

# Ysgol Uwchradd Llanidloes

High School



CYLCHLYTHYR MEDI 2015 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



**Another successful year of exam results**

[www.llanidloeshighschool.co.uk](http://www.llanidloeshighschool.co.uk)

## Cooking Club

A cooking club will run after school on Mondays from 3:35pm to 5:00pm. It is open to any year group, pupils will need to bring ingredients into school. If interested see Mrs Cox in T6, the Food Technology room for more information and a consent form.

## Uniform

It has been a pleasure to see the vast majority of pupils coming back from the summer break in perfect uniform. Just a reminder that school shoes should be **plain black** with no emblems stripes or coloured laces. Pupils should be wearing a school jumper or a school hoodie as the weather becomes cooler. Non uniform jumpers / tops should not be worn. Coats and jackets should be worn over school uniform not as an alternative to it.

## Enterprise

Last Year's enterprise project was a huge success with all projects reaching a profit. During the final week of term Year 9 students ran their own businesses and sold their products and services to members of the school and wider community. The project is part of the Welsh Bacc which all Key Stage 4 students follow.

## Facebook/Twitter

The school now has a Facebook page and Twitter account. This will be an excellent way of keeping in touch with you, informing you of exciting events in school and displaying photographs. Please like us/ follow us to receive the latest posts/tweets. Buttons can be found on the website.

## GCSE results 2015

We are again delighted with this year's excellent set of GCSE results. We have surpassed last year's splendid results and are maintaining the high standards that we set in Llanidloes.

68% of students achieved at least 5 GCSE's at grade C or above including English and Maths which is the most important statistic.

25% of the pupils have achieved 5 or more A\* or A grades.

Not one single pupil has left the school without at least 5 recognised qualifications A\* to G.

These qualifications will enable our students to either follow the A level courses of their choice at school or to pursue careers in other fields.

Our pupils have worked hard, being well supported by the staff and by their families. Every pupil deserves our warmest congratulations on their success.

Of particular note are the following pupils:-

Josh Baldwin – AAAAAAAAAABBB

Lili Jones – A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*AAAB

Olivia Jones – A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*AAAAA

Asha Morgan – A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A

Ethan Owen – A\*AAAAAAAAAB

Will Richards – A\*A\*A\*AAAABC

Flora Stanbridge – A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*AAAB

Melody Watson – A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*AAAA

Ffion Williams – A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*AAAAB

Lauren Williams - AAAAAAAAAAAB

Special praise must be given to the Maths department with 35% of pupils being awarded an outstanding A\* or A grade, 85% of pupils achieved a C grade or above.

## A Level results 2015

We are again delighted with this year's excellent set of A level results. Of the A levels taken 20% have resulted in A\* or A grades. These qualifications will enable our students to either follow the courses of their choice in University or to pursue careers in other fields. They will be following in the successful footsteps of our past pupils, at least 10 of which have achieved first class honours degrees this summer.

Our inspirational Head Girl in spite of having a very serious illness, which resulted in her only being able to attend school for half her lessons achieved a fantastic A\*A\*A\* and an A.

Our Head Boy Mathew Jones achieved A\*A A and a B

Other pupils who also had brilliant results were:

Emily Baldwin A\*A A and a Distinction\*

Evie Challinor with A\* A B B

Emily Roberts A\*A A A

Our warmest congratulations go to them all; we wish all of our students every success in the future. I would like to thank the students, staff both teaching and non-teaching for their hard work and the parents for all of their support. I believe that such excellent results prove how valuable it is to keep 6th forms in schools.



## Appointment of Rugby Hub Officer

Adam Price has been appointed as the new Rugby Hub Officer for the Llanidloes Cluster. Working with Llanidloes RFC, Llanidloes High School, Llanidloes Primary School, Llandinam Primary School, Caersws Primary School and Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, His role will be to engage people across a wide age range within the game of Rugby Union and provide playing, coaching and refereeing opportunities to raise participation numbers in the national sport.

One of Adam's first initiatives, aimed at increasing participation, is to lead an after schools club previously piloted in conjunction with Llanidloes RFC. This opportunity allows players to stay after school and receive a coaching session before taking a bus to Cae Hafren playing fields to take part in Llanidloes RFC junior training. This initiative takes away certain travel pressures which is an issue within rural communities and provides the pupils with the opportunity to engage in rugby for an extended period of time.

Another of Adam's initiatives, to allow for the development on the performance end of rugby, is the introduction of the Llanidloes RFC Rugby Academy. This academy will deliver specific training sessions and additional resources to allow for the further development of all players at the club between U12 and U19's and providing a further pathway for players with aspirations of playing to a higher standard or developing to be the best of their potential.

## Important dates for this year

Y7 Parents' Evening – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016

Y7 Exams – 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Y7 Reports – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Y8 Parents' Evening – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Y8 Exams – 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Y8 Reports – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

Y9 Options Evening – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

Y9 Parents' Evening – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Y9 Exams – 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Y9 Reports – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Y10 Parents' Evening – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Y10 Exams – 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Y10 Reports – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Y11 Parents' Evening – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Y11 Exams – 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Y11 Reports – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Y12/13 Parents' Evening – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

Y12/13 Exams – 30<sup>th</sup> November – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Y12/13 Reports – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 / 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016

## Printing in School

All pupils are given a generous printing quota at the start of each month. Years 7-10 are allocated £1.50 and years 11-13 £3.00. This amount is refreshed at the start of each month. One sheet of black and white printing is charged at 1p and colour 10p a sheet. This should and does allow pupils to print any school work needed. However, if on the rare occasion any pupils run out of printing credit before the end of the month they have been allowed a free top up. Unfortunately due to the ever increasing costs of printing and in-line with many other secondary schools in Powys we now have no alternative but to charge for printing top ups. If needed, this will amount to very small amounts for each individual pupil.

## 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.

## Smile Club

Located in E5, 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

## Macmillan

## Cancer Support

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students will be making cakes to sell to pupils and staff on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September during morning break. They have been practising, so more 'treats' than they should have had! Your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## Contacts

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

## Maths Challenge

Pupils from Year 7 to 10 recently took part in a Maths Challenge competition run by Aberystwyth University. Winners (pictures below) were invited to a prize giving evening at the University and were presented with certificates and medals by the Vice-Chancellor April McMahon. They were asked to solve problems on the theme of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland to commemorate the 150th anniversary of its publication. Professor Cox, the Head of the Department of Mathematics, said that he'd even found some of the problems challenging! Well done! Llongyfarchiadau!

From left to right: Professor Simon Cox (Head of Department of Mathematics), Jack Shaw, Dafydd Jones, Kathryn Edwards, Penny George, Kate Jerman, Vice Chancellor April McMahon.



## Homework

Llanidloes High School would like to thank all those parents who returned the questionnaire about homework. The school also carried out a questionnaire and had replies and suggestions from all the learners. In light of the huge response to the issue of homework, which is a subject that is regularly raised by the school council, the school has changed its approach in its production of homework timetables. These will now include some subjects where homework will be set on a regular pattern. Other subjects will set homework when appropriate and will have more flexibility concerning when they need to be completed. All teachers in the school have been issued with a list of 11 points raised by both parents and learners as good practice for guidance regarding the setting, content and style of homework. We hope that this exercise will provide beneficial results for learners, parents and teachers. Homework will continue to be raised by learners through the school council but we now hope we have addressed most of the issues raised.

## Virtual Youth Club Survey

Towards the end of term, young people throughout Powys were asked how they wanted Powys Youth Service to use new technology – some of you completed questionnaires in school, others in youth clubs. More than 400 of you in years 8, 9 and 10 took part so thanks!

We asked- what media do you prefer to use? You said- social media, 140 preferred Facebook and Twitter but 81 were interested in a youth service App for their mobile.

We asked -where do you get your info now? You said - mostly the internet - 154 - but 95 said from Facebook and Twitter, 93 from friends and family and 90 from other places like school, youth club and posters.

So looking at what you use currently and would prefer to use, Facebook and Twitter are the most popular but there is quite strong demand for an App.

We also asked for your suggestions – quite a lot wanted free stuff (including food?!), games and competitions, any media had to be easy to use and work on all devices, have privacy settings and you definitely didn't want any spam!

So what next? It seems you are pretty well “digitally engaged” – as is the youth service. Youth clubs already have their own Facebook pages where members share info, experiences and photos and workers publicise events and activities. We plan to promote and update these pages including games, competitions and digital treasure hunts.

BUT we are also looking at developing an App for your mobile which could include: Basic youth club info ie location, opening times, activity and event timetable during term time and Powys Xtreme timetable during holidays. Links to support and other services. A contact form for further info.

Check out this Powys Youth Information Service Facebook page or your local youth club Facebook page to find out what happens next!

## Friends of Llanidloes High School

Following requests from many parents and other members of the community who wish to support the school we have decided to start a “Friends of Llanidloes High School” group. If you are interested or know of somebody that would be interested please contact the school. We would love to hear from all sorts of people. There will be people who will be happy to attend meetings and organise events but we would also welcome people who don't want to go to meetings but are happy to help with other things such as:

Donating prizes; Making tea at events; Selling raffle tickets; Helping with paired reading; Supporting subjects e.g. doing an art class, talking about the war in a history lesson, helping with a school production; Helping pupils with revision; Gardening; Maintaining sports facilities.

The list could be endless. We look forward to hearing from you and please spread the word as not everybody will see this newsletter.



# Memorial Football Match

In memory of the school's former Head Teacher, Mr Darren Davies, who passed away earlier this year, a football match was held recently at Llanidloes High School between Llanidloes 'Old Boys' and the present Sixth Form. Acting Head Teacher, Mrs Catrin Taylor, said, "Mr Davies was a well-respected Head Teacher who maintained the high standards that Llanidloes High School has achieved over the years and who will be sadly missed. He had a great love for football and was a staunch Liverpool supporter. The whole school turned out to view the match and had great fun supporting the event. Mr Davies would have been very proud".

The Old Boys, playing in red to represent Mr Davies's love for Liverpool FC, were captained by Mr Davies' son, Iestyn, who was presented with a Memorial Cup for leading his team to victory. The final score was Llanidloes Old Boys 2, Sixth Form 1. More photographs can be seen on our Facebook page.

