

Ysgol Uwchradd Llanidloes

High School



CYLCHLYTHYR HYDREF 2013 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Smile Club

Located in H6, Smile Club is open to anyone in Year 7,8,9 every break and lunch. It is run by trained 6th formers who act as mentors. Learners can come and chat, play games or even get help with homework.

Attendance

Please can Parents/Guardians phone the school as soon as possible when they know their child is going to be absent from school. Please explain the reason for the absence and if possible the likely length of time of the absence. A message can be left on the school answering machine but unfortunately we cannot receive texts. Thank you— Mrs H Davies (Attendance Officer).

Contacts

Would you please inform the school if your address, telephone numbers or any other details have changed.

Operation Christmas Child

Pupils are invited to contribute to our Shoebox Appeal once again. Leaflets are available with full details of the items suitable to include. Many thanks to those who have already supported us. Pupils should see Mr Knowles or Ms Brewer for further details. Boxes should be brought to school a.s.a.p. and by November 5th at the latest.

Your continued support and interest will be much appreciated.

English Books

The English Department have asked that any past texts could be returned. Thank you.

Morrison's Vouchers

We are collecting vouchers and the Eco-committee would appreciate all that you can send in.

GCSE Examination success

I am delighted to inform you that the 69% of our pupils achieved 5 or more GCSE grades at grades A* to C (including English and maths) in the summer exams. This is 12% higher than the Local Authority figure (57%). The figure for Wales was 52%. 81% of pupils achieved a C grade or above in maths compared to 66% in Powys and 59% in Wales. 78% of pupils achieved a GCSE grade C or above compared to 69% in Powys and 64% in Wales. Well done to pupils and staff for these excellent results. We hope to hit our target figure of 70% next summer in the 5 or more GCSE grades category.

PTA Donations

Thank you to the parents who pay for raffle tickets at parents' evenings and support other PTA events. The PTA funds the end of year reward for credits. If you want to support the PTA but have little time to spare for events and meetings you are more than welcome to put a direct debit in place. Please contact the school to make this arrangement.

School Website

Please remember to visit the school website which is full of useful information www.llanidloeshighschool.co.uk

Media Visit

On Friday 11th October the Media Studies department visited The National Media Museum in Bradford. During their visit learners learnt about the history of a variety of media forms, including television, film and computer games. They also created short adverts, advertising the museum. The adverts can be found on www.youtube.co.uk/user/lanidloeshighschool

Bags 2 Schools

The PTA has arranged for the Bags 2 School company to collect clothing, bedding, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts and handbags (no bric-a-brac please) from the school. The company will pay the school at least £200 per tonne. Bags are available from the Main Office or from PTA committee members. Please return filled bags to school by Friday 6th December. We would be grateful if you could send bags in as close as possible to the 6th due to storage issues at the school.

Noah's Ark

Les Jones, Chairperson of the Noah's Ark Appeal, wishes me to express a big thank you to all of the students that took part in the concert on Friday 11th October at the Rugby Club in Llanidloes. Each musical item provided was superb and the choir sang like angels. Thanks also for all of the parental support at this event and to Mr. Andrew Mantle for accompanying the choir and soloists.

Sports Centre

From Tuesday, 5th of November we will no longer allow pupils access to the Sports Centre during morning breaks and lunchtimes. The centre currently has 9 vending machines selling items that are not considered healthy by the Welsh Government's Appetite for Life programme. In the interests of the promotion of the health and wellbeing of pupils and of our aspirations to educate them about healthy eating we have taken the decision to remove these temptations from them. I am currently working with the canteen to improve the range of food and drink on offer there and the pupils will also be able to contribute to these discussions.

Healthy Schools

We are pleased to announce that Llanidloes High School has completed and successfully passed Phase Four Assessment of Healthy Schools Award. The areas of focus over the past two years has been hygiene and mental wellbeing. We will now be focusing on Phase 5, continuing to develop areas of health, including substance misuse and safety.

Interact

Tuesday October 22nd saw the exciting inauguration of an Interact group in the school. The Charter meeting, which officially launches one of the few groups in the area, is to be a high-profile event, when the District Governor of Rotary presented the jewel and pins to the members.



Interact Committee members include: Mitchel Dewinton-Davies (President), David Richards (Vice-President), Abbie Powell (Secretary) and Anisa Begum (Treasurer).

Interact allows young people of our community to work together to raise funds and awareness of both local and international issues. Our learners are looking forward to getting involved in 'community' activities and developing their life skills.

We are very grateful to Llanidloes Rotary for supporting us and sponsoring the club.

CEWC Cymru

Morgan Jones (Y12) and Kate Raynsford (Y12) represented Llanidloes High School in the recent Powys Round of the CEWC Cymru Debating Competition. They both demonstrated the ability to deliver and debate effectively and are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Free School Meals

Just to remind you that if you are claiming Income Support, Income based Job Seekers Allowance, Guarantee Credit of State Pension Credit, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999, Employment Support Allowance or are Entitled to Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit you may be eligible for Free School Meals. Please contact the school for a form.

Sports Kit

All girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 will need football boots after half term as they will be doing football in their Games programme

Fairtrade Grant

The School has received a grant for £500 to spend on the promotion of Fairtrade with the school and wider community. This is to build upon our success as a fairtrade school. If you would like to be involved in the scheme then please contact Mr Knowles.

Solar Panels

We are very pleased with the amount of energy that our solar panels are creating. On an average (cloudy) day they create enough energy for two IT rooms. Since their installation, they have saved 2 tonnes of CO₂.

Uniform Recycling

The PTA would like to recycle items of uniform. If you have items that no longer fit or know of past pupils who have the uniform and have no use for it please send it in to the school or drop it off at the Floral Art Shop in Llanidloes. PE kit is also very welcome.

Future Dates for your Diary

November

- 5 —Term start
- 14 —Y8 Parents' Evening
- 15 —Children in Need
- 22 —Award Ceremony
- 27 —Y12 Open Evening

December

- 3 —Y10 Parents' Evening
- 9-13—Y11 Exams

Blue Balloon Charity

On Friday 11th October Steve Knapik visited the Art department. Steve is involved with the children's charity Blue Balloon. Inspired by a landscape painting he did on holiday in Cornwall he decided to set up the challenge of breaking the world record for the world's longest landscape. Y8 and Y9 had the privilege of being able to take part in this fantastic event. They spent the afternoon creating wonderful imaginative landscapes with simple oil pastels and a scraffito technique. All the landscapes will link together and will also join up with the many other landscapes that have been done by other schools across Wales, England and Scotland. If you would like to contribute to the world record see Mrs Smith in the art department. www.blueballooncharity.co.uk



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Children in Need

Children in Need takes place on Friday 15th November. There will be different events happening starting from Monday 11th November and running through the week with a non-uniform day on the Friday costing £1 for learners.

Urdd Trips

Oakwood

39 Year 7/8 pupils joined the Powys Urdd Trip to Oakwood on Saturday October 12th. They were joined by pupils from Builth Wells, Llanfyllin and Newtown High Schools. Congratulations to pupils on their high standard of behaviour and generally good time keeping (!). We all enjoyed a very exciting day.

Rugby Trips:

Pupils will join the Urdd Trip to watch Wales play Argentina on November 16th and Tonga on November 22nd at the Millennium Stadium.

Eurodisney:

Year 7/8 pupils are invited to join the Powys Urdd trip to Eurodisney, Paris during February Half term 2014. Further details are available from Ms Brewer. The 3 day trip will include 2 days at the Disney Park and Studios and a visit to the Eiffel Tower.

Aberdyfi Trip

There will be an exciting opportunity for a few lucky pupils to visit the Outward Bound Centre in Aberdyfi. During the visit, the pupils will do a variety of outdoor pursuits such as canoeing, raft building, sailing, orienteering etc. We also hope to embark on an overnight camp in the wilds of Snowdonia! Each activity is designed to promote adventure & team building.

Mr Dylan Jones, Miss Sarah Davies & Mrs Harrison will be taking a group of year 7 and year 8 pupils (who missed out on a similar opportunity last year) to the centre.

The total cost is £190 and that includes transport to the centre, food, equipment hire & insurance. If you prefer, you can spread the cost by paying a small monthly sum of £20, and a final payment of £10, until the total of £190 is reached.