



## News



### Year 11 Hospitality on the Road to Success!

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Best Ever Results for A Level & GCSE pg. 3

## Letter from our Head Teacher

Annwyl pawb/Dear all.

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2014–2015 Academic Year. There are so many positive things to report!

Everyone associated with Gwernyfed were thrilled with the exam results last summer. All pupils can be proud of their achievements. For Year 9 and Year 11 there were 'best ever' performances, whilst the pupils leaving the Sixth Form to go to University excelled in showing our young people will access all places of higher education, from Cambridge to medical school to Poland!

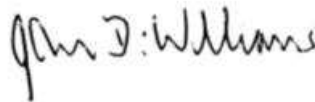
Our results now compare favourably with schools across Wales. We are now performing as well as all local schools. We still believe that we can continue our improvement, as the staff have been outstanding in their commitment, support and professional approach to all pupils regardless of ability. Thank you to all parents who continue to believe in the quality of provision and challenge us to 'do our best'. By attending Parents Evenings you show how you want to work with our staff, by your children focusing and completing work set.

The school is not 'standing still'. A review of homework and the introduction of 'GCSEpod' show our continued commitment to raising standards. The new 'smart' uniform (chosen by our pupils) has shown a sharper work ethic amongst all, and had a huge community impact. High numbers joining the Sixth Form show their confidence in Gwernyfed developing potential, as well as pupils joining the school in Years 8 to 11. If you are yet to visit us to see the 'Gwernyfed effect', contact me to come and see what we do!

Open Evening was such a positive demonstration of what the school does. The film compiled by the Year 13 (on the school website) shows we are focused on achievement, but we have some fun too! Already this year our rugby, football and netball teams are winning matches, people are visiting us to find out what we are doing, and we look forward to our pupils representing us when they go skiing or visit Paris.

Enjoy reading about our school. Continue to expect us to do the best for all young people.

Diolch yn fawr/Thank you for your support



John D Williams  
Pennaeth/Headteacher



## Gwernyfed History Fact



This month we have a 'Halloween Haunter' for you all!

Can you guess the place where this ghostly hand lurks?

It may have been a 'secret escape'. It may have stored some unusual items. It may be more familiar to you as 'Big John's Dungeon'. Who knows?

All will be revealed in the next edition...

**By Felicity Jones**



## GCSE Results 2014

The hard work paid off for Year 11 at Gwernyfed as the schools best ever results were achieved. Over 70% achieved the 'headline' figure of 5 A\* - C including English and Mathematics, an increase of over 8% on last year. 96% achieved at least 5 A\* - C GCSEs, whilst 100% achieved at least 5 A\* - G.

Top performers included Lucy Williams, Beth Richards, Eli Scruby and Scott Dunster, who achieved 32 A\* between them.

Other top performers included Ellie Morgan, Lydia Rodell-Grenow, Beth Sampson, Bronnie Walkden, Rhian Ball, Dan Draper, Thomas Lewis, Cai Harris, Roxie Horsley and Llewellyn Hanniford-Hanks.

Headteacher John Williams commented 'the staff really challenged the year group to succeed. Teachers were relentless in expecting high standards, and believing they could achieve their potential through hard work. Regardless of ability the pupils gained in self belief and these results are evidence of this. Year 11s contribution to the school has been immense. As Powys Netball Champions and through their involvement in school events they have been a pleasure to work with. We wish them well in Sixth Form and college next year.'

## A Level Results 2014

There were many delighted students at Gwernyfed as their A Level Results confirmed the Universities, Colleges or places of employment they will be attending. All who applied achieved their university place of choice.

Imogen Cripps, from Glasbury, achieved the required grades in Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will attend St Catherine's College Cambridge to read Natural Sciences. She will start in 2015 following a gap year.



Head Girl Lucia Jones (from Talgarth) will attend university in Warsaw, Poland to read Translation Studies whilst Head Boy Patrick Scruby (Llanfihangel Talyllyn) will read Physics at Durham.

Rebecca Meredith (Clyro) will read Medicine at Liverpool, Ben Dunster (Llanfilo) Mechanical Engineering at Bath and Ffion Rees will attend the Royal Academy of Dance in London.

Bristol University is the destination for Angharad James (to read History) and Ffion Jones (Ancient History), whilst Niamh Morris will read Economics at Bristol. Philippa Rylands (Maths), Toby Griffiths (Management), James Hamer (Medical Genetics) and Kayleigh Jones (Journalism) look forward to attending their first choice places.

Other notable successes include Matthew Jones, Kate Williams, Mollie Gibbons, Ffion Howells, Georgina Taylor and Nicole Williams.

Headteacher John Williams said 'We are proud of all our students who have been so successful, having consistently worked hard in their time at Gwernyfed. Over half the year group studied at least one subject at another school or college during the sixth form, which has been an invaluable experience for them. I know they have appreciated the support of parents, families and staff who have been so understanding, especially at times of need. We wish them all the best in the future.'

## More Able and Talented News

We are currently updating our More Able and Talented registers and all parents of pupils in year 7 will have received a parental questionnaire asking for information about their child.

The term 'More Able and Talented' is used to describe pupils who require opportunities for enrichment and extension that go beyond those provided for the general cohort of pupils. In Wales the term 'More Able and Talented' encompasses approximately 20% of the total school population. In every school there will be a group of pupils who require greater breadth and depth of learning activities than is normally provided for the usual cohort of learners. Ability and talent can manifest itself in many different ways, e.g. academic, practical, creative and socially. Therefore it is important that we know about your child's successes outside of school, in any field.

You can contact the MAAT coordinator directly by email - [bwalker@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:bwalker@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk).



For Key Stage 3 pupils we will again be running the Olympiads Challenge. Pupils are encouraged to complete extended learning tasks which are designed to challenge and stretch them in each of the subject areas. They have all year to complete their challenge, when all entries are judged alongside our consortium's entries in Builth, Llandrindod, Brecon, Crickhowell and Maesydderwen.

For Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils, the IGGY social networking site run by Warwick University (<https://www.iggy.net/>) will still be running to engage pupils with academics in a variety of fields and pupils are encouraged to use this outside of school. If anyone is interested in joining the IGGY site, please contact us

**IGGY** Connecting and  
challenging the world's  
brightest young minds

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WARWICK

## Astronomy Club

If you're at all interested in astronomy, want to know more about our very own magnetometer (an instrument which is used to measure the Earth's magnetic field) which is hidden in the rose garden, or want to have the chance to control the Faulkes Telescope in Hawaii then come to Astronomy club! Autumn is the best season for astronomers, with the Orionid meteor shower peaking on October 20<sup>th</sup>, along with it being the season of the Northern Nights or Aurora Borealis, making this month best time to join to find out the incredible amount of activity we have in our skies.

Astronomy club meets every week 2 Friday lunchtime at 1:30 in Mr William's science lab and is open to everyone.

**Beth Briggs**



## 5 x 60 Half Term Activities

The 5 x 60 Sporting activities for October half term can be found on the Gwernyfed High School website - [www.gwernyfed-hs.com](http://www.gwernyfed-hs.com).

### **Activities this half term include:**

Swansea City Football Camp

Information about activities taking place at Brecon Leisure Centre

Brecon Hockey Fun Centre.



## Open Evening Success

The 1st October marked the Year 5 and 6 Open Evening, giving Gwernyfed the chance to showcase the new 'Gwernyfed Effect' to pupils and parents. The evening commenced with Mr Williams welcoming everyone to the school, this was followed by the premier of the promotional video, created by sixth form students Rebecca Williams and Samuel Powell. The video highlighted the fun side of Gwernyfed and the dancing talents of members of staff; particularly Mr Carter's gymnastics skills which proved a real crowd pleaser. The video also captured the achievements of pupils in recent exams, inspiring Year 5's and 6's of what they can accomplish at Gwernyfed.



*Check out the school video here!*

The pupils and their families were then taken on a tour of the school, accompanied by our very own Year 12 'tour guides'. They were given quizzes, bags, pens and a prospectus welcoming them to Gwernyfed. Science retained its position as the most exciting classroom, filled with experiments and activities, from exploding cans to splints through balloons. This was closely followed by English and Languages who tempted people in with tea and cakes.

Congratulations to Cai Skyrme from Talgarth Primary School who received £10 after winning the Open Evening Competition.

All in all, the Open Evening was a massive success, with a record turn out and a fantastic buzz running throughout the whole school.

**By Sam Powell**

## Royal Society of Chemistry Chemical Olympiad



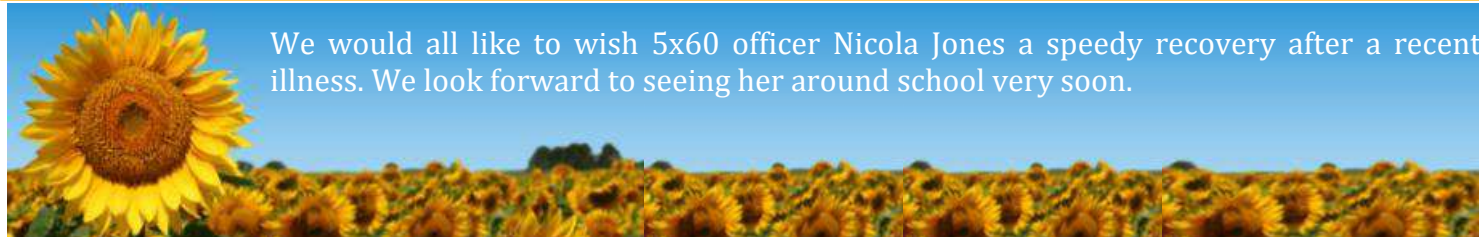
The first tie of this years' Royal Society of Chemistry Chemical Olympiad competition was held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The event took place in Gwernyfed School library where we hosted pupils from Llandovery College. At the end of the first round spirits were raised as the home team took an early 6 - 0 lead. The visitors fought back hard and by start of the final round of questions the score was 29 - 29. The final result could have gone either way right down to the last question where the visitors stole a narrow victory. This was a high scoring tie and we are hoping to progress to the second tie on a highest losers score.

Barrell. The team were supported by the dedicated reserve members of the team.

The team of four consisted of: Samuel Davies, William Webb, Amy Sinclair and Andrew  
**Mr G Hughes**

## Get Well Soon Nicola!

We would all like to wish 5x60 officer Nicola Jones a speedy recovery after a recent illness. We look forward to seeing her around school very soon.



## Success on the Netball Court!

On a wet Thursday morning, the U18 netball team made their way to the South Powys tournament, which is the first stage of qualifying for the President's Cup. Our first match was against the infamous Christ College team, who have strength and stamina due to their hectic training regime. With a slightly shaky start and some great interceptions, we managed to win the first half with a 6 goal lead. This was not expected so we continued pressuring the now worried Christ College team, who brought on the go-to girls for the win. With fitness starting to take its toll where Christ College began to have a flurry of goals however, we managed to maintain our lead and won the match 19-16. After this win, we were determined to do well in this tournament, especially as the next match was against Crickhowell. With a slight change in the positions, we began the second match with each team maintaining their centre pass, keeping the teams at level score. However, after some strong defensive showing, we managed to get the turnovers and put ourselves in the lead with the end score being 23-11. With a new found energy we entered the last match against Brecon, determined that we would be champions of South Powys. After some reshuffles in defence and attack, we managed to battle through the fatigue to have a comfortable win of 31-9.

As we are now the newly crowned South Powys Champions, we move onto

play the North Powys Champions to see who will represent Powys in the President's Cup.

Team: Emily Pritchard, Felicity Jones, Jade Maddy, Caitlin Evans, Rachel Smout, Ellie Morgan, Rhian Ball, Bronnie Walken, Hannah Coles and Dani Clarke.



**Caitlin Evans**

## Reporting Your Child's Absence

When reporting your child absence from school ring **01497 847445**.

Please choose Option 1 and record your message.

Please remember to say:

- Your child's name and surname
- Your child's form group
- **Reason for absence**

Thank you for your co-operation.

**Mrs G Pritchard, Attendance Officer**



## News from the Music Department



On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October year 8 were treated to an authentic performance by a group of 3 musicians from China, as part of the Shaanxi Music Program School visit . This involved live performances on the Erhu, Pipa and Guqin, and a demonstration of traditional martial arts. This was a real treat for year 8, as they will be learning about Chinese music after Christmas when composing pieces to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

### ***Instrumental Tuition***

Learning to play a new instrument can be a very rewarding skill and showing the self discipline and commitment to rehearse regularly and reach a certain standard always looks good on CVs for the future, whether when applying for jobs or university. Remember, at Gwernyfed you can learn to play many different instruments, and it's never too late to start! We have over 70 pupils currently receiving tuition. Whether it's piano or voice, electric guitar or drums, we can arrange high quality tuition for you in school. Some of our tutors are able to offer free taster lessons so you can see what it's like before committing to lessons. Please get in touch with the music department for further information or email [bwalker@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:bwalker@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk).



## Year 7 Fresher's Fair



With much enthusiasm, our eager Year 7s attended the "Freshers' Fair" to find a little more about the wide range of clubs and activities available at Gwernyfed. The hall buzzed as Year 7s netted goals at the Sports stand, stood in awe at the Astronomy Club's recent discoveries and attempted a few Spanish greetings in the languages department. Organised by current club members, Year 7's were able to learn about the fantastic experiences and opportunities available at Gwernyfed. Past student achievements have shown that those who succeed and are the happiest in their new school are often those students who 'get involved'. All Gwernyfed's Year 7's signed up with at least one club and will no doubt, meet new people, learn new skills and have fun!

**Felicity Jones**



## Ferguson Ploughing Championships



Congratulations to our past pupil Sam Ritchie on winning the junior section in the Ferguson Ploughing Championships.

Sam is now the junior European Champion. We wish Sam all the very best in the future.

## Gwent and Powys Army Cadet Force

During September Angus Millington, Year 12 successfully represented Powys Army Cadet Force in Salisbury in the Royal Artillery Cadet Trophy. The weekend consisted of an exercise and challenges out on the Salisbury range with the army.

Angus Millington, Year 12 and Shannon Gethings, Year 11 have recently been selected to represent Gwent & Powys ACF in a Historic tour to Belgium over Armistice Day where they will learn the sacrifices made by our ancestors and the price that was paid to ensure that we have the freedom that we all enjoy today - this will be a life changing event for all that are involved.

## 'Holes' Cake



Here's a picture of Ella Ward-Willis, Year 9 with her 'Holes' inspired cake she's made for her English class.

She's been studying Holes as part of the novel study & kindly made this cake. She has even gone to the detail of making a chocolate car and spades!



## Year 12 WBQ Trip - Big Pit

It was on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September that Year 12 students went to Blaenavon to visit the World Heritage site 'Big Pit' and the Blaenavon area. Led by Mr Carter and Miss Hughes, the day was organised as part of our 'Wales, Europe and the World' Welsh Bacallaureate Qualification.

We were first split into groups and went 300 feet underground where we given a guided tour, informing us of life down the mines and how it affected people in Wales.

Once we had finished, and filled out our guide books, we headed into Blaenavon town itself, where, once split into 2 groups, half of us visited 'Stack Square' to see how houses revolutionised and became much more advanced as decades past; while the other group looked at how the town was built and why the town is currently run down.

To finish the day, we had to draw/photograph the Ganrddyrys and Pwll Du view – by which point all of us pupils were very worn out.



The day was a great experience for those who'd been to Blaenavon before and for those of which it was a new experience. It has definitely opened our eyes to see the conditions in which our ancestors lived in.

**Megan Jones, Year 12**

## Roald Dahl Dress Up Day

As part of Roald Dahl Day on 19th September, members of staff dressed up as various characters from the books. Can you name them all?



# Commonwealth Games - Theme Day Summer 2014



# Commonwealth Games - Theme Day Summer 2014





Year 7 pupils celebrated European day of languages by researching how to say "hello" in different languages.

Together the class came up with 35 different ways of saying Hello! After all their hard work the pupils got to sample some authentic French food!

**Miss L Jones**



## Powys School Judo Championships

On Sunday 12th October Year 8 pupils Toby Millington and Lewis Ball represented Gwernyfed High School at the Powys School Judo Championships. Both boys won silver medals in their individual weight categories which resulted in Gwernyfed High School coming third out of all the Powys Secondary schools - an excellent result given the sizes of the other teams. Well done Toby and Lewis!

**Mrs C Millington**

## Details up to date

It is important that our records are kept up to date with all contact details. If you have moved, changed a home number, mobile number or email address please let the office know as soon as possible either by telephoning 01497 847445, emailing [enquiry@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk) or by sending a letter into the office.



## Eco-Committee News



We are pleased to announce that GHS has organised another textile collection with Bag2School in order to raise funds for the school.

Bag2School are the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 2001 they have now paid out over £10 million.

By getting involved in our Bag2School collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles in the bag provided – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, bags, soft toys, curtains and bedding (not duvets or pillows). We will receive £500 per tonne or £0.50/kg which will be a great boost for our fundraising. In addition it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

If you fill the donation bag and still have more then you can use any other bag to donate your items and don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well!

Bag2School will be collecting from our school on *Monday, 17 November*. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to Mr Carter's room (9) at any time between now and then, and help us have a really good collection.

**Mr J Carter**

## Debate and Discussion Club

As the Autumn term gets under way, debate club is doing the same and if you love an impassioned argument, or generally thrive on controversy, this is a club for you.

Competitive debating is a fun activity, akin to a game in an organised structure, in which we examine ideas and policies with the aim of persuading others. Debating allows us to consider the world around us, thinking about different arguments, engaging with opposing views and speaking strategically. We currently have around 14 budding enthusiasts!

### **What previous debating experience do I need to join?**

None. Literally none. We encourage all members of the school to take part who have an interest in the debating sphere. Previous subjects have ranged from the hot topic of Scottish independence, to reinstating the death penalty and Suarez's three bites and you're out. As you can see, a complete range.

Remember, we assume no previous experience in debating or public speaking from new members. The need to have previous debating experience is a common misconception and all we want is to hear a variety of opinions discussed with passion.



Debate club meets:

Wednesday Lunchtime - 1:30pm

Mr Carter's Room

We look forward to seeing you!

**Felicity Jones**

## Liverpool Art Trip

A big thank you to year 10 Art students for working hard on the trip to Liverpool, earlier this month. Students went to the Liverpool Tate gallery to see the Mondrian exhibition and to the Walker Art gallery in the centre of the city. All students were set tasks and challenges and by the end of the day, all realised how important it is to see art work first hand and not just on the internet!

Keep up the hard work!

**Ms K Hughes**



# The New Senior Leadership Team

Name: *Felicity Jones*  
Position: *Senior Girl*  
House: *Mynydd*  
Interests/hobbies: *Dance, music and hiking*  
Hidden talent: *Rearing my pet lamb... The Terminator?*  
Most valuable attributes: *Dependable and diplomatic*

*'It is a privilege to be appointed senior girl. I hope to encourage pupils to pursue the school's aims of 'achievement', 'excellence' and 'responsibility' and develop the school's community.*



Name: *Benjamin Bowen*  
Position: *Senior Boy*  
House: *Dyffryn*  
Interests/hobbies: *Rugby and the opposite sex*  
Hidden talent: *I can move my ears*  
Most valuable attributes: *Sense of humour*

*'Your past experiences are valuable lessons to you, now learn from them' - Hakuna Matata Lion King*



Name: *Emily Pritchard*  
Position: *Senior Girl*  
House: *Mynydd*  
Interests/hobbies: *Harness racing and UFC*  
Hidden talent: *Public Speaking*  
Most valuable attributes: *Organised*

*"I feel very honoured to be given a senior position, I hope to develop and improve the relationship between upper and lower school with team building days and also get the 6th form involved in the ALN through volunteering in their free time to work with other pupils"*



Name: *Glenn Pritchard*  
Position: *Senior Boy*  
House: *Dyffryn*  
Interests/hobbies: *Experimenting with computers, radios. Playing competitive games and being involved in a number of social groups around these hobbies*  
Hidden talent: *Analytical*  
Most valuable attributes: *Confident public speaker*

*'I'm really excited to be appointed Senior Boy. In the future I hope to work alongside the rest of the senior team in order to improve the school for everyone.*



## The New Senior Leadership Team

Name: **Samuel Thomas Powell**

Position: **Head of Dyffryn**

Interests/hobbies: **Leading Dyffryn to victory, geography homework and doing my hair**

Hidden talent: **I'm a sick cook and make a mean chicken curry**

Most valuable attributes: **My originality and smile**

**"I feel honoured to be given my position and hope to motivate and encourage all pupils to get involved in school activities. It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog!"**



Name: **Caitlin Evans**

Position: **Head of Mynydd**

Interests/hobbies: **Netball, music and swimming**

Hidden talent: **I can swim 25m completely underwater without needing to take a breath.**

Most valuable attribute: **Versatility**

**"I am really happy to have been given the role and I want to get more people actively involved in the arts and sport"**



## Senior Prefects

The Senior Prefects will lead in their area (please see the table below). They will encourage the rest of the Sixth Form to help with their project when needed but will be the drivers of projects and ideas. The Senior Prefects may sit on the school council when necessary and could lead subgroups of lower school pupils if their projects involve them.

The school council will be elected shortly and will be in the next newsletter.

Charities	Sarah Charlesworth Danielle Lewis
Interschool Communication & Sixth Form Events	Evie Jones Demi Jones
Arts & Culture	Keri Davies Sam Powell
Mentoring, Pastoral Care & School Policies	Rebecca Williams Jade Maddy
Sports & Young Ambassadors	Lucy Price Morgan Havard
Education & Sustainable Development (Eco School)	Alisha Herdman Sam Garrett

## Hospitality & Catering News



### Which Pud?

In preparation for the next BTEC BISTRO experience, year 11 Hospitality & Catering students have been experimenting making different types of puddings. The most popular pudding being Pavlova served with a variety of fillings -summer fruits, kiwi and chuckleberry sauce. Second favourite was Oreo Chocolate Cheesecake. The puddings pictured left-right have been made by Matthew Griffiths, Sam Atkins, Bethan Jones, Cellan Davies, Leah Bowen and Bryony Pritchard.

Which pudding would you choose?



### Jam Tarts Competition

The Winners of the best Jam Tarts Competition was jointly won by Sam Atkins and Matthew Griffiths, closely followed in second place by Josh Bunning and third place went to Maisie Thomas.



### Basic Food Hygiene Certificate

Hospitality & Catering students pictured with their Basic Food Hygiene Certificate which they completed on line. The online course is aimed at anyone working in the Food and Drink Industry and links to industry standards in food Safety and hygiene.

**Mrs G Morris**

## School Nurse

The School Health Nurse Caroline Doyne is there to help you and can be the first person you may wish to speak to for **confidential** advice and information about your health. School Health Nurses has two main roles:

- to give you **confidential** advice and support.
- to look after and protect your physical and emotional health

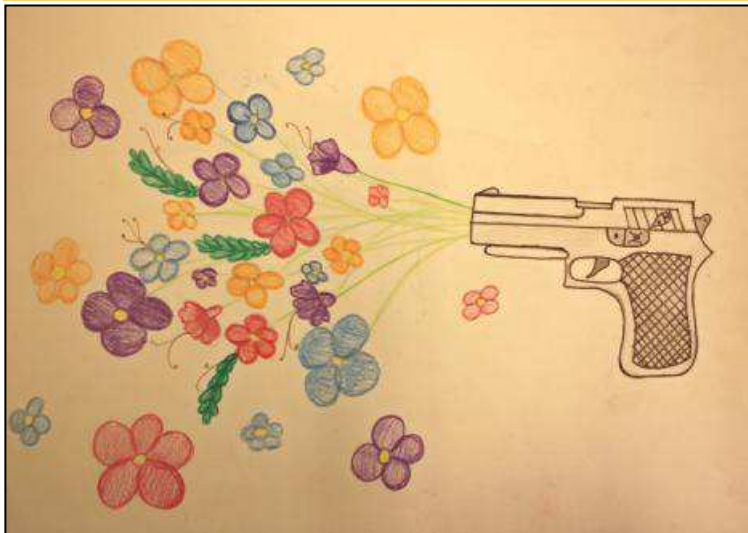
Drop in clinics are every Monday lunchtime in the School Nurses room by the art dept. Everyone welcome. Year 7 pupils are being offered the Fluenz Vaccination at school on Tuesday 11th November 2014. Please contact school nurse on 07855 056542 / 01497 822117 with any queries.

The Flu Vaccine is now available from Hay / Talgarth Surgery for adults and children who are normally offered it.

**Caroline Doyne**



## Black Lions Peace Poster Competition



*1st Place - Alys Hughes*

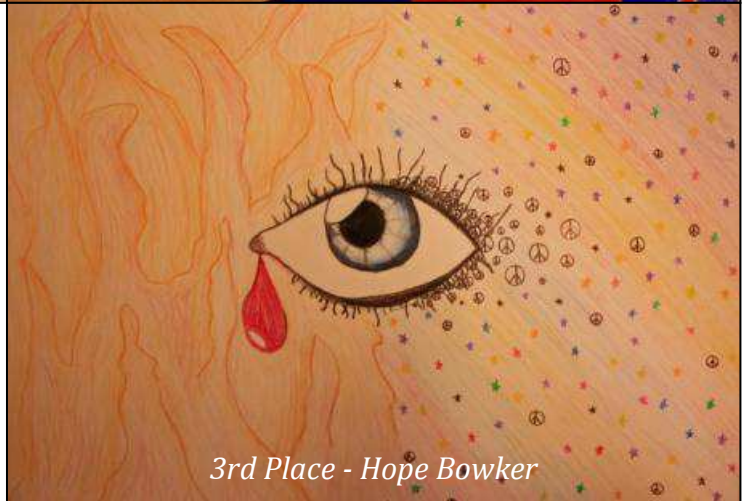


*2nd Place - Sophie Matthews*

Each year the Art department set years 7-9 the task of creating a poster in association with the Black Mountains Lions Club. This is an international competition to help promote peace around the world.

Congratulations to the winner and thank you to all students who put so much effort into their designs!

**Mrs K Hughes**



*3rd Place - Hope Bowker*

## Welcome to the Creative Arts Faculty

### **We are pleased and excited to announce that we now have a Creative Arts Faculty at Gwernyfed High School.**

This is a fantastic opportunity to bring together subjects that require youngsters to think in a creative manner, whether in art, music, technology, drama, PE or ICT. We are going to be working hard to further improve standards across the subjects, through developing pupils' creative skills individually, but also across the faculty and whole school, and will be challenging youngsters to strive to achieve their very best in whatever they do.

Our first undertaking is to create a creative homework project entitled 'My Identity' which will grow with pupils from year 7 to year 9, and aims to be a means of sharing pupil identity, including their personal likes and dislikes in all of our subjects.

We would also love to work with parents or friends of the school who may have expertise in any of our fields, who might be able to visit school and share their experiences with our pupils. If you or anyone you know might be interested in this, please contact Beth Walker ([bwalker@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:bwalker@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk)).

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Mrs B Walker**

# National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day was on Thursday 2nd October and the objective was to explore how autumn is presented through poetry. Pupils needed to identify the imagery through the use of language and then create a poem using these skills. The pupils were entered into the competition and here are the top three poems from Gwernyfed High School.

## 1st Place - Eirwen Abberley-Watton, Year 9

The autumn wind rustles through the trees,  
They sway and shiver in the evening breeze.  
Leaves fall from the trees to the ground,  
Like a blizzard they flurry, round and round.  
The air is alive with burning oranges and reds  
They look so beautiful, although they are dead.

Each day the temperature spirals lower,  
And long dead are the withered flowers.  
Petals sink to the hard earth below,  
And not so distant is the threat of snow.  
Footsteps crunch on the frost-tickled leaves,  
Numb fingers are tucked into warm woolly sleeves.

Misty windows are bolted shut,  
Thuds on the ground announce the falling of chestnuts.

Conkers collide in a frivolous game,  
And bruises ripen with horse chestnuts to blame.  
The carpet of leaves grow thicker under feet  
And the weather forecast is never set in concrete.

Branches of orchard trees are all a-droop,  
Weighed down and heavy with an abundance of fruit.  
Apples, pears and plums are plentiful,  
The rich harvest is tantalisingly edible.  
Berries are devoured by ravenous birds,  
And squirrels hasten to bury their hordes.

Lights are switched on as the days grow short,  
The weakening sun the dark does thwart.  
From chimneys smoke begins to rise,  
Up through the chilly air it flies.  
The birds' songs start to dwindle,  
The once - roaring fires long to be rekindled.

People hurry about, wrapped up in woollen clothes,  
In scarves and hats big smiles enclosed.  
Warm beverages are clutched close to the chest,  
The fuzzy warmth combating the nippy zest.  
Rooms are filled with cosiness that won't disappear,  
And happiness has flowered, for autumn is here.



## 2nd Place - Thea Harray, Year 9

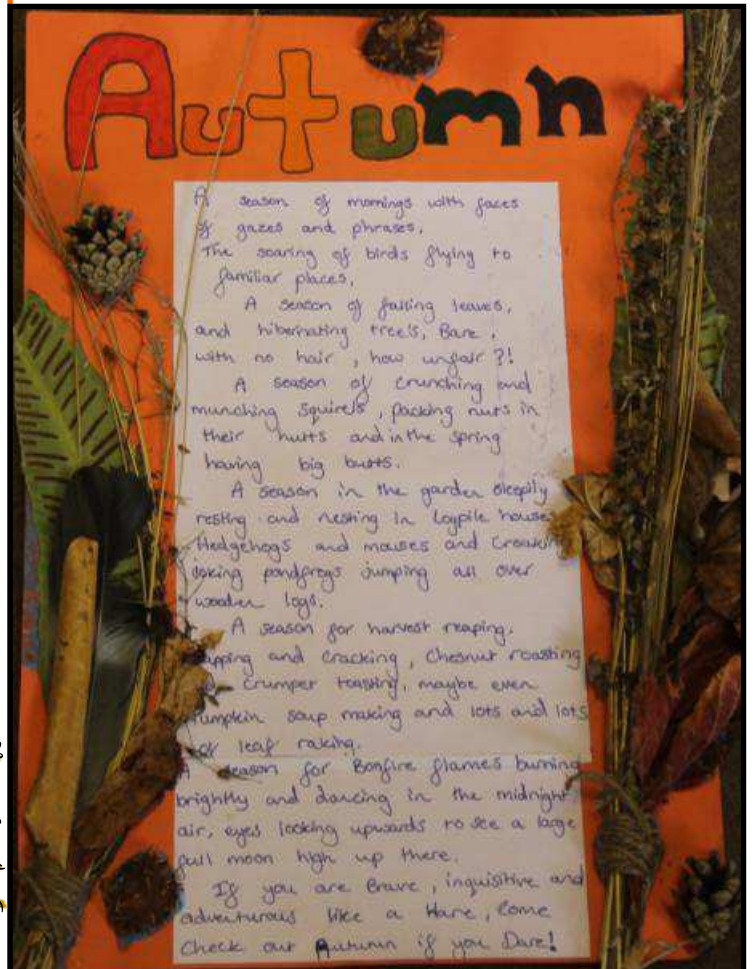
Soft crinkle of fresh leaves on the wet ground,  
The golden light muffled behind the clouds,  
Dead leaves left orange and red have all browned.

Why are they gathering like one big crows?  
The rotting stench lingers in my nostrils,  
Thick, rough bark causes cuts on my soft hands,  
Covering the thicket like an old hostel,  
Touch and go in the leaves, all in a fan.

Apple pie softens and melts in my mouth,  
My throat, metallic from dehydration,  
Together we can expand our love south!

Nobody loves autumn like our Nation.  
Autumn has gladly made it's appearance,  
Summer made it's debut time for clearance!

## A Talented Year 8 Pupil - Third Place



## School Council News - PE Uniform

As a result of the successful implementation of the new school uniform, there has been an observable positive change in the manner in which students present themselves and their approach to work. The School Council would like to thank pupils and parents for their support for the new uniform and has expressed an interest in adopting a new PE uniform which it is hoped will contribute positively towards the students' sporting endeavours.

Below are the proposals on which we wish to consult. Factors such as cost, comfort, quality and feasibility have been taken seriously.

New PE uniform compulsory for pupils as of September 2015.  
Pupils can wear either old or new PE uniform after October half term 2014

### Compulsory - Years 7-10

All pupils to wear:

Girls and boys: Black and green sports polo shirt (fitted/unfitted)

Boys compulsory: Black and green sports rugby shirt

Girls and boys: Black shorts/skort/tracksuit bottoms

Girls and boys: White/black socks

### Optional

Girls and Boys: 1/4 zip sweat

Girls and boys: Black skin to wear under sports polo shirt



*Optional 1/4 zip sweat*

We welcome any comments you may have to [lmorlidge@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:lmorlidge@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk) by 03/11/14. Thank you.

**Felicity Jones**

*Fitted Sports polo shirt*



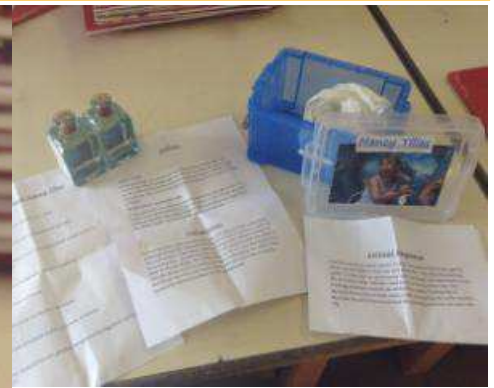
*Boys sports rugby shirt*



*Unfitted Sports polo shirt*



## Artwork of the Month



Jack Little Year 9  
Art History Project

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
3rd November 2014	Back to School for All
19th November 2014	Year 8 Parents Evening
3rd December 2014	Year 7 Parents Evening
12th - 20th December 2014	Annual Ski Trip
19th December 2014	Last Day of Term
6th January 2015	Back to School for Pupils



Using your smartphone scan the QR Code. This will take you directly to the Art@Gwernyfed blog on the school's Moodle. Alternatively login to your account and click on Art@Gwernyfed. Homework, Class work, exhibition photos and photos of students work are all posted on there for you to have a good nose through! If you have any Artwork you would like posted come and see us in the Art department!

To receive this newsletter electronically in future please email pupils name and form to:  
[news@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:news@gwernyfed-hs.powys.sch.uk)

