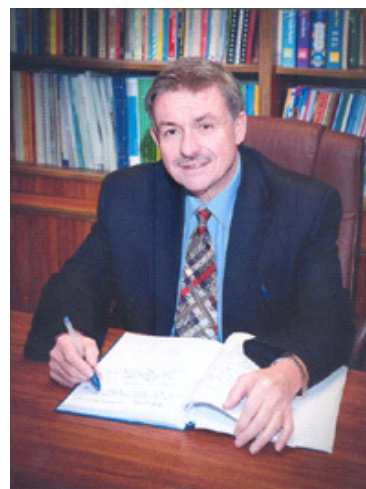


Llais Llangatwg Voice



GOODBYE, GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU, SIR.

Can you believe that it has been 39 years since Mr Skilton walked through the doors of Llangatwg as a newly qualified teacher?? No?? Well just ask your parents and grandparents, because he has probably taught most of them!! From day one, Mr Skilton has been a dedicated teacher who has always put the development of every pupil at the top of his list. Mr Skilton commands a great deal of respect from staff, pupils and parents alike. Since he was appointed headteacher in 1991, Mr Skilton has proved to be very effective as he “leads from the front”. At the time of his appointment, Mr Skilton was the youngest headteacher within the county. He is now also the longest serving headteacher within the LEA. Mr Skilton has built up an enviable relationship with staff, pupils, parents and the governing body of the school. To achieve this, he has shown time and time again that his great strengths in this area are that he is firm, fair, consistent and very approachable. Indeed, pupils, in particular, will knock on his door to speak to him about wide ranging issues or concerns, knowing that he will try his very best to assist them. Colleagues have stated that Mr Skilton’s energy and drive stems from his true belief in the importance of what he does and that he is in a privileged position of being able to help to shape the lives and careers of so many young people. He values every pupil that has walked through the gates of Llangatwg and ensures that all staff provide a quality education so that the pupils are able to meet with confidence, the challenges of the future. Without doubt, Mr Skilton is leaving Llangatwg having done an exceptional job. In February, he led the school through an “**EXCELLENT**” Estyn inspection, of which he can be justifiably proud. School examination results have improved year on year, due, in no small part to the leadership of Mr Skilton. So, to say that he is leaving on a “HIGH”, is somewhat of an understatement. As you prepare to leave Llangatwg for the last time, Mr Skilton, we would all like to wish you a very long, happy and healthy retirement. You have served Llangatwg exceptionally well and now thoroughly deserve to spend your time doing exactly what **YOU** would like to do. We feel sure that Mrs Skilton’s list of “To Dos” is growing by the day.

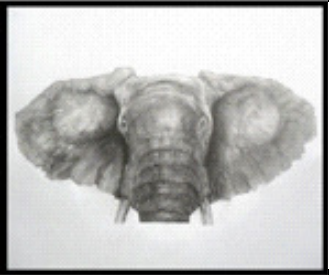


HEADTEACHER’S FINAL REPORT: May I begin my very last report by thanking everyone associated with Llangatwg for making my job so enjoyable and rewarding. Since I arrived at Llangatwg over 39 years ago, I have been fortunate to have worked with many incredibly gifted and talented teachers, both past and present. This has resulted in the school going from strength to strength, year on year. Pupils have achieved to the very highest levels in wide ranging academic, sporting, music and drama activities, which has resulted in them going on to achieve outstanding success in their adult lives. As I come to the end of my teaching career, I would like to thank all parents for the support that they have given to me and the school during these years. It has been greatly appreciated. For the past 21 years I have been the Headteacher and consider it a great honour and privilege to have led the school through so many exciting developments. I feel confident in saying that few people will have been so fortunate to have enjoyed their working life as much as I have. The new Headteacher of Llangatwg School will be Mr Alan Rowlands. He will be taking up his duties in January 2013. Mr Rowlands is currently the Headteacher at Cwrt Sart Community Comprehensive School. He is an experienced and successful Headteacher and I have absolutely no doubt that with the support of the staff, parents and the governing body, he will lead the school very effectively through its next phase of development. Naturally, I wish him and the school every success in the future. Once again, thank you all for the tremendous support you have given me as Headteacher at Llangatwg. May I remind you that School recommences on 7th, January 2013, for staff, and on the 8th of January for pupils. Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda I Chi Gyd.

R Skilton.

DID YOU KNOW????? Not only is Mr Williams (PE) a "sensational sportsman", he is also a very gifted artist. This year alone, he has had several pieces of work accepted for the following exhibitions:

Welsh Artist of the Year Award, The Royal West of England Academy Autumn Exhibition, The Kyffin Williams Drawing Prize, The Society of Graphic Fine Arts Exhibition in the Menier Gallery in London and The Cork Street Open Exhibition in London.



When interviewed by one of our reporters, a modest Mr Williams informed her that he has his own website (davidhuwilliams.co.uk), where his work can be viewed. Mr Williams went on to say that his form would know more about his artistic talent as he regularly draws on the board for them, in chalk, during registration. Mr Williams is very hopeful that when he retires (aged 86), he is able to paint full time!! Shown left, is a pencil sketch which actually took Mr Williams 40 hours to complete.

Red, White and Blue Day: Kirsty Pascoe in year 11 organised a very successful cake sale (healthy options also available) and raised £129. Read, White and Blue day is a charity supporting the armed forces and their families. Kirsty wanted to raise money for this charity as her sister Francesca, a former pupil in the school, is in the forces.

SWANSEA BAY YOUNG BUSINESS DRAGONS

Congratulations to the all-boys team of Rhys Millington, Rohan Skinner, Cai Llewellyn Jones, Chris Davies and Conor Windos who won through to the semi finals of the Swansea Bay Young Business Dragons. They did not win through to the finals but did exceptionally well. Well done, boys, you are a credit to both yourselves and the school. The boys would like to extend their thanks to Mrs Clancy and also to Mrs Jill Jordan (BT) who advised and encouraged them through the competition stages

Yr 11 Leisure and Tourism pupils recently enjoyed their investigation of Cardiff Bay's many leisure organisations. They visited the Millennium Centre, the Red Dragon Centre, Mermaid Quay, Techniquet and The Norwegian Church. They now have an excellent understanding of the products and services offered by these organisations and why they are key components to Cardiff Bay. To top off

WELSH DEPARTMENT — Yr ADRAN CYMRAEG

McMillan Coffee Morning Llangatwg Community School was proud to take part in the annual coffee morning in support of the McMillan nurses. Pupils in 9C organised a cake sale and were extremely grateful for all the generous donations from both staff and pupils. It was a very successful event and the school raised a very pleasing £166.38 towards the McMillan Appeal. Da iawn!

Sain Ffagan – St. Fagans The Welsh department took pupils and parents to the annual Christmas celebration in Saint Fagans on Wednesday December 5th. Pupils and parents got into the festive spirit by taking part in the many activities that were on offer. These included, carol singing, toffee making, Winter solstice storytelling, carols from the Salvation Army, making traditional decorations and many more. Along with the activities there were the beautiful Christmas markets where the pupils were able to purchase traditional Welsh Christmas gifts for their families and friends. It was a very enjoyable, and cultural evening. A great time was had by all!

Cymraeg yn y Gweithle – Welsh in the Workplace Year 9 pupils enjoyed listening to a presentation by a Welsh lecturer from the University of Wales Swansea. Dr Rhianedd Jewell shared the positive aspects of learning Welsh as a second language, and the improved employability factor of having a second language to offer. She informed pupils of the valuable skills developed in studying a language at GCSE level in preparation for the workplace. **Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda o'r Adran Gymraeg.**
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from The Welsh Department.

CHRISTMAS FOODBANK COLLECTION Inspired by an idea from Mr Rees (English), big hearted Year 7 pupils worked extremely hard to collect a "mountain" of food so that they could donate it to Orchard Place Chapel in Neath, which is the collection point for people who would like to donate non perishable foodstuff to help people who are in "Crisis". This is a very worthwhile cause, as the extremely grateful charity representative, Mrs Thomas, explained to pupils. The people who seek help from the charity sometimes haven't eaten for three days. This includes both adults and children!!

Year 7 Faculty Staff decided to set up a competition for each of the forms which was to design a festive hamper to put the food into. After several weeks of planning and (undercover) making of these hampers, it was left to Mr Skilton and Mrs Thomas of Orchard Place to judge the winner. After a great deal of deliberation, the "Fireplace" made by 7C won. A delighted Mrs Stafford told our reporter that their success was all due to an enthusiastic team effort by everyone in the form. Congratulations, 7C



ACTING SUCCESSES: After only a short while at Llangatwg, Jacob Lane (7D) has made several trips to London and Manchester to take part in a series of acting assignments. He took the leading part of Owen, in the "Stepping Out" series on CBBC which showed how difficult it is for a young Welsh boy to adapt to a new life and a new school when his parents decide to move to England. Jacob has also enjoyed success in several other acting projects this year. Jacob attends the Mark Jermin Stage School. During early December, Jacob attended a "Glittering" awards ceremony where he picked up the prestigious award for the best Comedy Act. Will we be seeing you "Live at the Apollo" in the not too distant future, Jacob.? Congratulations and good luck in your career

**We're on the WEB: www.llangatwg.org.uk
Or, You can contact us by telephone
on 01639 634700**

French Department news:

Trip to Rue, France July 2012 44 pupils in Year 8 spent a lovely week in a French Chateau in Rues, Northern France in July. During the week, pupils were involved in French Adventure course. Chateau de Broutel is a fantastic outdoor adventure centre where pupils were given the opportunity to do all kinds of exciting outdoor adventure activities, including Kayaking, abseiling, fencing and muddy assault courses. Other activities were organised during the afternoon and evenings for pupils to learn and practice French language and get involved in cultural experiences. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed a visit to a French goats cheese farm and a bakery where they were able to make and sample delicious croissants and pains au chocolat. We hope to return to the Chateau again in July 2014, Year 7 pupils look out for letters about this exciting opportunity!

Adopt A Class Scheme. In October, Years 9 and 10 French classes had a visit from an undergraduate studying German and French in Swansea University. He had already visited Year 10 at the start of last year to tell them about the year abroad he was about to embark on in Reutlingen, Germany. Mochael returned to tell the pupils all about the fantastic opportunity he had to work with Bosch power tools near Reutlingen and about how continuing with language studies can enhance your skills and increase your employability. This year, we have another link student who is studying in Chambéry, France. She will be keeping Year 9 updated on her experiences via email and video and we look forward to a visit from her next summer term.

Year 8 Pupils on Camera On European Day of languages (26th September), we welcomed a film crew into school. The French, Welsh and English departments have been involved in a triple literacy project with Cilt Cymru. This has involved pupils in activities such as a spelling bee, form quizzes covering English, French and Welsh vocabulary and some drama. Year 8 pupils were filmed performing a cafe sketch they had prepared in three languages. The pupils had a lot of fun doing the sketch and they all said that they learnt a lot about Welsh and French pronunciation by taking part in it. The film will be used a part of teacher training package to improve literacy in secondary schools.

ENTERPRISING CLUN PRIMARY SCHOOL

pupils contacted us at Llangatwg to ask if they could set up their card making stall at our recent Christmas Fete. The eight pupils: Ellie Jones, Tyla Williams, Jade McAllister, Hannah Lloyd, Darcy Buchanan, Liam Rees, Martha Langran and Jessica Vincent set up their card making business in order to raise enough funds to go to London to see the "Lion King" and to visit the Houses of Parliament. The quality of the cards they have produced is exceptional, showing great attention to detail. Thank you



for taking part in our school fete, each and every one of you. We hope that you enjoyed yourselves and wish you every success in reaching your goal. (maybe you could make Easter cards)!!

CHRISTMAS FETE IS A SWEET SUCCESS FOR YEAR 10 PUPILS.

This year's school Christmas Fete provided Year 10 pupils with the opportunity to complete one of their controlled assessments in Food Technology. From planning their sweet treats menu, costing the ingredients, cooking and setting up their stall to sell their products, the pupils, supported by Mrs Modrate, produced a host of scrumptious treats to sell at the fete. Their products sold out in no time at all. Obviously, the "proof of the pudding was DEFINITELY in the eating". Well done, Year 10. Surely you are the budding bakers and confectioners of the future. In total, there were twelve stalls at the fete, raising over £300 towards our school's charities fund. Mrs Morgan and Mrs Arnold would like to thank, most sincerely, everyone who was involved in making the morning such a success. We know that a great deal of work was involved and really appreciate your efforts. Diolch yn fawr, bawb.



Our Visit to London by Bradley Nation, 7D.

On 29th, November we went to London to see the fantastic musical, "Shrek". We had an early start from school so that we could enjoy the sights of London before the show. We visited Buckingham Palace and then walked around St James's Park where we saw lots of squirrels. They were running towards us looking for food. I had a piece of paper in my hand, so one cheeky squirrel ran straight towards me thinking it was food!! Later, we went to see Big Ben, and also, the Lions in Trafalgar Square. When we got hungry, we went to Covent Garden to eat. It was really exciting there because it was full of very interesting things to see and eat. We saw a massive reindeer that was made of evergreen leaves and branches. It had lots of shining lights on it, which made it look beautiful. In no time at all we were outside the theatre ready to see Shrek. It was the best show I have ever seen!! It was really funny and colourful. My favourite part of the show was when Shrek whistled and a **HUGE** dragon came down from the ceiling. It **frightened** everyone!! It was a long, dark journey home but it was absolutely worth it because we had such a fabulous day out. PS: when's the next trip, Mrs Clancy?



YEAR 7 END OF TERM SUPERSTARS:

During Year 7 pupils' first term at Llangatwg, Form Tutors have chosen their "Star of the Week" by checking up on the number of positive comments and reports each pupil in their form has achieved. At the end of term, each Form Tutor had to choose just one pupil who they felt has contributed wholeheartedly to all aspects of school life, to be their "**SUPERSTAR**". This proved to be a **VERY** difficult task. But eventually, Steffan Davies 7C, Alaina Brown 7Y, Jack Groth 7D, Hannah Jones 7R, Tori Bennett 7A and Nicole Harris 7O were the proud winners of these awards. Well done all.



SPORTS PAGE: NETBALL RESULTS - AUTUMN ROUNDUP

The Netball season has got off to a VERY promising start with all teams showing a great deal of commitment. Well done to the Year 9's who played Cefn Saeson. The A team won 7-nil and the B team won 5-2. An excellent start to the season. **Our Year 11** team won 5-1. The Year 9 girls beat Cwrt Sart 14-9. A really gutsy squad performance, well done everyone! Another great performance by the teams who played Ystalfera. **The year 9** girls have made a marked improvement from last season and are playing so much better as a team. Unfortunately the score does not reflect how superb they played. They lost 20-14. **The Year 8** team have managed to expand their squad and now regularly have two teams training every week. They won one game 6-nil, lost one game 3-1. Well done year 8's, a great squad effort.

LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONS:

Congratulations to Amelia Boucher who has recently become a senior (under 17s) Welsh Champion Lifesaver (RLSA). Also, Amelia Orrells is now junior (under 15s) Welsh Champion. Well done, girls, a great achievement.

OLYMPIC TASTER SESSION

Recently, a group of pupils visited Margam Park to take part in an Olympic event which enabled them to have a taster session of various sports played in the Olympics, including kayaking and fencing. The pupils taking part were: Alice Fernquest, Sirijan Khemthong, Mari Watkins, Rhianon Roberts, Sam Jones, Blaine Cunningham, Cameron Cox, Sam Evans, Lewis Mahoney, Brandon Williams, Thomas George, Ellis Hopkins and Amelia Boucher.

The pupils were exceptionally well behaved and well-mannered. They were a credit to the school.

5 X 60 CLUB

Don't forget!! If you have been over indulging during the Christmas holidays, our busy 5 x 60 club will be up and running as usual at the beginning of the Spring Term. Check our notice boards for the fun activities planned by Miss Woolfe and her team. You can attend the clubs at lunchtime and after school. So come on, have fun whilst keeping fit and healthy at the same time.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL: Calling **ALL** girls!! Are you interested in playing football?? Over the past years we have had very successful girls' football teams at Llangatwg. Unfortunately our talented players have moved on to college: (Fortunately, :) it means that we have lots of places to be won in our newly forming teams. If you are interested (you should be!!), training takes place **EVERY** Tuesday and Thursday at lunchtime. If you want to have fun, get fit and be part of these new teams, come along even if you think that you can't play. Everyone gets better with practise. We look forward to seeing you there.

FOOTBALLING SUCCESS: Dalton Brown (9) has just been selected to play football for the Boys Club of Wales at U 15 level. Well done, Dalton. We hope that you make it to the very highest level as you progress through the age levels. Mrs Hickmott, is very proud of you and we are sure that your family are even more proud.

LLANGATWG'S YEAR 9 FOOTBALL TEAM IS THE BEST IN WEST GLAMORGAN



Llangatwg's talented **Year 9** football team has just won the West Glamorgan area final of the Welsh Cup. This is a great achievement, as over 200 teams initially enter the competition. The boys are now through to the last 16 teams in Wales. It is the first time that Llangatwg have won the area final. They beat Gowerton 3-1 in a hard fought match. The boys are now the best team in Bridgend, Swansea, Neath and Port-Talbot. Mr Dunton, and the rest of the school, I am sure, are very proud of your achievements to date, boys. We hope that you continue winning your matches. Good luck during the coming months boys. We feel confident that you will bring home the "Silverware".

During the annual September rugby festivals year 8, 9 and 11 acquitted themselves very well. In quick turnover matches of 15 minute games years 8 and 9 won all their matches, while year 11 lost only one game.

Welsh Cup Matches.

Year 9 boys warmed up for their first Welsh cup match against local rivals Dwr y Felin by beating Birchgrove 52 points to 5. In the Dwr y Felin game, they produced an excellent all round performance by winning 38 - 7. **Year 11** also produced a performance of power, speed and precision by beating Cwmtawe in their first Welsh Cup match 38 - 0. When these two teams met in Year 8, Cwmtawe won 50 - 0!! Well done to both the Year 9 and 11 teams. Training for year 9 is Friday lunchtime.

Neath Schools under 15

Year 10 boys Aled Cockwell, Dylan Evans, Nathan Murphy and Cole Williams have represented Neath Schools under 15 in the Dewar Shield Competition, and have put themselves in contention for Ospreys trials by doing so. The Dewar Shield is the premier rugby competition in Wales for under 15 players and players can only be selected for Regional Trials by playing in these matches.

Year 7

Year 7 played their first game against Cwmtawe.. 37 boys in total, played. They played 3 x 20 minute sessions in atrocious conditions. All boys played superbly well, showing the qualities that are fast becoming expected of Llangatwg sport competitors. The final score was a 15 - 10 win to Llangatwg. They will next play local rivals Dwr y Felin. They also have a rugby festival coming up before the end of half term. Good luck, boys.

Touch rugby for year 7 and 8 take place on the Astroturf every Monday at lunchtime. If you would like to join us, please feel free to come along.

Ospreys and Afan Nedd Rugby

Dylan Francis has caught the selectors' eyes whilst playing for the Ospreys under 16 team this season. He will also be joined by Keelan Marney who has been called up from the Afan Nedd squad. Other year 11 boys who are also getting good reviews for Afan Nedd are Liam Owens, Adam Nation, Josh Morris, Jack Reynolds, William Thomas, First Hardman and Jacob French. Well done, boys you are all a credit to Llangatwg.