

JULY  
2004



# YSGOL RHIWABON SUMMER 2004



### View From the Bridge...

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of what has been an extremely busy and exciting year for the school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Our Year 7 intake for September currently stands at around 160—the biggest number for many years and a sure sign that our school is going in the right direction.

We have recently been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark as well as being voted Secondary Sports School of the Year for the Wrexham area. Both awards are thoroughly deserved and we are justifiably proud of our achievements. Next term starts on the 2nd of September and, due to the large numbers of students in school next year, we have made the following arrangements:

Thursday 2nd Sept:

Yrs 7, 11 and 12 only.

Friday 3rd September

All years.

The first days of a new school term are important from the point of view of giving out information to students and it is vitally important that attendance is high to start off the term.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, who have worked so hard for your sons and daughters this year. Our school really is an exciting place to be at the moment and credit must go to all those who make sure that the quality of education we provide continues to be of such a high standard. Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. I look forward to working with you again in September.

**Peter Shaw**  
Headteacher

## NEWSLETTER



**A Big Thank you to 'Gower Homes'** who have kindly agreed to be the major sponsors of our homework diary. As a result of their sponsorship and that of '**Specialists in Seating**' we will be able to have an improved version of the homework diary to issue to all students in September.

Read about '**Gower Homes**' and their progress with the developments on the Old Boys' Grammar School in a forthcoming newsletter..

At the time of writing builders are currently busy in the gym with work in readiness for the installation of luxury tiered seating.

'**Specialists in Seating**' will complete the work by installing tiered seats as well as supplying additional chairs for the body of the hall. Quotations are also being gathered to update the stage to meet the demands of our popular musical productions.

Thanks are also due to our school photographers, **H Tempest Ltd** who have also provided sponsorship.

Hafod & Dee Valley Lions, who are regular supporters of the school, have recently donated another £250 towards our Talking Newspaper for the Blind. Their support is greatly appreciated.

If any companies would like to support the school and publicise their company in this, or any other way, please contact Mr John Hotchkiss. Sponsorship can be acknowledged through this newsletter, on our website, or in the school as appropriate.

### STOP PRESS.....

Ysgol rhiwabon has just heard that its application to pilot the welsh BACCALAUREATE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL. FURTHER DETAILS ELSEWHERE IN THIS BULLETIN.....

## English Department Theatre Visits

This term Mrs Pat Williams took a group of Year 8 pupils to Liverpool to see an adaptation of Helen Forrester's 'Twopence Across The Mersey'. Following the success of this trip Year 7 will be going to Chester Gateway Theatre in September to see a play version of 'Bad Girls' (not the 'Bad Girls' of the television programme!) by the popular author, Jacqueline Wilson.



## Spotted any Spelling Mistakes...?

The English Department has registered Years 7 & 8 in a BBC led search for 'Britain's Best Young Speller'. Pupils aged 11 to 14 are invited to take part in a nationwide spelling competition which the BBC will film and make into an exciting new show called 'Hard Spell'.



## Quiz Teams

Recently the Year 8 Quiz Team, 'The Clever Penguins', took part in a competition at Bryn Alyn and did very well. The Year 9 Quiz Team will be competing at Penley School in July.

## Models for the Day!

As part of their GCSE production task in Media Studies, Year 10 pupils recently completed a morning's work on magazine front covers. Under the guidance of Mrs Cooper pupils organised a photo shoot to produce front covers for teenage magazines. This was a really enjoyable session and pupils are now using their ICT skills to adapt the photos taken to suit the format of a magazine front cover.



JESSICA & KELLY MAKE UP!



GRANGE HILL MEETS YSGOL RHIWABON'S DARREN!



MR COOL!

## Progress Files

This year was the last time for Records of Achievement to be awarded. They are being replaced by Progress Files. We are currently investigating different ways of presenting these valuable documents & are delighted that our school bankers, **HSBC plc** have agreed to be one of our first sponsors.

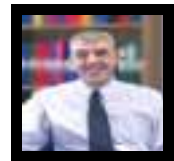
**The Library Team** visited Wrexham Library on 17th May and saw the products and services on offer & learnt a great deal about how a public library works.



## POST CARD

### Library Team Post card Project

Over the summer holidays the students will be sending in postcards to the Library about the books they are reading. These will all be put on display when we are back in September.



FIRST CLASS

Mrs N Richards  
Library  
Ysgol Rhiwabon  
RUABON  
Wrexham  
LL14 6BT

## Talking Newspaper

Recently Mrs Ros Dean and student, Lucy Dean attended the Annual Donation Presentation of the Hafod and Dee Valley Lions Club.

This was held at the Chainbridge Hotel, Llangollen and the Talking Newspaper received a cheque for £250. We are very grateful for the continuing support of the Lions Club.



## Hand Round the Chocolate....

As trading opened at 1.20 pm in E5 last Monday afternoon action was swift.

Year 9 pupils were busy trying to buy, sell or steal their way to a fortune on behalf of countries throughout the world.

This was part of a Christian Aid Workshop to demonstrate how world trade effects both big and small countries in the world.

## STUDENTS CARVE PICTURES AT TY MAWR

Recently we visited Tŷ Mawr Country

Park as part of our Geography coursework. John, the Ranger, showed us how to carve pictures of animals and insects into planks of wood. We made some benches with these for the mini beast wood so people can sit and watch there. About a month later, the Mayor, Councillor Aled Roberts, came to open the new playground and we had our photographs taken with him on our benches. We then had tea & biscuits. We enjoyed it. We have put a display in the school library.



### Europe 2004

The last addition of the Newsletter featured Saber Aribi who has now completed his spell with us as a French Assistant. Our European dimension has been retained with our new ICT Assistant Technician, Señorita Beatriz Magaña Fernandes who has completed some valuable work assisting Mr Arfon Carter with computer problems around the school. Beatriz is improving her English but has no problems communicating with Mrs Pat Jones, Mrs Anna Aylward and of course, Headteacher Peter Shaw, all who have a command of the Spanish language.

### Artist in Residence Project

Funding from the 'Arts Council of Wales' provided the opportunity for all Year 8 pupils to work with an artist, Ann Bridges, on a printmaking project based on the theme *Celebration*.

Using oil-based printing inks, hand cut stencils & hand rollers, pupils designed and made a number of vibrant coloured designs, one soon to be on display at Ysbyty Maelor. Other pieces of work are displayed around the school. They should all feel proud of their efforts, as everyone's work has been used in the making of the pictures.



Ann Bridges  
(Artist in Residence)  
& Year 8 students



### French Department have très bon time in France!

47 students & 6 staff crossed the Channel on 24 June to pay a three day visit to France. Below is Hana Kira Owen's (Y8) recollection of the visit:

*"When we went to France on Thursday night we were all very excited. We arrived in France on Friday morning and went to a huge hypermarket! We went into the village where we were staying until Sunday and spoke to some French people & asked them questions. We visited the WW1 sites on the Somme, went to the trenches & tried to imagine what it must have been like. We also visited the Welsh Dragon Memorial in Mametz Wood. The following morning we had a coach tour of Paris and spent time in Notre Dame Cathedral & went to the top of the Eiffel Tower! My overall view of the trip is that it was brilliant, especially Disney where I went on 'Space Mountain' & 'The Haunted House'.*



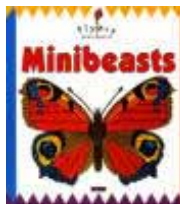
### GOLD in Mathematics

Ysgol Rhiwabon pupils have again won certificates in a United Kingdom Mathematical Challenge. Budding mathematicians from local primary schools joined Years 7 & 8 pupils to take part in the Junior Challenge, with Ysgol Maes-y-Llan pupil Lydia Flinderse shining, by claiming a Bronze. The top award went to Year 8 pupil Jamie Pugh who was joined in the Gold category by Thomas Hughes of Year 7. Another Year 7 pupil, Chris Jones secured a Silver, whilst Amie Byrne and Luke Marubbi joined Lydia in the Bronze category.



### YALE Challenge

Our pupils also gained success in the recent Yale Challenges. Simeon Holland, Robert Hughes & Sally Bottomley all reached the second round of the Junior Challenge, whilst in the Seniors, Ian Hall was one of fifteen prize winners from over 100 entries from North Wales. Ian received his awards at Yale College.



### Year 6 pupils get to know their future Science Teachers!

70 Ysgol Rhiwabon pupils & 170 Year 6 primary pupils took part in a recent Science activities day held at Felin Puleston. They enjoyed activities such as, countryside walks, games, meadow work and river dipping. All the information gained during this visit will be used to help Year 6 pupils complete their 'minibeast & the environment' project back in their primary classrooms.

### Broken Bike Fails to Stop Zac!

A broken bike failed to prevent Ysgol Rhiwabon Year 9 pupil Zac Morris from raising £200 for Leukaemia research as part of a total of £500 raised by the school in the Vyrnwy Bikeathon.

Zac, five other pupils and three teachers recently spent a Sunday morning cycling around Lake Vyrnwy to raise funds for the charity. It was Head of Year 9, Mrs Pat Jones, who saved the day by arranging for Zac to borrow a cycle after his broke on the way to school. He was joined on the ride by Faune Ellis-Williams, Emma Mackay, Ieuan Meyers, Phillip Perrett and Arwel Carter as well as teachers Mrs Pat Jones, Mrs Sharon Cooper and Mr John Hotchkiss. Officials of the charity will be presented with the cheque at a forthcoming Year 9 assembly.

### A PUZZLE ???? When can 2 x 13 = 25 ?

One lap of the course was 13 miles, though three of the pupils and one of the staff completed the course twice but totalled 25 miles each. If you can work out the reason for the apparent discrepancy in the mathematics or want to speculate which of the group completed two laps, please see Mrs Jones.





### Student Celebrates Musical Success

Congratulations to Edward Bottomley of Year 11 for successfully passing the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Instrumental examination in Violin Grade 1.



Good Luck to the following who are trying their first exam in July~

Aimee Jones (Y7) Saxophone  
Hanna Owen (Y8) Saxophone  
Kelly Wojcik (Y7) Flute



### Over £2,000 from Walk—a fantastic achievement!!

We were blessed with fine weather for our Annual Sponsored Walk held on Friday 21st May. Pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff joined forces as marshals or walkers. Collectively £2,403 was promised. There are still some students who have not returned all of their sponsor money. This should be done as soon as possible—remember we have photocopies of all sponsor forms!! Proceeds will be shared between our appeal to build a new recording studio for our Talking Newspaper for the Blind and improvements to pupil areas of the school. The School Council will be consulted over the latter.

Thank you to all parents & friends for their sponsorship.

### Youth Work in Education

Year 11 Compact Plus Group achieved Bronze Level in ASDAN and also completed a challenging residential weekend in Barmouth. They set up camp, completed a 'high ropes' course, a 'gorge walk' and a 'quad trek'. Students involved were ~ Mathew Thompson, Chris Griffiths, Luke Mathews & Zoe Benion. Bronze Awards were also earned by Ellen Edwards & Nicola Davies. The group will be receiving their awards on 7 July at the Youth Work Conference in NEWL.

### Richard Branson Pays the Way!

The Welsh department together with the Performing Arts are attending the World Awareness Day on 8th July. 34 students from Years 7-13 will be travelling to the Isle of Wight to represent Wales—travelling costs to be met by Mr Branson's company. There will be an opportunity to view this performance using our new seating next September. Look out for a full report in the next newsletter.

### Year 10 students choose the healthy option....

A Health day for Year 10 students was held on 1st July. Students visited the following workshops for 40-45 minutes:

- Alcohol
- Self Defence
- Smoking
- STIs
- Body Awareness
- Contraception
- Information Shop



### A week in France as seen through the eyes of Lucy Dean (Year 11)

*The trip to France in April this year was enjoyed by all and was certainly an experience we will not forget! We had a lot of fun but this trip was certainly educational. In preparation for GCSE, AS & A2 level oral exams we had to speak French from 11am to 5pm, not only to each other, but to the unsuspecting citizens of Bayeux! It was an amazing experience that certainly improved my standard of French.*

### It's Party Time!!!!

A party was held in the Library on 2nd July to launch the Library Tour CD Rom. Students who took part in this project were invited to attend and a great time was had by all!



### Welsh Bac—the way forward

Great news, we have been chosen by the Welsh Assembly Government as one of seven pilot schools for the Welsh Baccalaureate in 2005. The Welsh Bac is an exciting new qualification for Sixth Form students which will be available for all schools in Wales in 2007. Students will have the opportunity to study for the Welsh Bac alongside their AS, A2 and GNVQ courses and it will provide a whole new range of experiences for them as well as giving them an extra qualification to take into employment or further study.

The opportunity to participate as a pilot school has been fiercely contested by schools and colleges throughout Wales and our selection reflects the quality of

Sixth Form education at Ysgol Rhiwabon. We will be working hard next year to prepare for the launch of the Welsh Bac in 2005. Information about the Welsh Bac can be found on the school website.



## World of Work Event

On 25th June, as part of the World Related Curriculum, Year 10 attended a series of workshops run by the following employers:

Mr G Ledger—Marcher Sound

Mr A Edwards—N Wales Fire Service

Ms T Nevin—Crown Prosecution Service

Mr M Jones—Welsh College of Horticulture

Our thanks to them for participating and giving the students an insight



into their careers and also to Lesley Lloyd from Careers Wales who helped organise the event.

### Helen to represent Ysgol Rhiwabon

Helen Parry has been selected to represent Ysgol Rhiwabon in the 'Wales Student Innovation Awards' where she could win £500 and the title of 'Young Welsh Innovator of the Year'.

During Year 11 Helen designed and manufactured a portable, modern chess & drafts board in jade green perspex for her GCSE design project & it was so good that we entered her for this year's innovations competition.



Judging of the phase one entrants took place in May and Helen was successful & has been invited to represent the school at the best in Wales showcase and awards ceremony at NEWI on 9th July. The award has been designed to celebrate, recognise and reward excellence in GCSE Design & Technology and we wish Helen every success on the day.

### School Reports

As part of our reporting system, parents are encouraged to write comments when acknowledging reports. All comments are appreciated. Below are some extracts from those received from parents of Year 9 pupils.

**A**  
We are pleased with "A's" report. He has tried his best. Keep it up A.  
26.05.04

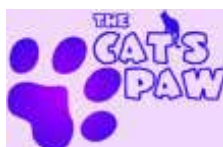
**C**  
It is nice to see "C" has made steady progress and improvements from last year's report. An excellent report. Well done. Thanks for your efforts.  
08.06.04

**B**  
I am delighted with "B's" report. He is working well in all subjects and I will continue to support and encourage him to work to the best of his ability. Many thanks to all staff, their hard work is much appreciated.  
25.05.04

**D**  
We are pleased with "D's" report. We are just as concerned about his absences as you are and hope this will be resolved very soon.  
09.06.04

### Work Experience

Arrangements are now being made for Year 10 students to carry out their work experience at the end of this term. Many students have been able to organise their own placements this year and we look forward to a successful week.



The "Cat's Paw Theatre Company" visited Ysgol Rhiwabon on Tuesday 6th July to make presentations to Year 7 pupils as part of the Raising Aspirations project. The aim of the presentation was to develop an interest in pupils in staying on into further or higher education. The show was called "Do you dare decide?" and consisted of a mixture of lively theatrical presentation and workshop. The children involved had an enjoyable and stimulating experience.

### YSGOL RHIWABON



Ysgol Rhiwabon  
Ruabon  
Wrexham  
LL14 6BT  
Tel: Wrexham (01978) 822392  
Fax: (01978) 810230

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](mailto:mailbox@rhiwabon-high.wrexham.sch.uk)

Website: [www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk](http://www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk)



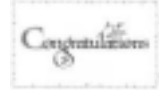
**Secondary School of the Year  
Sports Award**

The school was delighted to receive the **Secondary School of the Year** Sports Award earlier this term. Ysgol Rhiwabon was nominated for the award during the spring term and then shortlisted

by a panel of judges from Sports Development along with Ysgol Morgan Llwyd and St. Joseph's High School. The school was announced as the winner at a presentation evening on 2nd June.

Head of the PE Department, Mr Partridge said, **"the award is a reflection of the hard work of students, teachers, leisure services and Sports Development Officers."**

He also added **"many improvements have taken place in the last few years. More activities are available due to our new facilities on site. Students of all ages and abilities are able to participate in sporting activities during lessons & after school sessions. We are proud of the achievements of our students and are keen to continue this progress in future years."**



**Raindrops keep falling on my head!.....**

On June 24th students & staff from Ysgol Rhiwabon went to Old Trafford to watch England vs New Zealand in an international cricket match. Unfortunately rain stopped play!

Several pupils from all years have been attending cricket practices at lunch-times & after school with a view to arranging cricket fixtures later in the term. Many of our students currently play for local cricket clubs whilst Andrew Swarbrick (Year 10) and Gareth Partridge (Year 7) have been selected to represent NE Wales.



Ysgol Rhiwabon students receive Sports Award

**Some Athletics News**



**School sports day**



will be held on Wednesday 14th July. This year the events will be run as an interform competition with trophies being awarded to the form with the most points. Individual winners will receive victor/victrix ludorum trophies. Events start at 9.30 am—spectators are welcome to attend.

**Rounders**

Year 9 girls rounders team were recently challenged to a match against a select Year 9 boys team. Despite some dubious umpiring decisions by Joanne Chalk the boys still managed a narrow victory.

**PESS Development Centre**

The PE & School Support Project (PESS) is a partnership between the Sports Council for Wales & Welsh Assembly Government.



This scheme enables

60 of our Year 7 pupils to try out their skills at rock climbing at Saltney Climbing Centre. A celebration day was held at Ysgol Rhiwabon to highlight the excellent work and improvements that have occurred due to the scheme. Everyone had an enjoyable day enjoying dancing from St Mary's primary school & a gymnastic display from Cefn Mawr pupils.



**Students Prepare for Sports Day**