

RHAGFYR
DECEMBER
2009



YSGOL RHIWABON NADOLIG 2009 CHRISTMAS



Neges y Pennaeth/ Headteacher's Message

Gyda'r Nadolig yn prysur nesau, mae'n bleser edrych yn ôl unwaith dros dymor llawn a llwyddiannus. Bu'r athrawon a'r myfyrwyr yn Cymryd rhan mewn amryw o weithgareddau allgyrsiol a thrwy hyn yn parhau i feithrin cysylltiadau ardderchog gyda'r gymuned leol. Ces innau'r fraint o deithio i Lundain i gyfarfod Tywysog Cymru i dderbyn gwobr ar ran yr Adran Hanes – blwyddyn arbennig yn wir!

Ar hyn o bryd 'rydym yn edrych ymlaen at y digwyddiadau cyffrous sydd wedi'w trefnu ar gyfer diwedd y tymor. Cynhelir ein Cyngerdd Nadolig yn Eglwys Santes Fair, Rhiwabon nos Fercher ac yna, dydd Iau, cynhelir ein Ffair Nadolig flynyddol. Dydd Gwener, byddem yn dathlu llwyddiannau'r flwyddyn yn ein Gwasanaeth Arbennig.

I gloi, hoffwn ddymuno Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda i bawb ohonoch.

With Christmas on the horizon, it is with great pride that I look back over what has been a very busy term. It has been a very special term for me personally as I had the pleasure of travelling to Clarence House to meet Prince Charles and receive an award on behalf of the school's History Department. Ysgol Rhiwabon was the only school in Wales to receive the Prince's Teaching Institute Award and we are very proud of this achievement.

This term, students and staff have taken part in the school's wide range of extra-curricular activities. We have also continued to develop our excellent community links.

As I write this message, we are looking forward to the exciting events arranged for the end of term. Our annual Christmas Concert will be held in St. Mary's Shared Church, Ruabon on Wednesday evening whilst Thursday sees our charity Christmas Fair. Finally, Friday will provide an opportunity to celebrate the term's achievements in our Celebration Assembly.

To close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2010.

Angela Williams
Pennaeth/Headteacher

CYLCHLYTHYR NEWSLETTER

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- ◆ Why was Mrs Angela Williams visiting Clarence House to meet Prince Charles?
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- ◆ Which sixth form student recently appeared as Horrid Henry in Booka, Oswestry?
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- ◆ What was the record total raised for Marie Curie Cancer Care?
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- ◆ Which award has the school gained for the third year of participation?

SPRING TERM DATES FOR PARENTS

- MONDAY 4TH JANUARY
School Closed. Staff Training Day
No students to attend.
- TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY
**SCHOOL OPENS FOR ALL STUDENTS
(WEEK B)**
- TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY
Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.30—
7.00pm.
- FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY
Photographs for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11.
- WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY
UK Intermediate Maths Challenge
- MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY
Year 9 Options Evening 6.00—7.00
pm.
- FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
Last day before half term.
- MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
School re-opens after half term.
- THURSDAY 25TH FEBRUARY
Year 11 post-16 Open Evening 6.00—
7.30 pm.
- MONDAY 1ST MARCH
Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.30—7.00 pm
- TUESDAY 9TH MARCH
Year 11 Study Support Evening 6.00—
7.00 pm.
- WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH
Community Coffee Morning 10.00 am
- THURSDAY 18TH MARCH
Talking Newspaper party—pm.
- MONDAY 22ND MARCH
Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.30—7.00
pm
- FRIDAY 26TH MARCH
School closes for Easter.

STUDENTS VISIT MANCHESTER THEATRE & OPERA HOUSE

The English Department has organised two theatre trips this term.

On 21st October, Year 10 and 11 students saw 'Blood Brothers' at the Opera House, Manchester.

Key Stage 3 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 were lucky to see a top-class production of 'Scrooge' at the Palace Theatre, Manchester on 10th November. This was a very positive experience for both students and staff. Members of the audience commented that our students were "a credit to the school"; our students thought that the production was "awesome, scary and exciting".

Jake Williams (7FR) wrote: "On the 10th November 2009 we went to the Palace Theatre in Manchester. We went there to watch the musical play "Scrooge". The play was very funny and scary. We left school at 5.30 pm and got there at 7 o'clock. By the time the play had finished it was 11.30 at night. We all enjoyed it and hope that more plays like that will come soon."



SKILLS TO THE FORE AT CCF DAY

'Skills' was the theme for all students on the first of our cross-curricular focus days in November. A cold, foggy day did not deter the Year 7s from 'working with others' to look at our school environment, whilst the Year 10s used their 'communication skills' to learn about eco-fashion and design their own eco-garments. There were a lot of 'problems to solve' for the Year 8s and the Year 12s faced a local entrepreneur, Jane Davies, in the Dragon's Den. Year 9s were star-struck with investigating Strictly and X Factor and developing their own reality TV series. The Year 11s were putting together their 'study skills' knowledge, having had a workshop from 'Learning Performance' on revision techniques and exam preparation. We have our second CCF day in February when we will develop our skills further and complete the tasks in order to gain accreditation in key skills.

Year 7 Cross-Curricular Focus Day

Daniel Shenton and Teri York (7RH) report on their first CCF Day

"On the 9th November we had our first Cross-Curricular Focus Day. Our day was called 'Talking Rubbish'!! The day began with a presentation from Caroline Pollitt, Environmental Education Officer for Wrexham. Her session ended with two students sorting out a box of rubbish into two piles – recyclable and non-recyclable. We then researched information from three websites for our group discussions on "Why bother with waste?" The teachers sat in on our discussions and asked us questions.

In the afternoon we worked in our tutor groups and cleaned up areas of Ruabon. The 'Keep Wales Tidy' group provided us with pickers and bags to do this. We were surprised to see how many bags of rubbish were brought back to school at the end of the day.

We're now looking forward to the next CCF day in February when we visit the 'Millenium Eco-Centre' and the newly opened 'Waste and Recycling Centre' in Wrexham."

Cross-Curricular Focus Day

10EG took part in the cross-curricular focus day with Wrexham Recycling team.

Alice Poole and Rebecca Penk modelled their outfits in celebrity style.



Year 11 Learning Performance

Year 11 took part in a workshop on Friday 6th November, aimed at assisting students in revision/learning techniques.



Queen's Commonwealth Baton Relay

Two year 8 students Celine Lawrence and Hannah Breeze attended this once-in-a-lifetime event in Wrexham. We have received a letter from Alan Watkins, Chief Leisure, Libraries and Culture Officer. "It was commented upon by those who attended the event how well-behaved, polite and well-mannered the students were and how they were not only a credit to their school but to the whole of the County Borough". *Read more about this on Page 9.*



CAT Testing

Parents of students in Years 7 and 9 may have been told by the students that they have sat CAT tests. These Cognitive Ability Tests are nationally produced and analysed. The outcomes are used by teachers to identify the strategies which will enable each student to make as much progress as possible. They are not linked in any way to external examinations or assessment.

Acting Role for Sixth Form Student



Year 13 student, Andrea Dodd, appeared recently as Horrid Henry as part of a book promotion at Booka, a new bookshop and café in Church Street, Oswestry. Andrea was complimented on her performance by shop owners Tim and Carrie Morris and could well appear there as a different character in January.

PICTURED – ANDREA DODD – AS HORRID HENRY



Prince's Teaching Institute Website – Award Ceremony

Ysgol Rhiwabon's history department has been given the royal seal of approval at a national awards ceremony. Ysgol Rhiwabon was the only school in Wales to be awarded The Prince's Teaching Institute Awards Schools Programme Mark. Staff from the school picked up the award from Prince Charles at a special ceremony at Clarence House.

Our history department was praised for its innovative delivery of the subject and for running extra-curricular activities. This included setting up a 'History through Film' Club, which enabled students to learn about different periods in a more informal format. Students have watched films such as Sophia Coppola's 'Marie Antoinette' covering periods of history they wouldn't normally do in class.

Other activities have included students entering the Historical Writing Competition, organised by the Historical Association and a number of field trips. These have included Sixth Form students visiting Manchester University with Sovereign Education and a visit to a medieval banquet by Year 7 students; as well as the banquet, students enjoyed a ghost tour of the old ruins and Welsh folk dancing.

The Schools Programme recognises and rewards the development of inspirational ideas and activities which enhance the teaching of English, History and Science. The Programme, which is open to all state secondary schools in England and Wales, was launched in November 2007.

In addition to these extra-curricular activities the department has developed a shared area for History on the intranet which contains schemes of work, lessons and corresponding materials, Activstudio flipcharts and data. This has proved to be an invaluable resource for all in the department.

Our Headteacher, Angela Williams who attended Clarence House to collect the award said "The students really enjoy History at Ysgol Rhiwabon and I am delighted that the department has been recognised by the Prince's Teaching Institute. The department puts a lot of effort into making the subject interesting, fun and accessible for all our students and this award recognises that. The fact that these extra-curricular activities are so popular is a credit to all the hard work undertaken by staff in the History department."

For further information please visit www/princes-ti.org.uk



One of the castles built by last year's Year 7



David Walker & Luke Williams give a toast



Settling down to the sumptuous banquet

Remembrance Service

Two members of our sixth form, Laura Hughes and Rachel Priamo, Mrs Pat Gooding and Headteacher Mrs Angela Williams, attended the Remembrance Service at the RWF Memorial in Wrexham on Sunday 8th November. During the service Laura and Rachel laid a wreath at the memorial on behalf of Ysgol Rhiwabon .



Welsh Baccalaureate

Welsh Bac students watched 'An Inconvenient Truth and The Great Global Warming Scandal' and debated on the subject of the environment. Students took part in a trip to the Electric Mountain to look at sustainable development and to Penrhyn Castle to consider Welsh heritage. The Intermediate group visited the Tudor Griffiths Group landfill site in Ellesmere to look at sustainable development. Mrs Williams gave a presentation on the Welsh language, its history and its development. 15th October - Councillor Aled Roberts Leader of Wrexham County Borough Council gave a talk on local politics. Welsh Bac students have also completed Communication key skill and are now working on Application of Number and Working With Others.

Anti-bullying Roadshow

The Anti-bullying roadshow took place at Glyndwr University on the afternoon of Thursday 5th November. Mrs Carys Hughes attended with four students from the school council, one each from years 8 - 11, so that they could feed back the information to the rest of the school council. The event began with a performance from a theatre company about bullying and its effects on the students involved. The students were then split into groups to attend workshops. Mrs Hughes attended two lectures: a peer mentoring scheme for schools and cyber bullying.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAMME

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Strengthening Families (SFP) is a 7 week programme for ANY family living in Wrexham with young people aged between 10 and 14 years of age.

Becoming a teenager can be a challenging time for young people and parents alike. SFP is proven to support parents and young people through this time of change. It helps parents build on their strengths in showing love and setting limits and in supporting their young people to have a good experience of their teenage years. It helps young people develop skills to handle peer pressure and build self confidence and looks at setting and achieving goals for the future. It also helps young people and parents identify each others' positive qualities and strengths whilst improving communication.

WHAT WILL WE DO?

Attend 7 weekly sessions, each lasting 2½ hours in the early evening.

During the first hour parents and young people meet separately with group workers having discussions, playing games and doing fun activities

Have some refreshments together, usually a light buffet (including STARBUCKS coffee!)

During the second hour parents and young people meet together as families and do fun activities and win prizes.

WHEN & WHERE WILL IT HAPPEN?

Early in 2010 at Ysgol Rhiwabon, exact dates and times to be confirmed.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

It is completely FREE and we can provide childcare/play provision for under 10s and transport if necessary. There's also an end-of-programme party with certificates and vouchers for family activities.

For further information or a referral form please contact: Programme Co-ordinator - Ann Dann 01978 729787 or 07800 689101 ann.dann@wrexham.gov.uk



Music Department



The following take place every week in the Music Department:

Mondays - Drum lessons

Tuesdays - Cello and Singing lessons

Wednesdays - Brass lessons

Thursdays - Guitar and Violin lessons

Fridays - Woodwind lessons

Keyboard Club - Thursday lunchtimes

Choir Practice - Tuesdays 3:05 - 4:00 pm

Band Practice - Wednesdays 3:05 - 4:00 pm



Drama Club is run every Thursday after school for Years 7, 8 and 9.

PRIMARY LINKS

We are constantly working with our primary colleagues to ensure the smooth transition of our students from their primary schools to Ysgol Rhiwabon.



This term we have hosted two meetings with Primary Headteachers and their colleagues where discussions have focused on both academic and pastoral work in both phases. We are delighted that the LEA officers present have praised this work.

HISTORY FILM CLUB

The History Film Club has started again in G8 on Wednesdays from 3.05-4.00 pm. This club gives students who enjoy History a chance to see History brought to life. A different film is shown every two weeks. Students can even bring their own popcorn and a drink! All years are welcome. Our first film is 'Goodnight Mr Tom' but after Christmas we will be showing films like 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' and Disney's 'Robin Hood'. The History Department looks forward to seeing you there!

Library

Ysgol Rhiwabon School Library hosted a Year 9 general knowledge quiz. Six schools took part in the event and everybody had a very good time. Ysgol Rhiwabon came joint second with Ysgol Y Grango and Ysgol Bryn Alyn. The winners were Maelor School, Penley.

Open Evening

A very successful Open Evening for years 5 & 6 was held on the evening of Thursday 8th October. It was well attended and we received very positive comments from parents.

Swaziland

Mrs Roz Harrison (Headteacher of Rhosymedre) brought in some teachers from Swaziland on Friday 25th September. Mrs Gooding arranged for some of the Year 12 students to present their 8 minute presentations for the level 3 communication key skill on Welsh heritage and culture which is one of the WBQ elements.

PISA Tests

30 Year 11 students took part in PISA tests on Wednesday 11th November.

Liverpool World Museum and Walker Art Gallery

On 15th October the Year 11 GCSE Art group and AS/A level Art students visited the Liverpool World Museum to collect research for their coursework.

The GCSE group is doing work on different cultures and there were many exhibits from around the world - eg Egyptian and African artefacts, that they could do observational drawings from and take photos of so that they have primary evidence and references. There was also a 'hands on' area where they could handle some objects, do further research and discuss issues with museum staff.

The AS/A level students are all working on individual themes, so, if appropriate to their work, were able to visit the natural history section and the pop music exhibit. They also visited the Walker Art gallery where there were many traditional and modern art works and sculptures.

'Cheri V' Concert



This took place in the school gym at 3.30 pm on Tuesday 13th October. 'Cheri V' is an up and coming pop star who has performed with the likes of Girls Aloud, Sugarbabes and McFly. Her debut single will be released on 23rd November.

HPV Immunisations

Girls from years 8, 10 and 11 were immunised on 15th & 16th October.



Welsh Anti-Drink Drive Campaign

In the Summer participating schools were asked to promote the Welsh anti-drink drive campaign by creating a presentation which could use Drama, Music or a range of multi media.

Year 11 Drama GCSE students created a performance which has been highly commended by the competition judges as it sends a very clear message about the dangers of drink driving.

Well done, Year 11!

All smiles as Year 11 students collect their reward for their Anti-Drink Drive entry.



Year 7 Art

Students have taken part in a Peace Poster Competition run by the Llangollen Lions. Members of the Club came into school on Friday 6th November to judge the entries.

Wrexham Healthy Schools Scheme

Following our assessment by the Healthy Schools Assessor we have gained accreditation for the third year of participation.

'Business in the Community'

The school is currently working with a group called 'Business in the Community'. This group visited school on 30th September to understand how schools work, especially in the subjects of Science, Mathematics, Technology, IT and Engineering. The group had 18 local companies who were prepared to commit a degree of time or resources to enhance how the above subjects were delivered. Scottish Power PLC have agreed to be the main partner for the school and are beginning to develop a programme in conjunction with Ysgol Rhiwabon and Business in the Community.

Poppy Appeal – 27th November 2009

The recent Poppy Appeal raised £37.76. Thank you to all who contributed and to the students who assisted with the sale.



Deafblind Cymru

Bethan Scriven, the North Wales officer of Deafblind Cymru visited the school in October to see the production of the Talking Newspaper. She was interviewed by the students for that week's tape.

KNIGHT SHINES

8 students from years 11, 12 & 13 took part in the UK Senior Mathematical Challenge on Wednesday 4th November. For the second year running Jack Knight won the 'Best in School' award. This time he was closely followed by Mikolaj Glaz.

SIXTH FORM STUDENT NAMED IRISH DANCER OF THE YEAR

Clare Mellor of Year 12 recently went to The Dancer of the Year Championships in Dublin. She came away with two 1sts, a 2nd and a 5th. The adult teams that she was in also came away with three 1sts and a 2nd. This year Clare and her rock & roll partner Emily Parkinson have done particularly well, winning two big titles. They won the Under 16 Rock & Roll at the 5 Nations Championships back in March and then went on to win the Dancer of the Year Championships in Dublin.



All of Bethan's Dance Academy did extremely well in Ireland including Deon Hayward, Kaisha Challoner and Katie Mellor, also students at Ysgol Rhiwabon.

Meet The Tutors

On Monday 17th November Year 7 parents were invited to meet their child's tutor from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm. This was a success with the parents of 81 students attending.

Leader Roberts Returns to Rhiwabon

It was time to reminisce when Council Leader Aled Roberts was the guest of honour at our Awards Evening. Speaking about his life as a student here, Councillor Roberts shared many experiences of his schooldays with the packed hall of parents, students and friends of the school. He then went on to outline the many changes which had taken place since he joined the school in what was then known as the third form.

Partnership with the Wrexham County Borough Council has resulted in improved facilities not only for sport but also throughout the school. Teaching styles have changed and reference was made to the school having an interactive whiteboard in every classroom. Councillor Roberts pointed out that the opportunities for students have been greatly improved with the transfer of the school to one site.

He referred to the many national awards won by the school, before himself presenting awards to over one hundred students who had been nominated for their achievements in numerous curricular and extra-curricular activities during the past academic year.



Before joining parents for refreshments in the school's newly refurbished canteen, the Council Leader received a memento of the evening manufactured and designed by A level Design & Technology students and presented by Student Presidents Rebecca Butler and Robert

Cyflwynwyd
i'r Cynghorydd Aled Roberts
Arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Wrecsam

*Gŵr hynaws, gwir arweinydd!
Arwain ni - Gymry newydd -
Yn dy haul i dorriad dydd.*

Gŵr Gwâdd Anrhydeddus -
24ain o Fedi, 2009
Noson Wobrwyo Ysgol Rhiwabon.

Cynlluniwyd a gwnaed gan fyfyrwyr lefel 'A'
yr Adran Cynllunio a Thechnoleg

The above is a poem written in the old strict meter style of writing which goes back as far as the 7th century. The poem refers to Councillor Aled Roberts, a former pupil of Ysgol Rhiwabon and mentions his leadership qualities.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Seven students from year 10 completed the Expedition section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award this Autumn. They completed two practice expeditions around Llangollen and Corwen early in the term. They then went on to pass their final expedition in November, despite having a much harder time with shorter days and colder nights than is usual on a DofE



Llangollen Rotary Club

Three morning sessions were held during September and October and 120 Year 11 and 12 students were interviewed by members of the Rotary Club. The Rotary provided 10 people for each session. The interviews were very successful and positive feedback was received from students. The one-to-one interviews have been used as part of the Communication coursework for Health & Social Care students.

Marie Curie Cancer Care Quiz

We would like to thank businesses and members of the community for the splendid support of our recent Charity Quiz which raised a record total of £710.87 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Our office manager, Mrs Wendy Jones again arranged a sale of cakes to students at break and lunchtime to boost proceeds. Thanks to the generosity of staff the cakes alone raised over £200. A raffle of over twenty five prizes and other fund-raisers on the night helped produce a total which was £100 more than last year's record. Our vice-chair of governors Mervyn Dean again compiled and delivered the questions. We were pleased to see a wide range of ages present but his questions seemed to suit all tastes and there were just six points between the top five teams”
The winning team, by just one point, was “We're With Truck” a side including our own Curriculum Leader for Music, Mr Gareth Erlandson.
Marie Curie Cancer Care Nurse, Fran Robinson, who attended the event with Marie Curie Fundraising staff Simone Williams and Debbie Rowley, was keen to praise the school not only for raising so much money but also for the way the students had conducted themselves on the night acting as stewards, scorers or competing.



Marie Curie Cancer Care Nurse Fran Robinson with the Year 8 students who acted as stewards.



Fran Robinson with members of the winning team, Mr Gareth Erlandson and Miss Vanessa Wright.

Operation Christmas Child

“On 1st December 12 students from 8SN went to the warehouse in Wrexham to help the Samaritan's Purse organisation with Operation Christmas Child. The students had to check the boxes to take out any sharp items, army-related things, chocolates, liquids and money. We went through the boxes taking out these items and then filling the spaces in the boxes with extra treats such as teddies, balls, hats and gloves. We thought that the morning was quite fun and it felt good to be helping people who don't have as much as us. They will be really happy to receive a shoe box at Christmas. Last year, over 1.24 million boxes were sent to different countries like Romania, Zimbabwe and Ukraine. So far, 32,000 boxes have been processed in the Wrexham warehouse alone. The group would love to take part in this great charity again next year.”

Tim Murray 8SN



PHYSICAL EDUCATION EVENTS
September 2009 – November 2009

Extra-Curricular Clubs

In the Autumn term the new 5x60 clubs were established, these included 5-a-side Football, Table Tennis, Snorkelling and Water Polo, Swimming, Inter-form Football and Badminton.

Badminton has proved very popular with the students, particularly in Key Stage 3. This session takes place once a week during lunchtime. Throughout the five weeks so far 40 names are on the register, with all students having attended at least 2 or more sessions.

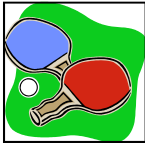
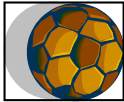
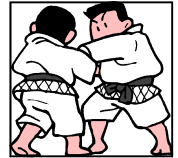


Table tennis has also proved to be another popular activity with students at Ysgol Rhiwabon. The Development Officer for table tennis has been taking the sessions and there has been a great response from students. Hopefully over the next few weeks Ysgol Rhiwabon will be having matches against other secondary schools in Wrexham.

Judo Club was established in the Autumn Term and taster sessions were held in the PE lessons in order to attract students to the after-school club and this was a great way of promoting the 5x60 club. The Judo coach also advertised his local club in the session. Students who attended were in all years ranging from year 7 right through to year 12.



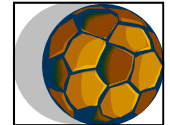
Inter-form competitions started this term with year 7 5-a-side football taking place. Due to the success of the format, other year groups will be taking part during this academic school year. Year 10 leaders assisted and helped with the running of competitions at lunchtimes.

Snorkelling and Water Polo was set up for students at Ysgol y Grango and Ysgol Rhiwabon during the last academic term. The club runs at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre for 1½ hours every Monday evening. This particular club has been very popular for both schools, with the same students attending each week. The students requested this activity for this academic year!



Another activity which was set up last academic year by Mike Parry (previous 5x60 Officer) was swimming. This activity also runs at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre for 1½ hours every Wednesday after school. Numbers are growing steadily and 5x60 is creating a good link with the Leisure Centre to provide students with more physical opportunities in the community.

'Turn up and play 5-a-side football' has been well attended by years 8, 9 and 10 with, on average, 24 boys turning up each week. The sessions run on a Monday after school..



Promotion

In order to make students aware of the activities that are currently taking place at school, posters are placed around the sports centre, face-to-face promotion is carried out and the 5x60 Officer also attends morning briefings, separate year assemblies and PE lessons.

Leadership

The 5 x 60 Officer has attended a sixth form assembly to explain the 5x60 scheme and also with the aim of attracting volunteers. We are looking to attract volunteers this term from students aged 14 years plus and coaching courses are going to be organised for students to attend.

Summary

The students have been very receptive to the events provided throughout this term, particularly to the sessions organised at lunchtimes. School staff have been providing good support which has helped tremendously with the scheme. We are looking forward to continued support for the activities to be provided this academic year.

Football Fixtures

A full programme of football fixtures has taken place during the Autumn term. Students from all years have been involved in fixtures against other schools from the Wrexham area. Results to date have been very encouraging but more importantly our students behave extremely well on all occasions. There will be a Winter break now from fixtures so we will focus on inter-form and inter-house competitions.

School Cross Country Results December 2009



Year 7
Year 8
Year 9
Year 10

Boys

Jamie Balaam
James Jones
Daniel Roberts
Alex Williams

Girls

Carla Parry
Katie Hampton
Rosamel da Silva
Zoe Johnson



PE NEWS continued



It was an honour to have Wrexham County Under-14 netball selection and training in Ysgol Rhiwabon. This took place throughout September and February and resulted in Molly Drake and Celine Lawrence being selected for the County Squad. Following a triangular tournament Celine has been selected for trials for North East Wales.

Danielle Edwards and Olivia Wright-Lewis Year 10 represented the school in the 2010 Wrexham Sports Awards.

Celine Lawrence and Hannah Breeze represented the school in The Queen's Baton Relay. Wrexham was the first stop of the Baton's journey through Wales en route to the 2010 Commonwealth games in Delhi. The girls ran alongside athletes such as Olympic Rowing Gold Medal Winner Tom James, Wrexham Manager Dean Saunders, swimmer and Commonwealth Welsh record holder Lowri Tynan, Paralympics Dressage Rider and 2012 Olympic hopeful Natalie Povey, Wales' number one ranked Boccia player Gareth Stafford and Commonwealth Foil Fencer Caroline Benson.



INCREASED NUMBERS OF GIRLS STUDYING PE EXAMINATION COURSES

The current year 10 has seen an increase in the number of girls opting to follow either the GCSE PE or BTEC First Certificate in Sport. The 2008 intake consisted of just four girls taking GCSE PE; this has increased to 21 girls choosing a sports examination course.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TIMETABLE:

| | Lunchtime | After school |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday | Key Stage 4 Netball Club | |
| Tuesday | Key Stage 3 Netball Club | Fixtures |
| Wednesday | | Key Stage 4 Netball Club |
| Thursday | | Key Stage 3 Netball Club |
| Friday | | |



Extra-curricular netball has been going from strength to strength this year, with approximately 60 students attending netball club each week; this can be broken down into:

- Key Stage 3 – 44 students attending regularly
- Key Stage 4 – 16 students attending regularly

The PE staff have been so pleased for the enthusiasm and dedication shown towards extra-curricular activities and feel that this commitment over the last 12 months has resulted in dramatically improved performances in fixtures. Fixtures played this term are:-

| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|------------|---------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| Rhosnesni | | Won 24-1 | Won 6-9 | Lost 5-2 | Won 5-4 |
| Grango | | Won 12-1 | Draw 6-6 | Won 12-3 | |
| Darland | | Won 12-2 | Won 6-5 | Lost 15-17 | Lost 10-19 |
| Dinas Bran | Won 7-6 | | | Lost 8-9 | |



Sixth Form Cross-Curricular Day

Year 13 visited a synagogue and the Catholic Cathedral in Liverpool and compared the faiths.



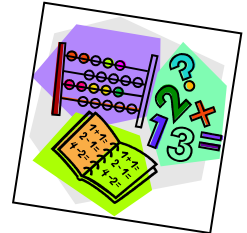
Year 11 Step-up-to-Health

Selected Year 11 students attended Yale College and signed up for a step-up-to-Health Scheme which is organised by Cardiff University for students who wish to follow a health-related degree course.

THANK YOU



The Mathematics Department would like to record its thanks to Mr Roger Blake and the staff of Liberty Travel, Cross Street, Oswestry for kindly providing holiday brochures for use with the 'Application of Number' key skills work to be completed in Year 11 lessons in January.



Community Mince Pies, Coffee and Carols



We were pleased to welcome neighbours and friends of the school to an informal coffee morning on Thursday, 17th December. Our guests were able to meet sixth form students and view some drama presentations by younger students whilst enjoying coffee and mince pies. The event concluded with an opportunity to join in the singing of some traditional carols.

Our coffee mornings are held each term in the school library. If you are a neighbour or friend of the school who would like to be invited in the future, please contact Mrs Wengar Cox, PA to the Headteacher.



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Further details of school events and an extensive gallery of pictures can be viewed on our school website

www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk

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

