



YSGOL RHIWABON

SINCE 1575



Neges y Pennaeth Headteacher's Message Nadolig 2017 Christmas 2017



Dear Parent / Guardian

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter 2017. It is hard to believe that another year in Ysgol Rhiwabon has passed so quickly. As we approach the Christmas Holiday we have so much to celebrate and be grateful for in school.

The Newsletter provides a range of good news stories and a celebration of the many reasons we should be proud of our young people. It showcases all the activities our students and staff are involved in outside the classroom supported by family and the local community.

In September we celebrated the best examination results our school has achieved in the last decade, setting up our Year 11 students for their post 16 studies and the world of work. These significant improvements were recognised by the recent Estyn Inspection and by the time you read our newsletter you will know that the school has been removed from Special Measures. This is fantastic news for Ysgol Rhiwabon. We have continued to work hard with all our students this year and we look forward to celebrating our examination results again in 2018.

The Christmas Newsletter outlines activities in the world of sport, careers, theatre, charity, music and art as just some of the wider events which span all subject areas. This includes important links with our community and beyond.

Ysgol Rhiwabon students and staff always think of those less fortunate than ourselves and this has a special significance at Christmas when so many of us have so much. For this reason our students are involved in the Shoe Box Appeal which provides hope to young people far away from Ruabon and our surrounding area. On Thursday 14th December our Christmas Fair this year opened its doors to the local community for the first time raising funds for Hope House. In addition the school raised funds for Hope House through its annual musical event in the Methodist Chapel on December 6th. We know we have raised well over £1000.

Our last three weeks of the Autumn Term are full of Christmas related celebrations including concerts, our Community Carols and Mince Pies Morning and our Carol Concert on Thursday 21st December in St Mary's Church which we hope many of you will attend.

Christmas is a special time for all of us. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our Governors, staff and students to thank you for your continued support of our school, Ysgol Rhiwabon. We wish you a peaceful family Christmas and look forward to working together for even greater success in 2018.

Nadolig Llawen

Melanie Ferron-Evans
Headteacher



Ysgol Rhiwabon closes
Friday 22nd Dec 2017
and
re-opens
Tuesday 9th January 2018

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.

2018 SPRING TERM DATES

Tuesday 9th January:

School re-opens

Friday 9th February:

School closes

Monday 19th February:

School re-opens

Friday 23rd March:

School closes

Monday 9th April:

School re-opens

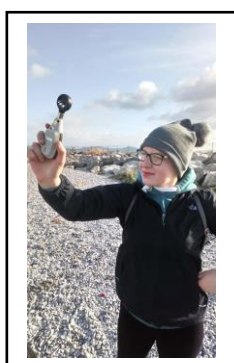
Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip

Our Year 12 Geography students recently embarked on a fieldtrip to Towyn.

The purpose of the trip was to measure the impact of wind on coastal morphology. Fortunately they wrapped up well before setting off!



Kelsey Roberts, Teigan Lloyd
& Tom Sinclair
Year 12



Teigan Lloyd
Year 12

Cross Country

The school cross country was held on 17th November. Lots of students took the opportunity to run in the event and Key Stage 3 was particularly well represented. There was some fantastic running from all students and it was great to see the effort being put in by the students.

This was also our first house competition of the year, with students who took part earning a variety of points for their houses.

Year 7 House Winners:	ONNEN
Year 8 House Winners:	BEDWEN
Year 9 House Winners:	DERWEN
Year 10 House Winners:	YWEN
Overall Winning House:	BEDWEN

Thomas Teago Sings at Ysgol Rhiwabon



On Thursday Nov 23rd Thomas Teago, the upcoming singer and songwriter came to visit Ysgol Rhiwabon, as part of his wider UK tour.

Thomas was due to be part of the Wrexham Christmas Lights switch on later that day but offered to provide a concert of his latest hits and singles to Key Stage 3 students at the school.

A great afternoon was had by all students and staff with Thomas signing many autographs after the show, before heading off to perform in front of over 8000 local people.

Indoor Athletics

On 28th November the U13 Wrexham Schools Indoor Athletics competition was held at Plas Madoc. Ten students were selected (five boys and five girls) to represent the school in a variety of track and field events, including speed bounce, standing long jump and relay races.

The students performed fantastically all day against tough competition and were eventually named as the winners. A fantastic achievement by them all and a great reward for their efforts on the day!

Particular praise must go to **Dan Burnett** who was singled out as having achieved the same score in the speed bounce as last year's UK national finals winner. Also to **Poppy Bostock** of Year 7 who won all of her events despite competing against older students.

Well done to all involved.



Students and staff raised **£38.29** from the sale of Poppies for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Mrs Ferron-Evans, Headteacher together with two Year 11 students, Nathan Roberts (11JGH) and Rhys Parry (11JTP) attended the Wrexham Council Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th November to lay a poppy wreath at the Cenotaph to represent Ysgol Rhiwabon.

Also on the morning of Sunday 12th November Ysgol Rhiwabon's Business Manager, Mr Evans, was supported by two Year 7 students, Luke Darlington-Jones and Skye Bradley at the Remembrance Service in Ruabon.

We were very proud of how our students conducted themselves during such a formal occasion.

Ysgol Rhiwabon Student & Staff Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch was served on Wednesday 6th December in the school Dining Hall.

The students and staff all thank Mark Davies, Head Cook, and his team for all their hard work on that day (and every day) in preparing the lunch.

A great time was had by everyone in school.



Ruabon Station Accessibility Campaign



Campaigners calling for improved access at Ruabon Station turned out in force, recently, ahead of a petition being presented to Parliament.

Clwyd South AM and MP Ken Skates and Susan Elan Jones joined volunteers from the Friends of Ruabon to show their support.

To help spruce up the station's appearance, students of Ysgol Rhiwabon also went along to help plant new floral donations from Arriva Trains Wales.



Ysgol Rhiwabon Carol Service



Our annual Carol Service will be held on day 21st December at 7.00 pm in St Mary's Shared Parish Church, Ruabon.

All Welcome

Another Murder Solved!

Another murder has been solved at Ysgol Rhiwabon.



This time it was the turn of students of 7LMJ to use the skills of an historian to solve a murder mystery in their history lesson.

Year 7 SWAN Week



As part of their induction into Ysgol Rhiwabon, Year 7 students have spent the first week of school creating a newspaper with the theme 'Life at Ysgol Rhiwabon'. The exercise has formed the central part of their "Smart Writing and Numeracy (SWAN)" studies.



The week culminated in the students presenting the finished newspaper to their parents and staff.

Calling All Parents!

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

We are currently compiling a presentation folder for all of our parents.

Inside the folder there will be space to include

**ADVERTISEMENTS
FOR LOCAL COMPANIES
AND BUSINESSES**

3,000 folders will be produced
and distributed to the parents of all our students, teachers and
any others who request information about the school.

Advertising revenue will generate income to

BOOST SCHOOL FUNDS

Please take this opportunity
to support the school
and promote your business

Space is limited - act now to reserve your spot

Log your interest with FSE on **01933 303520**
or email sophia@fundingse.co.uk

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Nest Competition

Year 9 had a great time building their energy efficient model.

The winning team will now go forward to the area finals in January 2018 to be held in Glyndwr University.



Open Evening Success at Ysgol Rhiwabon



Ysgol Rhiwabon was the place to be on September 21st for the Open Evening.

The level of primary school age parents who were present to experience the Rhiwabon atmosphere was very high and reflects the leading transition activities carried out by the school and all its local primary colleagues.

However, the highlights of the evening were the numerous grandparents who were being shown around the school by new Year 6 students eager to show what they had done, and where they had been, during their transition days. The Headteacher, Mrs Ferron-Evans, gave a presentation during the evening. As a former student of the school herself, Mrs Ferron-Evans was keen to emphasise the values of tradition, hard work, and community links that drive the work within the school to continue to deliver improvements. These improvements have led to record GCSE results again this summer.

Speaking later, Mrs Ferron-Evans, Headteacher, said, "I am really pleased with how our Open Evening went. The level of interest shown in our school has been fantastic and I now look forward to meeting our new intake again. The website and app. reflect the historic links we have to the area and I've used this to show our strong community focus, and how successful our students have been over time. I was delighted to be able to speak to so many parents and grandparents face-to-face during the evening, it really was a pleasure and I would like to thank everyone for their extremely positive comments about the school."

The Open Evening was extremely well attended by prospective Parents and reflects the increasing interest in the historic school serving the South Wrexham county area.

Jai Evans (6th Form) Featured in latest PTI Newsletter

The Prince's Teaching Institute (PTI) have featured Ysgol Rhiwabon's sixth former, Jai Evans, in the 'Pupil Profile' section of their latest donor newsletter.

Jai participated in the PTI Pupil Panel at their Maths and Science Residential last November and the Institute found his story so inspiring they have profiled him in this term's edition of the newsletter they produce for friends and supporters of the PTI.

"My name is Jai Evans and I am studying my A Levels at Ysgol Rhiwabon Sixth Form. I studied Mathematics and History A Level, as well as A Level Physics through a collaborative provision at the local sixth form college.

I have a burning passion for both Maths and Physics and I believe it is vital to encourage other young people to study these subjects. They help me to understand the universe that we live in, from the concept of gravity to the laws of motion, and see the world in a different light.

It was my teachers who inspired my enjoyment of Maths and Physics via the unique and incredible way in which they taught them. Personally, I think good teaching and encouragement in these subjects is pivotal for society. Teachers are responsible for inspiring future physicists and mathematicians who can help us understand more about the complex universe and make the world a better place to live in.

My ambition is to study Maths or Physics at university. I hope this will open up a wide range of exciting possibilities for future careers. My motivation to do this has been triggered by incredible teaching methods which I believe are key to inspiring the younger generation – our future!"



**Jai Evans (6th Form student)
and Mrs Devereux
(Curriculum Leader for Maths)**

Record GCSE Results!



Our students and staff are celebrating our best ever results at Key Stage 4 with a significant improvement, building on last year's success.

The school is delighted to report:

- 100% of students leaving Ysgol Rhiwabon with 5 GCSE passes or their equivalent
- A* – C grades including English and Mathematics at a record high with over half the students achieving this challenging measure
- A* – C pass rate in the core subjects, English, Mathematics and Science at a record high
- A notable increase in GCSE A*/A grades

The school is proud of the achievements of this year's students as they prepare for sixth form studies, or the world of work. The results are particularly pleasing as they have been secured against harder examination measures and new specifications; for this reason alone the students should be congratulated on their fantastic success. The grades are a testament to the incredible amount of hard work from students and staff, with lots of support from home and the local community.

Headteacher, Mrs Ferron-Evans said, "We are proud and delighted with this set of results. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, students and parents for the incredible amount of hard work and dedication shown, across a wide range of subjects."

Ysgol Rhiwabon continues to improve significantly and this year's record achievements are a great cause for us to celebrate. The results will enable our young people to further their studies at sixth form, or to enter the world of work, as confident and successful individuals. We wish them continued success and happiness in the future".

A Level Results 2017



Celebrating their success...
Lucy Thompson, Courtney Bradbury,
Robbie Mates and Jessica Davies

Our Sixth Form students are celebrating another successful set of A Level results.

We are proud of the achievements of this year's students as they prepare for university or the world of work.

There are some excellent individual achievements which are a testament to the incredible amount of hard work put in by the students, their parents, and teachers.

Notable areas of success this year were:

100% pass rate at level 3

71% pass rate A-C

Excellent results in all vocational subjects, where the majority of the grades are Distinction or Distinction Star level.

Headteacher, Mrs Ferron-Evans said, "We are very proud of our sixth form students. This year's results reflect a huge amount of hard work across a broad range of subjects from the students and staff in the school."

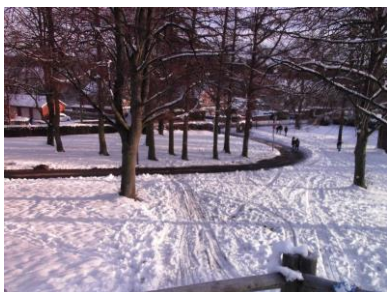
These results will allow our youngsters rich opportunities to further their studies at university or to enter the world of work as confident individuals. We wish them continued success in the future."

YSGOL RHIWABON HOT OFF THE PRESS NEWS!

Hope House Carol Concert

Ysgol Rhiwabon Students along with Friends of Hope House took part in An Evening of Song and Cheer at The Methodist Chapel on Wednesday 6th December. Students performed carols and songs and a great time was had by all.

School Closed due to SNOW!!



Mrs Ferron-Evans, Headteacher sent out the following message of thanks to all students and parents on twitter....

"Thank you to all parents, pupils & staff for making such an effort to come into school today. Good day had by all! Snow looked lovely & a great effort by Alan Hughes (snowplough) & our site team for making it safe to open. Look forward now to all our Christmas celebrations".

Rhiwabon's Got Talent!



Students are currently taking part in auditions for this Year's Rhiwabon's Got Talent. The final will be held on Friday 22nd December.

Good luck to all our entrants!

Christmas Community Carol & Mince Pies Morning

Ysgol Rhiwabon continued its seasonal programme on December 14th with a carols and mince pies concert for all members of the local community and to raise money for Hope House Children's Hospice. An overflowing Library, where even standing room was non-existent, saw the students of Ysgol Rhiwabon, under the musical production of Mrs Sandra Tarver, gave a rendition of Christmas items ranging from the new to old.

There were performances from over 25 students ranging from solo singing, choral recitation, piano, ukulele and Irish pipes.

Mrs Melanie Ferron-Evans, Headteacher, in her closing 'Thank You Address', said,
'Credit must be given to the performances of our students today; they were of the highest order and also reflect the work that our Music department under Sandra Tarver undertakes. As a school steeped in the tradition of the local area for song; we should all be very proud of what we witnessed here. Many performances were of concert hall standard and I have no doubt that many of these students will go on to great things'



~Useful Information~

Follow Ysgol Rhiwabon Events
at



twitter: [@ysgolrhiwabon](https://twitter.com/ysgolrhiwabon)
website: www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk

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, there will be a charge of £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

Theatre Group Upcoming Events....

Blood Brothers
Wednesday 21 March 2018
The Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl

Please see:
Mrs P Williams (English Department)
for further details

SEVERE WEATHER

In the event of adverse weather conditions please check the following for information:

Wrexham Council – School Status
www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/education/school_status.cfm

Ysgol Rhiwabon
www.ysgolrhiwabon.uk
Twitter
@ysgolrhiwabon

A reminder please: If your child is ill you should:

- Contact the school on 01978 822392 as soon possible on the first day of absence, preferably before 9.00 am
- Send a note in on the first day they return with an explanation of the absence if you haven't 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 an 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

Message Service Change

The school will soon be changing its text message service from Parentmail to a company called 'The Contact Group'.

The new text and email service is branded 'Call Parents' and we have also invested in an additional service for attendance.

As Parent/Guardian you **do not have to do anything** as all information will automatically be updated.

As currently, if you have changed your mobile or landline telephone number please let school know.

The text message will show up as **RhiwabonSch** on your telephone so you know clearly who it is from.

For attendance the new service will be able to issue a text/email to you to indicate if your child is absent from school and it will allow you to respond directly with the reason for absence.

This will make reporting any absence much quicker and easier for you and is **free of charge** to you.