

Ysgol Uwchradd Llanidloes High School



NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS

DECEMBER 2025

As we draw ever closer to the Christmas break, Llanidloes High School is filled with the warmth and joy that make this time of year so special. Christmas offers us a wonderful opportunity to pause, reflect and celebrate the many achievements and acts of kindness that define our school community, and I am immensely proud of all that our pupils and staff have accomplished this term.

First and foremost, my sincere thanks go to our parents, pupils and staff for their generosity and goodwill. Through our Poppy Appeal we raised a fantastic £239.85, and our Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save the Children brought in an impressive £386.58. These totals reflect the compassion and community spirit that run at the heart of our school, and I am grateful to everyone who contributed.

It was a privilege to celebrate excellence at our Annual Awards Evening, where we recognised pupils for their hard work, commitment and achievements. We were especially honoured to welcome back former pupil Sam Gill, who joined us from New York. Sam, now the co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of Sylvera, inspired all in attendance as he shared his journey from Llanidloes High School to leading a company developing machine-learning tools to support global carbon markets. With over \$100 million raised in venture capital and customers including Cargill and Delta Airlines, Sam's success – and his passion for green energy – was a powerful reminder of what our pupils can achieve, firmly rooted in the education they received here.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the local business leaders who so generously gave their time to review our Year 11 students' CVs and conduct mock interviews. Their support provides invaluable real-world insight and helps our young people prepare confidently for their next steps.

Congratulations go to our CogUrdd winners who will go on to represent the county at the National Eisteddfod – a wonderful achievement of which we are extremely proud.



We were also delighted to welcome the 'Welsh Whisperer' for a day of lively and entertaining Welsh learning. Hailing from Cwmfelin Mynach in Carmarthenshire, his unique blend of comedy and culture brought the language to life and was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

Our own school Eisteddfod was another highlight, showcasing an array of musical, dramatic, artistic and literary talent. I congratulate all who took part for their creativity, courage and enthusiasm – the standard was truly impressive.

As we close the term, I would like to thank our dedicated staff for their tireless work and our parents for their continued support. To our pupils, thank you for your positivity, kindness and commitment throughout the year.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. May the Christmas season bring you joy, rest and precious time with those you love.

Cofion,
Dan
Daniel Owen



Upcoming dates

18th December - School breaks up
19th December – Inset day (no school for pupils)

22nd December to 2nd January - Christmas holidays

5th January – Inset day (no school for pupils)
6th January – Pupils start back & Y9/11 Exams fortnight begin
17th-23th January - Ski trip
29th January - Y7 parents' evening
3rd February - Y11 GCSE Science practical resits
5th February - Y10 parents' evening & Y10 GCSE Science practical
6th February - Y12/13 reports home
10th February - Y9 results and interim reports home
11th February - Y9 options evening
12th February - School showcase concert
13th February - Y11 mock results day & school breaks up for half-term

16th-20th February - Half-term

23rd February - Pupils start back
2nd March - Y10/12/13 exams fortnight begins
6th March - Inset day (no school for pupils)
10-12 & 17-19 March - Welsh second language GCSE oracy
13th March - Y11 reports home
19th March - Y8 parents' evening
20th March - Non uniform (Comic Relief)
26th March Y12/13 interim reports home & school breaks up for Easter holidays
27th March - Inset day (no school for pupils)

30th March - 10th April - Easter Holidays

13th April - Pupils start back after Easter holidays

**Please note dates could be subject to change*

School Awards

Congratulations to all pupils past and present who received accolades in our recent Llanidloes High School Awards.

Over 40 pupils were honoured at the presentation evening in awards celebrating success and achievements across all aspects of school. Past pupil and business entrepreneur Sam Gill, who now lives in New York, was guest speaker for the event and congratulated all students on their achievements.



Poppy Appeal

Thank you to parents, pupils and staff who helped £239.85 for this year's Poppy Appeal. A big thank you to everyone who donated. A special thanks to sixth formers who helped sell a variety of poppies, pin badges, snap bands in school for this.



£386.58 was raised for Save The Children from our Christmas Jumper Day. The pupils looked great in their colourful tops!

Thanks to all who donated.



Year 11 Pupils Shine in Mock Interviews ☀

This term, our Y11 pupils took part in mock interviews designed to help them prepare for the next steps in their education and careers.

The sessions gave students the chance to experience a formal interview setting, respond to questions and interact with local businesses, and reflect on how best to present themselves.

Many pupils reported that the process boosted their confidence and gave them a clearer understanding of what to expect in real interviews.



A huge thanks to all local businesses who supported this activity which forms an important part of our wider careers programme, ensuring that every pupil develops the skills needed for the future.

News from our School Council

New Llanidloes High School Student Council elected

By Menna Vaughan – Communications Officer

We are delighted to announce the appointment of the new Llanidloes High School Student Council.



After thoughtful applications and impressive insight shown by all candidates, our newly elected leaders are ready to represent the student body. We look forward to seeing their ideas grow and the positive impact they will make across the school.

The Student Council kicked off with a Movember fundraising campaign to help raise awareness of men's health and support the important work of Movember charities. The school held a special Wear Blue Day, where students were encouraged to wear one item of blue clothing alongside their normal uniform. The hallways were filled with blue jumpers, t-shirts, hoodies and accessories as everyone proudly showed their support.

Student Council members raised even more money by selling fake moustaches, which proved to be extremely popular throughout the day. Laughter, creativity and charitable spirit were on full display as moustaches of all shapes and sizes appeared around the school!

Combined with donations and other small activities, the event raised over £200!

Safeguarding

A change to the Safeguarding and Well-being Team sees Mr Andrew Morel (pictured) take over as Designated Safeguarding lead for the school.

Should you have any safeguarding concerns please continue to report them to the school through Mr Andrew Morel, Mrs Ann Lewis or Mr Dan Owen.



Senedd Roadshow

Pupils in Y11-13 enjoyed a visit from a representative from the Senedd this term.

The 'First Vote' roadshow stopped at our school as part of a tour. Pupils enjoyed learning more about the Senedd and their right to vote at 16 years of age in next May's elections.

They also had the opportunity to cast a practice vote, and hear about how they register to vote.



Should you need to contact the school, including notifying us that your child is absent during term-time, please contact us on:

01686 412289
office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk



We look forward to sharing with you our Welsh version of our new school newsletter – this will be made available on our website.



CogUrdd and PobUrdd Regional Round

This year we were able to host the regional round for the PobUrdd and CogUrdd, with success across all competitions.

- PobUrdd Under 19 - 3rd Esme Francis-Jones
- CogUrdd Year 7-9 - 1st Ella Foscett
- CogUrdd Year 10 and under 19 - 1st Zane Cubbins, 3rd Cerys Jones.



Pob Lwc to Zane and Ella who represent Maldwyn at the all Wales finals in Ynys Mon.

X-Country

Congratulations to the following who represented North Wales in the Welsh cross-country this term. Fantastic performances in tough conditions:



Monique 6th, Olivia 12th and Maddie 6th, Xander 7th

Powys Small-Sided Football

Congratulations to all the boys that represented the school, looking sharp in their new Celtic Travel kits, created by RCS Teamwear.

They all played their hearts out, behaved exceptionally well and showed bucket loads of talent!

The Year 7 and 9 both came away with winner trophies after a dominating display by the Year 9s and Year 7s winning the tournament on points difference!

Many thanks to the sixth form team managers.



Well done to the under 15 girls football team, who this term beat Welshpool 7-2 to become Powys champions and progress to the last 16 in Wales





Welsh Whisperer!

Cafwyd bore a phrynhawn llawn ysbrydoliaeth pan ymwelodd y Welsh Whisperer â ni. Rhannodd lawer o straeon am ei yrfa gerddorol a chawsom anogaeth i weithio'n galed ac i fynd amdani mewn bywyd.

We had a day full of inspiration when the Welsh Whisperer visited us recently. He shared lots of stories from his music career, as well as encouragement to work hard and go for it...wherever we find ourselves in life.



Diolch i Brifysgol Caerdydd am ddod i roi sgrysiâu difyr i Fl 9-11! Gwrandawodd Bl 9 ar sgwrs am ddewis opsiynau TGAU, tra fu Bl 10 ac 11 yn gwrandao ar sgwrs am bwysigrwydd a manteision parhau â'r Gymraeg ar gorffen TGAU. Bore llawn ysbrydoliaeth!



Thank you to the University of Cardiff for coming and sharing interesting talks with Yrs 9-11! Yr 9 listened to a talk on making GCSE options; Yrs 10 and 11 heard about the importance and benefits of continuing with Welsh after GCSE. A morning full of inspiration!

NATIONAL LIBRARY TOUR 🇬🇧

Pleser oedd treulio diwrnod yng nghwmni Blwyddyn 8 yn mynychu gweithgareddau amrywiol yn y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol yn Aberystwyth. Cawsom daith o gwmpas y Llyfrgell, yn ogystal ag ymweld ag arddangosfa o luniau am Dryweryn a gweithdy.

It was a pleasure to spend a day in the company of Year 8 as we attended various activities at the National Library in Aberystwyth. We had a tour of the Library, as well as visiting an exhibition of photographs of Tryweryn and a workshop.



✨ EISTEDDFOD YSGOL – SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD

Rhai o uchafbwyntiau Eisteddfod Yr Ysgol 2025 📸 Some of the highlights from our 2025 School Eisteddfod

A wonderful celebration of talent and creativity - diolch yn fawr to everyone who took part!

