrennall (12J) and Hannah Bird (11W)

The Urdd



Big congratulations to Erin Rossington, Year 12 who has been chosen to visit Patagonia at the end of October. Many young people applied to be part of this visit which has been organized by the Urdd, and Erin was chosen to be one of twenty young people from North Wales who will spend two weeks in the Welsh settlement in Patagonia. Erin will soon be starting to collect money for this unforgettable experience

URDD NETBALL

Pupils enjoyed a fun and competitive day in Maes Glas, Bangor on Thursday, 11th October; they were competing in the North Wales Netball Competition for Years 7 and 8. The squad of 12 did themselves proud and came extremely close to making the final round. The team included Hannah, Cadi, Siobhan, Shauna, Issie, Elin, Anna, Mary, Hollie, Amelia, Kimberley and Alex. Here is the girls' account of the day:

"There were many other teams taking part, in our group we won one game and lost two to other very good teams (one of which went on to win the cup). Our team went through the first round and went on to play for the cup. The Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy team won the first game for the cup against Ysgol Friars and secured their place in the semi-final round against Ysgol Bodedern. We were equal on points and defended aggressively until the final seconds when Bodedern managed to shoot and gain the victory. The team played excellent netball. We had a day to remember, and we are looking forward to the next tournament already."

Huge congratulations to everyone who competed in the Conwy County Urdd Eisteddfod on March 9th. Many of the pupils competed, and Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy won the trophy for the most successful school in the county, an award we haven't won for at least a decade! The following pupils then made it to the National Urdd Eisteddfod in Pembrokeshire:

Cadi Edwards – Cerdd Dant Solo

Beca Williams – Girls Solo

Erin Rossington – Girls Solo and Solo from a Musical

Rhodri Siôn and Siwan Ellis – Dialogue Years 10–13

Boys Party Years 7–9

Girls Party Years 7–9

SA Choir Years 7–9

Success at the Cerdd Dant Festival

Congratulations to the Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy Cerdd Dant Choir, following their win at the Urdd National Eisteddfod the choir won first place again at the Cerdd Dant festival. The winning streak continued with Lowri Llwyd Roberts and Rhiannon Hughes coming fourth in the harp quartet (in partnership with Ysgol y Creuddyn) and the Folk Choir coming 3rd. Congratulations to everyone, and thank you very much to the teachers for their coaching and the parents for their support.

St. David's Day Celebrations – Amazing School Eisteddfod

There were some outstanding performances in our school Eisteddfod, with an audience of over 500. The competing began at 9:15a.m. and came to an end at 3.30p.m. A full report on the school Eisteddfod will be available on our website www.ysgoldyffrynconwy.org. Big thanks to all the sponsors and the brilliant sixth formers for organizing everything. We are planning an evening to celebrate the best of the Eisteddfod soon. Don't forget to book a ticket.

Cymraeg / Welsh

6th Form Trip to Bethesda – As part of our study of *Un Nos Ola Leuad* by Caradog Prichard, our Welsh class was lucky enough to go on a trip to Bethesda and was given a tour of the area by Dr J. Elwyn Hughes. We saw the house where Caradog Prichard was born and other important locations that are mentioned in the novel. This was very useful for us as it helped us to picture the novel in our minds when reading and studying it. We visited Penrhyn Quarry and saw the spot where Caradog Prichard's father died. Many famous writers hail from the Bethesda area and we saw where some of them lived and also their graves including R. Williams Parry and of course Caradog Prichard himself. On behalf of the class I would like to thank Dr J. Elwyn Hughes for the amazing experience and our teacher Mrs Anna Roberts for organizing the trip.

Mared Jones 13W

FRAN WEN THEATRE COMPANY VISIT:

'As part of our A Level course we had to write a script based on a short story. Without much previous experience of this form of writing, we were keen to see the drama 'Hawl' (Rights) performed by Theatr Fran Wen particularly as it was followed by a script writing workshop. The drama deals with contemporary issues relating to Kyrgyzstan, and the ways in which two world powers tried to control it: Russia and America. Iwan Llwyd's words, "that oil is thicker than water" were very appropriate to describe the background of this play as it plays on the conscious of many through portraying politicians as real people. Kyrgyzstan was portrayed as an infirm female, longing for fame in the despair of poverty; whilst Russia was portrayed as a savvy woman. America was appropriately portrayed as an unreasonable man who considered himself always right. The drama was a complex one but during the workshop the research behind the play was explained which made us realise how much research was needed before the script was brought to life. As a class we felt that the workshop had been helpful to explain scripting and we'd like to thank Theatr Fran Wen for reminding us that everyone has 'Rights'.'

Elin Arfon, Year 12.



A selection of Pupils' Poems:

Gwyrdd

Roedd dail y coed yn wyrdd fel belen wair,
Yn sych fel ddiwrnod braf,
Roedd y silwair yn barod i'w hel
A'r *John Deere* fel malwen araf.

Y gwynt yn chwipio'r gwair i bobman,
Yn rhuo fel mochyn tew,
Y gwair yn sychu fel yr iaith Gymraeg,
Y *Deutz* yn llosgi'r olew,

Yr haul yn tywynnu ar wyneb y ddaear,
Yn fflachio fel seren fawr,
Y gwair yn grin, crin fel nain,
Y *Claas* yn sefyll fel cawr!

Gan Jac Metcalfe a Deian Hughes

Afalau Gwyrdd

Dim ond hadyn yn y dechrau,
Dim ond hadyn fach,
Dim ond hadyn yn y ddaear,
Sy'n cysgu yn ei sach.

Tyfaï'n araf fel pebai'n ddeffro,
Tyfaï fel plentyn bach.
Tyfaï'n ddistaw fel yr hedyn,
Tan ei bod yn werdd ac iach.

Yn y dechrau dim ond hadyn fechan,
Bellach llawn afalau hardd,
Yn wyrdd fel neidr, yn wyrdd fel dail
Yn wyrdd fel y gwair sy'n tyfu'n yr ardd.

Gan Mali Siôn a Kim Godbert

Gwyrdd ar y Meddwl

Esgidiau gwyrdd yn camu'n fur
Dros gwair sy'n mynnu ei sathru,
Llais garw'r gwynt yn sibrawd
'Paid â rhedeg, 'gofn ti faglu'.

Yr holl fyd o'm cwmpas yn wyrdd
Dim gobaith o ddianc,
Ei grafangau'n ymestyn amdano
Y coed a gofiodd yr ifanc.

Gwyrdd yw'r bwystfil yn ei hunllefau
Pob dydd yn ei herio,
Yr awyr iach rhy ffres i'w gymryd
A phob anadl yn ei frifo.

Gan Gwenan Lewis a Lois Williams

GLAS

Tri Chwaraewr

Sebastien Chabal

Chabal yw'r wythwr,
Yn chwaraewr o fri,
Yn sefyll fel cawr,
Ac yn arwr i mi.

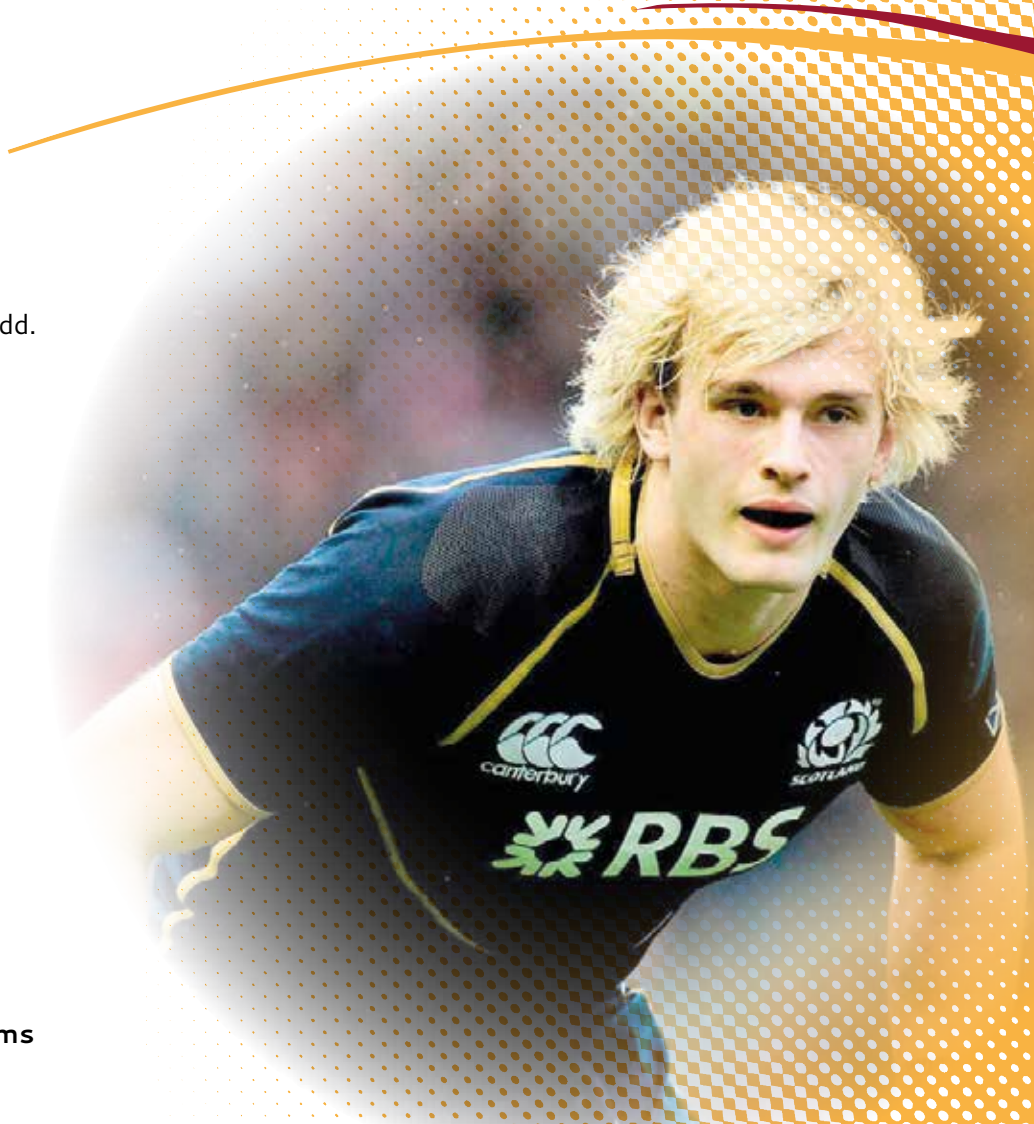
Sergio Parisse

Parisse yw'r capten,
Yn sgiliau i gyd,
Yn anodd i'w rhwystro,
A'r gorau'n y byd.

Richie Gray

Gray yw'r ail-rengwr,
Yn fop o wallt melyn,
Yn ddewr i'w daclo,
Ac yn hunllef i'w elyn.

Gan Gwion Jones ac Elgan Roberts



English Department

During the last half-term pupils from Year 12 visited Glyndwr University to listen to the well-known poets Carol Ann Duffy and Gillian Clarke. Both poets read out pieces of their work and gave background information. The experience was very special.

Year 13 pupils attended a performance of 'The Canterbury Tales' in Theatre Colwyn. Everyone agreed that it was a fantastic evening; Tacit Theatre gave a lively and clever performance which conveyed the language and life of Chaucer in England.

Your Hero

Football is a game
played by many colours.
It doesn't matter to most fans,
as it's the team he follows.

Standing on the terrace,
trying to offend
because he is a different colour
is becoming quite a trend.

If he plays for your team,
a different colour from you,
and then he scores the winning goal,
then what do you do?

He becomes your hero
and you think he's great,
you forget about his colour
and forget about your hate.

Think before you shout
a racist chant or song,
about the time you cheered him on
because it's here where he belongs.

Whether he is black
or whether he is white,
let us get behind the players
as against racism we fight.

by Lois Cooke

H₂O

Water.

Widespread, wondrous.

Smashing, bashing, crashing.

A creator and a killer.

Aqua.

by Angharad Jones-Young

This year in the department we have had the pleasure of Ms Kate Beard teaching with us. She brought a youthful energy and zest into her work and I am sure the pupils who were taught by Ms Beard will remember her for a long time. We wish her every success in her new job at Ysgol Glan y Mor, Pwllheli. We also saw a welcome return from Mrs. Julie Gunn who has been on adoption leave for the last year.

Elsewhere in the department we have been busy ensuring the pupils are thoroughly prepared for their exams; this has involved several revision sessions at GCSE and we hope for successful results.

The school's Eisteddfod always brings some talented writers to the fore and this year's Crown Winner, 'The American Grendel' aka Amlyn Layton was no exception. A poem which had a depth of meaning and some skilful techniques of engage the reader, highlighted the problems of the celebrity in the limelight. With a regular rhyme pattern to ensure the delivery is swift and meaningful, 'The Star That Didn't Shine' was a mature and creative poem that thoroughly deserved its first place.

Other winners were Year 7 – Efa Celyn Davies with a diamond poem about her home.

Ysbyty Ifan
Varied Agricultural
Enjoy Sing Succeed
Best Place on Earth
Live Welcome Entertain
Communal Rural
Dylasau
Isaf.

Lauren Hughes 8G came first in year 8, for her description of her favourite place in Wales.

MY FAVOURITE PLACE IN WALES

There can only be one place in Wales that I can call my favourite place, and that is home! Home is Cerrigydrudion, a small, rural village in the heart of North Wales. A friendly place, where everyone knows each other. When I look around I see tall, rugged mountains, multi-coloured fields, and small farms

dotted around. I like it the most in spring and summer when the lambs are prancing in lush green fields. I like to watch the wallows zoom like the Red Arrows in the bright blue sky. The RAF jets thunder through the sky, my little sister screams and runs in side.

I can see cattle moving, munching and mooing. I can hear the noise of chattering children from the playground, the tweeting of birds and the grumbles of tractors working late into the night. You can taste the farmy air and that is the farm animals in the fields and the sweet green grass being cut by a farmer. In the sunset the sky is as colourful as an artist's palette. The rocky mountains of Snowdonia cast dark, scary shadows. It is Magical.

For Year 9, first place in the Haiku competition went to Russell Wingfield.

Fire breathing god
And worshipped by a nation
A RED dragon stands

There is a lot more of the creative work to read here and we hope you enjoy them.

Year 12 and 13 were fortunate to attend several workshops and performances during the year.

Year 12 visited the Bronte Museum and Parsonage in Haworth on a cold and bleak day in late November. The workshops gave an insight into the life and work of Charlotte Bronte.

Year 12 also had the opportunity to go and listen to the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and the national Poet of Wales, Gillian Clarke. Both gave inspirational readings of a selection of their work and this helped greatly with their study of Duffy's poetry later on in the year.

Year 13 took a trip to Theatre Colwyn to see a performance of Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales'. This was a lively and comic evening which had the audience in stitches. Again it was worthwhile as it provided the students to hear middle English and become enthralled with Chaucer's humour and skill as both a writer and narrator.

YEAR 12 TRIP TO HAWORTH

With the weather as cold and bleak as the beginning of Charlotte Bronte's 'Jane Eyre' we made the journey up to the picturesque Yorkshire Moors, AKA Bronte country. Once we'd arrived in the Bronte's hometown of Haworth after the vital stop at Costa's for hot chocolate to warm us up on that chilly November day, we made our way to the 'Parsonage' and down a cramped staircase to the cellar where we shivered in our seats as we scribbled notes filling our note book with Bronte family history, as the professionals told us everything about the Bronte's

family, literature and life style.

Then we got a chance to explore the Bronte's family home, seeing where they'd lived, and how they'd lived back in Victorian Britain, which from what we gathered was quite bleak. We saw dresses that Charlotte Bronte herself had worn, showing to us just how tiny she was as both the dress and shoes were miniscule.

To match Charlotte's size, the papers the Bronte's had written on, were also tiny, as was the writing, as paper in those days was quite precious. Covering every page in a criss-cross pattern made reading her work almost impossible.

In the museum we saw more Bronte styled attire, which was generously modelled by our very own Amlyn, who modelled a beautiful Victorian Bonnet.

And then we were out and about in Haworth village exploring the old fashioned shops including the incredibly scented soap shop which was festively decorated.

A worthwhile trip for everyone to benefit from seeing the context for Jane Eyre and an insight into Victorian England at the time of her writing.

Ceri, Nathan and Sophie



CAROL ANN DUFFY TRIP

Shortly after starting our AS level English Course, the class attended an enthralling poetry recital by Carol Ann Duffy. Having never studied her poetry before, we were filled with anticipation. Carol Ann Duffy exceeded our expectations with vivid interpretations of her own written work. The class were intrigued to learn what inspired Duffy to write a number of her poems. At no stage did she become tedious, she had our attention captured throughout.

The trip was beneficial to us as it provided us with an insight as to the style of poetry we would be studying. It was thoroughly enjoyable and useful experience.

Poppy, Amy, Amlyn and Jenny

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING ASSESSMENT

A GARDEN IN AUTUMN by Rory Thorburn

Dappled gold sunlight shone through the last leaves that hung on to the clawed fingers of the dead looking trees. The garden was filled with silence, soft and delicate. A bird, silhouetted against the skyline chirruped, its call cutting through the empty crisp air. As the song faded the garden returned to silence. A leaf, deep orange, fell lightly from a branch as a gentle breeze brushed the clearing. The silence seemed impenetrable, hanging in the clear sky.

A telephone wire weaved its way through the air, cutting the blue expanse in two. It wobbled as a bird gently alighted onto the thin cable. The swallow looked about, twitching its two tail feathers to keep its balance. After a minute or two another joined it on the wire, this one female. More and more landed until the wire was completely covered by a mass of feathered bodies. Soon, they would be gone, off to the warmth of North Africa. One by one, they took off, the clear air filled with the beat of wings, until none were left.

At the far end of the garden stood a cottage, the remains of what used to be black and white paint still visible in places. Outside the door leading out into the garden stood a pumpkin left out after Halloween. Its teeth and pupils had curled up inside the empty shell from the heat of the candle, and the top was collapsing, making the scary face look even more twisted and grotesque than usual. The handle on the old wooden door creaked, turning slowly round. The door swung open and a little boy walked out. A woman followed him out of the doorway. Both were dressed in large duffle coats, the little boy's red, the woman's a dark shade of green. The boy walked forward, his little bobble hat wobbling with each step. He began to jump about, joyful at the squelching sounds his antics created. The woman laughed and at that moment a cocker spaniel skidded out of the doorway, barking and growling playfully. They walked through the quiet garden, dog, then the boy and

finally the woman. It was obvious the boy was young, being so small. The woman was about thirty, still looking young and beautiful. Her dark blonde hair caught the light as she walked. The boy ran ahead with the dog. "Come on, Sparks!" he shouted, and the dog responded by running past the boy to the top of the garden, then speeding back, barking happily. The boy stopped by a small tree on the edge of the garden, a single leaf hanging defiantly on a branch. He touched the brittle leaf and watched it fall, twisting and turning. The fading sunlight shone through the red leaf, the deep pink glow dancing across the boy's face.

The woman strolled along behind, breathing in the smell of faint wood smoke from the bonfire the previous night. She reached the boy, and began grasping something in her pocket. She gave the boy a small golden brown sweet. He threw the toffee into his mouth and began sucking joyfully.

They continued their slow walk, the ground leaking moisture with each of their steps. The dog snuck along, dragging its small nose along the damp grass, chasing scents. As the sun began to drop, the woman led the boy and dog inside. The door shut with a satisfying, resounding click which echoed around the empty garden. The trees bowed lower in the now strong wind which was blowing up leaves and branches and whipping them through the air. A droplet of rain hung from a broken gutter, its tail getting longer until it finally split off and fell, glittering in the half light.

As darkness fell, a brave hedgehog ventured out from underneath a pile of fallen leaves, the colour of fire. It snuffled about, looking for slugs. An owl hooted from far away. In the garden a male took flight, answering its mate's call with a short twoo sound. Its large yet silent wings blocked out the twinkling stars, the constellations forming pictures in the night.

Slowly the lights in the windows of the small cottage went out, the garden now only lit by a crescent moon, like a sliver of silver in the black pool of the sky. It was cold, the freezing air chilling the clouds as winter came ever closer. To the boy's delight, in the morning the garden would be white. Small flakes drifted down lazily from the heavens, as cloud moved slowly overhead. The small creatures ran back to their burrows, the cold penetrating even the warmest of nests. The night drew on. Even the garden fell into a midnight stupor, helped to sleep by the snow forming a blanket over it. The garden fell silent.

THE GIFT by Caitlin Fiveash-Henderson

There was a large, light, typically fairy-tale castle in the land of Aihpos; but our story does not begin there. Our story begins in the great wood of Aihpos, about half a mile in, by a dusty, dilapidated ivy-covered tower. Two figures, one short, and stocky, with a magnificent beard and an axe, the other looking as though he was

made of mist with an arrow sticking out of his back. Despite this he was listening to his companion quite happily. The stocky figure (a dwarf) said, "...and he had the effrontery to say that his craft was superior to mine! I mean really, I know they make many things but blacksmiths would be sorry if they got rid of their hunters."

"Indeed they would," said the ghost.

The dwarf's name was Fah-Lewa. He was a hunter in his clan and fiercely proud of it. Only he himself knew his age and to look at he could be anywhere between forty and one hundred.

The ghost Birch had died in a hunting accident and his past was a much a mystery to himself as to everyone else.

Just as Fah-Lewa really got into stride on the finer points of hunting an angry looking girl with dark eyes and a bow in hand pushed her way through the undergrowth.

"Princess!" The startled dwarf tried to bow, tripped over his feet and fell over. The sight of the dwarf with his legs in the air made the princess laugh and calm down a bit.

When the dwarf had righted himself, princess Niale explained her earlier grump. "It's Lien."

"Your baby sister?" asked Birch.

"Baby nightmare more like. She screams the place down at night and won't sleep in the day either. Everyone else adores her and it's as if I'm not there anymore. Not one person has remembered my birthday, either."

Fah-Lewa went a funny shade of pink and started muttering incoherently. Niale grinned. "I knew you'd both forget. But that's practically a tradition. Even mother and father haven't taken any notice."

Her frown was back. Birch spoke in an offhand manner.

"I can't remember if I ever had any siblings. But if I can't remember my real name I don't suppose I would."

"I'm the middle one of five boys," said the dwarf proudly. "We all fight all the time. Nagrana and Tense are still as much of a pain now as they were when they were born. Niale made a noise of disgust and tramped back through the forest.

"Was it something I said?"

"I think," said Birch seriously, "That it was everything you said."

Niale was in a temper. That little horror of a baby sister was going to be a nightmare all her life then if Fah-Lewa was right. She brushed at her angry tears. It wasn't fair. Even on her birthday the tiny banshee was taking centre stage. She was out of the forest now and heading for the castle. Since the baby had come, she'd been spending most of the days outside. It was easier then listening to near constant wailing. The princess realised that she'd walked up to the Horror Chamber (nursery to you and me).

She was about walk away again when Niale realised how quiet it was. Has something happened to Lien? She wondered. If something had and she just walked away her parents would hate her.

The princess took a deep breath, and walked into her

baby sister's room.

Back in the forest, Birch was watching the dwarf argue with himself.

"...No, no, we shouldn't. But if we leave her on her own all day.... Oh what to do..."

"Fah-Lewa, while you're dithering here, I think I'll go and find the princess."

"But -."

"She can't kill me so I'll go and then report back."

"Report back?"

"Whether it's safe or not."

"Oh no, lad. I'm no coward. OFF WE GO!"

In the large, light palace nursery, Niale found the nursemaid sound asleep in a rocking chair. In the cradle in the corner little Lien was in a similar state. Niale went over, cautious not to disturb the nurse. She wanted to see her sister while she was quiet. Leaning over the crib the princess saw a creature sucking its thumb and making upset noises. No, Niale thought fiercely. Not a creature, a person.

Just then the baby awoke with a small cry, Niale didn't think twice about picking her sister up.

She found herself singing nursery rhymes. The baby burred.

Fah-Lewa couldn't believe what he was seeing. This afternoon Princess Niale had been ranting about her sister and now here she was playing with the baby. Wonders never cease, he thought. Birch, hovering horizontally above his head, was equally astonished. Niale was enjoying herself. Lien was really rather cute – now she wasn't crying.

The nurse awake with a start when the baby laughed. She took in the princess kneeling on the floor building a tower for the baby. Absent minded she picked up the baby and the feeding bottle.

"May I do that?" The princess sounded shy.

"Of course, your Highness."

With a little help from the nurse Niale fed the baby and helped get her ready for bed.

When she opened the door to leave a dwarf fell into the room. When the princess had hauled him up she noticed Birch floating in the doorway beckoning them out.

"Their majesties want you in the Great hall, Princess."

"Do they?" Fah-Lewa was put out. "How do you know?"

"They asked me to inform the princess when they passed by a minute ago."

"Oh."

Niale laughed, "Come on, let's find out what they want."

In the Great Hall was a crowd of people at the front of which were the king and queen.

"Happy Birthday, Lass." said the dwarf, remembering for the first time.

Later when Niale was back in her room, she reflected that the best gift she had had that day, was sound asleep in the nursery. **THE END**



Descriptive Writing inspired by the novel "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"

Creating their own wizard using the senses to describe.

VENUS SCARLETTE

Venus Scarlette is a young witch. 18 in fact. Her father Michael Scarlette is an eccentric wizard he is editor of the 'Weekly Wizard' and 'Soaps for Sorcerers' magazine. Her mother on the other hand is a quite presentable and slightly dumpy woman. Alice Mouse is the opposite of her loud husband.

Venus has an attractive face. Her delicate features go well together. Her slightly large turquoise eyes are like the amazing beaches you see in holiday brochures. They are shadowed by her thick eyelashes one wonders how she sees. Her nose is slightly beakish. Her thin lips are permanently red because she is always chewing red gobstoppers. She has long blonde hair. Her diminutive ears are covered in studs and feathers.

Venus' personal style is quite eccentric. Her scarlet muddy Doc martins go clomp-clomp as she walks. Children run away and are scared she will stomp on them (she is 9 foot you know). She has home sewn pink jeans with moons and stars stapled on. Her bright,

yellow top is brighter than the sun. It's a very concise top and stops just before her belly button. She is anything but presentable, unlike her dear mother.

At this very moment she is chewing a red gob stopper, chewing quite loudly in fact. In between chews she is chatting to her friend Yasmin Syllas. They are chatting in whispers about the new boy at school, Robin Gold. I think Venus might have a crush but who knows! Teenagers!

Nicola Wood 7M

MY WIZARD

Terry Hedges was an old and experienced wizard. He was a teacher in Hogwarts, he taught how to fight bad wizards. He was the first Hedges family to be a wizard, but he picked it up very quickly. He had an endless history of winning bad wizards. He was a legend in the wizard history of winning bad wizards. He was a legend in the wizard history.

Terry had a ghostly unending nose after one of the students put a spell on it. He had a Muslim hat which he used to pray to the wizard gods. Terry had a scar on both cheeks after fighting Voldermont. His eyes were different colour, there was one gold and the other blue. His teeth were all different size and shapes but they were as white as paper. He had a hearing like a wolf. His hair was chaotic with hair sticking out everywhere.

Terry had dark, green trousers and spiky red stocky shoes. (It even hurt when you touched them). He had a big black suit that was as soft as sheep wool. He had a lengthy stick to help him walk.

Terry was looking for a spell at the moment to make his nose the normal size, while scoffing his face with his homemade scones. He found a spell!!! Two seconds later he used the spell and his nose was even more prolonged.

Tomos Williams 7M

Nick Shadow is an evil middle aged man. He has inherited his great grandfather's job. He has no parents but has one evil brother named Keith Shadows. He is hated by everyone. He's the most dangerous man on earth!

Nick Shadow has massive black eyes, very hairy eyebrows a tiny nose, cracked lips, and rough skin, white teeth and the scariest laugh in the world. Hair that was so long his ears were so covered up that you didn't know he had ears.

Nick Shadows wears a blue magical cape with white little stars all around the cape and black boots. A Horrid black hoody and dark green Gloves and never forgetting his Army shorts.

Nick Shadow is flying through rough clouds and thunder. Trying to find his arch enemy, Mike Grimes. He has killed every good guy in the whole galaxy except him!

Its pitch black so he uses a very expensive x-ray goggled 5000! The wind is trying to push him off his broom, slipping and turning every side. Sometimes you wouldn't think he was the most evil villain of all time!

Llion Williams 7M

MY WIZARD

Aroua stone is a young clever wizard. She has recently been gifted with a new born baby sister by the name Evan Stone, and also she has been awarded Cleverest Junior Wizard for her test on charms.

Aroua has beautiful auburn hair so long it looks endless; she also had blue sapphire eyes and a small nose that is also the same size as her rosy pink lips. She has auburn eyebrows to match her hair. She also has long dark eye lashes. Aroua's ears are also small like her nose and lips. Her teeth are as white as snow and are all there.

Aroua wears her school uniform most of the time because she thinks it's more comfortable than a new pair of pyjamas. Her school uniform is a v neck jumper grey as lead from a pencil followed by a stripey tie the colours of blue like the stormy sky and red like a fiery fox.

The colour of skirt is identical to the jumper and it's also knee high. The school shoes are black as coal with velcro straps. And also the shirt is as white as snow like her teeth.

At the moment Aroua is studying potions for homework that she had today of Professor Fiddle Sticks. She likes her because of her friendly personality and the cobwebs on her cloak.

When Aroua finishes her homework her head is glued to a spell book like a leech, but right now she's found out how to turn a bird into a flower but looks like she's hit the books.

Alexandria Taylor 7M

The American Grendel

The Star That Didn't Shine
Destined for success they had said
Of this raw prodigy,
Young shoulders, on top a wise head
Who would master the way to play.

Destined for riches they had thought
Of this talented youth,
However the future he had sought
Came second to the truth.

Destined for fame they would insist
His name endlessly mentioned,
But his life would turn and twist
The life transformed by tension.

Destined to inspire they had claimed
'I'll never be caught', he thought,
But so he was, his image shamed
A future ruined in court.

Destined for greatness they were certain
Convinced from the very start,
But his actions closed the curtain
A career was torn apart.

Destined to be a hero they would say
Of this unique sensation,
Who then just threw it all away
And who's now despised by a nation.

Mathematics

It was a busy year for the Maths Department this year with year 11 pupils a key focus in their work. Revision days, morning, weekend and afterschool revision sessions were held as part of our long term strategy to continue to improve standards in mathematics. Pupil (and staff) engagement was excellent!

Year 7 pupils who were part of the 'Menter Maths' scheme also had a successful year working with Mr Ben Elias to develop their numeracy and mathematics skills.

Many pupils also took part in maths activities over the year. Year 7 took part in a game 24 challenge in June. The following pupils from years 7 and 8 were also successful in the Leeds University 'Junior Maths Challenge':

BI 8

| | | |
|---------------|----|--------|
| Anna Carpena | 67 | Silver |
| Gwion Jones | 67 | Silver |
| Euros Lloyd | 67 | Silver |
| Aron Hughes | 67 | Silver |
| Loui Harris | 58 | Bronze |
| Thomas Barnes | 54 | Bronze |

BI 7

| | | |
|------------------|----|--------|
| Howard Wingfield | 73 | Silver |
| Efa Davies | 63 | Silver |
| Jacob Evans | 61 | Bronze |
| Owen Booth | 53 | Bronze |

A number of talented mathematicians from years 5 and 6 attended a maths challenge morning in the department in July – their enthusiasm was excellent and both staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



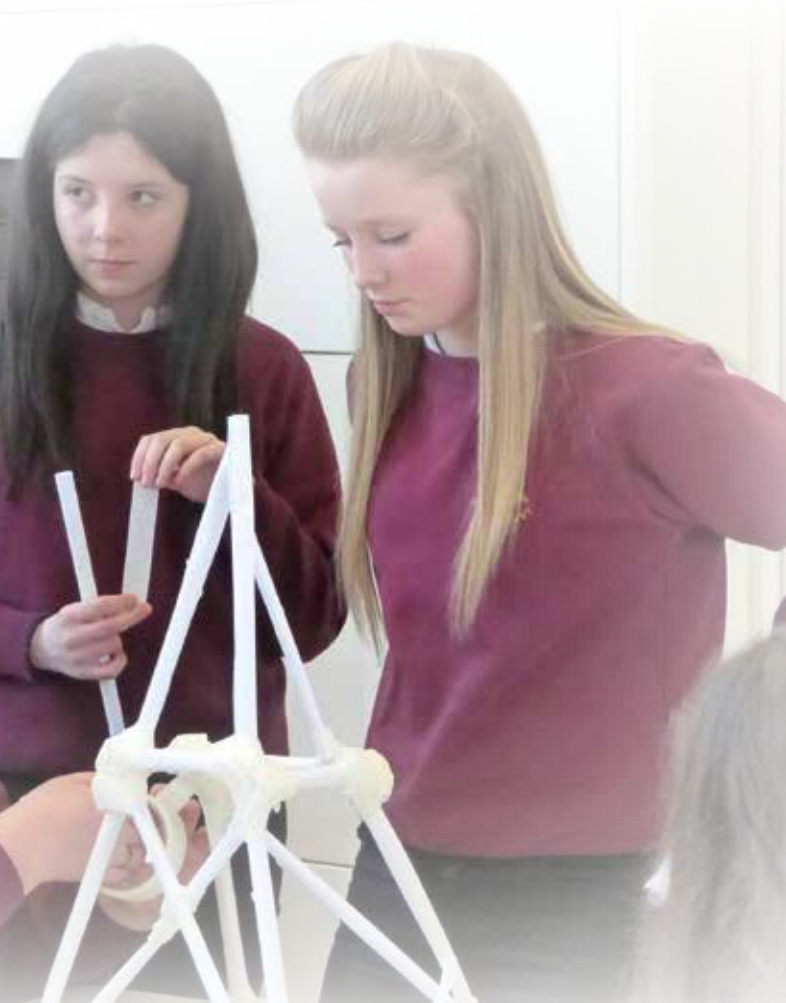
Science

CHEMISTRY

Year 8P –The lab coat company

Year 8P were given a group project to design, test and advertise a lab coat that could be sold to make a profit. The pupils were responsible for choosing a logo for the coat, testing different materials to find out which one was the most suitable to use, and working out the profit that could be made on each coat. Each member of the group was involved in the presentation to the rest of the class with the winning group receiving a prize for their efforts.

In the Easter holidays some friends and I went to Bangor University on a Physics course. We stayed for two nights in the halls of residence with other year nines from different schools. We were put into teams and had to come up with an idea to remove nuclear waste from the bottom of a pond. We then had to build a working model and had to pitch our idea to a 'Dragon's Den' for 'money' to complete the project. The whole experience was a great way of making new friends – I still stay in contact with some of them now! At the end of the stay, there was a formal dinner and disco which was really fun and enjoyable – the best part of the visit!



History

Year 12 Study Course:

During the spring term a group of Year 12 pupils visited Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen to take part in a course run by Aberystwyth University. It was a brilliant opportunity for the pupils to get a taster of History courses at the University and experience lectures given by Lecturers from the Aberystwyth History Department. During the day the pupils enjoyed lectures on Henry VII, the Victorian Era and Nazi Germany and also discussed other issues such as the economy. The pupils enjoyed the experience very much and appreciated the opportunity to listen to one of the lecturers in particular, Dr Rhun Emlyn, a former pupil at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy.

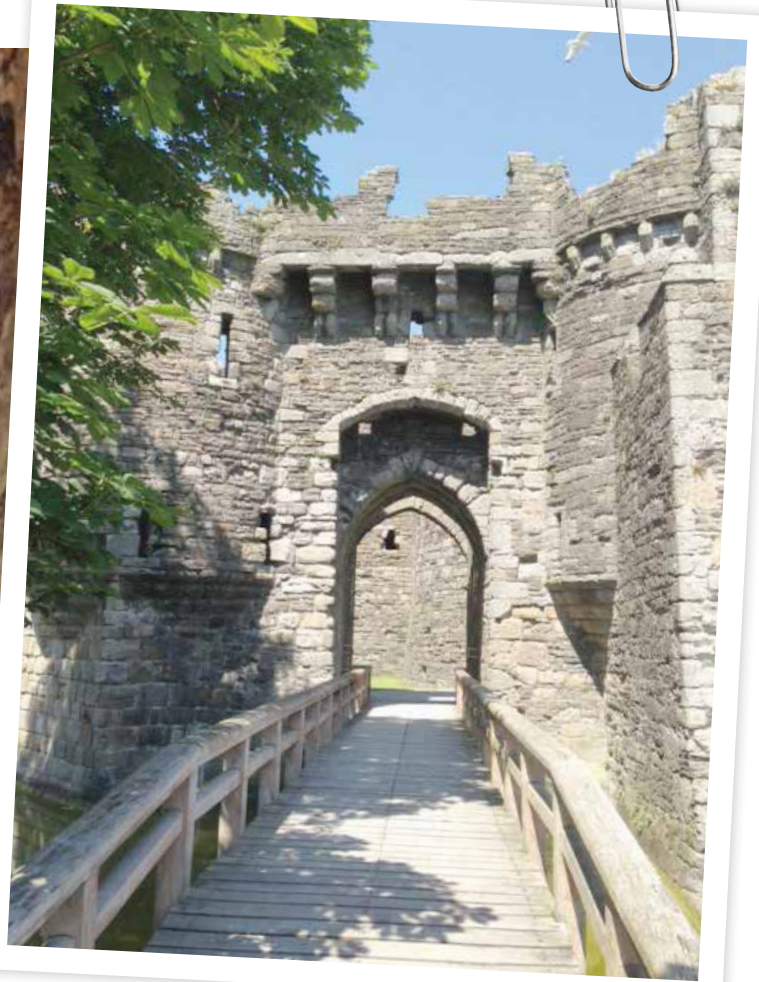


Year 7 Welsh Heritage trip to Beddgelert:

During this year's skills week Year 7 visited Beddgelert. The pupils had been studying the story of Gelert as part of their studies of the reign of Llywelyn Fawr. There was an impassioned discussion regarding whether the Legend of Gelert was a true story or not. So, it was decided that there was only one thing for it; we had to visit the village to find out more. The pupils were very busy completing a file of facts about Gelert and searching for clues and answers around the village. They then had the opportunity to walk back towards the village along the path near the Glaslyn river bank, before enjoying an ice-cream from the village shop. Some of them were even tempted by a second helping of ice cream!

The pupils succeeded in carrying out careful research into the story of Gelert, however the debate continues! What is your opinion? Was Gelert the faithful companion of Llywelyn who was killed unjustly, or is it just a story concocted by the landlord of the local pub?





Year 9 Welsh Heritage trip to Beaumaris

We had a very interesting trip to Beaumaris this year; the pupils had the opportunity to visit the town's courthouse, the famous gaol and Beaumaris Castle. The pupils visited the courthouse first, it was built in 1614. The pupils learnt how the legal system in Wales worked in the 17th Century and the types of punishments handed out. Punishments were very harsh – a boy of fourteen was jailed for fourteen days for stealing hens! Some of the pupils looked good in the headgear and cloak, and some were sent to the stocks! To this day they still hear a case once a year in the building. The pupils then went on to the gaol, and had the opportunity to walk around the old gaol and cells. A few of them were locked in the dark cells! Who locked Joe up in the dark cell?

After everyone was released from the cells, there was an opportunity to enjoy a delicious ice cream before visiting the castle. The pupils were busy walking around the walls and looking for clues to complete a fact file. There was fierce competition and congratulations to all who won a small prize at the end! It's amazing to think that such castles were built in the 13th Century. It's lucky that we were visiting in the 21st century; we would probably have been shot in the 13th century for walking within the castle walls!

Religious Education

'Recently the rap artist, Ed Holden came to Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy to teach 8 Machno how to beat box and rap. Some pupils from 8 Machno took part in front of their class to use the microphone to make interesting sound effects. We then had four lessons of rap workshops based on stories we had studied in RE. Ed brought speakers and microphones with us and demonstrated how he made lots of different noises with the microphone, and without. He showed us how he could create sounds like a heart beating, a helicopter, a police siren and many more. I really enjoyed my lessons with Ed Holden. The class worked with Ed to create a really good song built on words from pupils in the class. We thought he was funny, interesting and a good role model for young people like us. He helped make some of the stories we studied more relevant to us in today's modern world. We hope that he will visit Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy again some day!

Here is the rap that we wrote based on the story of the Good Samaritan.

Emily Court, 8 Machno

Y Samariadigaethus!!!

Dyma stori amdan camdrin
Mae'r stori yn cychwyn gydag un dyn.
Cerdded adra o Penmachno
Wedyn mae o yn clywad rhyw swm wallgo'.
Troi rown i grwp o Ninjas llw!
Wedyn ma nhw'n gwasgu ei ben fel pry.
Karate chop a dwyn ei ffon
Gadal o di hanner marw ar y lon.

Gofyn sut i fyw am yth
Dydy'r neges ddim yn myth.
Caru dy gymydog fel dy hun
Unrhyw ddynes neu unrhyw ddyn.

Ma'r boi yn gorwedd yng ngahol y lon
Digwydd bod – enw fo ydy Sion.
Ffarmwr yn digwydd gweld o ar y llawr
Cerdded heibio a deud 'Hwyl fawr'.
Boi yn pasio gyda headphones
Dio'm yn gweld Sion druan ar y lon
Dyma Sion yn yr un un sefyllfa
Angen help a mynd i'r meddygfa.

Dyma ferch sy'n hela tax
Dweud wrtho fo, "enw fi ydy Max".
"Peidiwch a codi ... nai helpu chi"
Sion a Max yn mynd i'r gwesty.
Sion yn mynd i'r 'stafell pella
Max yn gaddo talu tan ma'n gwella.
Cash, chwque neu hyd yn oed Bacs
Rwan dwi'n goro mynd i hel tax.

8 Machno

Geography

This was another productive year for the Geography Department.

On the 8th of November we welcomed visitors from Ysgol Glan Conwy and their peers from Europe as part of the Comenius project. They had travelled from the Portalegre area in Portugal and from Napoli in Italy. We spent the morning creating posters about our local areas, sharing experiences of similar locations finding many similarities in the process. They also live in a rural area where visitor numbers are high. During the afternoon we sampled sports activities with our 6th form Sports Leaders.

Year 8 also undertook a shopping survey as part of our Maths, ICT and Geography skills day – this was an excellent opportunity to witness how the shops in the town have changed over the last 10 years.

Year 11, 12 and 13 visited Rhyd y Creuau centre to study the Peris River, collecting data for their individual investigations on one of the wettest days this year!



Year 10 also visited Llandudno in July to complete research on the impact of tourism in the town for their individual investigation.

Here is a sample of one of our pupils' work:

The Exxon Valdez Disaster, 1989

'The Exxon Valdez disaster is an oil spill that happened in 1989. The Exxon Valdez was a massive oil-exporting tanker that crashed into rocks in Alaska. Over 11,000,000 gallons of oil were spilled and spread over the ocean. It affected people and wildlife, killed fish and birds and mammals and was the largest oil spill in history. Eventually many fishermen lost their way of life as the herring never returned to their original feeding grounds. Exxon paid compensation to the fishermen but it was too little too late as it took over 4 years to arrive – many had already lost homes and livelihoods and gone bankrupt'

Holly a Lora Williams, 8 Tudur



Art

Here are some examples of the excellent art work our pupils have produced this year.

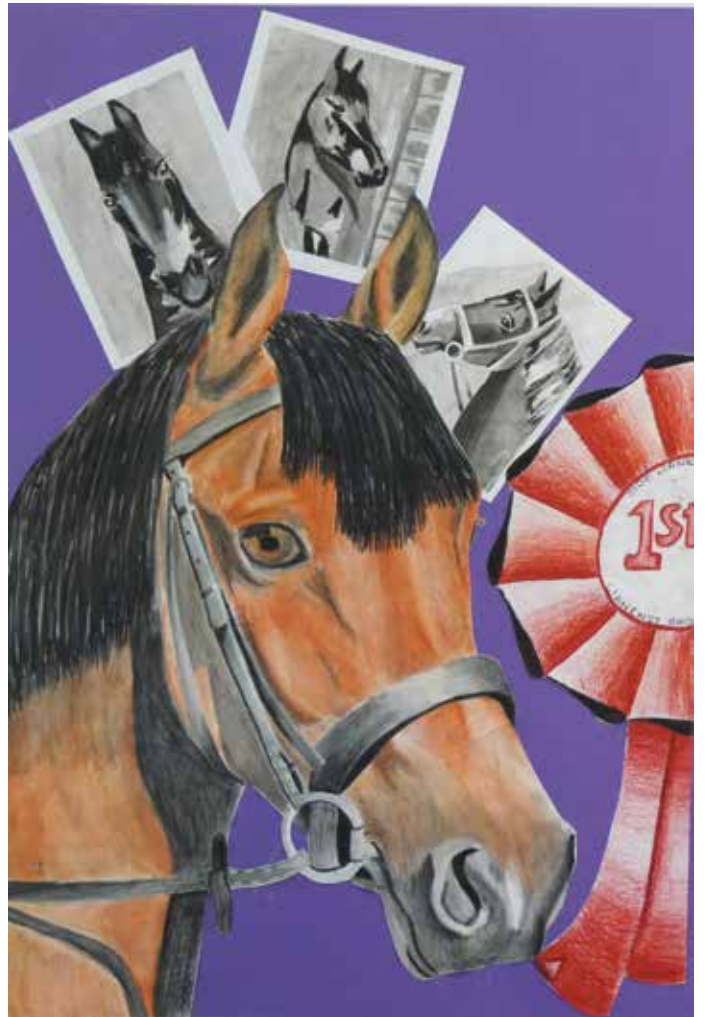


Modern Foreign Languages Department

Our pupils have had another exciting year this year with the department fortunate to be able to work with Celine Raveneau who helped pupils with their oral examination preparations. We thank her profusely for her help!

Some year 9 pupils also had the opportunity to head news from our language ambassador, Stephanie Haines. Steph created a blog during her year in Spain and France and communicated with year 9 via her blog. Pupils had the opportunity to question her about her experiences. As a result there has been an increase in the number of pupils who have continued to study the subject after year 9. The opportunity to speak directly to Seph has been an important factor in this change.

We also travelled to Paris with year 10 and 12 in October. This was once again a successful trip and we thank the teachers who supported the trip: Mrs Tesni Chaka, Mr Roger Beech and Miss Angharad Jones. We had an excellent time sightseeing: seeing the main attractions of Paris; visiting a chocolate factory and tasting its produce; and visiting Euro Disney – where year 12 (to our surprise) were in their element!





Iorwerth Jones Art Award

In Memory of Iorwerth 1970-2006

Iorwerth was a pupil at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy from 1981–87. He then went on to complete a National Diploma in Audio Visual Media Studies at Wrexham; followed by a HND in Film, Photography and Television at Plymouth College of Art and Design.

His first post college role was as a researcher at the Chapter Video Workshop, Cardiff. Subsequently, his first director role was the short film (B&W) 'Efelychiad', screened by S4C. Efelychiad was filmed on location at his grandfathers' farm near Llanrwst and edited at a video workshop at the Chapter Theatre in Cardiff. Efelychiad starred S4C presenter Brychan Llyr and members of the band 'Jess' who also produced the soundtrack.

The success of Iorwerth's first film led to the commission of his second film by S4C, 'Er Cof'. This colour film, which was screened by S4C to renowned appreciation, provided the springboard for Iorwerth's colourful and successful career in the TV and Film Industry.

Some of his further work is Pacio (S4C), Slaymaker (a long running role for this popular culture magazine show) S4C, Ralio (S4C) and Cor Liberia and the song 'Far Away'.

His work involved extensive travel and Iorwerth visited many parts of the world : New York, Los Angeles, Kerala, India, Las Vegas, Chicago, Kuala

Lumpur, Croatia, France, Brussels, Ireland (to name but a few).

We are extremely grateful to Iorwerth's family for awarding a trophy in his memory to the school and a prize to be awarded annually, to the student whose work has attained the highest standard in art. Iorwerth studied Art and Photography at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, under the guidance of our Head of Department, Mrs. Anne Lloyd Cooper and enjoyed his courses so much that the family felt it was a very fitting memorial to award a prize to a promising Art student.

My art work is heavily influenced by semi-abstract artists. I enjoy experimenting with a range of new media as shown in several parts of my work to create a new effect, texture and depth to the original photograph. As I have such an individual way of combining media and natural objects together I have a tendency of 'thinking outside of the box' when it comes to development and creation of my work pieces. I feel that the enjoyment of doing Art and Design has enabled me to be more imaginative and confident with general work, Art also helps me to relax when I am producing work.

Leah Hamilton

Congratulations to Leah on her creative art work.

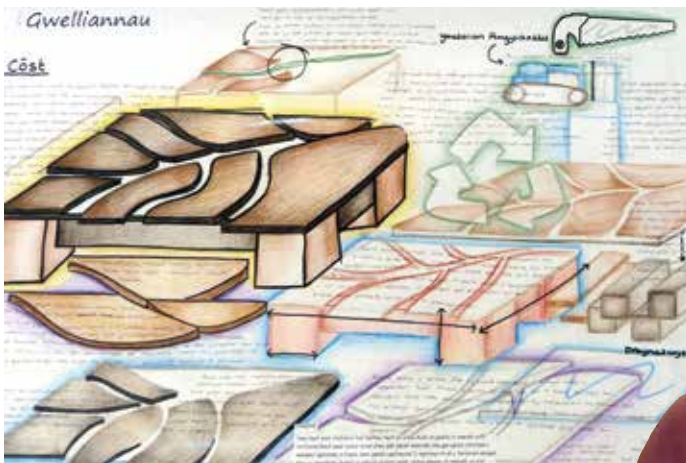
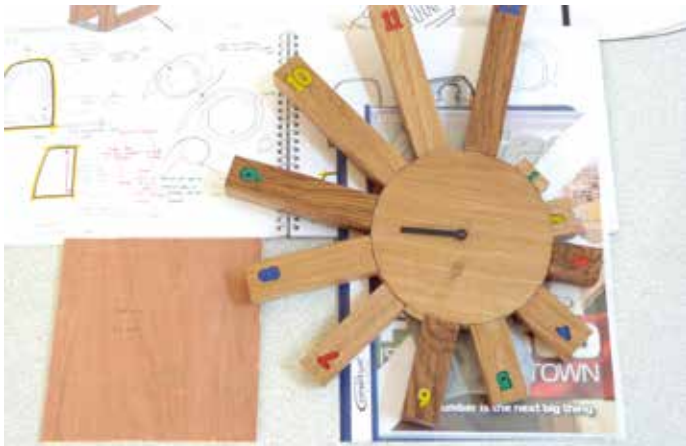


Design and Technology

Congratulations to Siriol Hughes, Year 13 and Elin Arfon and Gwen Thomas Year 12 – their Design and Technology A/AS Level Project has been nominated to go forward to the Innovation Competition throughout Wales.

Here are some of the excellent projects designed and produced by our students this year:





Drama

We have had another busy year this year in the Drama Department with a number of exciting events!

Pupils of all ages had the opportunity to experience different performances. In October Theatre Fran Wen visited the school to perform their political drama, 'Hawl' (Rights) by Iola Ynyr. Following the performance pupils from years 10, 11 and the 6th form had the opportunity to talk to the dramatist. This is what Glesni Lloyd, year 12 had to say about the experience:

"I thoroughly enjoyed the performance, it made me think about the power of politicians and the impact of wars and conflict. It was great to be able to discuss with Iola after the performance in order to collect more information and to question her about the drama'.

During May a group of year 10, 11 and 6th form pupils went on a trip to the Octagon Theatre, Bolton to see Tennessee Williams' famous play, 'The Glass Menagerie'. Many pupils chose to write their film review following this performance as part of their AS course.

This year, I had the opportunity to work with the Music Department to put on a performance of the musical 'Hairspray'.

An unforgettable show!

The pupils of Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy were very busy last term preparing for the production of the well-known musical "Hairspray". The show was performed bilingually by a cast of Years 7–13 pupils, some of the teachers were also part of the show. Performances began on Monday 17th of December when the cast performed to Years 5 and 6 pupils from the local primary schools; they then gave a professional and energetic performance to the public between Tuesday 18th of December and Thursday 20th of December. The school hall was full to capacity each night. The teachers and the pupils involved with the production would like to thank everyone for their support. Huge thanks to the pupils for all of their hard work and to Llio Japheth, Angharad Ellis, Chris Roberts and several other members of staff who contributed to the production's success.



This is what some of the pupils who were part of the cast had to say about the show:

"I have enjoyed taking part in 'Hairspray' the musical at school. I was a member of the cast. Everyone had an amazing time; I enjoyed performing especially the final song."

Cari Marged Jones, Year 7





were funded through Menter yr Iaith – we thank them and Rhys Mwyn for giving us local information about these bands.

Physical Education

Our pupils have participated in a wide range of sporting activities, proving successful at school and county level and increasingly at national level too. We would like to share some of these experiences and successes.

GIRLS' SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS:

Girls' football cup games were played during the last half-term. The under 14 team demonstrated impressive skills during their match against Ysgol Glan y Môr, it was an exciting games that ended with a draw after 90 minutes. It went on to extra time and Ysgol Glan y Môr managed to edge ahead and won the game by a whisker. The under 16s also did very well in their game against Dyffryn Nantlle; they lost the game in the end 4-2. Years 8, 9 and 10 played netball friendlies against St. David's as part of their preparations for next term's tournaments.

On Wednesday, 24th October the school had a match against Ysgol y Berwyn, Bala. Dyffryn Conwy's Year 8 netball team won 6-1 and the Bala team chose Hannah Watson as the star player. The Sixth Form team also won 12-8, with Erin Owen being awarded star of the match. An exciting under 16 match was also played with the Berwyn winning 1-0. Well done all of you and we look forward to returning to Bala before then end of term.

Netball:

Congratulations to the year 7 netball team that presented themselves well during the Conwy tournament at Bryn Elan on the 5th of December. They succeeded in winning one game, drawing in another but losing in one – even with the post Glan Llyn exhaustion hanging over them! They have demonstrated that they are a very promising team – well done, girls, we are sure that you will continue to go from strength to strength.

BOYS' SPORTS SUCCESSES:

Sports:

The Football and Rugby terms have re-started with our year 7 team proving successful in an easy victory against Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern.

Everton beats Tottenham!

On the afternoon of Saturday the 8th of December a bus from Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy journeyed to watch

"I have had lots of fun rehearsing and performing in 'Hairspray' the musical. It was fantastic. I danced and sang as part of the chorus." Lea Ruth Thomas, Year 7

"I had fun performing in 'Hairspray' the musical. It was a brilliant and unforgettable experience. I'm looking forward to the next show already." Cora Roberts, Year 8

"It was nice to take part in 'Hairspray' the musical. I was part of the chorus and I enjoyed the dancing, acting and singing." Beca Williams, Year 8

"Hairspray has been a brilliant experience and I have loved every minute. I feel my confidence has grown, and I have made lots of new friends. The audience really enjoyed it and the whole cast got a huge buzz after each performance!" Morgan Evans, Year 12

"Performing in 'Hairspray' was so much fun! It was a totally new experience for me; I met a lot of new people during the journey and learnt a thing or two about singing and acting. Big thanks to everyone who contributed to the show's success, and even bigger thanks to Miss Japheth, Miss Ellis and Mr. Roberts for their huge dedication over the past few months!" Rhodri Siôn, Year 13

Cerddoriaeth / Music

Music Workshops

Do you remember the band 'Blew'? What about all the other bands who come from the Llanrwst area? Well, the other morning on the 5th of December we had a really interesting workshop about the history of some of Wales' most popular bands from Rhys Mwyn. Four sessions were held to give everyone in year 8 the opportunity to hear about Wales' most popular Welsh bands from the 60s to today. Who would think that some of the first band members from the 60s would still be singing and entertaining today? The workshops

the game between Everton and Tottenham. It was a cracker of a game (for Everton supporters!) with the home team winning in the last minute. Thanks to Mr Ioan Hughes and the staff for arranging the trip and to the pupils for their excellent behaviour and thorough enjoyment.

Forget Man UTD, and support the Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy Year 7 lads – Following the good start to the year with 30 plus boys trying out for a place on the team during several trials held in September, there was a high expectation that the team would do well in the tournament in Eirias with every school in Conwy competing against each other. After losing only to Ysgol y Creuddyn during the year it was a good opportunity for the team to hit back and be victorious in this tournament.

During the first match the team totally controlled the game with Cai Price astounding in midfield and scoring an amazing goal following a good movement, and Sam Thomas feeding the ball to Ifan so that he could cross it perfectly for Cai to score. The second game ended goalless, but yet again the Dyffryn Conwy lads were in control. There was a lot of pressure going into the final group match after Emrys ap Iwan school won their first two games. They had to win. It was Morgan and Sam Thomas who inspired the team this time and they won comfortably.

After coming top of their group against Eirias, Aberconwy and Emrys ap Iwan the team had the opportunity to play in the final round against Ysgol John Bright. The two teams were neck and neck with the game finishing 0-0 and so went to penalties. The team defended brilliantly during the tournament and no goals were scored against them, thanks to the strong leadership of Ynyr the captain and the good performances of Owen, Jacob and Tudur. Up until now Sam Jones the goalie had not had much work to do, but with the penalties about to start it was his chance to shine. Out of 5 John Bright scored 0. Sam had his



chance to contribute and he certainly played his part. Morgan's successful kick was enough for the school to win the game and the tournament and for us to be able to say that 'YSGOL DYFFRYN CONWY IS THE BEST TIM IN CONWY THIS YEAR'.

The winning squad: Sam Jones, Ifan Prys Jones, Tudur Jones, Morgan Owen, Jacob Evans, Penri Metcalfe, Ynyr Roberts, Dion Vaughan, Owen Booth, Sam Thomas, Cai Price.

Congratulations to the school's Senior Rugby Team, who was victorious against Eirias School. Well done boys.

Swimming Competition – In January, Lisa Allsup won three gold medals and one silver in a swimming competition arranged by 'Swim Wales' (Welsh National Championships) and sponsored by British Gas. She won gold in the 200m backstroke, the 100m backstroke and the 200m individual medley, and won silver in the 100m butterfly. Lisa achieved her personal best in all the competitions.

Fixtures 2012/13

We experienced a successful calendar of fixtures this year:

September (3)

- 12/09/12 U18 Football Tournament (Eaplwan)
W 2-1, L 2-1, L 2-0
- 19/09/12 U12/U14/U16 v Bodedern U16 L2-1 U14
W 10-2 U12 W 3-1
- 19/09/12 U14 Rugby W1 – St Davids
L2 – Eirias, John Bright

October (5)

- 3/10/12 U15/U18 Rugby Away St Davids U18
W 41-15, U15 W 35-5
- 10/10/12 U18 football Creuddyn H W 3-1
(Sion, Julian, Tom)
- 11/10/12 U14 tournament D1, L2
- 22/10/12 U18 Football A v Bodedern W 3-1
(Sion, Julian, Tom)
- 24/10/12 U12 Football H v Creuddyn L 5-2

November (4)

- 7/11/12 U14 Football H v David Hughes L6-4
- 19/11/12 X country Abi B 1st, Lois Roberts 14th,
Tom Casey 11th, Connor 12th, Iestyn 16th,
Elgan 17th, Adam Charles 18th
- 29/11/12 Brynrefail Away U18s L 5 -1 (Elis B)
- 29/11/12 Year 7 Rugby W2 L1

January (2)

- 22/1/13 U18 Eryri cup v Friars W 31-0
- 24/1/13 U18 Rugby v Eirias L 19-12

February (2)

20/2/13 U13 Rugby St Davids John Bright W 43-0
St Davids W 32-10
27/2/13 U16 Football D2 1-1(YJB) , 0-0
(Creuddyn)

March (2)

7/3/13 U18 rugby H QF vs Eirias W 14-7
20/3/13 U13 Rugby H v Bala W45-7

April

18/4/13 U18 Rugby v Brynrefail W19-12
22/4/13 U13 Rugby v Botwnnog W 57-0
24/4/13 U15 Rugby H vs Tywyn W 59-5
24/4/13 U13 Rugby A v Dyffryn Ogwen W 46-12
U18 rugby - 5 matches and tournament

U18 football - 3 matches and tournament

U16 football - 1 match and tournament

U15 Rugby - 2 match

U13 rugby - tournament + 3 match

U14 rugby - tournament

U14 football -2 match + tournament

U12 football - 2 matches and tournament

U12 rugby - tournament

Overall - total 34 matches

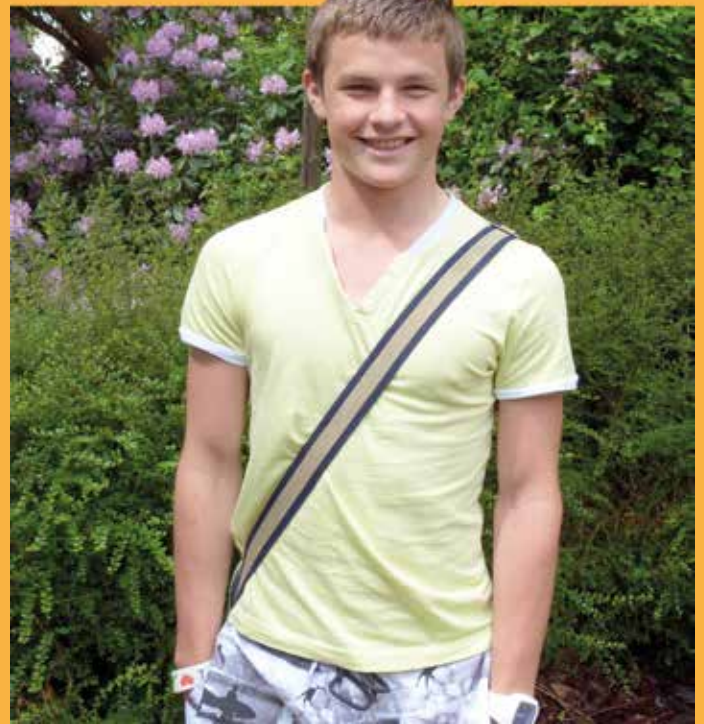
Rugby(18) W 14 L 4

Football(16) W 5 D3 L8 Overall W17 D3 L12



| Event | Middle Boys | Junior Boys | Middle Girls | Junior Girls |
|---------|---|--|---|--|
| 100m | lestyn T 11.68 (1 st) | Tom Smith (5 th) 13.46 | Elin Jones (2 nd) 13.65 | Leah M (2 nd) 14.10 |
| 200m | lestynT 23.7 (2 nd) | Tomos Wms (7 th) 30.60 | Lois Evans (1 st) 28.33 | Ellie Everiss (2 nd) 29.56 |
| 300m | Arthur Lennon (2 nd) 53.67 | Gethin Roberts (5 th) 45.37 | Abi B (1 st) 43.4 | |
| 800m | Joachim Rigotti (3 rd) 2.23 | Owain Jones (2 nd) 2.28 | Abi B (1 st) 2.35 | Mared Wms (4 th) 2.59 |
| 1500m | Osian Megs (1 st) 4.48 | Jac Ellis (3 rd) 4.59 | Lea Royle (4 th) 6.11 | Sara Roberts (2 nd) 6.10 |
| Hurdles | Lewis Mullend (2 nd) 16.64 | Steffan Morris (3 rd) 15.48 | Alys Evans (4 th) 17.09 | Leusa Ellis (2 nd) 13.44 |
| LJ | Tom C (3 rd) 5.22m | Harri Evans No point 3NJ | Elin Jones (1 st) 4.89m | Gwawr Wynne 3 rd 3.79 |
| TJ | Tom Jones (3 rd) 10.25m | Steffan Morris (3 rd) 9.44 | | |
| HJ | Lewis Mullender (7 th) 1.45m | Harry Thomas (2 nd) 1.48 | Tonisha Cornford (4 th) 1.30 | Heledd (2 nd) 1.30 |
| SP | Emyr Court (5 th) 8.36m | Arwel Edwards (5 th) 8.79 | Alys Evans (3 rd) 7.02 | Lois Cooke (8 th) 3.53 |
| JT | Emyr C (2 nd) 31.31m | Iwan Jones (2 nd) 29m | Abi B (4 th) 17.18m | Lydia Jones (3 rd) 14.89 |
| Relay | Tom Casey Arthur Lennon Aled Osborn lestyn Thomas | Owain Jones Elis Fon Oscar Lennon Tom Smith | Elin Jones Abi B Lois Evans Lliwen Wyn | Leah Mari Ellie Everiss Leusa Ellis Gwawr Wynne |
| | (1 st) 46.59 | (4 th) 53.93 | (2 nd) 54.10 | (1 st) 55.65 |





One of the year's highlights was a Trip to Fulham. Here are some pupils' accounts of the trip.

Fulham Trip

On Friday we had our first training session. They worked us very hard with a lot of quick thinking drills. It was physically and mentally tiring. After training we checked into the hotel and had a quiz and our team won.

Saturday we had our second training session, this session was more about switching play and shooting. This was less tiring than the first session. After we had a tour of Craven Cottage and went to the club shop. The tour was very interesting because we found out stuff about the ground. Then we went back to the hotel and watched the F.A Cup Final as a group in the hotel, Wigan against Man City. All of us started shouting and screaming when Wigan scored.

Sunday was a different type of session, this was our 3rd. Our group played loads of different games such as





American Football but with our feet and it was really fun. Then we played a tournament and our team won 1 out of 3 games. Then we had a tour of Fulham's Training Ground, Motspur Park. This tour was as good as Craven Cottage. Then we went back to Craven Cottage to watch Fulham against Liverpool. Liverpool won 3-1! It was an exciting game to watch.

Overall I thought the weekend was a very good trip. My favourite training session was the 3rd because I enjoyed all the different games and the tournament. This was the highlight as well as watching the Fulham – Liverpool game.

Aron Hughes

Fulham

As everyone got on the bus the excitement created a great atmosphere. The journey didn't feel as though it was too long thanks to a half hour stop for food and a chance to walk about.

In the first training session we learnt about keeping the ball which was useful. Then we went to the hotel and to our rooms until food. We had burger and chips most of us enjoyed it but some just had loads and loads of chips. Then we had fun doing a football quiz.

We had to get up early the next day for breakfast then the second training session which was about possession and attacking, personally I preferred this session to the first. After we had our packed lunches and get changed, we went to Craven Cottage for a stadium tour. It was fascinating, not quite Old Trafford

standard but it was still great and very different. Back at the hotel we watched Wigan take the FA Cup over Man City with a Ben Watson's header in injury time, and then we had lasagne and garlic bread for tea which was amazing.

The next morning we had to wake up even earlier to get to the training ground. Training was the best of the weekend as we had a fun tournament and then a small tour around the training ground where we saw Urby Emanuelson. Then we watched a game at Craven Cottage where Liverpool dominated Fulham and won 3-1 with Daniel Sturridge scoring a hat-trick.

I think I would be speaking for more than just myself if I said it was great fun and would love another opportunity to have a similar experience again.

Harry Thomas

DAY 1

It was an early start on Friday the 10th of May for 31 excited young Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy pupils! It was an 8:00am meet at school to load the bus ready to leave for London by 8:30. The bus was buzzing with energy with questions galore and thankfully a little more varied than just the old classic 'are we nearly there yet?' First stop was Warwick for a chance to refuel and have a stretch of the legs. Full with KFC and Burger Kings and re-stocked with treats the 31 pupils re-assembled on-board the coach destination Motspur Park, New Malden, Surrey, Fulham Football Clubs 1st Team Training Ground. Having made excellent progress on the roads we arrived early at Motspur Park and a short wait on the bus was frustrating for all after numerous hours on the bus and the first training session within touching distance. However, this wait did provide the group with their first insight into the life of a Premier League footballer as Mark Schwarzer (Fulham Goal-keeper) finishes his working day at 2pm driving off in his very expensive convertible Porsche waving to all on the bus. Shortly after we were given the all clear to proceed into the training ground and begin to feel like elite athletes. Boots on, energy drinks at the ready, training was ready to begin!

After a long journey the pupils were in their element given the opportunity to run around and kick a ball at long last. The facilities and equipment were fantastic and the high quality coaches were getting the best out of the inspired young footballers. Being in such special surroundings encouraged the teachers to dig out their football boots in the hope Martin Jol may walk by and be amazed by their ability and offer them a professional contract!! After the session everyone was visibly tired and it was back on the bus and on-route to the hotel in Epsom. The drive up to the hotel was scenic and the location of the hotel (within the course at Epsom Downs Racecourse) was peaceful and relaxing, exactly

what was needed. Checked in by 6pm, and everyone headed to their rooms and the recovery from a long day had begun; shower, change, relax and ready for our evening meal at 7pm followed by what turned out to be a competitive football quiz. Steak Burger, fried onions, toasted bun, chips, coleslaw and salad was on the menu with everyone seeming to pile their plates high in anticipation for another busy day to follow. The strawberry trifle for desert did not go down quite as well as the chips but Mr Beech was more than happy to create as big a dent in the large bowl so the chef didn't feel too disheartened.

Feeding time over the football quiz began. Four teams all eager to win the secret prize. The smart money was on the year 8 boys with Loui Harris demonstrating throughout the journey down his encyclopaedic knowledge of the game but a strong challenge was bound to come from the teams with the year 9 boys involved. It was tight but the year 8 team were successful by one point and the prize was theirs; a nomination of another team to perform a song/dance for the rest of the travelling party. This went to an embarrassed and very reluctant year 7 team. After much encouragement and change of track with Jacob Evans, Sam Jones and Owen Booth leading the way a memorable performance of the Harlem Shake entertained all in attendance. After a successful and busy day it was off to bed ready for an even busier day to follow!

DAY2

Everyone's alarm was set early enough and everybody was down for breakfast by 8:30. Everybody stocked up anticipating a tough training session to follow. Sausages, scrambled eggs, beans, toast, fruit, yogurt, pastries, juice, hot drinks and cereal all available and consumed in large amounts by the teachers in

particular! By 9:30 everyone was kitted out and on the bus on route to Fulham's Academy Complex for a morning training session before heading to Craven Cottage. Training finished it was back to the changing rooms and packed lunches passed around. Cheddar Ploughman's sandwiches were passed around and around but supply of the Chicken Salad option did not quite meet the demand.

We then arrived at Craven Cottage (Fulham FC's stadium) for a tour. Everyone was impressed with the perfect playing surface and it was a privilege to get so close to the pitch. Mock interviews were conducted in the media section and photos of the unusual Michael Jackson Tribute Statue amongst a number of highlights. After the tour we headed into the club shop. With club shirts at a bargain price the pupils dived in and the names of Bryan Ruiz, Berbatov and Schwarzer were requested at the printing counter. After the excitement of a busy morning and particularly a busy session in the club shop we headed back to the hotel. Everyone headed back to their rooms for a shower and change ready for the FA Cup final and evening meal.

The hotels conference room was set up with a large screen TV and hot chocolate, tea and coffee on tap and the group settled down for 2 hours to enjoy watching other people hard at work on the football pitch instead of themselves. With Wigan being the underdogs they were the team attracting the most support with Aruna Kone a crowd favourite. With the game progressing towards full-time goalless interest began to wane but the late goal from the well supported Wigan Athletic team was celebrated noisily and just in time for food! From the conference room it was straight to the dinner table at 7:30 with lasagne, garlic bread and salad on offer with chocolate gateaux to follow. By the time everyone had finished eating we were fast approaching



9pm and the group were sent back to the rooms for a tidy up and to begin the packing ready for the return to Motspur Park, Craven Cottage and then Dyffryn Conwy. Room checks satisfactory completed by 9:45 and everyone's minds could then focus on enjoying the last day.

DAY 3

Breakfast was again enjoyed immensely by all although the earlier wake-up call was a bit more difficult. Rooms were emptied and checked, bus loaded and we were on our way to Fulham's training ground for our final session by 9:30. The weather was still favourable and a very lively hours training flashed by followed by a small tournament to round off a successful few days on the training pitch with the Fulham coaches suitably impressed with the standard and quality of numerous individuals and the group collectively. Just before lunch and the medal ceremony an unscheduled tour took place. This was beyond unique and very much top secret, behind closed doors territory and strictly unheard of from any group on trips down to Fulham Football Club. Accompanied by a security guard we were taken round the players' canteen, changing room, treatment room, boot room and relaxation and meeting room. This was so unique the coaches who were taken round were unfamiliar with many of the different rooms and this was exciting and new to them even. Following the tour we sat in the standby the side of the reserve teams' pitch to eat our packed lunch and to receive well deserved medals for a fantastic effort during the weekend. From there it was back off up to shower and change before heading back to what promised to be a very different, nosier and busier Craven Cottage.

The seats for the game were located fantastically. The Liverpool squad warmed up directly in front of us and were almost within touching distance. The tunnel the players enter and exit the field of play was literally within touching distance and a highlight for many was that we were sat just below the Cottage that housed the WAGS and injured players. Thankfully the game was an entertaining affair with a 3-1 victory for Liverpool. A special occasion witnessed as Daniel Sturridge scored his first hat-trick for the club and club legend Jamie Carragher playing in his final away game. After the final whistle blew we headed back to the bus and set off back home to Dyffryn Conwy.

An eventful, busy and memorable weekend had by all. High quality performances on the training pitch combined with excellent behaviour throughout made the staff on the trip very proud of all the pupils on the trip. There was nothing but praise for them all from everyone that they came into contact with a real credit to the school and the local area.

Physical Education

Business trip to Cadbury World

On the 6th of February, a group of Business and I.T students went on a Business trip to the famous Cadbury World in Birmingham. We all met in the school at 7:00 in the morning. When we left there was a buzz of excitement all over the bus.

When we arrived at Cadbury World we were inside we were welcomed by a warm and friendly staff member who gave us a very interesting presentation. We learnt about the amount of profit the business makes, the amount of staff they employ and what good the company have done for the community, for example the Bourneville community the business created for their staff.

The moment most of us had been waiting for had arrived. We were given a guided tour of the factory and there we had the all-important tasters.

Over all we had enjoyed the experience, we had learnt how the business operates and how they use I.T in their business. It was a great success.

By Ilan Owen

CoPE

A very successful first Year for a new course CoPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) that was offered in the options of Key Stage 4 in 2011 which pupils completed this July 2013.

Several pupils were awarded with an Award of completing 12 modules and three pupils achieving additional Qualification Level 2 (GCSE Grade B) Award in completing 12 modules AND 6 Skills in Introduction to working with others, Introduction to Improving own Learning, Introduction to Problem Solving, Research, Discussion and Presentation.

Congratulations to all those pupils who worked so hard. Well Done.

The Prince's Trust course will encourage young people to take responsibility for their own learning and development, improve motivation and self-esteem, improve attitude and recognise achievement.

The course will be delivered over two years with the potential for pupils to receive up to a Level 2 qualification. The qualifications are called 'Personal and Development and Teamwork' which is a national recognised accreditation.

The course will consist of modules such as Entrepreneurship and Enterprise (aim to help young

people to learn and practice the skills involved in developing new commercial ideas, projects, team-work, budgeting, risk management and leadership). Preparation for Work (helps young people to think about employment, career plans, employability skills, CV writing, interview and presentation skills and Work Experience placements). Enrichment Projects (this area is broad enough for young people to think about a range of projects of interest to the pupil, to be able to include partnerships or funding in projects like sport, active lifestyles, healthy living, cooking or going on a residential). Active Citizenship (helps young people to find out more about their local communities and support them in playing a positive and active part in community-based projects). Personal, Team and Interpersonal Skills (aim to improve the personal and social skills of the young people, as well as help them to understand themselves better, to manage money and communicate effectively in a range of social and educational settings).

Celebrating Success: Year 7

Year 7's Successful football team this year included:

Sam Jones, Ifan Prys Jones, Tudur Jones, Morgan Owen, Jacob Evans, Penri Metcalfe, Ynyr Roberts, Dion Vaughan, Owen Booth, Sam Thomas and Cai Price

After an excellent start to the year and over 30 pupils trying for a place on the team there were high expectations that the team would perform well at Eirias against all other teams in Conwy. After only one defeat, the team stood a good chance of being victorious in this tournament.

During the first game the team controlled the match with Cai Price taking a starring role on the field, scoring an excellent goal after Sam Thomas fed the ball to Ifan and leading Cai to score. There were no goals in the second game but the team once again dominated the match. They were under a lot of pressure as they went on to compete against Emrys ap Iwan having won the first two games. The team were confidently supported to a successful and easy win.

Having conquered against three county school teams, the team had the opportunity to play in the last round against Ysgol John Bright. The score at the end of the game was 0-0 so a penalty shoot out was in order. Out of 5 John Bright failed to score and Morgan's successful kick was enough for the team to win the game and the tournament! Well done, an excellent result!

Garden Planning Competition – a Green Fingert Year 7! (Skills Week June 2013)

During the skills week year 7 were busy collaborating on planning a garden for the school as part of our Eco schools work. Over the week they researched, planned on paper and created models before presenting their plans in a very professional manner. We suspect that there is now a really good future ahead of them as apprentices to Sir Alan Sugar!

Year 7 individual successes: Here are just some of year 7's successes this year Congratulations to ...

Lowri Owen: 7G who plays cricket for Eryri girls. She was off to Ireland in the summer to be coached by professional teams and to play against Ireland.

Caitlin Thomas, Tamzin a Jordan Jones: who won their blue karate belts and competed in the Junior Welsh Championships in July.

Ynyr Roberts: Who took part in 12 weeks of trials having played for Wrexham.

Sam Graham: who has been playing for four years and this year competed in the World Championships in Japan where he represented Wales. He trains on a monthly basis at Weavingem.

Jake Grove: who has been swimming with Llandudno for two years and is on their first team. He has won a number of medals for his swimming feats.

Sam Thomas 7M: who plays for Llandudno's football academy.

Hari Williams, a Berwyn Hughes, Jacob Evans, Owen Booth, Heledd Roberts, Brenig Hughes, Ifan Jones, Ynyr Roberts, Penri Metcalf, Tomos Williams, Ilan Jones, James Goodwin, Trystan Jones, Howard Wingfield, Dion Vaughn – who play for Nant Conwy Rugby Club and reached the Eryri Cup semi-final this year.

Year 7 Urdd successes:

Congratulations to everyone from year 7 who competed in the Eisteddfod, particularly to Elenid Alun and her sister, Modlen who won first prize in the County round and travelled down to compete in Pembrokeshire.

Glan Llyn:

In December a large group of year 7 visited Glan Llyn where they had the opportunity to work together on many outdoor pursuits such as raft building and canoeing. They were supported by a superb group of 6th form leaders who ensured that their evening entertainment of a treasure hunt and a 'Silly Eisteddfod' was a real hit. Pupils were entertained by contests including recitation under 5 and over 60, reading and miming and creating costumes out of newspaper. A brilliant but exhausting couple of days was had by all!



Celebrating Success: Year 8

Year 8 has been a very busy year for many of the pupils. Without doubt, the behaviour and dedication that all pupils have shown towards their school work, home work and extra-curricular activities has been excellent. Everyone had the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities; they refined their skills and learnt some new ones. The range of activities and experiences offered a brilliant opportunity for everyone to socialize with friends as well as making new ones. It was a very successful year for all and it was definitely a privilege for me to be the Head of Year 8 this year!

What better way to share the events that have taken place this year than from the pupils themselves, so here is a summary of the experiences of some of them in their own words. I would also like to wish them all well in Year 9.

Mrs Ffion Jones

To be honest, Year 8 has flown by for everyone; it feels like the first day of term was only yesterday! However, the experiences that we have had are fresh in our memory. We have had memorable experiences, both inside and outside the classroom; we have sung in the eisteddfod and competed in athletics competitions. 'Hairspray' was also a completely different experience for us, and I'm sure that everyone who took part in the production learnt some invaluable skills. I have only included a few of the things that have happened during the year, and there are exciting things to come before the end of Year 8 including the opportunity to do film work and activities week. I'm sure that everyone's looking forward to starting Year 9 in September.

Cadi Edwards, 8 Garmon

Here we are again, about to start another school year. I have taken part in several activities this year including 'Hairspray', the pantomime, the film club and singing with the Eisteddfod choir. I have made new friends and look forward to taking part in many new activities next year. I enjoy going to the Games Club, Homework Club and writing poetry in English. I have had a very successful year this year and have enjoyed every minute of it.

Siân Walker, 8 Pandy

In Year 8, I have had many different experiences. These experiences included performing in 'Hairspray'. This was an amazing experience; it was both fun and interesting. I made a lot of new friends through the school choir and on top of all this we along with Year 7 had the opportunity to see the Peter Pan pantomime at Venue Cymru. I had lots of fun during the trip with all of my friends.

Lois Siriol Williams, 8 Pandy.

Year 8 has been full of fun for me as I had the opportunity to take part in several activities including competing in the school Eisteddfod where I acted in a sketch for the Geirionydd team; I also went to see Peter Pan which was fun-filled. The activities in Techniquet were very interesting; we had the opportunity to create a car made of Lego. I had some good experiences in Year 8 and also made some new friends. This year has flown as we have been so busy; I hope that Year 9 will be just as exciting.

Joseph Power, 8 Pandy

I have really enjoyed the experiences that I have had in Year 8. In November and December a 5 a-side football competition was arranged during lunchtimes by Siân 5x60. My team, 'Not Junction FC' came first out of the whole year, we won a brand new football to share and





practice our football during break and lunch times. The highlight of the year from me was representing the school in athletics; I competed in the 200 metres and the relay race. I'm really looking forward to starting in Year 9!

Morgan Kirkham, 8 Pandy

ANTON AND EUROS

'We spoke to Anton Hazelhurst, who is the Year 8 Machno Representative on the Year Forum and one of the Year 8 Representatives on the School Council, about the plans that the School Council has. Anton explained that the Council had been discussing having more bins on the all-weather pitch, establishing an Eco Council, having a better fence around the river to improve pupil safety, improving the school uniform and reducing the cost of school meals. "Year 8 was much better and more fun than Year 7. I have had a fantastic year!" said Anton.'

By Elin Cawley

'We have been talking to Euros Lloyd, who competed in the Bangor University Mathematics competition. Euros was one of the 13 lucky pupils who won the competition! He won a book and a puzzle. "Unfortunately I didn't enjoy the experience as much as that, because of all the attention everyone gave me!" Euros told us! Well done you Euros! J'

By Elin Cawley

Year 8 Forum

'The Year 8 Forum is working hard to make the school a tidy and eco-friendly place. We talked to Anton Hazelhurst, 8 Machno about the school's problems and how the Year 8 Forum is going to tackle these problems.

"A lot of rubbish is thrown on the school grounds and not many of the children notice the disadvantages of

this. We are discussing buying more bins for the school and placing them inside the building as lots of rubbish is put behind the radiators and thrown on the corridors."

Year 8 is full of fun and opportunities, but what do the Year 8 pupils themselves think? We talked to Beca Williams about the advantages of being in Year 8 and this is what she had to say:

"Year 8 is brilliant! We haven't started exams yet and I feel that Year 8 have settled very well. We are really grateful for all the opportunities that we have had e.g. Ffilmiau'r Ffin, the trip to Alton Towers and Disneyland Paris. We are really lucky!"

We also talked to Sophia Edwards and this is what she had to say about Year 8:

"The work is very interesting. I like meeting new people and making friends. The work is challenging and we have to really concentrate!"

By Mali Sion

Developing Winners

'During the year four girls and four boys were chosen to take part in a sports course called 'Developing Winners' at Eirias Park. The pupils that were chosen had reached the highest standards in a variety of sports.

We talked to Elin Cawley and she said "It was quite scary being tested by professional athletes, and they worked us really hard. But it was a really good experience, although it was painful at the time! It was very interesting to see the athletics skills that the pupils from all the different schools had!"

So, well done to all the pupils who were selected to take part in this course! Hopefully they will be chosen again for the next course!"

By Elin Cawley

Celebrating Success: Year 9



In their own words here are the successes and experiences of year 9 pupils this year.

Iwan a Harry 9H

The other day I went with school to Emrys ap Iwan with three other pupils who were chosen to go. They wanted two level 6 and two level 5, myself and Harry were level 6 and Rory and Dan were level 5, the aim was to see if we had received the correct levels for football. At first we were just doing simple passing and then we went into keeping position in our teams then after all that we played a little game and we won 3-0. Then later that day the teacher thanked us for coming and how well we had done.

Amy Jones 9N

I started dancing when I was four years old. I did ballet, and by the age of six, I also attended modern and tap dancing. All this was held in the scouts hut in Glan Conwy on Thursdays which is still going now. When I was about 9, I quit ballet, and joined another dance class called C.U.E Performers. We did singing, acting and dancing (contemporary and hip hop). We danced in quite a few shows in Venue Cymru and a few more places. In 2010 I got awarded 'The most improved dancer 2010', and came second in the juniors dance talent show. I also quit C.U.E in 2011 because I wanted to do street dance instead. For a while I tried learning it myself, but didn't go very far. One night, when I was at the Broadway Boulevard, when I saw three street dancers, and I thought to myself "That's what I want do". So soon, as I got to know Ben Brodie (one of the dancers I saw) and he asked me if I'd like to audition to get in to 'The Unknown' street dance group with many other people. Ben Brodie was our choreographer. So after about four weeks, I got in! This was last year on February the 16th. At the beginning there were about 11 people in the group, people left, and new people joined, now we have probably got about the same amount. I'm still with them now, and I have learnt a lot of moves, and I am trying to



learn flips and other floor tricks. We have done shows in Broadway Boulevard, the Extravaganza and UDance (to get to dance in the O2 Arena, but unfortunately we did not get through), and many other places. Our first dance was to pump it by the Black Eyed Peas, and that is one of my favourite dances that we've done. Me, Ben and his best friend Karl, did a show at my mum's 40th birthday, and carried it on from there. Me and Karl decided to call our group 'The Three Musketeers'. We also did a dance at this party in Bodafon Farm, and got paid £20 each! But Karl left the group and the Unknown all together, so the 'Three Musketeers' didn't go very far. I have now started up my own dance group called 'Amy's Angels' which I started up in March. I do ages 3–10 on Tuesdays 5.00–5.45 in the Glan Conwy Church House. This has been in the Weekly News, which has also brought more people to join. I have got approximately 10 pupils, which is good according to such a small village. We have danced in Glan Conwy's Got Talent to 'Sexy and I know it' by LMFAO, and will be dancing in the Glan Conwy Gala on the 6th July, they will be dancing to 'Starships' by Nicki Minaj. The Unknown Dancers will also be dancing there with our new dance.

Sophia Dallimore 9M

I attended my first dance class when I was nine years old and ever since then I have loved to dance. I attended three classes a week; a hip hop class at 'Dawns i Bawb', a contemporary class at CUE Performers and a ballet class at Step One Performing Arts and I will hopefully be examined at grade four Ballet in the Autumn. I have participated in many shows in North Wales over the past few years and I will be attending a Ballet Rambert workshop in Manchester this summer.

Angharad Jones-Young 9N

"I love to boogie... on a Saturday night" – actually, I 'boogie' (dance) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and not on Saturday at all!

When I was eight, I started attending a Performing Arts group called C.U.E Performers which I still attend now. C.U.E is a really fun and social group which performs every Wednesday in Llandudno. I also go to a hip-hop dance class called Dyffryn Conwy Youth Dance after school on Tuesdays. The group is part of 'Dawns i Bawb'. At the moment, we are working on a street dance medley for a competition later this year.

In September 2011, I started attending ballet classes in Colwyn Bay, I'm at grade 4 at the moment and I'll be taking my ballet exam to move up to grade 5 in November this year. I'm excited about moving up a grade because in grade 5 we go on 'pointe'.

In total, I've taken part in four dance shows in Venue Cymru. I've also competed in several competitions in The Galeri in Caernarfon.

Dance is an enjoyable activity which anyone can do. Whether it's ballet or the 'Harlem Shake', it keeps you fit and healthy and is a great way of making new friends.'

Year 9 Activities

In addition to all the individual activities and experiences above, year 9 were also part of the following activities:

- STEM science workshops with Techniquist and Bangor University;
- As part of Conwy's Health Education programme, they took part in 'Cat's Paw Theatre's' Forum Theatre performance raising awareness of the law and rape. Pupils enjoyed being taught about this topical issue through forum theatre strategies which gave them the opportunity to question the actors and the police who were part of the performance.
- As part of the year 9 activities week, pupils visited Beaumaris Castle; Dangerpoint Centre in Talacre; Hedd Wyn's birth place in Trawsfynydd; and to walk and surf in Rhosnegir with Menter Iaith, Conwy.
- A group of 10 pupils also worked with Menter yr Iaith as part of their Ffilmiau'r Ffin (Border Films) project to promote activities through the medium of Welsh.



Bac Blwyddyn 10 Ac 11 / Year 10 And 11 Bac

Year 10 and some of year 12 were fortunate this year to meet our MP, Guto Bebb during their very successful trip to London and a visit to the Houses of Parliament. During the trip pupils visited Gurwara, the Olympic Stadium and watched the show 'We will rock you' as well as travelling on the London Eye. They all thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

Years 10 and 12 also helped to organise the Christmas Fair, raising money for different charities. They have also been busy during the year collecting money to arrange different activities.

As part of their community work the year 10 and 12 BAC groups were busy collecting boxes for Operation Christmas Child this November. Almost 100 boxes were collected along with money for this essential charity.

During the skills week, year 10 visited many local attractions including Conwy Castle, Bodnant Food Centre, Parc Eirias, along with the new Eirias beach in Colwyn Bay. They were also visited by guest speakers including Margaret Carter from the Patchwork Pate Company, Shaun Holden from the Government Building, Angharad Harris from the Eryri Park Organisation and Lis Perkins from Fair Trade. All these experiences have contributed to their Welsh BAC work.





Year 12 have also been busy taking part in activities linked to Bodelwyddan Castle, Beaumaris Castle and Conwy's Council Buildings. They have given time during their lunch hours to support different clubs as part of their BAC community work. They also had the opportunity to learn Spanish with past student, Stephanie Haines during July.

Congratulations to Llywela Edwards – star of the Llanellwedd Winter Fair! – Here's her story

'I was recently fortunate enough to be chosen to compete in the fat lambs stock judging competition at the Winter Fair in Llanellwedd. I had been practicing and preparing very thoroughly before the big day, and came 2nd in the competition! As well as this, I won the award for the best speech made through the medium of Welsh.'

Before making it to Llanellwedd, I had to compete for the Uwchaleud Young Farmers Club in the Clwyd Federation. This was the first time that I had competed therefore it was a huge shock to come first out of over 20 under 16 competitors.

I had to be at the Winter Fair by 9:30am, which meant we had to leave home at 6.00am. On arrival I had to register at the Young Farmers Centre on the showground. I had butterflies in my stomach at this point! After all the under 16 competitors had registered it was time for us to make our way to the sheep shed. I put on my white coat and off I went!

In the pen, there were four lambs marked – A, B, X and Y. Our aim was to choose which lamb was first, second, third and fourth. After placing the lambs in the correct order, everyone had to write a speech lasting two minutes, explaining why we had placed the lambs in that order. We then had to make our speech in front of the judges. I placed the lambs in the following order B, Y, X and A, which was the correct!'



Celebrating Success: Year 11

Presenting to the Llanrwst Rotary: RYLA

On Monday 4th of March 2013 the two of us, accompanied by our Headteacher Mr Paul Matthews-Jones, attended a Rotary dinner at Maenan Abbey. We gave a power point presentation about the residential Rotary Youth Leadership course we attended at Arthog, near Dolgellau last summer. We were grateful to receive the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) from the chairperson. We feel honoured to have had this fantastic opportunity which has also formed part of our Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.'

By Elin Wrennall (12J) and Hannah Bird (11W)



Year 11: Learning Performance

On March the 1st Learning Performance visited the school to run active workshops for pupils on learning and study skills for year 11 as part of their examination preparation. Pupils were given guidance on strategies for recall and remembering, suggestions for planning revision and study sessions, and how to develop mind maps and identify personal targets.

The company will be returning to work with our new year 11 and year 13 in September and will hold similar sessions as part of our aiming for success strategy.

The Year 11 Prom

Once the examinations were over our year 11 enjoyed a very successful and glittering school prom. They feasted, danced and admired their glamorous outfits, many arriving in limos to a rush of parental photos. They behaved superbly and both staff and pupils attending had a night to remember. The photos taken show the evening's glamour and atmosphere and are a testament to the evening's success. A delightful evening for all!

Year 11 Progress File

At the end of their time in year 11, year 11 had the

opportunity to recognise their successes during their progress file ceremony. The session was excellent with Elliw Baines Roberts, a former pupil from the school discussing her academic journey and her recent career acting for S4C. It was great to hear her inspirational presentation about the journey she had been on through higher education and employment into acting. It was good to see pupils being greeted by their form tutors and Elliw with their progress files and to recognise their achievements. This was a superb way to wish them well in their final examinations and in their future paths either at school, in work or in employment.



6th Form Successes

Year 12 had the honour of attending a sixth form conference for students at Bangor University on the 19th of June. We had presentations from Bangor University students in addition to information sessions on making applications to University. In the afternoon we all attended individual lectures in different university departments. The day was excellent with lots of information presented about higher education.

Stephanie Jones who took advantage of the opportunity to attend a two day course at the beginning of July. This gave her a taste of life at university and the opportunity to attend lectures. This was certainly a good opportunity to prepare for life as a student.

Elen Hughes, Lois Wynne and Hannah Dobson spent two days in Aberystwyth in July. This was an excellent opportunity for the girls about university life.

Lowri Roberts also had a valuable opportunity to spend a week in the Imperial University, London. The competition to be accepted on this taster course was fierce and as a school we are very pleased that she got chosen. Her aspiration is to study medicine next year and this gave her the opportunity to have a taste of what lies ahead. She had the opportunity to shadow specialists in a hospital and to attend medical lectures.

A group of girls spent one Sunday busily baking hundreds of cakes to sell to staff and pupils on the following day. They succeeded in raising almost £200 at Cancer appeal – well done! This group of 6th formers also worked hard on sports day selling fruit, smoothies and other healthy fare. They raised £115 towards Hope House. Excellent!

This year, for the first time we decided to create a sixth form leadership team. The role of the leaders will be to take responsibility to take care of different aspects of school life. The learners themselves were responsible for nominating from their peers for different responsibilities and a very mature discussion took place. We look forward to seeing them developing in their roles next term and to the important contribution to school life as the project progresses this year.

Blwyddyn 13

We are delighted with Callum Evans' success in being accepted for the London 'Musical Theatre Academy'. There were only places for 20 on the course and over 1000 of applicants, so this was quite an achievement! We wish him well and look forward to following an excellent career.

We wish all the sixth form pupils who are leaving

us this year all the best for their future. A high percentage of them will have started on courses in Universities and colleges across the UK with others going on to the world of work. We are particularly pleased in the important and influential role they have played in the school's development over the last two years. They were a mature group with their skills, commitment and particularly their leadership skills proven on many occasions over the course of the year. The school received a glowing letter from a local company praising how they had behaved and acted during their end of 6th form ball, we are very pleased with the impression they created:

'I write this e-mail to highlight how impressed I was with the year 13 pupils attending the ball I was working on as a security officer. The pupils on the night where courteous, well mannered, extremely well behaved, polite and friendly. The pupils are a credit to the school and represented the school and themselves outstandingly. It was a pleasure to work with these well behaved teenagers in a negative world.'

Congratulations to Rhodri Sion, Hanna Williams, and Sophie Richards on receiving a scholarship from Bangor university. Rhodri was also successful in his scholarship application along with Ifan Hughes, Angharad Evans ac Angharad Roberts and Glyn Evans . We wish them well at University.

Some year 12 students also completed a Medi Tech first aid course. Others raised £70 for Cancer charities through waxing legs in front of a crowd in the school hall! Congratulations also to Emily Watson, year 13 in her award for volunteer work. Emily is an excellent coach who had been nominated for the award from the Wales Tennis Association. Emily celebrated at a celebration at Celtic Manor where she won the Youth Award across Wales – well done Emily.

Haydn Jenkins

UBS Award

The school would like to congratulate our Deputy Head Pupil, Haydn Jenkins on receiving a UBS award for his outstanding achievement. Haydn was nominated by the school because of his outstanding GCSE and AS results and his voluntary work in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area. He travelled to London on the 8th of November to collect his prestigious award.

We wish Haydn well with his imminent interview at Cambridge University. There is no doubt that Haydn is a student who has a very bright future in front of him.

STAR OF THE TENNIS WORLD

We all know about Emily Watson's (Year 12) success in the tennis world, she had an excellent summer once again and represented Wales in several tournaments. She is now also making a name for herself as a coach and is working towards completing the Level 2 training with 1ST 4 Sport and Inspire 2 coach.

During last month Emily went to the Celtic Manor Hotel in Newport to attend the Tennis Wales Awards where she was nominated for the Volunteer of the Year award, she went on to win the Young Volunteer of the Year award. Emily certainly deserved this honour. She received her award from Laura McAllister, Chair of Sports Wales.

Emily is now one of Conwy's Gold Young Ambassadors and she was congratulated on her very impressive application. On the 24th of October Emily went to Cardiff to attend the Young Ambassadors Conference, where she was given more information about her role and had the opportunity to meet Mel Clarke, archer and Alex Danson, Hockey, team GB members. We as a school know that Emily is a huge asset to the school and we look forwards to hearing about her experiences in the future. Warm congratulations!

Emily Watson



Swimming Contest – Lisa Allsup succeeded in winning three gold and one silver awards for the 'Swim Wales' (Welsh National Championships) sponsored by British Gas in Swansea in January. She won the gold awards in the 200 metre back stroke, 100 metre back stroke and the 200 metre Individual Medley, with the silver award for the 100 metre butterfly award. Lisa succeeded in gaining her personal best in each of these races too.

RYLA: Leah Hamilton a Annie Monks:

For the last week of the Summer holidays Annie and I were sponsored by Llanrwst Rotary Club to participate in a RYLA Leadership course along with fifty other 16–18 year olds.

During the week we developed several skills such as: leadership, delegation, communication and decision making. By doing the following activities we achieved these skills: canoeing, climbing, mining, gorge walking, surfing and mountain conquering. Overall we saw this experience as extremely beneficial for our future and gained a lot of skills. It was a fantastic few days and an excellent opportunity!

