



MARCH
2004



YSGOL RHIWABON EASTER UPDATE



View From the Bridge...

I really do hope you find time to read our latest newsletter as it is a marvellous example of how much is going on here in school. This term is traditionally very busy as staff and students begin to prepare for external examinations and the effort and commitment on display all-round is phenomenal. Years 11, 12 & 13 in particular must now be looking forward to using the Easter period to settle down to some solid revision and it is important that they now begin to prepare in earnest for what will be an extremely important two to three months. Looking ahead to our next academic year we will be welcoming nearly 160 Year 7 students in September. We are proud that so many young people wish to join us and be part of our forward-looking school.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you an enjoyable Easter.

Peter Shaw
Headteacher



Bargain Corner Calculator Sale

The Mathematics department has recently taken delivery of a bulk order of scientific calculators ideal for KS3 and GCSE work. These are available at cost price (£4) from Mathematics teachers.



Saber est arrivé!

Interest in French has recently increased with the arrival of Monsieur Saber Aribi who has joined the Languages Department as a French Assistant. Saber, who originates from Besançon in the East of France, is helping older students prepare for their oral examinations and giving pupils of all ages an insight into the French Culture. After just a short time in Rhiwabon, Saber has settled in well and says *"Je suis très fier et très content de représenter la France au lycée de Rhiwabon où il y a une super ambiance, les profs sont géniaux."*

BBC in School

Our school library was recently selected as the venue for a BBC Wales recording of the "Swot or Not" Quiz. Rhiwabon's team of talented sixth formers proved fast on the button but unfortunately did not manage to reach the final. However, they and their loyal band of supporters enjoyed the evening. The BBC staff were very impressed with our library facilities and could well return in the future.



Physics Class in Hospital!!!

The AS level physics class visited Ysbyty Maelor in March. They were shown around the medical imaging departments and given information on the theory and practice of X-ray imaging, CT scans, MRI scans, ultrasound and Nuclear Medicine. Our thanks to Robert Jones and the other staff for a most interesting and enjoyable visit.



Important Dates for your Diary.....

Year 11 ▶
Last day in school is:
Wednesday 19th May
Study leave begins on:
Thursday 20th May

Year 12 ▶
Study leave begins on:
Monday 17th May & ends on:
Friday 18th June

Year 13 ▶
Students leave school on:
Friday 28th May
But staff will be available in school during the week of 7th—11th June.

GCE Results issued on ▶
Thursday 19th August 2004

GCSE & GNVQ Results issued on ▶
Thursday 26th August 2004

Rhiwabon Successes in National Mathematical Contest

Ysgol Rhiwabon pupils won 1 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze awards in the recent UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge.



For this challenge 181,301 students from across the country attempted to solve 25 mathematical problems of varying complexity. Year 11 student Tom Partridge added to his impressive record of mathematical achievements by gaining the Best in School & Gold Award. Classmates Daniel K Griffiths, Jamie Jones & Daniel Miles secured silver awards with Phillip Hughes & Katy Harrison completing the Year 11 haul with bronze.

Great Promise

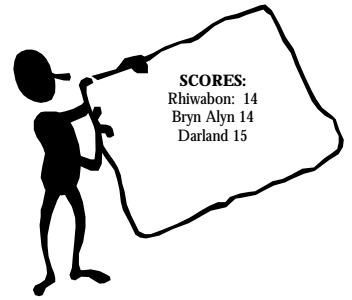
Special mention must be made of the Year 10 students who took the challenge a year early with Ian Hall impressing with a silver and David Bell, Adam Lewis & Laura Jones showing great promise with bronze.

And Next...

Years 7 & 8 pupils and possibly some members of local primary schools, will be the next to test their mathematical skills when they sit the Junior Challenge on Tuesday 27th April.

English Activities.....

Our Year 9 Quiz team recently competed against Ysgol Bryn Alyn and Darland School. In a close contest Ysgol Rhiwabon came joint second with Bryn Alyn.



SCORES:
Rhiwabon: 14
Bryn Alyn 14
Darland 15

Year 8 pupils recently welcomed a Poet,



Leon Charles who visited the school to help them produce work for the 'Shooting Star' appeal at the new cancer unit in Wrexham Maelor Hospital.

Years 7 & 8 pupils recently took part in the Sponsored Readathon in which their reading was sponsored to

Minibus

The school has recently placed an order for a new school minibus. This is due to arrive for the new term and will be the latest LDV 17 seater with forward facing seats, lap & diagonal belts. Look out for this new vehicle which should include the school's web site in its livery.



World Book Day Celebration—'Body in the Library'.... This event was held in the Library to promote World Book Day. The whole idea was to get students to use books, reference material and the Internet to work out who the murderer was, who had been murdered and how they were murdered! Everybody wanted to join in and it was an extremely successful event. All tutor groups took part and the winners were 11ME who were the lucky recipients of a tub of chocolates!



THE VICTIM!
MRS S HUGHES



THE MURDERER!
MR D OWENS



THE WEAPON!
AN ICICLE

Tŷ Mawr Geography Visit

A Year 9 Geography group visited Ty Mawr Country Park to take part in a practical project. Here is a brief account of the work done by the group "On Monday 15th March we went to the woods at Tŷ Mawr Country Park with the wardens, Liz Carding and Jon Fisher. We looked for insects and studied them carefully under a magnifying glass. We then drew sketches of these minibeasts back in the barn. On the Wednesday we carved our sketches on wooden benches, these benches are going to be used by visitors to Tŷ Mawr Country Park who want to sit and look at the view."

Kate Butterton (Year 9)



Numeracy Corner—How's your Maths?

Finding long multiplication hard? Try the box method:

$$\begin{array}{r} 26 \times 43 \\ 20 \quad 6 \end{array}$$

| | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 40 | 20 x 40 = 800 | 6 x 40 = 240 | 800 240 60 + 18 1118 |
| | 20 x 3 = 60 | 6 x 3 = 18 | |

Answer = 1118

Don't worry this method doesn't replace the '2 line method' it helps more pupils get the hand of long multiplication and that's good!!



Musical Successes.....

Congratulations to the following pupils who

successfully passed their 'Associated Board of The Royal Schools of Music' Instrumental examinations.

| | | | |
|--|----------------|---------|----------------|
| | Andrea Dodd | Year 7 | Violin Grade 1 |
| | Hannah Jones | Year 8 | Violin Grade 1 |
| | Lucy Dean | Year 10 | Violin Grade 3 |
| | Howard Jones | Year 10 | Tuba Grade 5 |
| | Matthew Taylor | Year 8 | Cornet Grade 5 |



Party & Concert

Ysgol Rhiwabon students recently welcomed members of the Ruabon Physically Handicapped Club together with listeners to the Talking Newspaper for the Blind to the annual concert and party.

The staff of the Expressive Arts Department arranged for entertainment to be provided by pupils from Year 7 right through to those in Year 13 taking A levels this summer. Refreshments were donated by staff and friends of the school. Organiser, Mrs Ros Dean was assisted by Mrs Gwyneth Owen, Mrs Helen Simon, Mrs Alison Hotchkiss and Mrs Fran Robinson.

Everyone enjoyed not only the entertainment but also the opportunity to speak to some of the students as they served tea and home made cakes.

Business In the Community Mentoring...

Ysgol Rhiwabon is very fortunate to have three people from the business community who have volunteered to mentor students in Years 10 & 11. The mentors will offer their experience and insight into life 'after school'; in other words 'the real world!

Year 9 Bowling Reward...

Just after the Christmas Newsletter was printed Year 9 were rewarded for their good behaviour and attendance with a bowling trip. There were some notable performances with the bowling technique of Miss Pritchard reported as "having to be seen to be believed."

Tout en français

Not content with teaching languages during the term, Mrs Jones and Miss Pritchard are leading an intrepid group of Years 11, 12 & 13 students on an Easter study visit. They will be spending the week in a chaateau in the North of France where they will be improving their language skills.

Harrison Hat Trick in Excellent Eisteddfod!



The school Eisteddfod held shortly before half term proved an outstanding success for everyone, but especially for the Harrison family with Year 11 student, Katy Harrison completing the prestigious double winning both the Chair Poem and coming top of an outstanding field in the Challenge Solo. The family hat trick was completed with younger sister, Stephanie earning the "Lloyd Edwards Memorial Trophy" for most points in musical items.

Competition for the Cwpan Alyn Thomas for most entries in Years 7, 8 & 9 was also hot. A three way tie saw Ashley Barnes, Sean Davies and Natasja Young share the trophy.

Other major winners were →

The Ysgol Rhiwabon Open Piano Solo Cup—Zoe Davies (8JS), Sam Erlandson (10PW)

Cwpan Wallace Jones—Danielle Potts (10PW)

Cwpan Meredith Edwards—Anna Chung (10AN), Claire Davies (10AM), Amy L Jones (7IB),

Kathryn Jones (8AB), Genna Lodge (9LG), Natasja Young (8AB)

Baton Mrs Mair Jones—Alys Jones (12EP)



There were many performances which impressed adjudicators Mr David Thomas and Mr Peter Budd. However, the greatest credit goes to students from the senior end of the school who gave up many hours to help prepare their younger colleagues.

At the end of the day it was Mrs Marshall's Tryfan who came first with just two points separating Miss Eden's Berwyn from Mr Baverstock's Aran.

Ministerial Visit



School council members were among the pupils who met Mrs Jane

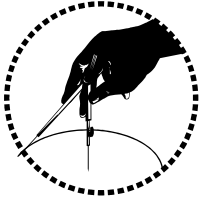
Davidson, the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning in Wales, when she visited the

School recently. During her tour Mrs Davidson sat in on a discussion in the new library, chaired by Chris Jones, president, when concerns regarding school buses were being discussed. The school council includes representation from

all year groups and each member was given an opportunity to question the minister. Mrs Davidson also met the Chair of Governors, Mr J Penri Williams, and the Headteacher, Mr Peter Shaw and was able to record a brief interview for the school's Talking Newspaper for the Blind.

Maths News ...

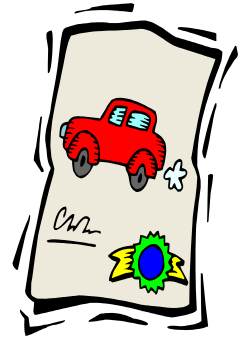
Three Year 7 pupils have progressed to the second round of the Yale Junior Mathematics Challenge. Congratulations to Robert Hughes (7JGS), Sally Bottomley (7IB) and Simeon Holland (7AC) on their achievements.



Quiz Collect £350 for Cancer Care Charity

Our new library was packed on Friday 19th March when the school hosted a quiz in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Pupils from Year 9 acted as stewards whilst Marie Curie fundraisers & staff of the school joined forces to present the quiz, organise refreshments and the raffle. Local duo, "Madoc" not only entertained the competitors dur-

Safety on Site—Boy/Girls Look Out! The Governors have approved a Policy for students who bring vehicles to school. This means that students who drive a car or ride a motorcycle to school now need a permit. Permits are free, but will be issued only after evidence of insurance, road worthiness etc have been seen. Parents who allow their children to use their vehicles to travel to school are advised to check that their insurance covers this—not all do.



The Policy should allow vehicles on site to be monitored. Anyone seen driving in an inappropriate manner may have their permit withdrawn. Application forms for passes can be obtained from Mr Hotchkiss.

interval but also presented a cheque to Mrs Judy Breese. Congratulations go to the winner team, "Over Optimistics" Whilst special thanks go to The Wynnstay Arms Hotel, Ruabon, Jones, Brothers Butchers, Rhos, Plas Madoc Leisure Centre & Oswestry Decorating Merchants who donated the prizes. Staff & friends of the school donated raffle prizes & refreshments so that every penny of the £350 raised will go to Marie Curie Cancer Care. Representatives of this charity will be presented with the cheque at a future Year 9 assembly.

Ready for another Quiz?

Those who enjoyed the quiz may be interested to know that Ruabon WI will hold their 4th annual quiz on Friday 14th May (7 pm start) at the Ruabon Community Centre. Proceeds will be shared between Nightingale House and Hope House. Entries need to be registered by 7th May by telephoning 01978 820592 or 01978 810641.

The team of Stewards

'Madoc' Ceiriog Daves & Arfon Carter

A picture of concentration!



On the Piste

A small group of students came to school early after the Christmas break. However the extra lessons they came for were not in the classroom but to start their journey to France where they enjoyed ski lessons in the Alpine sunshine. Temperatures at times dropped to minus 15 but this did not prevent the group from clocking up at least 7 hours of skiing each day in and around the resort of Vallaoire.

Such was the progress of the group that green, blue and red runs were completed with the part of the last day being spent jumping in the snow park under the watchful eye of French Instructor Patrick.

Ski 2005

Plans have been made for a similar ski course to be held in the French Alps in January 2005. Whilst some deposits have been received, sufficient have not yet been received for the course to be confirmed. If your son or daughter is interested in joining, letters giving further details are available from Mr Hotchkiss.



Talking Newspaper for the Blind



Our long running Talking Newspaper for the Blind continues to prosper.

Recent guest speakers have included a Marie Curie Cancer Care Nurse and the the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, Mrs Jane Davidson. The Talking Newspaper team recently entertained Mrs R Jones of Ruabon Church Ladies Guild. She was able to learn about the production of the tapes and kindly presented the profits of a recent Ladies Guild fundraising event to assist with the many costs.



Support from people like Mrs Jones and the Ladies Guild is always appreciated..

Walker & Tate

Sixth form Art students, recently visited the Walker & Tate Galleries as part of their research for their Unit 3 examination.

Ysgol Rhiwabon will soon benefit from the services of an artist in residence. For further details please see the next news update.....

Looking to the future

Speakers from the Forces have continued to visit the school since Christmas. They have instructed students on interview skills, supplied general careers information and provided problem solving exercises.

On Wednesday 17th March the Royal Navy gave a very impressive presentation to Year 10 students.



Duke of Edinburgh Serves Up a Tasty Treat For Staff!!

Three Year 10 students have completed the 'Cookery Skills' aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. They have completed a folder illustrating their work and treated staff staying in school on a Wednesday evening to a ready prepared meal!!

Lost anything recently????

The office staff & caretaking team have an increasing amount of items which have been found in school and not claimed. Property found will be held for a period of up to one term then disposed of accordingly. If you have lost anything in school recently please ask in reception. Obviously it is much easier to return property found to their owners if the items are marked with the pupil's name and form.



Plans in the Pipeline for New Studio

Plans have been drawn up for a larger Recording Studio to accommodate the increased interest in the Talking Newspaper. Provisional costs are into five figures so fundraising and bids for grant aid are being considered. Further details will be in the next newsletter. If you are able to support this in anyway please contact Mrs Ros Dean or Mr Hotchkiss at school.

Positively Mad

As part of Year 11's examination preparation programme pupils experienced 'Positively Mad's' Exam Busters session where they were shown useful strategies to help with their studying. Years 12 & 13 were also in attendance. Students spoke highly of the event and said they found it to be a worthwhile experience.



Careers Wales

Careers Wales continue to be involved in extensive work with Years 9, 10 & 11. Activities include "S Club 9", "Go For It" & "Youth Gateway".

ICT Club

Wednesday's after school ICT Club continues to prove popular with staff volunteering to supervise pupils who use our broadband internet access to enhance their homework and coursework.

www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk

Our award winning website now includes work zones for students to log on to. The site is proving popular with approximately 1,000 hits being recorded each week.



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Headteacher /Pennaeth - Peter Shaw BA -Headteacher

"Ysgol Rhiwabon provides good opportunities for pupils' academic, personal and social development"
Estyn Report May 2003

E-mail: mailbox@rhiwabon-high.wrexham.sch.uk

Website: www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk

South African Connection

Assistant Headteacher, Mr Mark Leather, recently spent two weeks in South Africa visiting schools and looking at possible educational links with Ysgol Rhiwabon.

Below is his account of the visit.....



Cape Town is near the southern-most tip of Africa, 11 hours flying time away, and I was lucky enough to visit the area at the end of February.

Up to 10 years ago South Africa had a system called apartheid

in which people were given rights according to their race: whites were the most privileged and had the best schools, coloureds (mixed race) were next in the pecking order, and blacks were the bottom of the heap and were treated abysmally. Under this system black and coloured people were allowed to live only in certain areas. The black township of Khayelitsha, about 20km east of Cape Town, was one such area where basic services such as water and electricity were not provided and people lived in shacks. Black workers travelled into the city each day to work, if they had passes.

Ysgol Rhiwabon was asked by a former president of the NAHT, Margaret Morgan, to establish links with Kwamfundo Senior Secondary School in Khayelitsha following her visit there two years ago. My job was to explore the possibility of links with the school, and this I did by going to the school, sitting in lessons, telling the pupils and staff about our school and discussing with the Representative Council of Learners. (RCL—the school council).

I also visited other schools and educational organisations to give me an idea of the education system in South Africa. Apartheid finished only 10 years ago, when Nelson Mandela was released from prison and became the President of the

Country and it was fascinating to see how the country is coping with massive political and economic change.



I was warmly welcomed by everyone I met and was treated to a special celebration at Kwamfundo with whom we will link. Among other things, I will ask our school council to contact the Kwamfundo RCL by e mail. At Muizenberg High School, a more affluent school with pupils of all races, there is a Tourism class who would like to contact our leisure and Tourism students. We hope to see colleagues from Kwamfundo in the UK in the near future.

Of course, I thought it my duty at the weekend to explore the area so that I could report back thoroughly to the newsletter. I visited Cape Town and also the Cape Point national park where I saw an ostrich, impala, a snake and other wildlife including a few cheeky baboons (I'm sure I've seen one in a green 'YR' sweat-shirt somewhere before).

The poorest people in South Africa still are black people, and I was knocked back by the living conditions of some of the 1.5 million people in Khayelitsha, but everyone I met was positive as, very gradually, improvements are being made and opportunities are available for some of those who previously had none.

An interlesson photo opportunity



This project grows vegetables in the school grounds



With some of the pupils



Accounting is on the curriculum





Staff—Sixth Form Challenge Ends All Square

Our school staff recently proved their fitness levels with a sports tournament against students from Years 12 & 13. The staff won the badminton and volleyball matches whilst the students were successful in the football and netball. The overall result was a drawn match which meant that everyone could go home happy!



Sports Activities

The sports complex based at the school continues to provide a large number of activities after school and at weekends. Clubs include badminton, basket ball, cricket, golf, table tennis, circuits, football and netball. Contact the PE staff for further details.

Sports Taster Sessions

Sports Taster sessions for boys and girls have been held at Ysgol Rhiwabon during the Spring Term. The aim of these sessions is to give our pupils the opportunity to participate in activities they do not currently take part in. During the Spring Term successful courses were delivered in Golf and Street Dance.



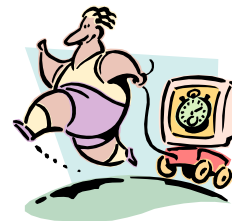
Football



Our school team completed their sports fixtures during the Spring Term. Matches have been played against all other schools in the Wrexham area. A very large number of pupils have represented the school at each of the various age groups and all should be congratulated on their behaviour and performances.

Health Awareness Day

A group of Year 10 GCSE PE students represented Wrexham schools at NEWI. They presented how pupils at Ysgol Rhiwabon learn to stay fit and healthy. They performed a short circuit on stage and did very well.



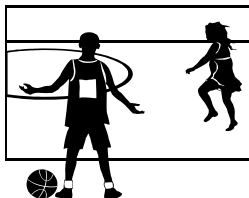
Rugby Team in Tri-County Tournament



After many weeks of training the Year 10 Rugby team took part in a tri-county Rugby Tournament at Castell Alun School. Although they did not win any matches it was an enjoyable and valuable experience.

Netball

Regular fixtures have taken place since February half term. Practices for Years 7, 8 & 9 have been taking place at lunchtimes and after school. Alys Jones, Year 12 has been coaching Year 7 pupils.



Development Centre

The centre has continued to focus on developing dance & gymnastics. Mr Bingham has run a pilot inset day at St. Mary's Primary School for gymnastics. All teachers concerned are benefiting and confidence is increasing in their delivery of PE. For more information see the newsletter on the school website.

STOP PRESS... NEWS JUST IN...

Winners of the Wrexham County Netball Championships 2004

Congratulations to the Year 9 Netball team who won the Wrexham County Netball Championship yesterday. Team members were -

Cerys Adams, Jenna Bithell, Zoe Evans, Susanna Davies, Chloe Hughes, Stacey Ithell, Natalie Jones, Genna Lodge, Jess Lodge, Sarah-Jayne Pritchard, Darika Wandless, Melissa Waters, Sian Williams

