



YSGOL RHIWABON
SINCE 1575

YSGOL RHIWABON EASTER 2017

Neges y Pennaeth Headteacher's Message

Dear Parent/Guardian

This Friday marks the end of the Spring Term which has been very busy and successful here at Ysgol Rhiwabon.

Since January our students have continued to make us proud achieving success through their academic studies and through the wider opportunities provided by the school. The evidence of many exciting activities are evident in the Easter Newsletter. It also shows the way you support the school as well, encouraging your children to take part in a range of events which enrich school life.

We have been investing money in the school library through the Key Stage 3 'Accelerated Reading' scheme and in the school's ICT facilities. We will be providing more information about this next term.

We were particularly proud when Tirion Davies and Jai Evans were selected to speak on behalf of students from across the UK for the Prince's Teaching Institute. They were then invited to submit their essays on inspirational teaching and this work has been used in a national publication. This is a real honour for our students and Ysgol Rhiwabon.

As we move towards external examinations our Key Stage 4 students and teachers are busier than ever. A sign of the hard work of our staff here in Ysgol Rhiwabon is the full Easter Revision Programme for every day of the holiday apart from Easter weekend. Revision classes are also running after every school day. We are encouraging our students to engage in as many of these as possible.

A recent Estyn Monitoring visit was very successful, recognising the many strategies and initiatives which are now in place to drive school improvement. The Inspection Team was impressed by our young people and their welcoming, polite behaviour.

Attendance has improved yet again this term to an all time high for the school. We will be celebrating this on Friday with 'Easter' rewards. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly. This is so important. We have enjoyed welcoming youngsters from all of our 'feeder' primary schools this term. They have enjoyed making rocket cars, hovercrafts, art projects and a taste of life in the trenches through a History session.

Our Parent Panel has grown in numbers and is an invaluable way of listening to your ideas as we work together. I encourage you to join if you have the time as your ideas help us to develop as a school.

I know you will enjoy reading our Easter newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your support and the many positive messages you share about our school. Enjoy the Easter holiday. We look forward to the Summer term.

Kind Regards
Melanie Ferron-Evans



**School closes for Easter on
Friday 7 April 2017
and
re-opens on
Tuesday 25 April 2017**

**Follow the school on Twitter
@ysgolrhiwabon and download our
school App @
www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk**

Our website and Twitter account cover a wide range of school events and includes a gallery of photographs for parents to view.

Please could parents direct any messages about student absences to the main office and not via the website.

**Easter Sketch
by
Rebecca Francis
Year 13**





BEFORE



AFTER

Brave the Shave

Ysgol Rhiwabon student, Sionyn Matthews, has recently shaved his head as part of the 'Brave the Shave' appeal in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Donations were collected via a collection box in the school office and also through the 'Brave the Shave' web page. Sionyn 'SMASHED' his target of £150.00!

Sionyn would like to say 'thank you' to the school for letting him shave his head and to Matt's Barber Shop in Cefn Mawr for allowing him to hold the event there. He also wishes to thank everyone who supported and sponsored him.

PTI Schools Leadership Programme

Mrs Melanie Ferron-Evans, Headteacher and Mrs Helen Savva, Assistant Headteacher, attended the Prince's Teaching Institute 2017 School's Leadership Programme, on Friday February 3rd. Mr Ian Davis, Chairman of Rolls Royce, gave a presentation to the Headteachers about effective leadership in 2017 as part of the morning events. Mrs Ferron-Evans was also at the programme as leadership consultant, to support other schools with their leadership and management development.



Barclays Technology Centre Visit



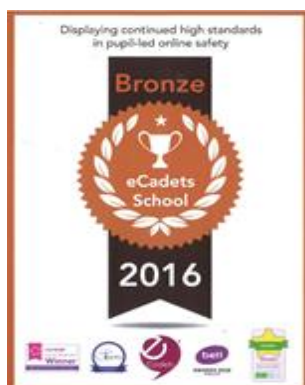
On Thursday 19 January, ten Year 8 and 9 students were invited to an IT 'Girls Allowed' event, at Barclays Technology Centre in Knutsford. The focus of the day was to showcase the types of exciting careers available within Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, 150 girls attended, from 12 schools. The first session the girls faced was an innovation workshop, where they were asked to design an app or a device. They all came up with some fantastic ideas, ranging from contact lenses where you could change the colour and take pictures, to a "No stress dishwasher" which loaded and unloaded itself (we all want one of those!)

Molly (8SNS) was shortlisted and had to give a presentation to the whole group about her fabulous helper robot "Ella" who would help with anything you required, from baby sitting and walking the dog, to sitting and helping Dyslexic children with their reading and spelling. Molly enjoyed the challenge and was placed as a runner up. Bendigedig Molly!

The second session was a robotics challenge where the girls had to work in pairs to program a robot to follow a track. Anna (8SNS) "I loved making the robots move". The third session was a cryptography task, where the girls got to practise their code breaking skills using Ceasar, Keyword and Vigenère Ciphers. During this session Jess (9VWD) had to solve a Rubik's Cube on stage and the girls came a respectable 3rd out of 10, solving 30 codes. Erin (9AJ) "I enjoyed using the Vigenère Ciphers." The final session was to design and project manage the building of a bridge using straws, paper and sticky tape. The bridge had to be self-standing and able to support the weight of 1kg of sugar, they were only given £4 to spend on the resources. The girls' bridge was declared the winner, with the judges praising their plan, construction and questioning. Rebecca and Kaitlyn (8EMT) "We loved making the bridge." Arddechog girls!

eCadets Bronze Award

Congratulations to our eCadets on being awarded the eCadets Bronze Award.



Front of School Planters

Our planters at the front of the school have been re-planted and made ready for Spring, courtesy of Mr Bernard Sole. We would like to thank Mr. Sole very much for his support.



Visitors to the school regularly comment on how lovely the school looks. This is important for our students and staff.

Year 6 Cefn Mawr Students Visit

Year 6 students from Cefn Mawr Primary School recently visited Ysgol Rhiwabon History Department, and studied trench life during World War One.



After learning some facts about it, they re-enacted life in a trench.



RHS



School Gardening Award

We are pleased to announce the school Gardening Club team have been awarded the Level One RHS School Gardening Award for all their hard work digging and weeding the school allotment. Thank you to Miss Mills for running the Club every Friday.

Geography AS Level Enrichment

On 1 February Year 12 Students visited St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in Flint to take part in a course run by Aberystwyth University along with several other schools from across Wales. The course allowed students to enhance their subject knowledge in preparation for their Summer examinations. At the end of the course the students took part in a Geography quiz against teams from all other schools and after a tie break round Ysgol Rhiwabon won and the students claimed their trophy.



Well Done -

Ryan Burnett, Kyle Evans, Paris Loton,
Rachel Griffiths and Leah Pritchard!



Year 7 Glanllyn Visit

Year 7 students enjoyed a 3 day Welsh immersion course at Glan Llyn at the end of January. All opportunities to put the Welsh language into practice was embraced by all, with students using their Welsh within all aspects of the course, from requesting their meals in the canteen to using key survival phrases when completing the full range of outdoor activities, such as canoeing, climbing wall and the high ropes course.

The highlight of the three days must have been the raft building where all braved the January frost to try out their newly constructed raft on the lake. Da iawn chi Blwyddyn 7. Edrych ymlaen at flwyddyn nesa!

Justice in a Day

Thirty Year 9 students from Ysgol Rhiwabon took part in the North Wales Police and Theatre Clywd Justice in a Day initiative. Students spent the day at Wrexham Police Station watching and playing various roles in a superb reinactment of a real life story of three teenagers and their involvement in the youth justice system.

The afternoon session involved the students moving to the Wrexham Magistrates Court, again playing various roles including two students sitting as Magistrates alongside a real life Magistrate, asking questions and delivering the verdict.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all the Ysgol Rhiwabon students who gained a much better understanding of how our youth justice system works, and the law regarding teenagers.

The school would like to take this opportunity to thank North Wales Police and Clwyd Theatr Cymru for their invitation and excellent work on the day.

The Day Ysgol Rhiwabon Went On An Expedition

On Friday 3 February Google Expeditions visited Ysgol Rhiwabon with 60 Virtual Reality headsets, and took all our students from KS3 and KS4 on a variety of expeditions.



Year 10 started the day by following a raspberry's trip through the digestive system, providing our GCSE students with a unique inner body experience!



Year 8 got to visit Antarctica and got up close with Gentoo Penguins and Leopard Seals, as well as seeing the glaciers, fjords and volcanic peaks, an experience that would otherwise be out of reach.

Year 9 visited the trenches of World War 1, to experience what trench warfare was like. They got to see the living conditions in the trenches and the weapons used. Year 11 had an in the body experience looking at the respiratory system, and the effects smoking can have on the lungs. Year 7 visited the site of the Battle of Hastings; they got to view the battlefield and Bath Abbey.



PTI UPDATE


We have been delighted to receive the latest Prince's Teaching Institute Impact Report, especially as one of our students, Tirion Davies was included in a two page feature.

The report illustrates the work of the PTI throughout the UK and will be used to promote the organisation to other schools and colleges who may wish to become involved.

The support and development that we, as a school, receive from the PTI is essential as part of our professional development programme.

Tirion and fellow student Jai Evans, were invited to be part of a select student panel at the Prince's Teaching Institute Conference. They addressed over one hundred Mathematics and Science teachers about the importance of studying the two subjects.

They both excelled in their address and subsequent question and answer session.

	<p>"My love of Science and Mathematics can, without a doubt, be attributed to the teachers who have inspired me in recent years"</p> <p>Tirion Davies Ysgol Rhiwabon, North Wales</p>
<p>"Without teachers there would be no doctors, lawyers, leading scientists or most importantly, people to inspire young students"</p>	<p>"As Stephen Hawking said, "intelligence is the ability to adapt to change" and in a time where education is more important than ever, we should all become a part of that change, inspired and supported by great teachers"</p>

PTI MARK



We are very proud to have been awarded the Prince's Teaching Institute Subject and Leadership Mark. The PTI have allowed the use of the Mark for the front of our school. As a school we are delighted to be a long-standing member of the Institute.

Useful Information

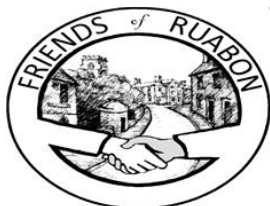
2017 SUMMER TERM DATES

Friday 7 April:	School Closes
Monday 24 April:	Training Day
Tuesday 25 April:	School Re-Opens
Monday 1 May:	Bank Holiday
Friday 26 May:	School Closes
Monday 5 June:	School Re-Opens
Thursday 20 July:	School Closes
Friday 21 July:	Training Day

School Ties loaned to students

Please note if your child borrows a tie from the school office, they will be expected to return it at the end of that school day. If the tie is not returned within two weeks, you will be charged £5.50 for a new one.

School ties are available from the school office at a cost of £5.50 each, or from
RAM LEISURE.
Simply log onto
www.ourschoolwear.co.uk



Spring Fayre
Saturday 8 April
Ruabon Village Hall
at 1.00pm

Craft Stalls
Nearly New and Collectables
Growing Ruabon
Wales Air Ambulance
The Llangollen Lions
Refreshments

Free Entry

A reminder please:

If your child is ill you should:

- Contact the school on 01978 822392 as soon as possible on the first day of absence, preferably before 9.00 am
- Send a note in on the first day your child returns with an explanation of the absence if you have not had contact with the school

If your child is absent we will:

- Call you on the first day of absence if we have not heard from you
- Invite you in to discuss the situation with our Pastoral Support Worker or your child's Lead Learner if absences persist
- Refer the matter to Hayley Roberts, our Educational Social Worker (ESW) if attendance falls below 85% or if you fail to engage with the support offered by the school

Attendance Reward for all students with 94% or more attendance



**All students who are
present on the last day
of term and have 94%
or more attendance
will receive an
Easter Egg!**