

**GORFENNAF
JULY
2011**



YSGOL RHUWABON HAF 2011 SUMMER



Neges y Pennaeth Headteacher's Message

Annwyl Rieni

Unwaith eto yr ydym yn nesau at ddiwedd blwyddyn brysur iawn yn yr ysgol ac yn edrych ymlaen at y gwyliau.

Hwn fydd y cylchlythyr olaf i rai ohonoch dderbyn wrth i'ch plentyn ddilyn llwybr sy'n eu harwain i'r byd gwaith neu addysg bellach y flwyddyn nesaf yma. Dymunwn pob llwyddiant iddynt a diolch i chi'r rhieni am eich cefnogaeth dros y blynyddoedd. Hoffwn hefyd ddiolch i'r rhieni a ysgrifennodd neu a yrrodd e-bost at yr ysgol am eu sylwadau positif.

Hwn fydd y cylchlythyr cyntaf i rai rhieni. Rydym yn eich croesawu chi a'ch plant i'r ysgol ac yn gobeithio y gallwn lunio perthynas ragorol dros y blynyddoedd sydd i ddilyn. I rieni eraill, bydd mis Medi yn gyfnod y byddwch yn gweld eich plant yn wynebu sialensau newydd wrth iddynt ddatblygu ymhellach yn eu cyfnod yn yr ysgol.

Hoffwn ddymuno gwyliau da i chi i gyd ac edrychaf ymlaen at ddechrau'r tymor newydd ar ddydd Llun Medi'r 5ed (Dydd Mawrth Medi'r 6ed i flynyddoedd 8 a 9, fel a gyfeirir ato ar y dde).

Angela Williams

Dear Parents

Once again we approach the end of a busy year and look forward to well-earned holidays.

For some parents this will be your last newsletter as your children will be progressing to the world of work or further study. We wish them every success and thank parents for their co-operation in supporting their children over the years. I would like to thank those parents who have written or e-mailed the school with thanks and such positive comments.

This will be the first newsletter for some parents. We welcome you and your children to the school and hope that we will forge excellent partnerships over the coming years. For other parents, September will see your children facing new challenges as they progress through the school.

I wish you all a pleasant and refreshing holiday and look forward to the start of term on Monday 5th September (Tuesday 6th September for Years 8 and 9, as indicated on the right).

Angela Williams

CYLCHLYTHYR NEWSLETTER

PARKING

We have received comments from local residents and the Police regarding vehicles blocking entrances to properties. This causes difficulties on the road outside the school, particularly at the end of the school day.

We ask everyone to be mindful of local residents and general traffic conditions.

IMPORTANT DATES

- ◆ **THURSDAY 18TH AUGUST**
A/AS Results
Registration for Year 13 Courses
- ◆ **THURSDAY 25TH AUGUST**
GCSE Results
Appointments for Year 12 enrolment issued
- ◆ **FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER**
Year 12 enrolment.
- ◆ **MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER**
School opens for Years 7, 10, 11 & 12
- ◆ **TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER**
School opens for Years 8 & 9
All students Years 7-12 attend
- ◆ **WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER**
School opens for Year 13
All students attend

This Newsletter gives you a flavour of the activities that the students of Ysgol Rhiwabon have been involved in during recent months.

There are many more photographs which can be viewed in the gallery section of our website.

You can log onto this at:

www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk

This newsletter is available in colour on our website.

Dymuniadau gorau i'r myfyrwyr fydd yn cynrychioli'r ysgol ym mhabel CBSW yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn Awst.

Best wishes to all of our students who will be representing the school at the WCBC tent at the National Eisteddfod in August.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

TV appearance for Rhiwabon Students

The debating skills of students from Ysgol Rhiwabon were put to the test in the run-up to the local elections.

A group of Year 13 students from Ysgol Rhiwabon was recently invited to take part in a political debate at Glyndwr University - the first of a series of debates across Wales in the run-up to the elections.

The students challenged a panel of political experts - Lib Dem Aled Roberts, Labour's Sandie Mewies, Conservative Darren Millar and Plaid Cymru's Heledd Fychan. The debate was screened on BBC1 Wales.

Head of sixth form Pat Gooding said: "The students have studied politics as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate course and they have strong views. Many of those who took part are members of political parties.

Callum Edwards challenged the panellist with the first question - 'What are your plans to get the Welsh economy back on track and is there an alternative to the cuts?' Callum's question sparked a lively debate among the group. "This was a fantastic opportunity for the students and we were really impressed by their confidence and efforts."



Pictured with presenter Betsan Powys are (left to right) Chris Symonds, John Mainley, Callum Edwards and Josh Williams.

E-mail received from a parent

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ysgol Rhiwabon for all the support they have given my son who has just left sixth form, over the years that he has been at your school and I would be grateful if you could personally thank all the teachers who have supported him, especially in the sixth form where I can honestly say they have been so supportive every step of the way. I would be grateful if you could forward this e-mail to all teachers who have taught him through sixth form. I have been so impressed by Rhiwabon School and I am sad that my son's time has now ended, but am so proud of what he has achieved being educated at what I would say is a tremendous school. Thank you for all the opportunities that you have given him throughout his time at Rhiwabon. A big thank you to you all and we will see you when the A level results come out!!"

KATHLEEN DAVIES YOUTH CHARITY

Following a visit to school on Wednesday 8th June, Mr Pepper and Mr Moseley have once again agreed to award bursaries to three students.

Year 13 Leavers Meal

Staff and Year 13 students attended the sixth form leaving dinner at Sweeney Hall, Oswestry recently. It was an excellent evening which allowed staff to say "goodbye" to their students and wish them well in their exams and for the future.

FAITH DAY AT LIVERPOOL

On Monday 27th June, Year 12 Advanced Level students took part in a Faith Day visit to the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Greek Orthodox Church in Liverpool. This visit was part of their Welsh Bac Qualification.

SOCIOLOGISTS IN PRISON

"During the Spring term our Year 13 Sociology class visited Altcourse Prison. This visit allowed us to gain an insight into how a prison is run and we were able to interview a number of prisoners about their crimes and their views of prison as a deterrent. This provided us with an invaluable resource for our upcoming crime and deviance exam as we have been able to apply sociological theory to a real life situation."



Chris Symonds, Year 13

WELSH BACCALAUREATE NEWS

- ★ Year 12 students from the school visited the new Welsh Assembly Government building at Llandudno Junction as part of their studies towards the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.
- ★ During the outing, 40 youngsters from Ysgol Rhiwabon were given a presentation on the work of the Welsh Assembly Government and the roles of its Ministers. The students took part in a group work session and were given the task of deciding where Assembly money should be directed in Wales. They were each given an area of devolved responsibility and then debated reasons why money should be spent in their particular area. They fed back to the whole group and the plenary was a quiz of what they had learned.
- ★ **Year 12 Intermediate students** have completed their courses including Welsh Bac at Foundation or Intermediate level and are awaiting their results.
- ★ **Year 12** Advanced students completed their Language module in Spanish or Iaith ar Waith and passed their Application Number Key Skill and Working with Others Key Skill.
- ★ **Year 12** were given a talk by Councillor Aled Roberts on **‘Democracy and the Importance of Politics.’**
- ★ **A Multicultural Workshop** took place with Mr Roberts, Curriculum Leader for Art.
- ★ Mr Graham Kelly, Glyndwr University, visited to talk about **Higher Education and support with UCAS Applications.**
- ★ On Tuesday 10th May, Ms Caroline Pollitt, Wrexham County Borough Council, visited to talk about **Recycling** and Mr Paul Blackburn, Wrexham County Borough Council, talked about the **regeneration of Cefn Mawr** and the local area.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Ruabon Mothers’ Union were entertained by musicians from Years 8-10 at their meeting on Tuesday 7th June. The members were thrilled to welcome the students and commented on the high standard of performances. The Music Department is very appreciative of the generous gift made by the Mothers’ Union towards resources.



- ◆ Well done to Year 10 band, “The Oddfellows” for their first public gig at the Wynnstay Arms Hotel, Ruabon, over the late May bank holiday weekend.



Year 7 have been enjoying learning new songs supplied by the Cansing project.

Congratulations to all students who have successfully completed external vocal and instrumental exams this year.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The expedition took place over the weekend of 12th May. The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition was the first canoe-based Bronze expedition to be run by the county and involved an all-female group of eight Year 10 girls. They paddled from Maesbury Marsh to Bettisfield along the Montgomery and Llangollen canals, carrying all their equipment with them for their overnight camp at Ellesmere. They are now planning their assessed expedition, which will take place on the Shropshire Union canal between Chester and Nantwich in July.

We also have our first Duke of Edinburgh Gold group this year. They completed their four-day practice expedition in Snowdonia during the Easter holidays and will be going to the Lake District for their assessment during the first week of the Summer holidays. This is a great incentive for some of our students to carry on to sixth form and Mr Gordon had several enquiries about it at the open evening.

GREEN LIGHT FESTIVAL



Both the drama club and the school choir performed at the Green Light Festival in Wrexham at the beginning of July. This event brought together performances of dance, drama, music and song from schools across Wrexham, all on an environmental theme. CànSing Choirs performed 'Together' followed by 'Banuwa' immediately after the opening speeches. During the afternoon they performed a drama piece 'Climate Man'. Students spent some time in the environmental marketplace where they took part in activities such as making bird boxes, wildlife habitat towers, trying to boil a kettle using pedal power, solar kits, printing, junk modelling/sculpture, cress spiders, bottle-top bugs and visited the Early Education Team's Grow With Me/Tyfu Gyda Fi exhibition and they also watched the other performances.



EUROPEAN DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hanlon Morris, a Year 7 student, took part in the European Dance Championships. Jenna Machin, Principal of the Border Counties School of Dance, informed us of his success: In the Under 12 category Hanlon gained three firsts, two seconds and a sixth in individual team and pair competitions.

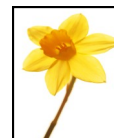
ART CLUB

Members of the Art Club took part in the 'Get Set for the London Olympics 2012' competition by designing their own version of Wenlock or Mandeville. James Jones, Brogan Burke, Daisy Prosser and Rhiannon Meredith have also been busy designing and making large scale animals including a bird and a fish out of willow and tissue paper. Well done to the art club for all their hard work and creative ideas!

GREAT DAFFODIL APPEAL 2011



The Marie Curie Cancer Care sale of daffodils took place in March (this coincided with St David's Day). £32.64 was raised by staff and students. This follows a total of £716.08 which was raised in the Quiz and Cake Sale held in school last November.

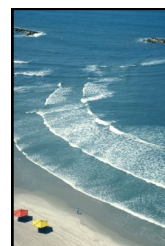


Year 10 Welsh Bacalaureate

Following the success of the Welsh Bacalaureate in the sixth form it has now been extended into Key Stage 4. Year 10 students have been working hard on the programme which includes an individual investigation on a topic of their choice. Their Key Skills portfolios for Communication and ICT have been submitted in the current series.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO LLANDUDNO

The Year 10 GCSE Geography classes recently spent a day at Llandudno and Kia Newell and Megan Davies (10LW) gave their account of the day. "Two Year 10 GCSE Geography classes went to Llandudno to do our coursework/fieldwork task on 'coasts'. We were with Miss Cahill and Mr Phillips. Even though it rained, we all had a great day. We had a long yet interesting "data collection" walk along the beach to find out if longshore drift was occurring in Llandudno and also the type of wave hitting Llandudno Bay. After some thorough research we were allowed to walk around the town. By this time the weather was lovely. We all had something to eat and a walk along the promenade. Mr Phillips even bought us an ice cream! All in all it was a fantastic day!"



ARMY CHALLENGE DAY

Bala was the destination for 77 Year 10 and Year 12 students who took part in the Army Challenge Day. It was a very successful day with excellent student behaviour.

YEAR 9 GLAN LLYN

26 students attended Glan Llyn for 3 days in June. The trip was very successful.

YEAR 10 SCIENCE VISIT

Students visited Fiddlers Ferry Power Station. This was for those who had taken science as an option and links to the GCSE specification and careers in science. It was organised by the Industrial Trust and the travel was subsidised by Techniquest. Students had a tour of the power station, followed by presentations on how the power station works and wider issues to do with electricity generation and transmission.



NEWS FROM THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Four Year 7 students took part in the annual Wrexham Schools 'Mathmagic' tournament in March. The students who represented Ysgol Rhiwabon were Thomas Colley, Owain Parry, Maya Williams and Seren Young. They competed in pairs against other schools in the Wrexham area. All four played extremely well and Thomas and Seren went on to win the tournament. This is the second time in three years that Ysgol Rhiwabon has taken the title. Well done to all four competitors—llongyfarchiadau!

Twenty of our Year 7 and 8 mathematicians took part in the annual UK Maths Trust University Challenge in May. The challenge is a written test of their mathematical and logical skills. I am pleased to say that the following students were awarded certificates.
Seren Young year 7 - Silver Certificate and best in school
Charlotte Duckett and Chloe Williams - Bronze certificates.



Some of the questions they tackled are below - how did you get on??

All old Mother Hubbard had in her cupboard was a Giant Bear chocolate bar. She gave each of her children one-twelfth of the chocolate bar. One-third of the bar was left. How many children did she have?

a) 6 b) 8 c) 12 d) 15 e) 18

(One third is equal to four-twelfths. Hence the children ate eight-twelfths of the bar between them so she has 8 children)



The pupils in year 8 are holding a mock election. A candidate receiving more votes than any other wins. The four candidates receive 83 votes between them. What is the smallest number of votes the winner could receive.

a) 21 b) 22 c) 23 d) 41 e) 42

Solution: B

Since $\frac{1}{4}$ of 83 = 20.75, the winner must get at least 21 votes. If one candidate gets 21 votes there are 62 votes to be shared between the other three candidates, and so, as $3 \times 20 < 62$ one of these candidates must get at least 21 votes. So a candidate with 21 votes cannot be the winner. However if one candidate gets 22 votes and the others 21, 20 and 20 votes respectively, all 83 votes have been used, and the winner receives only 22 votes.

Emma Ballamy of Year 7 has not only been attending extra-curricular activities most evenings after school but has also pursued dance to the highest level. She will be competing in the World Championships later in the year. We wish her every success.

Congratulations to Ashley Stoker, Celine Lawrence, Raul Correia and Lauren Meyers who have all qualified to represent the County in athletics after excelling in the Wrexham Championships.

Touch Wood Bowling Club

Mr Colin Gibb recently visited the Talking Newspaper studio to tell us about a bowling club he belongs to. It is a crown green bowling club for blind and partially sighted people—male or female—over 16 years of age. They meet every Wednesday at Belle Vue Park, Wrexham, between 10 am—12 noon. No joining fee, pay weekly for refreshments.

MORE ABLE & TALENTED FRENCH STUDENTS

Twelve Key Stage 3 students recently took part in the MAT French afternoon. They studied interactive fairytales and used their language skills to create alternative endings and characters. The quality of work produced was outstanding and a fun time was had by all!

FRANCE TRIP 2011 The Somme and Paris



Students from Years 8 and 9 have just arrived back from the annual trip to France and everyone had a great time. After travelling to France by coach and ferry, we spent the first full day exploring the history of World War I in the Somme area of Northern France. Students visited several memorials, explored preserved trenches at Beaumont Hamel, and had a guided tour of the tunnels at Vimy Ridge. From there we travelled to Paris, where we had a river cruise



along the Seine and enjoyed magnificent views of Paris from Sacré Coeur and the Eiffel Tower. Our last day was spent in EuroDisney where we had the whole day to go on rides, meet the Disney characters and explore the Park. A big thank you to all the staff and students who made the trip such a memorable one. Next year we will visit Normandy and Paris - see Miss F Jones for further information.

Numbers opting for examination classes continue to go from strength to strength. 44 students have opted for the BTEC Sport course next year.

It has been pleasing to see so many pupils involved in extra-curricular activities this term. A wide range of activities is available for the students to attend. Several pupils have opted to attend a Netball Coaching and Umpiring course in July. We are also running a Cricket Leaders course in July. It is hoped that once students have gained accreditation in these activities they can take responsibility for leading younger teams.

The dedication which the girls have shown to Rounders Club paid off earlier in the term when they were crowned Wrexham Schools Champions for Year 10. They managed to win the tournament without losing a match and were a credit to themselves and the school.

We have recently registered to the 'Get Set for London 2012' project. It is hoped that this will lead to many exciting opportunities including being able to nominate a pupil to be a torchbearer and tickets for pupils to the Olympics. The website also offers a wealth of resources to staff from assemblies to resources to use with tutor groups and across all aspects of the curriculum. These are all based around the Olympic and Paralympic values which we are hoping to promote in school. This will lead to an Ysgol Rhiwabon Olympics 2012.

5x60 Report by 5x60 Officer Rebecca Phillips

Extra-Curricular Clubs

All the 5x60 clubs including Football, Snorkelling, Gymnastics, Swimming, Junior Gym and Inter-Form Football have continued successfully, running over from the Spring into the Summer term.

Gymnastic sessions have continued from last academic term and numbers have been very encouraging. Every Thursday after school, students attend Abbey Road Acro Club with the aim of improving their gymnastic skills and many are now attending sessions at the club on a regular basis.

Inter-Form competitions have continued this term with all Years now having completed 5-a-side competitions. A finals day was also held this term to decide the winners, Years 7 and 8.

Two activities which were established last academic term, which have continued to flourish are swimming and snorkelling. These activities are run at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre for 1½ hours on Wednesdays (swimming) and ½ an hour on Thursdays (Snorkelling) after school. Numbers are growing steadily and 5x60 is creating a good link with the leisure centre to provide pupils with more physical opportunities in the community.

'Turn up and play' 5-a-side football has been very well attended by all years, with 24 boys on average turning up each week. This session runs on Mondays after school.

Junior Gym sessions at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre have been going extremely well, especially with Key Stage 3 girls. An extra session has been established to meet the demand.

Futsal has started this term for Years 7 and 8 boys on Tuesday lunchtime. This particular game is different from 5-a-side in terms of using a heavier ball, which encourages more emphasis on the students' skills. Each week, two games are being played outside on the MUGA. Ysgol Rhiwabon has been invited to take part in the North East Wales Futsal Tournament at the end of the month.

A community netball session has started at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre with the help of the Netball Development Officer. Constant promotion by the PE Department has resulted in students making the transition from school netball to club standard.

Leadership and Young Ambassador Project

Sophie Evans and Leslie Morris have been excellent throughout the year in their role as Young Ambassadors. They have been promoting activities around the tutor groups on behalf of the 5x60 Officer and assisting with sessions. Two new Young Ambassadors have been appointed this term ready to carry out their roles during the 2011/12 academic year. The selected Year 10 pupils are Jasmine Andrews and Joe Roberts. Along with Sophie and Leslie they attended the Silver Young Ambassadors' Launch at Gwersyllt Resource Centre. This event enabled them to gain an understanding of their roles. The event was also attended by Mr Partridge as link officer.

It is pleasing to note that students have shown an interest in leadership opportunities. This term two Year 9 students attended a Tennis Leaders Course and are now assisting with PE lessons and the after-school Tennis Club. Later this term students will be able to attend a Cricket Leaders Course.

Extra-Curricular Rewards Trip

At the start of the academic year the PE Department came up with the idea of a rewards booklet in order for students to collect stamps at each extra-curricular club they attend. As a reward the top ten attendees took part in a High Ropes Course at Bala which was enjoyed by staff and students.