

DECEMBER
2003



Ysgol Rhiwabon Christmas Update



recent activities

Seasons Greetings



View from the Bridge 1

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of what has been a very busy term I hope this Newsletter gives you a flavour of the vast range of activities in our vibrant learning community.

I am also attaching a letter with regard to school transport and will give you further details in January.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Peter Shaw
Headteacher

Wrexham Arts Centre Visit

Students from Year 11 worked alongside local artist, Tim Pugh in a practical workshop recently at the Arts Centre in Wrexham. This was the start of a new project and hopefully Tim will be visiting the school to develop the project further.



Poster Competition Winner

Year 9 student, Timothy Hughes has been recognised as one of the local winners in a 'National Road Safety Art' competition. Timothy recently attended an award ceremony



where he received his prize, a £10 gift voucher, & certificate. Well done Timothy! Watch the local press for details.

Welsh department News ...



Glanllyn was visited by students in Years

12 & 13. They found the experience very worthwhile and enjoyed themselves immensely!

...Not only did they visit Glanllyn but they also paid a visit to Yr Ysgwrn — home of Hedd Wyn.

... Years 7 & 10 students have been taught poetry by the Welsh adviser, Mrs Enfys Thomas who visited school recently.

Attention former YR students.....



Did you sit your examinations in Ysgol Rhiwabon in recent years? If so have you collected your certificate? The school is accumulating an increasing stock of certificates which former students have not yet collected. Before collecting your certificates please telephone the school office to enable us to have everything ready for you. Sorry, these will have to be collected as we cannot pay postage.

En Français si'l vous plaît

As part of their French lessons students are employing the latest technology by using the internet for research and producing Powerpoint presentations.

Year 7 students have been increasing their vocabulary and can now introduce themselves, count to 40 and are familiar with countries in Europe. Many are looking forward to using their new found skills in June 2004 when they visit France.



'A View from the Bridge 2' - theatre performance

Earlier this term Years 10 & 11 visited the theatre to see 'A View From The Bridge' (a set text for their Literature exam). Everyone agreed that the performance was excellent and will be most beneficial to their future examination.



Llandudno Geography field-trip

Y11 GCSE students visited Llandudno at the end of November to collect data for their coursework. Students & staff enjoyed the day, with some evidence of early Christmas shopping!

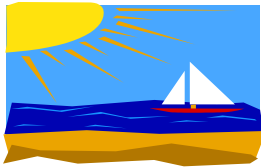


Talking Newspaper for the Blind

Under the guidance of Ros Dean the talking newspaper for the Blind continues to go from strength to strength. Recent examinations for Years 10 & 11 have enabled some younger pupils to join the team of readers. Copies of the tapes now go out every week to almost 100 blind or partially sighted people in the Wrexham area.



Arnside, bordering the Lake District National Park



Years 12 & 13 'A' level students stayed at YHA Arnside recently to

complete their individual investigations. This was an extremely successful fieldcourse. Well done to all the 6th form students (they seemed to enjoy an early Christmas dinner!)



Primary Early Starters

Recently the school has been visited by many Y6 children due to come to Ysgol Rhiwabon in September 2004. Opinions on the most popular subject were divided. Some enjoyed Music (keyboard lessons), others preferred PE in the sports hall. One or two, however, thought the school lunch was most impressive! Year 6 teacher, Mrs Rita Jones of Cefn Mawr school stated that pupils enjoyed their visit and were very impressed by the new facilities at Ysgol Rhiwabon.



Ready, Steady, Cook!

The Duke of Edinburgh group from Year 10 have been preparing for outdoor cookery by practising after school in the luxury of the food technology room.

Ysgol Rhiwabon's 'Wall of Fame'

Visitors to the school may have noticed our 'Wall of Fame.' This display is on the wall in the reception area foyer by the school canteen. Photographs, certificates and special events which have taken place at Ysgol Rhiwabon are on display with more being added virtually every day! This wall has proved to be very popular and a big talking point with both students and staff.



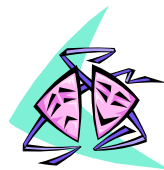
A taste of Bollywood

Y9 were given a taste of India Bollywood style recently when Uma Mather put them through their paces with her dance routines. Pupils were separated into gender groups and the fun began! Even the simplest moves were not quite as easy as expected and there was a fair struggle to keep up. I am sure we would all agree that there were some stars for the future in Bollywood amongst our girls.



Drama Group go to see Musical

Students from Years 9-12 visited the theatre in Manchester to see a production of 'Blood Brothers', which is being studied as part of their Drama/English course. Everyone found the trip to be very enjoyable.



Best wishes to...

We would like to wish the following good luck in their instrumental exams, Ceri Jones (Y12), Lucy Dean (Y11), Howard Jones (Y11), Matthew Taylor (Y9), Hannah Jones (Y8 and Andrea Dodd (Y7). Watch this space for their results.

Preparation for Christmas

The Expressive Arts department has been working hard since half term in preparation for the Christmas Carol Concert to be held on 17th December at St Mary's Church, Ruabon.





Examinations

Years 10 & 11 have recently taken their school examinations. The Year 10 Science exam was part of their stage assessment of GCSE. For Year 11, results will be a crucial part of the target setting programme and will be the basis for deciding the tier of entry for external examinations. Entries will be confirmed early in the spring term.

NEWI Librarian visits Library

Our Year 7/8/9 book group 'Kool Katz' had a discussion on the book 'Holes' with Mr Paul Jearrett, NEWI Librarian.

Quiz Team News.....

Years 8 and 9 enjoyed success in the recent quiz held against Bryn Alyn. Congratulations to all the teams and well done!



Ysgol Rhiwabon v Ysgol Morgan Llwyd

Our Y9 Quiz Team—'Bright Sparks' will be competing against Ysgol Morgan Llwyd on Wednesday 17th December. Good luck Bright Sparks!



Poetry book for sale

Poetry books (with the theme 'Love & Peace') produced by students of Ysgol Rhiwabon is currently on sale from the Library at £2.50 each.



These books would make great stocking fillers. Place your order in time for Christmas now as we have only a limited availability.

The Yorkshire poet, Tony Langham brought along his acoustic guitar when he visited school during October. His visit was in conjunction with Children's Book Week. The students & staff found his performance very refreshing and inspiring and eagerly await his next visit!

PSHE Careers

Some of the Year 11 PSHE groups benefited from the expertise of outside speakers.



Paul Williams of the 'Arrive Live Team' informed Year 11 students about speed cameras and showed a very moving video about driving.



Captain Parkin visited the school recently to speak to Years 10/11. Year 10 were given an insight into careers in the army whilst Year 11 were given advice on interview techniques.



Year 11 have been spoken to about life in the RAF and further talks are planned for Years 10 & 11 after Christmas.



Year 7 have been encouraged to plan for the future by opening a bank account. Advice has been given by representatives of HSBC.



The Y12 GNVQ Health & Social Care group have received many compliments after their 2 weeks of work experience. Several have been asked to return to local primary schools to help out with end of term activities.

Charity fundraisers.....

A cake sale on Friday 26th September was organised by Years 10 & 11 catering groups. This raised £100 for Macmillan Nurses. Another similar event is planned in aid of Marie Curie cancer nurses.



Youth Gateway update

Year 11 Youth Gateway. Pupils have been gaining experience and qualifications at Rhosymedre Enterprise Centre.



Competitions & Challenges in Mathematics

The Mathematics department has continued to encourage students to enter competitions and challenges. In the UK Senior Mathematical Challenge; taken by 60,620 students across the UK, Tom Partridge excelled by gaining a Bronze Award. Tom is in Year 11 but outperformed opposition from our sixth form to also take the Best in School Award. Rachael Armstrong is also to be congratulated on gaining a Bronze Award. The next UK Challenge will be in the Intermediate age group for Years 9, 10 & 11 and takes place on Thursday 5th February 2004.

Yale Challenge

The local Yale Challenge for Years 7 to 10 should provide some sleepless nights for some pupils. They are reminded that completed entries should reach Mrs Griffiths by Tuesday 13th January 2004.

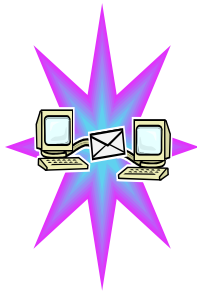


S Club 9

Careers Wales have worked with Year 9 over 10 weeks providing advice and guidance on team work, building confidence etc.

Youth Work in Education

Congratulations to Lucy Price (10AM) & Jessica Jones (11GM) for becoming involved in Ruabon Community Council. They represented ideas from young people in the community. If anyone else would like to become involved please contact Tracey (Youth Worker).



www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk

Web Site. If you haven't visited our website recently you will not have seen our latest venture ie having work available for pupils to complete. To see for yourself visit www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk.

On Tuesdays & Wednesdays -

Design & Technology practical work. Every Tuesday the school's facilities are available for pupils to continue their practical work. Whilst on Wednesdays the computers are available for the popular ICT club.

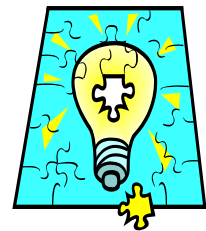
Basic Skills—Helping your child with Mathematics

The school is pleased to support The Basic Skills Agency in their work to improve pupils' numeracy.

As a parent, you should find this extract from their poster of value when assisting your sons and daughters with their Mathematics work.

Step-by-step guide to solving problems

- ⇒ Read the question. Underline key words that help you solve the problem.
- ⇒ Decide what operation(s) to use.
- ⇒ Write down the calculation you are going to do. Use brackets if you need to.
- ⇒ Work out the approximate answer.
- ⇒ Decide if you will use a calculator.



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