

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

Autumn Term 1999

Newsletter 31

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to inform you that Mr. D.Rose has been appointed Headteacher of Maesydderwen Comprehensive School. He will start there in January. Mr. Rose has been deputy headteacher at Llangatwg for the last twelve years. During the last eighteen months he has been seconded to the LEA and has led their Netcast project. Naturally we all wish Mr. Rose the very best of luck in his new appointment.

Eight new staff joined Llangatwg School in September. They are Ms. D.Williams [Maths], Mr. A.Thompson [English], Ms.A.Jones [Welsh], Ms.T.Morgan [Basic Skills], Ms. L.Edwards[PE], Ms.M.Powell [PE], Mr. J.Dunton[PE] and Mr. D. Benny [Science].

Last year's Year 11 produced pleasing results in the GCSE / CoEA examinations. They were probably the second best results the School has ever achieved. This year's Year 11 are currently doing their mock examinations. They will have to work particularly hard in the weeks ahead as we have 'Great Expectations' of them next Summer.

Overall attendance this term has been 90.44%. However, we can still do better than this. Please do not allow your child to stay home for any reason other than genuine illness - even at the end of term. Any absence means work to be caught up! Also if your child is ill please contact the School by 10.00am on the first day of absence.This would help us enormously.

School Telephone number for absence is - 642770

At the moment we have no PTA operating at Llangatwg School. This is a great shame as the PTA not only raises funds and helps pupils but it also allows Parents a say in how the School is run. We shall shortly be trying to relaunch the PTA. Please consider joining this worthwhile organisation.

I shall shortly be inviting all parents and pupils to sign a Home School Agreement. The aim of the Agreement is to get parents, pupils and the School working in partnership, in order to do the best we can - together - for pupils.

As we come to the end of this year and the Millennium I would like to thank all parents for the support they have shown to Llangatwg School. I am certain that we can begin a new Millennium with confidence.

May I wish you all the compliments of the Season. Please join us for our special Carol Service on Monday 13th December at 7.00pm in the School Hall

Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

R. Skilton

R.Skilton [Headteacher]

SCHOOL NEWS

At the end of the Summer Term a programme of trips and visits was organised for the pupils during Activities Week.

Sports Day was to be held on Monday, 19th July, but for the second successive year had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

The Senior Prefects selected for this year are James Hadley, Bethan James, Thomas Jones, Victoria Rees, Eve Thomas and Rachel Turner with Gavin Roche as Head Boy and Samantha Hopper as Head Girl.

The Senior Prefects are involved in this year's Mayoral Citizenship Project. On the 13th October they attended a conference where it was decided that their project, based on a school based and local issue, would be transport and the school environment.

Gavin Roche, Thomas Jones and Samantha Hopper are also to be involved in a Young Peoples' Forum where they will discuss local issues with elected Members. Unfortunately they were unable to attend the first Forum meeting on 10th November.

At the end of the Summer Term the School was invited to the opening of Baglan Energy Park. At the conclusion of the ceremony the First Secretary announced that four schools, including Llangatwg were to be awarded Solar energy equipment worth over £12,000 to enable them to take part in the SCOLAR project. Subsequently Llangatwg has been invited to be included in a national renewable energy trail through Wales.

Carlie Jones has won a competition to design a Millennium Logo for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. Carlie received her award from the Mayor at Neath Civic Centre on 14th September. Her logo will now be printed on all official headed paper for the millenium year.



Gavin & Samantha receive our Energy Award.



Carlie with the Mayor & Mayoress of Neath Port Talbot.

The Annual Presentation Evening was held on Thursday, 30th September. As in previous years the event proved an enormous success and the number of award winners continues to increase. The major awards went to:

Headteacher Award - Clare Sheldon
Best GCSE Results - Jonathan Gillard
Young Achiever of the Year - Ian Walker

Jonathan Gillard was also presented with an award for Academic Excellence in a ceremony at Neath College on the same day. He gained 4A* and 5A grades in his GCSE examinations.

A full programme of extra-curricular activities continues to be provided for pupils throughout the week during the lunch hour and after school. The Wednesday after school club now includes groups for Art, Technology, cross-country running, GCSE coursework, SEN extra support and sports coaching, including rugby, football, netball, hockey and gymnastics training.

Additional Year 11 GCSE extra help classes are now provided in Mathematics on Tuesdays and in Science on Thursdays after School.

B.P. Chemicals, D'Arcy Development and West Wales TEC have provided £1,000 to support our after school clubs this year.

David Davies, David McKeon and Andrew Sherwood recently received NVQ certificates in a presentation during Assembly. To gain these awards the three boys have been undertaking one afternoons work experience each week throughout Year 10. David M and Andrew gave a brief outline of their course to a meeting of all headteachers and officers in the County's 14 - 19 Working Group.

The Crime Prevention Club has attended a two-day Conference at Margam Park. They are shortly to begin a project within School based on the action plan they developed at these meetings. During Local Democracy Week this group invited local elected members and officers to school to tell them of local issues of concern.

On the 28th October the Crime Prevention Club competed in the County Quiz. The team comprising of Samantha Bowen, Philippa Edwards, Claire Jenkins and Sean Reeves with Emma Williams as reserve did well finishing in fourth place out of the eleven schools.



Members of the Crime Prevention Club with Local Councillors.

Once again this year a group of eight pupils are taking part in the Saturday Morning Engineering Club at the Ford's Factory, Jersey Marine. The pupils involved are David Davies, Rebecca Davies, Teri Webster, Kieron Hickman, Phillip Hughes, Carl Lemon, Justin Bailey and Alex Davies.

Other Saturday morning opportunities include construction and catering, both held at Neath College. The pupils included in these classes are Alex Austin, Wyn Hooper, Gavin Roche, Niki Read and Geraint Keenan.

On October 13th the Year 11 Drama group performed "Alice in Wonderland " to an invited audience as part of their GCSE assessment. The enthusiastic audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

On 2nd November a Youth Theatre Group visited Llangatwg to present a production exploring post 16 + options to Year 11 pupils.

In Music the following pupils have been successful in the examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music:

- Claire Smith - Flute Grade III Passed.
- Gareth Skerry - Clarinet Grade III Passed.
- Kirsty Smith - Flute Grade Passed with Merit.

The following pupils have passed their Preliminary County Brass Examinations:

- Scott O'Rourke - Gold Award
- Claire Watkins - Gold Award
- Nicola Headon - Silver Award
- Sean Reeves - Silver Award
- Georgina Kemble - Silver Award
- John Ball - Silver Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme continues to grow in popularity. A total of 20 pupils were presented with their Bronze Award during this year's Annual Presentation Evening. A County presentation evening was held on 24th November in the Princess Royal Theatre.



Bronze D.o.E. winners meet the Mayor & Mayoress

The rugby results so far this term are as follows-

Year	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
7	4	3	1	
8	3	3		
9	5	5		
10	3	3		
11	6	6		

The Hockey results are:

Year	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
7	2	1	1	
8	3	3		
9				
10 & 11	5	4	1	

The Netball results are:

Year	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
7	2	2		
8	8	4	4	
9	2	1	1	
10	8	6	2	
11	3	3		

Wyn Hooper, Rhodri Lewis and Wyn Thomas have been selected for the Welsh Under 16 Rugby Development Squad.

Eve Thomas has been selected for the West Glamorgan Netball training Squad.

Craig Evans continues to do exceptionally well in Tennis. He is the current British under 18 Singles champion and attends the Bath Tennis Centre of Excellence for two sessions each week

Year 8 pupils are taking part in the charity appeal "Operation Christmas Child". The charity arranges for shoeboxes filled with small gifts to be sent to children in Eastern European countries.

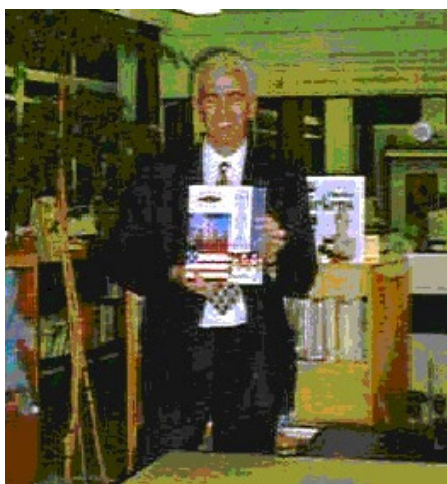


Packing Boxes for Operation Xmas Child.



The end result of Operation Xmas Child.

Year 10&11 GNVQ Leisure & Tourism / Business Studies pupils are eagerly awaiting their forthcoming visit to New York in January 2000. They have organised a Christmas Disco for years 7&8 on 7th December. Mr Bob Holland of The Travel and Tourism Programme gave parents and pupils an informative presentation on New York on November 23rd. They've heard all about it. Now they're ready to experience it.



Mr. Bob Holland

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 13th December - Carol Service

Friday 17th December - Term Ends

Wednesday 5th January - Staff INSET

Thursday 6th January - Spring Term Begins

Thursday 20th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.00pm

Wednesday 2nd February - Year 10 Parents' Evening.

Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February - Half Term

Thursday 9th March - Year 9 Parents' Evening (Options)

Monday 27th March - CoEA Examinations Begin

Thursday 13th April - NROA Presentation

Friday 14th April - Term ends.



Black Cat Theatre Present "MACBETH" to Year 11 English Groups