



**YSGOL RHIWABON**

SINCE 1575



**Neges y Pennaeth  
Headteacher's Message  
Nadolig 2018  
Christmas 2018**



Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter 2018. Exactly a year ago staff and students were celebrating a strong Estyn Report which commented on the rapid progress made in the school in recent times. Since last Christmas we have continued to work hard in school with the support of our families and the local community. We are very proud of our school and as we approach the Christmas holiday we are full of optimism for 2019 and all we will continue to achieve moving forward. All of us realise, working with our young people, how much we have to celebrate and be thankful for.

As always the Newsletter showcases a huge range of activities which staff and students are involved in within school hours and beyond.

In recent years our examination results have improved significantly in many of the important measures. Just as important as our academic results is the pastoral care provided for all our students, ensuring that our youngsters thrive in Ysgol Rhiwabon and leave us as confident individuals ready to embrace the next phase of their education.

We are particularly proud of the way Ysgol Rhiwabon students and staff always think of those less fortunate than ourselves. Recently we presented a cheque for £2,000 to Hope House and our charity work continues. Our students are involved in the Shoe Box appeal which provides hope to young people beyond our local area. On Wednesday 19 December we open the doors to our local community welcoming you to our Christmas Market which was a huge success last year. Funds raised here will be donated to Hope House. In addition the school will be raising funds for the hospice through its annual musical event in the Methodist Chapel on 13 December.

In the last three weeks of the Autumn Term there is a packed calendar full of Christmas related celebrations including concerts, visits to local Homes, Community Carols and Mince Pies, Rhiwabon's Got Talent and our grand finale – the school Christmas Concert in St Mary's Church on Thursday 20 December. We hope many of you will attend to celebrate this special time of year with us.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our Governors, staff and students to thank you for all the support you give to our school, Ysgol Rhiwabon. As always we wish you a peaceful and happy family Christmas. We look forward to working together for even greater success in 2019.

Diolch yn Fawr.  
Nadolig Llawen.  
**M Ferron-Evans**  
**Headteacher**



**Ysgol Rhiwabon closes  
Friday 21 December 2018  
and re-opens  
Tuesday 8 January 2019**

**Follow the school on Twitter  
@ysgolrhiwabon and download  
our school App @  
[www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk](http://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.

**2019 SPRING TERM DATES**

**Monday 7 January 2019**

Training Day

**Tuesday 8 January 2019**

School re-opens

**Friday 22 February 2019**

School closes

**Monday 4 March 2019**

School re-opens

**Friday 12 April 2019**

School closes

**Monday 29 April**

Training Day

**Tuesday 30 April**

School re-opens

## Jumping Jacks Has Arrived!



Ysgol Rhiwabon is delighted to welcome Jumping Jacks After School and Holiday Club to the school site and to share facilities that benefit the local community.

### After School Club

3.00 pm – 6.00 pm

To register and book please contact:

**Mrs Gillian Kearsley**  
07543455965

### Holiday Club

Open every holiday except Christmas

8.00 am – 6.00 pm

To register and book please contact:

**Mrs Gillian Kearsley**  
07543455965

**Children in full time education  
(from age 4 – 14 years)  
are able to attend  
Jumping Jacks**

**Please collect  
Certificates for External Exams  
2018**



The certificates for external exams 2018 have now arrived in school and can be collected by contacting the school office. We also have a number of certificates that remain uncollected from previous examinations, some dating back several years. Should you know of someone who has not collected their certificates please contact Mrs Money Penny, Exams Officer on 01978 814919.

## GCSE Results



The school staff and students are celebrating Key Stage 4 results which build on last year's success. We are delighted to report:-

- Every student leaving Ysgol Rhiwabon had a range of GCSE passes or their equivalent
- A pleasing A\* – C pass rate in the core subjects English Language, Mathematics and Science
- A significant number of the cohort achieved the upper grades A\* – B across their subjects
- 87% of the year group achieved A\* – C in the Skills Challenge Qualification

We are proud of the achievements of this year's students as they prepare for sixth form studies or the world of work. The results are very pleasing as they have been secured against harder examination measures, relatively new specifications, and changing performance measures; for this reason alone the students should be congratulated on their success.

*"This is a year group which has worked very hard to secure success, attending lots of extra lessons and revision sessions, and we are pleased with this set of results. There are some excellent individual performances.*

*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 studies.*

*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."*

**Mrs Ferron-Evans**  
**Headteacher**

# Open Evening - Standing Room Only!

It was standing room only at our Open Evening on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The school was clearly the place to be on a lovely, warm, late summer evening. The high level of interest in the school and all its achievements is a testament to the hard work and dedication of staff and governors. Our students are very proud of their school.

We work very closely with the local primary schools to provide excellent transition, and induction, for Year 6 students. A key highlight of the event had to be the enthusiastic speeches delivered by three new Year 7 students.

Staff in the school were delighted by the support shown on the evening from members of the community, and ex-students. Member of Parliament, Susan Elan Jones, herself a former Ysgol Rhiwabon student, welcomed local families to the school. Students were excited to see Naim Arsan who took time to attend the event to share his football success and Welsh caps.

The Headteacher, Mrs Ferron-Evans gave a presentation at the start of the evening. As a former student of the school herself, Mrs Ferron-Evans was keen to emphasise both the values of tradition, hard work and community links, and also the need to ensure every young person achieves the very best they can. She discussed all the exciting initiatives in the school which have contributed to the school's success.

*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 school website reflects 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, grandparents and friends of the school, face to face during the evening; it was a pleasure and I would like to thank everyone for their extremely positive comments about the school".*



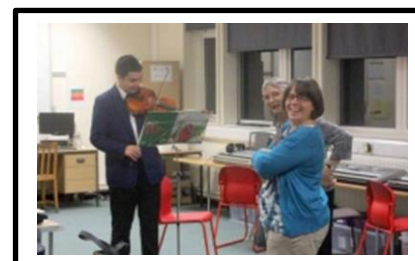
Jaydan Pugh, Year 7 addresses the Open Evening audience



Full school hall



Sports Hall Activities



Sam Brown on the violin



Miss Madoc-Jones, Art Department



Naim Arsan & Mrs Ferron-Evans

## PTI Award for MFL

We are pleased to have received confirmation that our MFL Department has been awarded the Princes Teaching Institute Mark for 2018.



## SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD



£335.60 was raised by students and staff who participated in a 'Wear Red Day' non-school uniform day on Friday 19 October.

All proceeds were given to 'Show Racism the Red Card'. Well done to all who gave so generously!

## JustB (Smokefree) Ambassadors



This autumn a peer selected group of Year 8 students participated in the JustB programme run by Public Health Wales.

The programme aimed to reduce, and prevent, future uptake in smoking through the influence of peer pressure and friendship ties.

Research across secondary schools has identified that young people are at most risk of experimenting with cigarettes in Year 8 and for this reason this year group has been targeted.

A group of our Year 8 students were selected to receive training from a JustB ambassador. These particular students were identified as influential to the year group, and natural leaders who would be peer role models. The training they received will increase their knowledge about smoking related issues, and will equip them with the relevant skills and confidence to pass on relevant, non-judgemental information on smoking to their existing friends in Year 8.

### 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](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/education/school_status.cfm)

Ysgol Rhiwabon

[www.ysgolrhiwabon.uk](http://www.ysgolrhiwabon.uk)

Twitter

@ysgolrhiwabon

## Ysgol Rhiwabon Student & Staff Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch was served on Thursday 6 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.

### S4C - CYW

We were pleased to welcome the S4C television programme **CYW** to the school on Wednesday 12 December.



## Minibus Fundraising



In order to assist our fundraising for a new School minibus, we've registered with **easyfundraising**, and we need your help!

**easyfundraising** is a great website where you can help us raise funds, simply by doing your everyday online shopping, with over 3,300 big name retailers like **Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S.**

Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you', and it's completely free too! We want to raise as much as possible, so please sign up and help us at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ysgolrhiwabon/>

You can find more information on our school website:  
[ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk](http://ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk)



## Year 7 ASDAN Visit



As part of their **ASDAN Stepping Stones** qualification, some of our Year 7 students recently visited the Ironworks Centre, Oswestry. They are shown above, standing in front of an angel made of knives, which is part of the "Save a Life - Surrender your Knife" project. The project aims to highlight the current knife crime epidemic, whilst raising awareness and education.

## A Level Exam Results

We are celebrating another successful set of A Level results achieved by our Sixth Form.

All our staff and governors 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 our students and teaching staff, and to the support given by parents.

**Notable areas of success this year were:-**

- 100% pass rate at level 3
- The majority of passes at grades A-C
- A third of the grades at A\* to B
- Excellent results were achieved in all vocational subjects, where the majority of grades were "Distinction", or "Distinction Star", level.
- 75% A-C pass rate in the new Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

*Mrs Ferron Evans, Headteacher said:*

*"Yet again we are very proud of our sixth form students. This year's grades 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".*

## Theatre Events

**'Annie'**  
**The Storyhouse, Chester**  
**Wednesday 27 March 2019**

**Major theatre trips have already  
been booked for later in 2019....**

Please see Mrs P Williams  
English Department  
For further details.....

## £2,000 to Hope House



Miss Bourhill, Joe Richards, Cat Dowdeswell,  
Laigha Parry and Mrs Ferron-Evans

Over the last twelve months, Ysgol Rhiwabon students have organised and participated in a series of fundraising activities in aid of Hope House Hospice, as one of their chosen charities.

Using their creativity and entrepreneurial skills from the Skills Challenge Certificate (part of the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification), students ran the annual Christmas Fair, offering presents, decorations and treats to students, staff and visitors from the local community.

Younger students also participated in fundraising efforts, using their musical talents to entertain local residents in a carol concert, held at the local chapel. Throughout the year, non school uniform days, cake sales and other events, were held to swell the charity fund.

On Tuesday October 23rd, Cat Dowdeswell visited the school to introduce the challenge to the current Year 10 students, in preparation for their fair to be held this December. Cat was presented with a cheque for £2000 by Joe Richards and Laigha Parry, members of two of the most successful stalls at the fair.

**Miss S Bourhill,  
Welsh Baccalaureate Co-ordinator, said:**

*'I was delighted for our students to be able to raise such a sum for Hope House. It is a tremendous effort and all credit should be given to the students for the dedication they have shown for this worthy cause'.*

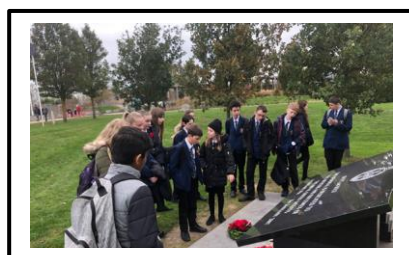
## Shoebox Cake Sale



As part of our Shoebox Appeal for this year, Year 11 and Miss S Bourhill held a cake sale. They raised £85.00 to start the appeal.

We are pleased to say our students have, this year, filled and donated 25 boxes to the **Teams4u** Shoebox Appeal. The boxes will be going to children in Eastern Europe.

## Key Stage 3 National Memorial Arboretum Visit



Recently, a selection of KS3 students had the honour of visiting the **National Memorial Arboretum in Litchfield**, to remember the fallen soldiers in conflicts since WW1.

## Charity Contributions

Our students have been working hard recently, raising money for several charities:

### Cancer Research Wales

£200 was raised for Cancer Research Wales



### Prostate Cancer UK

£150 was raised for Prostate Cancer UK



### Make a Wish UK

£100 was raised for Make-a-Wish UK



### Nightingale House Hospice

Thanks to our students' tireless fundraising activities, we are pleased to have been able to make a donation of £1,000 to **Nightingale House Hospice**.



## Armistice Service 2018 Cefn Mawr

Mrs Wright-Davies, Year 7 Lead Learner accompanied the following students to lay a wreath on behalf of Ysgol Rhiwabon at the Cenotaph in Cefn Mawr on Sunday 11 November

**Ruby Rogers, Tom Savage,  
Lily Owens and Declan Hughes**



Ruabon Air Cadets marching through Cefn Mawr

Ysgol Rhiwabon also laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Ruabon. Mrs Ferron-Evans, Headteacher accompanied the following students,

**Cameron Williams and Jaydan Pugh**



St Mary's Church, Ruabon



1251 (Berwyn) Squadron **RAFAC**

We were very proud of how our students conducted themselves during these two formal occasions.



Students and staff raised **£102.83** from the sale of Poppies for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Well done to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

## History Group Meets Dan Snow TV Historian



Mrs Wright Davies, Dan Snow,  
Mrs Gittins and Mrs Ferron-Evans

Members of the Ysgol Rhiwabon History Group recently attended an evening with TV historian, Dan Snow hosted by Booka Bookshops, Oswestry.

## Ysgol Rhiwabon Carol Service



Our annual Carol Service will be held on  
Thursday 20 December at 7.00 pm in St Mary's  
Shared Parish Church, Ruabon.

**All Welcome**

## Dragons Lair Programme



There were some truly impressive presentations from our Year 10 students as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate Dragons Lair programme.

Cat Dowdeswel, Hope House commented:

*Strong, creative and confident pitches about their fundraising plans. Great work everyone!*



## Hope House Concert a Big Success



We are pleased to say the Hope House concert which took place on Thursday 13 December in the Ruabon Methodist Chapel raised £300 for the charity! We are really proud of our students for the range and quality of their performances. This event is always important as part of our ongoing community work.

Co-ordinator, Cat Dowdeswell tweeted

*"Myself and @HopeHouseHolly are getting all festive with @YsgolRhiwabon at their Christmas concert. Some fabulous musical performances going on here tonight so thank you for coming out and supporting @HopeHouseKids and the great pupils who are performing tonight!"*

## Ysgol Rhiwabon's Christmas Market Wednesday 19 December



Meet Santa in his Grotto

Home-Made Crafts

Christmas Gifts

Cake Stalls

Sweet Treats

Stocking Fillers

and

So much more . . .

**Free entry**

## Christmas Community Carol & Mince Pies Morning



Ysgol Rhiwabon continued its seasonal programme on December 18th 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 saw the students of Ysgol Rhiwabon, under the musical production of Mrs Sandra Tarver, provide a wonderful selection of Christmas entertainment.

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:**

*'We are delighted to welcome so many of our members of our local community to this important occasion. It allows us to thank you for all your support during the year and to showcase the wonderful talents, of so many of our students led by Mrs S Tarver.'*



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Good luck to all our entrants!**

## INFO Shop Christmas Opening Times



The Wrexham INFO shop is a free and confidential information shop for young people between the ages of 11 and 25.

Help, information and advice are freely available; and also access to public computers is provided for job searches, creating CV, etc.

### Christmas Opening Times

Monday 17 December - 11.30 am – 5.30 pm

Nurses available 3.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Tuesday 18 December -11.30 am – 4.30 pm

Wednesday 19 December -11.30 am – 5.30 pm

Nurses available 3.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Thursday 20 December - 11.30 am – 4.30 pm

Friday 21 December -11.30 am – 5.30 pm

Nurses available 3.00 pm– 5.30 pm

### 24, 25, 26 December Closed

Thursday 27 December - 11.30 am – 4.30 pm

Friday 28 December - 11.30 am –5.30 pm

Nurses available 3.00 pm– 5.30 pm

**Monday 31 December Closed  
Tuesday 1 January 2019 Closed**

