Ysgol Uwchradd LLANIDLOES High School



Hilary Term Newsletter 2022



https://llanidloeshighschool.co.uk

Update from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

Memorial

garden

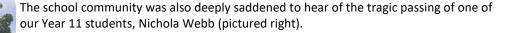
This half term has been marked by our wonderful students' tremendous compassion and courage in the midst of terrible tragedy.

Last week, I attended the funeral of Owen Bennett, a smashing young man who left us last year to begin a carpentry course at NPTC. This week, I attended the funeral of Nichola Webb, one of our Year 11 students who recently passed

> Both young people were popular and much-loved students at Llanidloes High School. Staff and students alike have been sharing their happy memories of them.

Regarding Owen (pictured left), Mr Morel remembers nervously coming to school for his job interview. Owen, who was about 14 years old at the time, clearly remembered being taught by Mr Morel during his teacher training placement. He came over asked, "What are you doing here?" To which Mr Morel duly replied, "I am being interviewed for a job." Owen replied with one of his customary stellar ear-to-ear smiles and said, "Well, it will be nice to have you back". Mr Morel wondered at the time, how many 14 year olds would take time out of

their day to offer a teaching candidate some words of gentle encouragement! It goes to show just what a lovely young man he was, mature beyond his years.



Nichola was a wonderful and talented young lady. She was a gentle-natured, kindhearted, straight 'A' student, brimming with academic promise. She was one of the most easily identifiable students due to her penchant for 'Goth' attire. We are immensely proud of all she achieved, and we will miss her deeply. Over half term, to help family, friends and staff remember Nichola, we opened a memorial garden for quiet reflection.

We will always be thankful for the privilege and joy of having both Owen and Nichola as students at our school. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends at this difficult time.

I began by mentioning that, in the midst of these tragedies, staff have been struck by our students' tremendous compassion and courage. Indeed, our

> young people have shown true Gofal (caring) spirit as they have supported each other through grief, soldiered on with their examination preparation, competed on stage at the local and national Urdd, and much more besides.

Indeed, last week, Mr Ian Morgan (Chief Executive of WJEC examination board), visited the school as he sought to gauge the students' wellbeing and progress He noted the extraordinary mid-exam season. maturity of our exam students who, despite everything, have been revising hard and giving it their all in the classrooms and exam hall. Later in this

newsletter, there is more about Mr Morgan's visit and the feedback he received from our students.

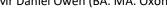
I would like to congratulate our record-breaking haul of winners and medallists in this year's Urdd. We have enjoyed success in the full range of events, from Cogurdd (cooking) to craft, harp to hip-hop and dance to design. Our students have been gracious in defeat, humble in victory and invariably courageous in competing.

Well done to everyone who participated, you are all winners as far as we are concerned and we are immensely proud of your courage, skill and perseverance.

Mr Daniel Owen (BA. MA. Oxon)















Cogurdd Success

Chess Macken, Rose Foskett, Zane Cubbins and William Webb took part in the school round of the CogUrdd where they each made 3 tapas dishes.

Each pupil impressed the judges with their independence, attitude and practical cooking skills. The effort shown by each pupil was outstanding and it was a very close competition.

Well done to Rose Foskett who won the school round to progress to the regional round of the CogUrdd.



Dancing Queens



Five of our wonderful year 8 girls competed in the Maldwyn Dance Urdd to qualify for a place at Nationals! Layla with her solo and Seren, Layla, Ffion, Haf and Erin with their group dance.

Miss Lewis said, "We are ecstatic to announce that our girls did us so proud coming in second place! The icing on the cake is that Layla will be competing at Nationals with her solo.

These girls have danced their socks off, week in and week out since January and their hard work emphatically paid off. They have done Llanidloes High School proud through their

seemingly effortless and determined dancing."
DA IAWN MERCHED









Cross country running for Wales

Massive congratulations to Maddie Hughes who represented Wales in the SIAB cross-country competition today. An amazing performance, she gained 20th position as an individual and Wales as a team came 2nd! Incredibly Maddie was running against mainly year 9 pupils. Some countries will not even select a year 8 athlete. This is truly an amazing achievement, and we are so delighted for you. Just shows that hard work pays off!





Welsh Schools Football Championship Semi-Finalists

Our Year 8 boys won each of the early rounds of the national football championships to earn a trip to South Wales to take on the might of Plasmawr where year groups are double the size of those in Llanidloes and the pool of talent vast.

The Plasmawr team appeared to be Sixth Formers judging by their height and size, towering over our team. Our boys were more than match form them in the area of grit, determination, skill and perseverance. For long sections of the game, our boys controlled possession but struggled to get the bounce of the ball. However, in the end, brute force won the day with Plasmawr slotting home five well-worked goals.

Their teacher took the time after the game to say we have the best team they have faced so far and that we had them all worried at half time! Congratulations to all the boys on their heroic cup run this year.







Fashion and clothing

Year 10 students have been designing and creating stunning dresses with stylish, classic patterns. Pictured right you can see the work of Mason and Teleri.

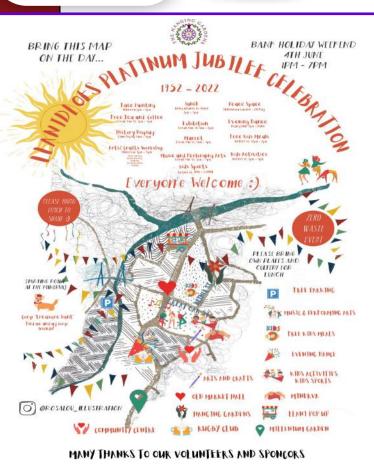
Rose Foskett has entered the Urdd Eisteddfod with a beautiful lace dress (pictured left). I am sure you'll agree that the world may have found its next Coco Chanel!













RGC Schools Cup rugby champions



Our Year 8 boys took the journey to Bala RFC to take part in the RGC Schools Cup. They arrived at 10:30am with their first game to be played at 10:45am against a young Ysgol y Moelwyn side. The young Llanidloes team won the game 10-0 and prepared for their next battle, Mold Alun. Mold Alun put out a strong side, really testing the capabilities of the young Llanidloes side. After a hard-

fought battle, Llanidles won the game 10-5. Next was the last game of the group, Brynrefail. The Llanidloes side prepared themselves for the challenge

and won the game 10-0, taking them into the cup semi-finals.

When it came to the semi-finals they drew a local derby, Newtown. Throughout the day Newtown were looking like a strong side who could win the cup. Llanidloes kicked off.

After defending for a while, they won the ball back and managed to get the first score of them game taking

them to 5-0 up. They then received the ball from kick-off and fought hard to get down the field and score another try, taking it to 10-0 and securing the win.



Lastly, the final. The team had only turned up for some rugby game time and a bit of fun, never imagining they would be playing in the final of the RGC Schools Cup! It was time to play a strong Castell Alun side in the final. We kicked off and defended well, securing a turnover. We made quick work of the opportunity by scoring in the corner taking a 5-0 lead. After receiving the ball from kick-off, we attacked once more and scored under the posts. It was looking good for the young side with less than 5 minutes to go. The young Castell Alun side tested the Llanidloes defence, but they held out and won the cup with a 10 -0 victory. The young team were over the moon and were presented the RGC Schools Cup by Marc Roberts. Congratulations boys!

Hockey - Second in the whole of Wales!

The under 18 and under 16 boys hockey teams travelled to Wrexham to compete in the penultimate round of the national schools championships. All the boys played exceptionally well, showing great character, skill and perseverance against stiff opposition. The under 16 team progressed to the Welsh final against Christ College Brecon. The match was played in Newtown where they competed exceptionally well, taking an early lead. This was perhaps all the more surprising given that we had to field some players who were entirely new to the game! In the end they were pipped to the top of the podium. However, we are deeply proud of the boys success in securing the accolade of **second highest performing school in Wales**. Well done!











Communication for life

The ability to communicate effectively and with confidence is key to all manner of challenges that life may throw at us. Some experts believe that as much as 77% of the population has some level of anxiety regarding public speaking. We hope that our students are in the 23% of the population who step up, speak fluently, and



become confident communicators for life.

To this end, the school recently invited trainers from the Four Acre Trust to work for a day with a group of students in Year 9 as well as students in Year 10. The trust was set up to improve the communication skills of students in state schools. The aims of the day included:

- Preparing for speaking and listening assessments
- Providing the tools to structure talks and essays
- Practising impromptu speaking
- Expressing ideas and keeping to the point

Students were given useful tips and techniques geared to building confidence and self-esteem. Staff were pleased to see students develop during each session as they learned the core components of visual, vocal and verbal communication. The following students are to be commended for their achievements:



Year 9: Lisa Schultz, Noah Koffer, Rose Coleridge and Bea Moss.

Year 10: Kai Hipgrave, Tom Brennan, Jayden Hughes, Jasmine Wozencraft, Dom Topolski, Zara Collins and Harley Ellis.

In July, every student in Year 10 will deliver an Individual Presentation which is worth 10% of their GCSE English language grade. Everything they learned from the trainers will help with their preparations and their performance on the day.





Law trip

The Year 13 Law class recently visited Newtown Police Station and Geraint Jones Solicitors. They learned about police powers, criminal law and careers in both sectors.

Many thanks to Newtown Police Station, Mr Scrase and Geraint Jones Solicitors for giving up their time, showing us around and answering all our questions.



Grace honoured by Lord-Lieutenant of Powys

A Llanidloes High School student is one of just four cadets appointed as the Lord-Lieutenant Cadets for 2022 at a virtual awards ceremony.

Cadet Corporal Grace Buschini of Gwent and Powys Army Cadet Force was presented with the badge of her appointment by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Powys, Mrs Tia Jones. This position will last for one year.

Grace was selected for the prestigious Lord-Lieutenant's cadet role after being put forward for nomination by cadet group leaders and the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales.



The role includes attendance at a number of official engagements with Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Powys, Mrs

Tia Jones, who acts as the Queen's representative. This will include Remembrance events, Royal visits and parades.

Grace, who aspires to become an Army doctor, joined Newtown detachment in 2018. She has been instrumental in 'keeping the flame alive' during lockdown through leading virtual training sessions which she planned and delivered using social media platforms.

Da iawn, Grace!



Triathlon

It was wonderful to see some of our pupils competing in the first Llanidloes Triathlon organised by Mathew Savage. Every single performance was described as 'fantastic' by the PE staff. Well done to everyone who braved the elements and stayed the

LLANIDLOES JUNIOR DUATHLON & TRIATHLON









London trip

Year 11, 12 and 13 history and politics students recently enjoyed a fascinating trip to London. During the residential visit, they popped into Parliament, enjoying a guided tour and met our MP, Craig Williams. They also absorbed and analysed a wealth of information at the British Museum, watched a multi award-winning show in London's West End and visited the Supreme Court. A great time was had by all!



Mother's day treat for care home

Mrs Emmanuel collects and recycles newspapers from Bodlondeb Care Home in Llanidloes. The art department uses these papers for everything from paper mache to table protection. To show our appreciation of their willingness to pass on the newspapers, our Cymorth group created a beautiful display of Mother's Day cards the for residents. Our friends at Bondlodeb were cheered, touched and thankful that the young people were thinking of them.



Scholars success

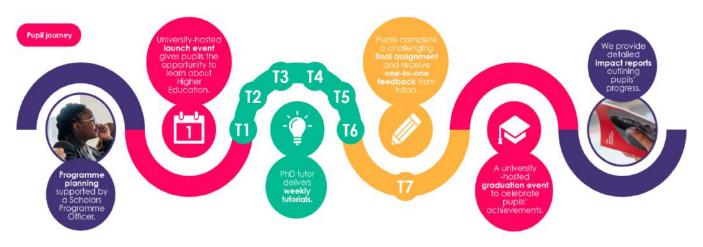
Congratulations to the following pupils who received awards for their successful participation in the Scholars programme.

Rose	Coleridge	90	1st
Maisie	Earp	82	1st
Courtney	Fitch	78	1st
Rebekah	Lewis	75	1st
Gethin	Lewis	75	1st
Lisa	Schultz	70	1st
Amelia	Davies	60	2.1
Carys	Morgan	40	2.2

The Scholars programme enables our students to receive tuition from trained PhD tutors. They share their subject knowledge and passion for learning with small groups of students. It helps them to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to secure a place at a competitive university.

The programme is structured around seven tutorials, and pupils also attend two trips to the most competitive universities to speak with current undergraduates and learn about university life. Twelve pupils are in one placement, taught in two smaller groups of six. They work towards completing a challenging final assignment which is marked and moderated using university grades. Placements last around eight weeks. Our students have found the programme as enjoyable as it has been enriching.

The School Journey



New curriculum vision

Llanidloes High School prepares young people with diverse abilities and backgrounds for a life of learning, service, leadership and personal fulfilment.

We are committed to providing 'Great Opportunities For All to Learn' (*Gofal* means 'care' in Welsh). For many years, our Gofal ethos has helped create a happy, caring and stimulating learning environment where pupils flourish.

As a dual stream school in the heart of Wales, we want our pupils to become fluent in the Welsh language. We want them to develop a secure understanding of how their identity is shaped by local and Welsh: history, religious and spiritual heritage, values, culture and social context. Alongside discovering their own individuality, they learn to respect others who are different from themselves.

Everything we do helps us fulfil the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales. These are to develop: ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives; enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work; ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world; and healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Our school values of courage, integrity, humility and compassion underpin all we do and how we do it.

COURAGE

Courage helps our young people innovate and take risks, inspiring change for the better. It means challenging adversity and complacency, making the most of opportunities, putting fear of failure to one side and staying the course, even when it is difficult.

Integrity is about honesty, doing the right thing, having the highest standards and leading by example. It involves taking responsibility and, ultimately, is what makes us worthy of others' trust.

Integrity
(ĭn-těg'rǐ-tè) n.

1. Having the character quality of being honest, reliable and fair.

Humility ensures our years growth. We want all me they have to give. Hum a proper sense of self-vecentre of the universe.

Humility ensures our young people recognise that struggling with one's weaknesses is essential to growth. We want all members of our school community to believe that they have as much to learn as they have to give. Humility encourages our young people to have a proper sense of self-worth, but not to regard themselves as the

Compassion enables our young people to build caring, constructive relationships that help them make a positive contribution to the lives of others. We believe that the strongest relationships flourish when one esteems others more highly than oneself.

orts the positive development of characclassroom as within it, and as much from

COMPASSION

Our house system and broad co-curriculum provides a communal identity that supports the positive development of character, attitude and teamwork. We firmly believe that pupils learn as much beyond the classroom as within it, and as much from each other as from their teachers.

We are a forward-thinking school that enthusiastically embraces research-driven innovation and new opportunities when we feel that it will enhance the learning and experience of our young people. We are an outward-looking school that believes passionately in the power of partnership. We aim to offer the best possible educational experience to current and future generations living in mid-Wales and then to share that as widely as possible while learning from others.

We are committed to realising our vision in the most environmentally sustainable way.

Please let us know all your new curriculum ideas by emailing office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk







Chief Examiner Impressed

Mr Ian Morgan (Chief Executive of WJEC), recently visited the school. He wanted to see first-hand how the exam system is being reintroduced following Centre Assessed Grading (CAGs) in 2020 and Centre Determined Grading (CDGs) in 2021. He was also keen to speak with our students to find out how the support materials and adjustments made by the WJEC have been received.



During an interview with students,

Mr Morgan received very positive and constructive feedback. Our A-level students made the following observations:

"The adaptations made by the WJEC have been really handy. During periods of online learning it was sometimes challenging to get through course content at a good pace. By reducing the overall content of courses, I have been able to manage revision workload more effectively." (Tomas)

"The online resources produced by the WJEC for different subjects, such as physics and chemistry, have been really helpful. This is a big thumbs up for the exam board, the resources have been incredible." (Adam)

"I've been making use of the WJEC's blended learning resources and question banks. They have been very

useful. In subsequent exam years, there is even scope for further extending the content in the question banks." (Elin)

"Since I haven't completed any external examinations up to Year 13, the exams are an unknown quantity. So, the advanced notice of some examination topic content has been very welcome. This has been especially welcome in subjects where the adjustments to course content have

been more difficult to achieve." (Harvey)



Have Your Say – summer 2022 exams questionnaire

Learners, teachers, lecturers and anyone with an interest in this year's summer exams are invited to complete our short questionnaire on exams.

The feedback received will directly help monitor the qualifications system in Wales.

A questionnaire is open from 16 May until 4 July. It should only take around five minutes to complete.

If you would like to share your views, have your say by completing the online questionnaire:

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NW2FSC/











The Navy puts students through their problem solving paces







The Royal Navy have been to school to explain what a career in the

Navy involves and how they seek to make our troubled world a safer place.

During the visit, they led students in a range of team building and problem solving activities. The event was so successful that Mr Owen invited them back the following day to run the workshops with a second year group.

Careers Discovery Week

Building on the success of the first ever Career Discovery Week in 2021, Careers Wales has invited pupils in years 8, 9 and 10 to a week of online employer activities between 4 - 8 July 2022 linked to the Curriculum for Wales Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs).





What is unifrog? A one-stop-shop for getting in.











How does it help?

Unifrog empowers students and teachers.

This year's Career Discovery

Week will give pupils access to employer content from a range of industries, sectors and careers, all aimed at broadening their career horizons, raising aspirations and challenging any career limiting ideas around gender, race and background.

Mr Owen said, "These events will complement our new apprenticeship, careers and university information platform, 'Unifrog'. This fantastic platform not only guides students through the university application process, it provides valuable careers information, updates students on apprenticeship opportunities and Further Education college courses. It also provides information on US and Canadian university courses and degrees taught in English in Europe, Asia, and Australasia.

In parallel, there is now functionality to help students, parents and careers advisers with the whole application process - from deciding on a subject area, writing application essays and teacher recommendations, to building and sending an application."

Mental health support

As a school community, we benefit enormously from the help and support provided by colleagues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Kooth, Powys Educational Psychology team, the Youth Intervention Service (YIS) and other organisations engaged in supporting the mental health of our young people.

If you believe your child would benefit from additional expert support, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our pastoral team using the office email address. Alternatively, you can contact support agencies directly (see right).



Montgomeryshire Society Success

Congratulations to the many prize winners in the annual Montgomeryshire Society competitions. Llanidloes High School pupils have, once again, enjoyed considerable success.

GWOBRAU CLEMENT DAVIES PRIZES (CELF/ART)

Group/Adran A

1 Jessica Halsey Llanidloes
2 Brooke Fisher Llanidloes

Group/Adran B

1 Cerys Geere Llanidloes2 Sofia Brandon-Higgs Llanidloes

Group/Adran C

1 Trinity Stephens Llanidloes
2 Lorne Scane Llanidloes



CHARLES CHURCHILL & MARY VALENTINE PRIZES

(for an ENGLISH/WELSH ESSAY)
(am DRAETHAWD CYMRAEG neu SAESNEG)

Group/Adran A

1 Jamie Fansa2 Romily EllisLlanidloes

Group/Adran B

1 Dylan Marsden-Mosebury2 Dani MachadoLlanidloes

Group/Adran C

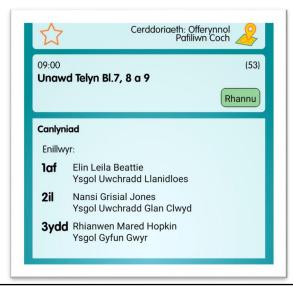
1 Cadi Davies2 Jess HarropLlanidloes

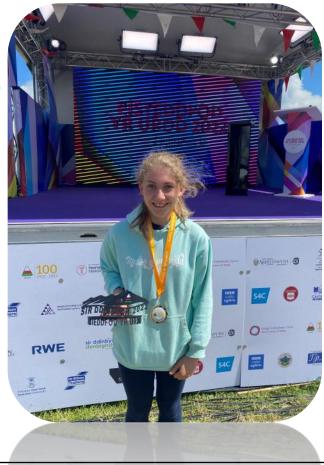


National

Eisteddfod Win

Well done to Elin Beattie who won the national Urdd harp final. She is pictured right with her gold medal and trophy.





Urdd success

Congratulations to all of our pupils who have helped the school achieve its greatest level of success in the Urdd Eisteddfod for many years.

went through to the final Eisteddfod in Denbigh.

Haf Higgs

1st - 2D Picture

Rose Foskett

1st - Black and white photography

1st - Fashion

2nd - Colour photography

2nd - Creative textiles

Ffion Davies-Williams

2nd - Series of black and white photos

3rd - Series of colour photos

Seren Thomas

2nd - Puppets

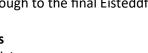
2nd - 3D Work







In the art/DT competitions, first and second place



Dates for the Diary

6 June	Return to school
14 June	Dr Lyn Sharratt and Welsh Government Llanidloes Federation learning walks
15 June	School Council meeting
22 June	Sports day
23 June	Year 11 Prom
24 June	Year 7 reports home to parents
27 June	Year 10 English oral preparation week
29 June	Year 6 induction day
30 June	Year 6 inductions day
30 June	Sixth Form Prom
4 July	Year 10 oral assessment recordings
6 July	Year 7/8 trip
7 July	Year 9/10 trip
8 July	Year 8 reports home to parents
11 July	Art and DT exhibition at the Minnerva Centre
11 July	Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition
14 July	SUMMER HOLIDAYS BEGIN FOR STUDENTS (whoop whoop!)
15 July	INSET day (no school for students)
18 August	A-level/post-16 RESULTS DAY (come to hall from 10am)
25 August	GCSE/pre-16 RESULTS DAY (come to hall from 10am)
1 September	INSET day (no school for students)
2 September	INSET day (no school for students)
5 September	BACK TO SCHOOL

The LA has announced that there will be two non-pupil days on Thursday $\mathbf{1}^{st}$ and Friday $\mathbf{2}^{nd}$ September as previously advertised. Pupils will return to school on Monday $\mathbf{5}^{th}$ September.

Non-Pupil Days

- Friday 15 July 2022
- Thursday 1 September 2022
- Friday 2 September 2022
- Monday 24 July 2023

There will be two further non-pupil days, one in the autumn term and one in the summer term, agreed on a cluster basis. Please check the school website for these dates.