



# LLAIS LLANGATWG VOICE

Autumn Term  
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## YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAY IS A HUGE SUCCESS.....

November 14<sup>th</sup> saw over 140 Year 6 learners from all nine of our family of primary schools attend a literacy and numeracy festival in Llangatwg. Their mission... to create environmentally friendly superheroes to save the school from an arch villain determined to ruin the beauty of the Neath and Dulais Valley.

Parts of the school were utilised as secret laboratories with teachers and teaching assistants from Art, Science, Maths, English, History, Food Technology and Design Technology becoming secret agents for the day and guiding year 6 learners, codename 'Rookies', through three different tasks. The 'Rookies' had to create life-size models of their superheroes from recyclable materials, which were brought in by year 6 pupils and by LCS staff, legacy stories and presentations about the energy sources their superheroes were based on. Each group also had a Peer Secret Agent from years 10 or 11 to assist them in the development and completion of their mission. The Environmental Group, run by Mrs Morris, helped to provide background information for learners on their power sources, which included: earth, fire, solar and lunar, plants and animals, nuclear, water, wind, and recycling.

The Co-ordinator of the Laboratory for Creating Superheroes (Mrs Stafford): "The reason the festival was a success is down to the team-work demonstrated by all of those involved in the day, from the planning stage, to collating resources, to delivery. Many of those involved wore costumes to make the theme more believable. Year 6 students were brilliant. They immediately went along with the role-play and created excellent models, stories and presentations (one group even sang a song – accompanied by Secret Agent Millington), widening their understanding of energy sources and using an extensive range of literacy and numeracy skills."

The feedback from year 6 learners at the end of the day revealed that they found the day fun and many reported that they had enjoyed meeting new friends from different primary schools. Well done Secret Agents! (All Rookies were promoted to this status at the end of the day.)



### HEADTEACHER'S REPORT :

The Autumn Term has been as busy as it usually is. The start of the year saw the new year 7 pupils come to us. I've been very pleased with the way that most have settled, with both their attendance and attitude having impressed me greatly.

All pupils in years 7 – 10 have been allocated a school target band that will help us as a school, enormously, when tracking pupils' progress. We have also placed pupils into streams in both year 7 and 8 to ensure that all pupils are challenged appropriately in all lessons.

The Autumn Term has seen us, for the first time, keep all pupils on site at lunchtime. This has worked well, on the whole, despite some teething problems. We are continuing to refine the system and appreciate your support whilst we do this.

The pupils will remain busy up to the end of term. Year 11 are in the middle of their mock exams and for the first time we will be holding a 'mock results day' on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, recreating the atmosphere of the real GCSE results day in August. It will be a day of celebration for many, while for some, it may be a more sobering experience, highlighting the need for hard work in the lead up to the exams.

The other year groups will also be busy right up to the end of term so I'd like to remind everyone of the importance of good attendance. We have the Christmas fete to look forward to on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December and on the last day of term, pupils will have the opportunity to go to the cinema in Port Talbot.

School end at 2pm for all pupils on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. School will recommence for all pupils on Tuesday, 8th January.

Nadolig Llawn, Happy Christmas to you all !

Alan L Rowlands

Prifathro / Headteacher



**CHILDREN IN NEED:** Well done to year 7, 8 & 9 girls played the Unfortunatly the year 7 boys 8 boys won with help from the



everyone who raised money for Children In Need this year. The boys in netball during the lunchtime raising a total of £618.59 were "too afraid" to play the girls and didn't turn up!!! ;) The year 9 boys and the year 9 girls had a convincing win against a

very competitive Year 9 boys' team. A marvellous effort for a great cause. Thanks to all of the pupils involved, a great result for sport and charity. Also, many thanks to the Art Department who raised money by making and selling Pudsey badges. Our Year 7 faculty raised £76 by selling cakes and having a sponsored silence. Once again, we are very grateful to the Mahoney family who once again donated a fantastic, mouth-watering chocolate hamper to raffle.

Year 9 pupil, Sophie Mahoney, worked very hard in her free time, selling tickets to raise over £100. The VERY LUCKY winner was Bradley Nation (8D) Enthusiastic Year 11 pupils Tiffany Wendrich, Katie Thomas, Jade Davies and Shannon Tully raised £53.70 from a cake sale. Once again, big hearted Llangatwg pupils have worked tirelessly together to show how important it is to help to support children less fortunate than themselves. When all monies are counted, Llangatwg will be donating OVER £1000 to the Children in Need fund.



### MACMILLAN "World's Biggest Coffee Morning"

Many thanks to everyone who supported this event at Llangatwg. Lots of pupils kindly "baked" donations for the cake sale, with many staff joining together for an enjoyable coffee break. Miss Pugh and her team raised a very pleasing total of £194.15 for the Macmillan cancer charity.

Diolch yn fawr, Iawn Pictured are Scott Mahoney and Shauna Gerrard receive the Macmillan certificate received in recognition of Llangatwg's donation towards a fantastic cause.



### COMMUNICATIONS FACULTY, SNIPPETS.

**Children in Need:** Jamie Illsley raised £43, alone, by asking pupils and staff to guess which songs would be performed on the television,.

**DEC Typhoon Appeal:** Year 7 girls recently treated us all to a very quiet day in school. Instead of their normal chatter, they spent the day communicating by writing on White Boards. They raised £83. Well done girls. A great effort to help support those suffering great hardship.

Welcome to our new PWSO, Mrs L Davies.



**Pupils learn about how languages can enhance their careers:** Year 9 pupils have been learning about the importance of continuing to study foreign languages in order to improve their career prospects. More and more employers are expressing concern that a lack of foreign language skills amongst British workers is affecting the economy and causing many firms to have to recruit staff from other parts of Europe. In order to give pupils the opportunity to discover the exciting range of jobs on offer for those people who study languages at GCSE and beyond, we have welcomed some visitors into school to work with and inform pupils. We were honoured to welcome Dr David Bacon, Head of the Science Division at the Welsh Assembly, who came in to speak with pupils on November 25<sup>th</sup> about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers involving languages. Dr Bacon gave a very interesting and inspiring presentation on his career to date and how languages are in big demand in many STEM jobs. On Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Mr Gareth Spencer of Dischromatics (Wales) in Newport to tell pupils about how the ability to speak French is vital in his business which manufactures CDs and DVDs. Our languages PGCE student, Mille Headon was able to tell pupils all about the exciting jobs she has done because of her ability to speak Italian. Also, we have welcomed language ambassadors from Cardiff University who have shared their experience of living and working abroad and given pupils an insight to the sorts of career paths open to them. Llangatwg is doing its bit to address the lack of foreign language skills in the workplace and we hope that Year 9 pupils will heed this advice as they take their options in the New Year. Pictured with Dr David Bacon AM, are: Mr Jones and Madam Ballantine, Luke Scully, Sarah Scorey, Callum Yates and Mari Watkins.



Hi, I am the new Pupil Welfare and Support Officer at Llangatwg. Some of you will have already met me, but for those of you who haven't, I am based in the classroom next to the Library. I am the school First Aider and can help you if you if you hurt yourself or if you are feeling unwell. Before you are sent to me, you need to see your Head of Year, first. My role is also to help any of you if you are worried or maybe angry about something whether it is in school or at home. Just remember that a problem shared is a problem halved

**THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT** have organized wide ranging activities and visits for their pupils. 60 pupils and staff visited **Disneyland Paris in July**, to see, first hand, the impacts of tourism and globalisation. The group spent two days in the Disney parks and also visited the Sealife aquarium. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, with some pupils making a great effort to improve their French language skills! Head Girls Cerys Roberts said "It was a fun few days in Paris. The weather was warm and the atmosphere was great. The rides were brilliant". Possible future destination for the Geography Department include **Naples and Iceland** so watch this space!!!



**Year 10 Residential Visit** 65 Year 10 pupils spent three days at Margam Park in November completing a GCSE Geography Controlled Assessment. The residential was a huge success and included a day of data collection on the River Ogmere. Pupils worked to a very high standard and enjoyed the experience. Year 9 will be staying at the Discovery Centre in January.



**Year 10 Tata Steel Visit** : You may have seen our Year 10 Geography pupils in the local press recently after they visited Tata Steel, Port Talbot in September. The visit was the result of collaboration between the Geography Department and Tata. Pupils took part in a range of activities linked to globalisation and climate change and also received a bus tour of the huge, spectacular site. A representative came to Llangatwg to talk to Year 10 about the proposed Tidal Lagoon project. If approved, Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon will be the world's first, purpose-built, tidal energy lagoon, capable of generating predictable, renewable electricity for

over 120,000 homes for over 120 years. The talk was very informative and links with our climate change work, it will be of great benefit to pupils when completing their GCSE exam in May. A Geography website has been created over the last year and will be further developed in the future. There is a range of information on there, such as, topic information and homework tasks. The QR code and website address are: <http://sites.google.com/site/llangatwggeography/>



**CHRISTMAS POETRY COMPETITION 2013** All pupils in Years 7, 8 & 9 had the task to produce a poem for Christmas, on a number of different themes. All the winners' poems will be used as readings in the School Carol Service. Pupils received a certificate, Merits and chocolates as prizes. They are also automatically entered in national poetry competitions. This has always been a very successful piece of work. Each year, staff, parents and visitors comment on the quality of the poems. This standard has continued in the 2013 entries, particularly in Year 9. The judges found it extremely difficult to select overall winners from all of the excellent entries. The Year 7 winners are : Libby Herbert 7D, Katie Tay 7Y and Benjamin Fernquest 7Y. The Year 8 winners are: Carly Lewis 8R, Aeron Morgan 8A and Mollie Singh 8R. The Year 9 winners are: Sophie Mahoney 9D, Dylan Mogford 9A, Jacob Williams 9R, Daniel Hambly 9D and Lara Wainwright 9C.

## ART DEPARTMENT

The Art department is very proud that several of its pupils' designs were chosen by local MP Peter Hain, as his "OFFICIAL" Christmas card for this year. A great achievement, from over 1000 entries. **Tia Sandry** (year 7) was the overall winner, with **Chelsea Sims** (Year 8) as runner up. **Morgan Davies**

(Year 8) was the Category 3 winner. The winners' families were invited to attend a special assembly where the pupils were awarded their prizes, by Mr Hain. Well done everyone who entered, particularly our winners. Mrs Popham and Mrs Hickmott are delighted with their achievements. Mrs Popham recently accompanied a group of **Year 10** pupils to Crynant to attend the opening ceremony of a walking trail between Crynant and Cilfrew. The walk was organised to celebrate the fact that the pupils had worked hard with artist **Nigel Talbot** to create the sculptures that are now a permanent feature at both the beginning and the end of the trail. The pupils were delighted to see that their work forms part of the permanent sculptures linking the trail. Well done to all concerned. Why don't you take a walk ( maybe after Christmas lunch) to see and appreciate the hard work that our pupils have put into creating two exceptional sculptures in very scenic areas.

**Visit to TONTO FILM STUDIOS:** Recently, both Mrs Popham and Mrs Hickmott organised a trip for their **GCSE** Art students to visit the Tonto Studios ( based at the old Visteon site on Fabian Way). There, they met ex Llangatwg pupil **Ed Thomas**, who came especially to meet the group. He talked enthusiastically about his career in the film industry and explained that there were many jobs available to people with Art qualifications. These included set design, set dressing, make up and prosthetics, costume design and prop design, to name but a few. While they were there the pupils were shown a short clip of "**Da Vinci's Demons**", which is being filmed there. As a past pupil, Ed was able to remember Mr F A Williams. Pupils were then asked to sign a confidentiality clause promising not to take photos or even discuss what they were about to see as Series 2 has not yet aired!!! **Shhhhh! NO SPOILING ANY PLOT SECRETS!!** The visit was a truly fascinating experience and opened pupils' eyes to the wealth of job opportunities available to them in the film industry

# SPORTING SUCCESSES THIS TERM

## RUGBY ROUND UP: Triple success over Dwr Y Felin!!!

Years 8, 9 and 11 achieved excellent wins over local rivals Dwr Y Felin in the first half term on the rugby field. In three impressive performances Year 8 won 24 – 0, Year 9 won 26 – 0 and year 11 won 25 – 23. It now up to year 7 and 10 to complete the clean sweep!

**Year 7** have not had the best start but have shown enough determination to suggest they will get better. They have lost their opening four matches to Cefn Saeson, Gowerton, Cwmtawe and Dyffryn. Training is on the Astroturf on Monday lunchtimes and after school on Tuesday this term. Year 7 have fixtures against Sandfields, Birchgrove, Maesydderwyn and Dwr y Felin before Christmas.

To go with their win over Dwr y Felin, **the Year 8** team also beat Cefn Saeson 27 – 15, but lost to Cwmtawe 42 – 18 and Dyffryn 52 – 36. In the Neath Port Talbot Festival, they beat Gwyr and Cwmatwe, losing to Ystalyfera and Gowerton. Their remaining fixtures are against Sandfields, Maesydderwen and Gowerton.

**Year 9** In the Neath Port Talbot Festival they lost to Brynteg 20 – 10, and Llangynwyd 5 – 0. They beat Gwyr 10 – 5, and drew with Dyffryn 10 – 10. In their Welsh Cup matches they lost to Gwyr 50 – 0, beat Dwr y Felin 26 – 0 and lost to Bishopston 52 – 10. In a friendly they beat Birchgrove 27 – 10.

In the Neath Port Talbot Festival, **Year 10** drew with Gwyr 10 – 10 and Dyffryn 15 – 15, and beat Ystalyfera 10 -5, and Birchgrove 20 -0. They also beat Gowerton in a friendly match 55 -10.

**Neath Schools Under 15** Well done to the following year 10 boys who have played for Neath School under 15's in friendly and Dewar Shield matches. It takes a lot of commitment to play at this level and all these boys have shown the right qualities to compete with the best teams in Wales. The boys are Reece Mastaglio, Ben Atkins, James Ayers, Declan Horgan Evans, Sam Evans, Dalton Brown, Grant Lewis, Harry Bevan, Rhys Williams, Luke French, Morgan Jones, Garin Lloyd, Luke Scully, and Kyle Jones

**Girls Rugby** Oggy! Oggy! Oggy! - Oi! Oi! Oi! Girls! Are you interested in rugby???? There is a new Girls rugby team starting on Tuesdays' on the field after school 3.30-4.30 for year 9, 10 & 11 pupils. Bring your kit if you want to give it a try.



**GOLFING SUCCESS:** Multi-talented sportsman, **Dalton Brown**, has shown that he has the golfing ability to compete against the best. After shooting an impressive round of 80, Dalton was selected to play in the **Welsh Junior** Open tournament at the Celtic Manor Resort. He finished in an excellent 8th place out of a field of over 60 competitors. Well done, Dalton, a **FANTASTIC** achievement. You thoroughly deserve your success.

## NETBALL:

We have very strong netball teams developing at Llangatwg PE Department from year 7 -10. Training is every Tuesday for year 7 & 8 and Wednesday for year 9 & 10 with Matches generally on a Thursday. Well done to the year 9 & 10 pupils who are helping out with coaching year 7 & 8 every Tuesday. Well done to the year 9 netball team who have only lost one game this season and beat the group winners in the National Urdd Tournament in Cardiff 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2013. Year 7 netball team have played two matches so far and have won both convincingly which will hopefully encourage more girls to join our successful team.

**KAYAKING:** Well done to Alice Fernquest who recently competed in the National combined kayaking regatta. Alice came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK in the under 15's Single sprint 500m Kayaking event.

## DANCE PERFORMANCE

Well done to Jasmin Pike, Bethany Jones, Jessica Gwyther, Jenny Evans and Courtney Jones who recently represented the school in a dance performance for Black History month at the Pontardawe Arts Centre.

**Welsh Schools Trampoline Championships** Well done to Alannah Horgan Evans (Yr 8), Sam Evans, Ieuan Owen, Ben Atkins and Declan Horgan Evans for their brilliant performances in the Welsh Schools Trampoline Championships held at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff. Alannah achieved a magnificent second place in the under 13 girls competition. In the under 15 boys competition Ieuan Owen won first place, in style., Sam Evans came third, Declan Horgan Evans came 4<sup>th</sup> and Ben Atkins came 5<sup>th</sup>. Well done, everyone. What an inspiration to other pupils for what can be achieved through hard work and commitment.

**CROSS COUNTRY:** On Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> the Welsh Inter School Cross Country Championships took place at Brecon Athletics track. **Mari Watkins** ran in the under 15 girls race and finished 26<sup>th</sup> out of a field of 125. Mari was also selected for the West Wales under 15 girls team after finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in the West Wales tria,l the week before. In year 7, **Emily Jones, Tia and Tamzin Sandry and Megan Parker** ran in the under 13 girls race. **Ewan Evans** from year 8 and **Thomas Hooper and Codie Jones** from year 7 ran in the under 13 boys' race. They all deserve a lot of credit for making a magnificent effort to finish a very difficult **International standard** course. The next Cross Country event is the County Championships in January held at Margam Park. Finally, for this year, our Year 7 pupils ran in a Cross Country event at St Josephs school in Port Talbot. The event was aimed at encouraging pupils to take up running. The pupils ran a course of 1500 metres in pink T shirts!

