



OCTOBER
2003



Ysgol Rhiwabon News Update

The start of term is usually a busy time for staff and pupils. This year has been no exception. Below are brief details of just some of the many things that have happened.



NEW STAFF

Joining the school this September were Mr James Gordon and Dr Alan Menzies who teach in the Science department, whilst Miss Lisa Griffiths a former pupil, returned on the teaching staff in the Languages Department, specialising in Welsh. To address changes in teachers' contracts, we have added to our non-teaching staff with Mrs Andrea Edwards

joining the administration team along with Mrs Denise Hellen who was formerly a classroom assistant.

New technician, Mr Ceriog Davies, has two roles. One in the Technology department and the other as part of our maintenance team. Our ever expanding team of Classroom Assistants has been joined by Mrs Yvonne Westwood and Mr Wyn Roberts.

Our best wishes go to departing teachers Mrs Claire Dillamore, Mr Alan Clinton and Technician Mr Martin Jones.



NEW PUPILS FROM NEAR AND FAR

The popularity of the school is increasing with over 120 new pupils joining us in Year 7. Early indications suggest that this trend will continue with considerable interest being shown by parents whose children are due to start secondary education in September 2004.



Our sixth form continues to prove popular with large numbers of our own former students being joined by others from the Wrexham area - and much further. By far, the most travelled is Butjilani ('Butch' to his many friends) who took his O levels in Zimbabwe before joining us for his A level studies.

HARVEST ASSEMBLY RECEIVES PRAISE

Year 8 pupils organised their own Harvest Festival with gifts brought in by the pupils being donated to the Wrexham Asylum Seekers and Refugee Support Group. The chairman of that Group, Rev James Aylward, attended the special assembly and has written to the pupils expressing his thanks for their welcome and generosity.



REVENGE FOR QUIZ TEAM

The newly formed school quiz team recently gained revenge for a one point defeat in their first match by turning the tables on competition hosts, Bryn Alyn School. Such was the interest that Mrs Pat



Williams had to organise trials to select the final team. Those chosen were Lara Edwards, Cerys Saffy, Susanna Davies, Zacari Morris, Ieuan Meyers, Richard Wilkins, James Garrett & Peter Jackson. Spurred on by Miss McKay and Mrs Dean they triumphed 19-13 over their hosts.

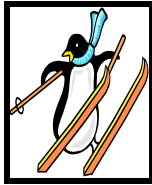
TARANTULA TICKLING

Year 7 pupils joined with some Year 6 pupils from Ysgol Acrefair to experience the Big Bug Show. Organiser Lee Gibbs allowed the pupils to 'tickle a tarantula' and 'massage a millipede'. To hear how the youngsters get on, study the next newsletter, whilst a glance at our web site may provide more details before then.



ON THE PISTE

Preparation for next January's Ski Course in the French Alps has continued. An evening of advice on ski clothing has been held whilst preparation for the skiing itself has taken the form of lessons at the Telford Dry Ski Slope. After a few spills, all pupils have now mastered the use of the ski lift and are ready to hone their skills at turning.



ICT CLUB

Every Wednesday, pupils of the school have the opportunity to surf the net, practise their word processing or simply improve their keyboard skills in the ICT club held for one hour after school. With a free bus available afterwards, this club has proved particularly beneficial to pupils who have no computer facilities at home or who have to share them with brothers and sisters (not to mention mums and dads).



VISIT OF NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Our local National Assembly, Karen Sinclair was our guest of honour at our recent Prize Giving Ceremony. She spoke about the value of education for all and made a point of praising the new facilities which children at Ysgol Rhiwabon now benefit from.



LUCY & JONATHAN GAIN SILVER

Students, Lucy Dean and Jonathan Owen have recently gained their silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards following several months of hard work (and fun) under the guidance of Mr Paddy Bingham and Miss Catrin Pritchard. It seems likely that several other pupils will achieve this honour with five Year 10 and six Year 9 pupils recently gaining their Bronze Awards following a two day expedition.

POETS POPULAR WITH PUPILS

Following last July's successful visit of Asian performance poet and rap artist, Scorpio, the school welcomed a famous English poet who read a wide range of poems to pupils assembled in our new library. Tony Langham, who hails from Manchester enthralled his audience with poems for both children and older listeners.



YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL COURSE

A new venue was chosen for this year's Year 7 residential activity course. Kingswood in Ruthin proved an ideal choice and excellent comments were received on the food, accommodation and the staff of the centre. Our children were supervised by the Year 7 team of tutors. Both children and tutors enjoyed a good time.

Comments from the pupils included:

"I had a really nice time and loved the quad bikes."

"I enjoyed climbing the wall."

"I had a wonderful time with lots to do and I particularly enjoyed the Games Evening."

www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk

During the summer term our school won the award for the best secondary school website in Wrexham. Since then it has continued to develop. If you have not visited it recently it is well worth a look. As always comments in our guest book are valuable and much appreciated.



STUDENT SAFETY IN SCHOOL

Our site is a busy place particularly at the start and the end of the day. In the interests of the safety of other pupils, parents bringing their children to school by car are asked not to enter the school site.

ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION BY BROMCOM

This term has seen the successful introduction of an electronic system of registration called Bromcom. Staff, who take registers every lesson, can now transmit information directly to the school office and so allow a pupil to be tracked throughout the day. This system which is based on a radio link can be extended to convey messages and other information to staff as they move about the school.

YSGOL RHIWABON LIBRARY GOES GLOBAL!



Driven on by the enthusiasm of Mrs Nia Richards, our Library continues to be increasingly used for a wider range of activities. As part of International Schools' Library Day, Ysgol Rhiwabon has forged links with Delaney College, Granville Sydney, Australia. Pupils are exchanging information on their favourite books and what they like to read. Will they get advance information on the happenings in 'Neighbours' we ask?

STRANGE HAPPENINGS IN A CATHEDRAL...

Late in the summer term, Mrs Aylward took her Year 10 GCSE group to a fun workshop held in St Asaph Cathedral. The trip was not without its surprises with Mrs Aylward reporting that Ashley, Lyndsay and Tiffany were momentarily elevated to the rank of bishop whilst James was married to a complete stranger with Mrs Aylward's ring. The pupils wish to record their thanks to the Bishop and his staff for the great time in the Cathedral and to Mr Bill Parrish who drove the minibus.

PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

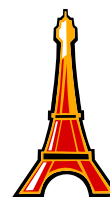
The PE Department have had a busy start to the term with football and netball matches taking place each week against other schools in the county.



Pupils also have the opportunity to join extra curricular clubs in gymnastics, rugby, badminton, basketball, mini-tennis and cricket. Pupils interested should check noticeboards for times and dates of activities.

ALL ABOARD FOR FRANCE

The Key Stage 3 study visit to France in July 2004 is already full. Approximately 50 pupils will enjoy the sights of Paris, visit some World War I battle sights and enjoy the delights of Disneyland. At the same time they will gain from hearing some native French speakers and practise the language by buying gifts for their parents!



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AT YSGOL RHIWABON

Art Club -

Every Tuesday 3.15pm - 4.10 pm.

Drama Club -

Every Thursday until 4.30 pm.

Keyboard Club -

Every Tuesday -3.05 pm -4.05 pm

After School Homework Club

Every Thursday - 3.05 - 4.05 pm

ICT Club

Every Wednesday 3.05 pm—4.05 pm.

YSGOL RHIWABON



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