

## **GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS ON THE PAST SCHOOL YEAR: 2016-17**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Governing Body is required to provide a report to parents each year and we are pleased to do so. Some of the material is included to meet statutory reporting requirements but there is additional information about the school, including changes in staff and curriculum and a record of achievements, both individual and collective.

I would like to begin this introduction with a thank you and a welcome. Thank you to Mrs Hayley Griffiths, our Acting Head Teacher for the last year. We are so grateful to her for leading our school through a difficult year. Parents will recall that over the last two years, we have had to manage cuts of approximately £500k out of a budget of £6m while, at the same time, seeking to provide our children with an excellent, balanced and varied education. It is a tribute to Mrs Griffiths' leadership and stewardship that we achieved this and ended the year with a modest surplus. This places the school in a far better financial position for this year. The governors are also extremely grateful to the school's staff for their loyalty, commitment and enthusiasm in giving of their best to our students.

The welcome, of course, is to Ms Mair Hughes, our new Head Teacher. We are delighted that she and her family have been willing to relocate from London after 18 years, to enable Ms Hughes to lead the school in the next phase of its life. I know that Ms Hughes is very keen to meet as many parents as possible. Her involvement in the parents' evenings and her open surgeries on Thursday evenings are examples of this. Our annual parent-governor meeting is another. Both Ms Hughes and the governors are keen to engage with the parents of our students and we very much hope that you will be able to come to the meeting at school on 17 October at 7.30pm.

We as governors and you as parents want our children to thrive at school; to find their strengths, to challenge their weaknesses, to do their best, and to enjoy being at Penglais. In that context, exam results are not the be all or end all, but they remain important. As you will know, the school remains in Estyn monitoring, largely due to concerns over

attendance, some of our results, and the gap between boys' and girls' achievements. Attendance has improved during the last year and many of our pupils have excelled themselves but the boy-girl gap remains as a challenge. I know it is one which Ms Hughes and the rest of our staff recognize, and which they are determined to face. The ambition is to see Penglais in the top 25% of school in Wales. Can it be done? Yes it can. That is our aim and our goal. So let us all commit to supporting the school and making that happen.

As always, I want to end this introduction by expressing my gratitude to all the members of the Governing Body for their support over the last challenging year. They have been very dedicated during a time of almost unrelenting pressure. In so doing, they have continued - as unpaid volunteers - to put in hours of work to help guide and direct this wonderful school.

***Richard John***

### **INTRODUCING THE GOVERNORS**

	<b>Expiry Date of Term of Office</b>
<b>Chair</b>	
Mr R John	15/11/17
<b>Vice Chair</b>	
Dr. J Moorby	15/11/17
<b>Headteacher</b>	
Ms M Hughes	N/A
<b>Clerk to the Governors</b>	
Mrs D M Owen	
<b>Teacher Governors</b>	
Mrs K S Porter	01/09/20
Mrs J J Elgood	01/11/20
<b>Staff Governor</b>	
Mrs H Clements	01/11/20
<b>Parent Governors</b>	
Ms G Glasby	01/11/20
Dr. J Moorby	01/11/20
Ms S Harper	01/11/19
Mr C Turner	01/11/19
Mr P Williams	01/11/19

Dr. R Stevenson 01/11/19

### Community Governors

Mr R Bennett 01/11/18  
Mr R John 01/11/18  
Mr K Jones 01/11/20  
Dr. A Williams 01/11/19

### LEA Governors

Cllr. C Davies 09/05/21  
Ms S Cavandoli 01/11/19  
Rector M Farah 27/02/21  
Cllr. P James 09/05/21

Any enquiries to the governors can be sent via Donna Owen, Clerk to the Governing Body  
[Tel:01970-621163](tel:01970-621163) or email:  
[dmo@penglais.org.uk](mailto:dmo@penglais.org.uk)

### SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The plan sets out the aims and priorities for the school development and provides a crucial framework for effective management and enables us to evaluate progress against annual targets. The School Development Plan is available for parents to view in school. Parents wishing to receive a personal copy are invited to request one from Mrs Donna Owen, Clerk to the Governing Body at Penglais School, Waunfawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3AW.

The main priorities identified for 2016-17 were the recommendations made by Estyn in their Core Inspection of January 2016:

- R1: Improve the achievement of boys and pupils entitled to free school meals
- R2: Improve attendance rates
- R3: Improve the co-ordination for the development of pupils' literacy and numeracy skills to help them make suitable progress in all subjects
- R4: Improve the quality of teaching and assessment
- R5: Address the health and safety concerns raised during the inspection
- R6: Ensure that the senior leaders hold middle leaders to account for raising standards
- R7: Improve the rigour and effectiveness of self-evaluation and improvement planning at all levels

The school has made progress in addressing each of the recommendations. A summary report of the impact of the school's actions will

be sent to Estyn in November 2017. The SDP for 2017-18 has wider-ranging priorities which incorporates the Estyn recommendations.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

The school continues to manage its budget under very difficult circumstances with the school budget being cut. It was agreed with the Local Authority that the school would go into deficit in April 2015 (-£290,000) and then implement a three year plan to move the budget back into balance by 2017. It is pleasing that the school succeeded in finishing the 2016-17 budget with a small surplus of £90,000. However with further cuts likely it is important that we are able to build contingency for the future. The school is working closely with the Local Authority in managing the possible cuts. The school will have an initial indication of budget in January 2018 for the new financial year.

Over the spring and summer terms the school's governing body has had to implement a number of strategies in order to reduce spending in line with our reduced budget whilst enabling the school to raise standards of achievement. The key priority of the Governing Body has been to protect the teaching budget where possible but the governors have had to make some very difficult decisions. These have included changes to the curriculum and teaching groups and support staff structure. The school continues to offer a wide range of options at Key Stages 4 and 5 that meet the Welsh Government requirements.

### SETTING AND MEETING TARGETS

The main indicators for school performance are explained below:

<b>L1 Indicator</b>	<b>Attainment of at least 5 GCSEs at A*-G</b>
<b>L2 Indicator</b>	<b>Attainment of at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C</b>
<b>L2+ Indicator</b>	<b>Attainment of at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C (including English or Welsh 1st Lang and Maths)</b>
<b>Welsh Bacc</b>	<b>Attainment of at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C (including the Welsh Bacc qualification, English or Welsh 1st Lang and Maths)</b>

**Capped points Average of the 9 best score GCSE GCSE grades per pupil L3 Indicator Attainment of 2 or more A Level passes**

**Core Subject Attainment of at least Indicator (CSI) Level 5 in KS3 assessments in all the core subjects**

Miss F Howard	Mr A Wells
Ms R Dawson	Mr H Bonsall
Mrs C Chung	Ms R Howells
Mr A Cross	Mrs A Turner
Mrs Y Dryburgh	Mrs M Capecchi
Mrs E Jones	Miss M James
Mrs J Newbold	Ms C Smith
Mrs S Owen	Mrs C Thomas

The Welsh Government compares schools' performance across Wales for each of the indicators above. One important benchmark is the comparison of our school performance with that of schools with a similar percentage of pupils claiming free school meals.

At post-16 the average A Level grades, including the Welsh Baccalaureate, were ABB.

In Key Stage 4:

Performance in English in 2017 stood at 68% which was less than 2016 which was 73%. Performance in Maths in 2017 was at 63% and the Numeracy achieved 68% both of which represent a reduction from previous years. In Science the department achieved a strong result of 76.5% for the two GCSE examinations.

Much intervention work is being carried out this year with the aim to improve the 2018 performance such that it is higher than the average for similar schools. Current predictions look promising and we should meet our targets in the summer.

At KS3, our Year 9 group last year achieved very well compared to previous years. The Core Subject Indicator which is the percentage of pupils obtaining Level 5 in all three of English or Welsh First Language, Maths and Science was 91.9%.

As a school we are very proud of our pupils' achievements. The school is most grateful to the unrelenting hard work of our staff, the efforts of our pupils and the tremendous support of parents and governors.

### STAFFING

We said a sad farewell to the following members of staff left Penglais in 2016-17:

Miss A Evans	Mr N Taylor
Mrs R Merry	Mrs B Walker

### CURRICULUM CHANGES

Pupils have access to a very broad and balanced curriculum through all key stages.

Throughout the curriculum, improvement of basic literacy and numeracy is fundamental. Many pupils have timetabled lessons where basic numeracy and literacy are the main focus. Other pupils are withdrawn from lessons in order to improve a specific need such as spelling. All schemes of work in Key Stage 3 are focussing more on literacy and numeracy following the statutory National Literacy and Numeracy Framework. We have been providing a narrative report to parents regarding literacy and numeracy within subject areas to ensure a greater understanding of pupil progress for parents. We are also auditing our progress towards the digital competency framework and will be adjusting schemes of work where necessary.

In Key Stage 4, pupils could choose from three option boxes with a wide variety of subjects, including vocational, practical and academic. All pupils now study the Welsh Baccalaureate giving all the chance to obtain a GCSE equivalent qualification.

In the Sixth Form we have again managed to maintain a wide range of subjects and have attracted many pupils to the school who wish to study a broad and interesting range of options. Sciences continue to be a popular choice alongside humanities and social sciences.

### ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS / SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The department provides support for pupils with a variety of additional needs. It comprises of the Learning Support Centre (LSC), Dyslexia and Skills Centre, Numeracy Support Centre, Hearing Resource Centre [HRC] for Deaf and Hearing Impaired pupils and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Centre.

The HRC currently has four members of staff. The unit has now expanded to provide extra provision as we have had an increase in pupils with hearing impairments joining the school.

The team of Teaching Assistants [TAs] continues to work effectively as a committed group to give invaluable in-class support to pupils and staff. Some of the TAs are based in the LSC, the majority are based in mainstream groups. The team join the INSET training on offer to teaching staff when appropriate and have also had training on literacy and numeracy support. The local authority SEN team also offers training for pupils' specific needs. Training last year included sessions with a focus on ADHD, attachment and Autism Spectrum Difficulties.

All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 undertake statutory testing in May each year and the data is analysed to ensure all pupils receive any additional support necessary. The data is also utilised to check progress for individuals receiving additional basic skills provision. These results are recorded and shared with mainstream teachers and support staff on an annual basis.

We have also introduced whole school screening to support the identification of pupil difficulties much earlier.

Pupils in the smaller supported class have ten timetabled Skills lessons in Year 7. They are seen by specialist staff and a range of programmes are used to address any literacy needs. Other pupils who are struggling with aspects of literacy are seen for intervention by being withdrawn from lessons.

Additional Numeracy Support continues with the 12-7 'catch-up' programme. This intervention uses Year 12 trained volunteers to work with Year 7 pupils to boost their mathematical skills.

The EAL centre has a teacher and a full time member of support staff. Pupils with English as an Additional Language (who often arrive in Penglais with very limited command of the language) continue to be given support by the EAL team. This may be in the form of an intense language programme or in-class support as necessary. Many of these pupils go

on to do extremely well in their external examinations.

Several accessibility issues have been addressed this year, which has allowed pupils with limited mobility and wheelchair users much more access to the school site.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY AND SCHOOL SECURITY**

A health and safety audit is carried out annually by Mr P J Jones, Health and Safety Co-ordinator at the school and Mr C Turner, governor with responsibility for health and safety. For 2016-17 this was carried out in February 2017. No major problems were found during the last audit.

During 2016-17 many improvements have been made to improve accessibility around the site, these include new flooring to replace steps, a new path and access door on D block corridor, a wheelchair ramp in the quad, a lowering of one major path in the quad, as well as a lift. Funding was secured from Ceredigion County Council for much of this work, and all works are due to be completed in October 2018. Mr Jones works closely with Ceredigion Council Health and Safety staff, the school site staff throughout the year and he also meets with representatives from the Health and Safety department during the school year. Further work will take place to improve the ventilation and reduce heating in South-facing classrooms in A Block.

Since September 2013 it is a requirement that the school reports on its toilet facilities. At Penglais they are as follows:

### **D Block Corridor:**

Boys 7 cubicles, 2 rows of urinals  
Girls 11 cubicles  
1 accessible cubicle

### **Learning Support Centre:**

1 male cubicle  
1 female cubicle  
1 disabled cubicle

### **PE changing rooms (outside):**

Boys 2 urinals, 1 cubicle  
Girls 2 cubicles  
1 disabled cubicle

### **PE changing rooms (inside):**

Boys 1 cubicle

Girls 2 cubicles  
1 disabled cubicle

### **Sixth Form Centre:**

Boys 4 cubicles, 2 urinals  
Girls 6 cubicles  
1 disabled cubicle

The boys' toilets in D block are flushed 6 times a day and freshened up 2-3 times a day. There are two extractor fans and a sanitiser. The toilets are also fully cleaned at the end of every day. For 2017-18 further work will take place in improving the toilet and changing rooms facilities. All other toilets are cleaned at the end of the day.

### **PROMOTING HEALTHY SCHOOLS**

National Quality Awards 2014-2017

The NQA is ongoing from our last assessment in 2015, with the aim of completing in December 2017

The following areas have been covered while working through from Phase 1 to Phase 5 in the Ceredigion Healthy Schools Scheme. The scheme encourages schools to promote health through work with pupils and staff and to raise awareness with parents, governors and the wider community.

Phase 1	2006 & 2008	Nutrition and Safety
Phase 2	2010	Environment and Physical Activity
Phase 3	2013	Personal Development and Relationships, Mental, Emotional Health and Wellbeing
Phase 4	2014	Hygiene
Phase 5	2015	Substance Use and Misuse Education

Evidence is being collated under seven health topics for the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Schemes National Quality Award (NQA).

- Mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- Food and fitness
- Personal development and relationships
- Substance Use and Misuse
- Environment
- Safety
- Hygiene

### **LIBRARY REPORT**

The library remained with a £3000 budget for 2016-17 with the additional funding from PTA funds from 2015 to supplement it. £500 of the budget was allocated to the setup of eBooks. 46 titles were added initially and these will remain online through a gap year in the 2017 subscription as the budget is insufficient to maintain this expenditure. Uptake has been slow but positive. An introduction has been rolled out across Year 7 again but if preference remains for print titles throughout school, then the budget allocation will be towards those.

The remainder of the 2016 budget was spent on subscription renewals, software licence renewals and fiction titles. The library's opening hours remain the same including break times and lunches. The librarian's role was changed to include the responsibility of examinations administration.

### **Use of Library Facilities**

The library was fully booked across the two week timetable and all Sixth Form registered study periods reverted back to the Sixth Form which resolved the previous year's issues. There were also improvements to the issues regarding lunch time behaviour with additional staff on duty on or near the library. The library has been full to capacity most lunches and breaks across the year, pupils are choosing to complete their work and tasks and use computers rather than read a book. Reader interest still remains high for general magazines.

### **Book Borrowing Statistics**

Loans for September 2016-2017 have declined. Boys borrowing is down to 196 loans from 313 the previous year and overall borrowing across the school shows a total book decrease of 717.

### **Year 7 Inductions**

All Year 7 inductions were timetabled for the first two weeks of term ensuring pupils



received their PC log on and email information.

### **BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE**

In the last academic year the attendance figure for Years 7-11 was 94.7%. This figure was a significant increase from 94.2% the previous year. This achievement has put the school back into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile.

Our current target set by the authority continues to be 95% and in order to achieve this target we will continue to reinforce current good practice within Penglais as well as reinforce a number of initiatives recently used to reach our challenging target.

The main initiatives used to raise the level of attendance in Penglais were:

- School intervention to any student below 95% attendance (letter, meeting etc.)
- Non-authorisation of attendance for students below 95% attendance

A result of these changes saw a significant increase in the number of informal warning letters being issued by the authority and resulted in a number of families being fined for their child's poor attendance.

The school has continued to raise the profile and importance of attendance. Regular league tables are published by form and placed on year group noticeboards, along with lists of those pupils with 100% attendance. Those pupils with 100% attendance were awarded certificates at our evening for Celebrating Achievement. Heads of Year stress the importance of attendance regularly in assemblies. School reports to all pupils include a figure, a comment and information of the level of appropriate attendance.

The Assistant Headteacher met once each week with the Education Inclusion Officer (EIO). At these meetings pupils with poor attendance are discussed and those who meet the criteria are referred to the LEA. The EIO will invite the parents in for a meeting in school. If appropriate, referrals will be made to the school medical service and/or the county legal department. When attendance does not improve, this will lead to further meetings with the involvement of appropriate

outside agencies together with the county solicitor.

An early intervention approach has been used in the last four years very successfully with the EIO. When attendance remains poor but does not meet the criteria for a formal referral, the EIO will come into school to meet parents. In nearly all cases attendance improved significantly and with immediate effect which has been sustained. This system is now supported by the EIO attending Pastoral Committee meetings.

Correspondence between school and home occurs regularly via letters, newsletters and information leaflets. 'Truancy call' was another initiative introduced that has seen a positive impact upon attendance.

The new behaviour policy that distinguishes between emotional behaviour and learning behaviour saw a decline in behaviour incidents as the year progressed. The result of this meant that students remained in lessons and thus continued their learning.

The work of the Inclusion Unit (BONT) in school continues to expand. The main purpose of the unit being set up in school was to prevent exclusion. In the last academic year Encil was again used as an alternative to exclusion and, as a result prevented a number of possible exclusions from occurring.

Hafan continues to support pupils with behavioural and emotional problems and prevents incidents which may lead to disciplinary sanctions being imposed.

Placing pastoral managers in hotspot classes helped support the new behaviour policy. This has allowed more pupils to be supported in the mainstream and to remain in lessons. This has been hugely successful; when pupils with behaviour problems are supported in lessons this leads to less disruption and fewer use of sanctions.

### **WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY AND WELSH ETHOS**

The school continues to implement the County Language Policy. The school's agreed policy is as follows:

The school takes pride in continuing to develop a distinctive Welsh ethos and in

affirming its commitment to bilingualism. Linguistic continuation and progression between key stages is recognised.

- Welsh first language groups will continue to be staffed generously to ensure appropriate differentiation and progression.
- Pupils entering Year 7 can opt to study Geography, RE, Music and Art through the medium of Welsh. This option is to allow these pupils to better develop their reading, writing and speaking skills in Welsh. All staff are encouraged to use Welsh with pupils through classroom interaction or comments in books.
- Pupils in Welsh medium registration groups will have their form period time and regular Welsh assemblies to support pastoral development.
- All pupils are either taught Welsh first language or Welsh second language depending on their programme of study in Key Stage 2.

As a result of these measures between 20-30% of the curriculum will be delivered either through the medium of Welsh or bilingually. However, the teaching and learning experience will be predominantly through the medium of English and the school believes this is in keeping with the majority of parents' and pupils' wishes. Examination courses in Key Stage Four and in the Sixth Form will, with the exception of Welsh, be conducted through the medium of English

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Last year saw a new structure introduced for the school council. The formation of the school council was made up of a faculty representative (curriculum) and a year group representative (pastoral). In order for these members to be elected, firstly each faculty and year group formed their own individual council.

Members were elected to their individual faculty or year group councils via ballot and were coordinated by the faculty lead or head of year. Each council then elected a lead member that would sit on the whole school council. It was proposed that each separate council would meet every half a term and report to the whole school council at the end of every half term.

The School Council for 2016/17 met for the first time in early October. They elected officials organised the creation of the fixed agenda items for both faculty and year groups a school council blog, notice board and began to discuss their priorities for the coming year. The committee then began work by drawing up its own list of priorities, which included; continuing to raise the profile of the Council, looking at ways of improving the curriculum and pastoral systems.

During the year, pupils have met regularly and discussed whole school issues such as behaviour, attendance, staffing etc. They have also worked on developing the uniform changes recently seen in school. This was fed back to the Acting Headteacher in a session looking at views of the School council.

The School Council helped with the Year 6 transition days and supported the school open evening. Several members of the group speaking to parents and pupils on the night regarding the role of the school council.

The School Council has been consulted on a range of school policies and has informed curricular change. Their input was greatly valued and their feedback was used to shape the schools development plan. The pupils played a part in the interview process for the new Assistant Head and Head teacher and were able to ask searching questions.

The continued work of the School Council is supporting Penglais in working towards the National Award and if successful, will be the first secondary school in Ceredigion to achieve this award.

## **SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **'Sports Crew'**

The 'Sports Crew' is in its third year and has thirty four members from Years 7, 8 and 9. The Sports Crew continue to help the AYP Officer and PE Department in promoting, organising and running sports clubs in Penglais School. The crew were part of the Sky Sports project this year and worked with Christian Roberts on two visits that he made to the school. The Sports Crew have also coached at three primary school sports festivals this year, one in each term. They received fantastic feedback from the primary schools about their communication skills as well as their encouragement of the children and welcoming

manner. Eight members of the Year 9 Sports Crew have successfully applied to become Silver Young Ambassadors from September 2017, successfully progressing on the coaching pathway. These eight pupils were part of the original pilot scheme four years ago when AYP officers worked with primary schools in selecting Bronze Young Ambassadors in Year 6 who could run lunchtime clubs within the schools. This shows how the Young Ambassador pathway works and the pupils have progressed brilliantly, developing as coaches and gaining in confidence.

### **5x60 Dance Competition**

The Penglais 5x60 dance squads competed in the 5x60 Ceredigion Dance Competition held in Theatr Felinfach in February 2017. In total twenty four girls took part and the girls spent months learning and practising their routines with the help of choreographer Ceri Davies. They attended the weekly 5x60 Hip-hop club and also put in extra hours during break times and at weekends, demonstrating their dedication. All the practice paid off this year as Penglais won the Junior Group dance category, the first time in the school's history! Well done girls!

### **Young Ambassadors**

We had two Year 13 students promoted to Gold Ambassador status in September 2016, Jess Wall and Meg Rowe. Both Jess and Meg attended a Gold National Ambassador Conference in Cardiff in October. They have worked tirelessly to increase participation in physical activity and promote wellbeing, both in school and in local primary schools. The gold young ambassadors were involved in coaching at primary school festivals, in both Sky Sports visits as well as helping to mentor our Bronze Young Ambassadors who are in Year 6. As well as two gold YA's, we had Megan Mason from Year 12 as a Silver Young Ambassador. Megan helped to run lunchtime clubs, coached at festivals and helped the PE department throughout the year.

### **Sky Sports: Living for Sport**

This year we continued to run projects through the Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' initiative. We were assigned an athlete mentor to come in to work with the group and also spend time with other groups who may benefit. Christian Roberts (former Professional Footballer) addressed pupils in assembly, worked with the

Sports Crew and Young Ambassadors and also ran taster football sessions. The Sky Sports project had a real impact on a wide range of our students.

### **Aber CycleFest**

Penglais pupils took eighteen pupils to participate in the school mountain and road bike races organised by the Aber Cyclefest team in May. The pupils raced along the roads that the pro riders were competing on later in the evening. As a school we had one podium finish through Layla Parker winning bronze in the Road bikes race.

### **School Sport Council 2016 - 17**

Following the results of the School Sport Survey (National Sport Wales Survey), we decided to set up a School Sports Council to allow pupils to voice their opinions, concerns and suggestions on issues related to school sport, PE and extra-curricular clubs. The Council addressed a number of topics, including the PE kit worn by pupils and the need for another indoor sports facility in Penglais. Following their discussions they have been involved in selecting a new PE kit for Penglais pupils, which has now been introduced. The Sports Council have also liaised with the PE department, helping to identify what to use the indoor space for and how to go about it. It was decided to turn the small room into a fitness room which can be used for lessons as well as extra-curricular sessions. The PE department have sought grant funding and have organised a charity event (24-hour run) to raise money for the new facility, which is now set up. Staff will be trained in the Autumn term 2017 with a view to starting sessions after October half term.

### **Netball**

Both U18 and U16 teams achieved success in the Ceredigion Championships held in Lampeter last October. The U16 team won all their matches in their pool but lost by one goal in the final against Aberaeron. In the U18 category, the team got to the final, winning the competition and got through to the West Wales competition that was held in January against the Southern Counties. Despite some of the team members not being able to compete, they came a respectable 4<sup>th</sup> place.

### **Football Welsh Cup Competition**

A total of five teams were entered from Penglais (3 boys teams and 2 girls teams). The U12 boys achieved some very pleasing results gaining a place in the Semi Final against Bryn Hyfryd school in North Wales, but lost the match 2-1 away. In the U14's, the team reached the quarter final stages losing at home to Bro Myrddin 3-0. At U16 level, having won the Ceredigion tournament they sadly lost in the third round against Coedcae school in Llanelli. Both girls teams at U13 and U15 level won some of their matches in their pool at the county tournament but didn't get through in either age groups.

### **Cricket**

Zaid Khan a pupil in year 10 has gone from strength to strength in the sporting arena. Cricket is his passion and he has been awarded Player of the Year at Aberystwyth Cricket club two years in a row. His notable achievements include taking 8 out of 10 wickets against Carmarthen first team. He also scored 58 runs off 22 balls, including 5 6s, against Aberaeron, an achievement which got a special mention in the Cambrian News. He has captained the school team to victory in every match in the last two years. Zaid is a popular team member and a natural leader who has extremely bright prospects for his future.

### **Urdd Gymnastics**

Penglais entered ten girls into the Urdd gymnastics competition that was held in Lampeter last November. They competed in both the individual and partner categories and practiced diligently for weeks leading up to the event. The day was an enormous success, celebrating a first place in the individual routine, and a second and third place for the pair sequences.

### **Ceredigion Athletics**

The school is very proud of the many pupils from Penglais who represented the school and were selected to take part at the Dyfed Championships on Saturday June 11th at Johnstown Athletic Track in Carmarthen. The pupils were selected having come within the first three places in their individual events.

### **Congratulations to:**

#### **Year 7**

Yoyo Barron – 100m 1<sup>st</sup>  
Orla O'Regan – 800m 1<sup>st</sup>

Kitty Heidt – 1500m 1<sup>st</sup>  
Freya Young – Hurdles 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### **Year 8**

Harbi Cooper - 1500m 2nd  
Katelyn Carton - Hurdles 3rd  
Wiktorija Cieluch – Long Jump 1st  
Josh Hathaway - 100m 1st  
Alastair Donnison - 300m 1<sup>st</sup> 1500m 3rd

#### **Year 9**

Ffion Duckett – 100m 2nd  
Ceris Richards – 200m 2nd  
Lucy Gaul – 1500m 1st  
Siwan Richards – Hurdles 2nd  
Emma Bucknor – Javelin 2nd  
Alfie Hughes – 300m 3rd  
George Thurston – Long jump 2nd  
Kuba Borzyn – High Jump 1st (New County record)

#### **Year 10**

Sonnie Paluch-Ward – 100m – 1st 2nd;  
200m 1st  
Ryan Gilmore – Shot 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ryan Gilmore – Javelin – 3rd

**Dyfed Schools Championships** – Due to torrential rain, the Championships were cancelled and athletes from Athletics clubs or school representatives with exceptional performances were selected.  
Kuba Borzyn – High jump 1st (PB of 1.70m)

### **Welsh Representatives:**

#### **Football**

Harri Horwood  
Oliver Farebrother  
Alex Pennock

#### **Basketball**

U14 – Obi Nwaefulu  
U12 – Naz Bonner-Mich and Josh Tudor

#### **Gymnastics**

Alyse Goffin

#### **Triathlon**

Alastair Donnison

#### **Fishing**

Tanya Morgan  
Thomas Sherman

#### **Swimming**

Holly - Elise

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP**

Throughout 2016-17 our Sixth Form students have continued to support our school and wider community through extra-curricular activities and fundraising events. All students complete a minimum of 30 hours of Community Participation as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate and many choose to exceed the requirement. We are very proud of the contribution and achievements of our students. These extra-curricular activities foster an awareness of the needs of others, a collaborative approach and create a very positive ethos within the Sixth Form and indeed the whole school.

Students have contributed to our community through:

**School assemblies** – feedback from both staff and pupils remain positive on the assemblies that members of our Sixth Form have delivered on a broad range of topics. Some have been linked to fund-raising activities in order to increase participation throughout the school and to raise awareness of the charities being supported, others have been to promote extra-curricular initiatives such as the debate clubs. Other assemblies have followed the theme of the week.

**Student support in the classroom** – Sixth Form students have successfully contributed to the support of pupils in Art, French and Maths lessons and within the Learning Support Centre. The students played a key role in the Year 6 induction process in the summer term, acting as both form buddies and leading induction lessons. We are looking to develop this supportive role further in the future in collaboration with the current proactive and altruistic Prefect Team.

**Students support others to prepare re-sit GCSE and AS examinations.** Some of our gifted and talented students have offered to support their peers experiencing difficulties. They have supported those students being mentored or those with re-sits during free periods. This is done under the guidance of the Head of Year.

**Charity fund raising activities** are initiated and organised by members of our Sixth Form. These have included own clothes days, cake stalls, and sports competitions. In total, students have raised over £3000 to date which

has gone to support national, local and international charities. Many charities have benefited including RNLI, MacMillan Coffee Morning, Volunteering, Urdd, Children in Need and Sports Relief, to name but a few. The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification requires that students be involved in Enterprise projects. Many of these projects have also raised a considerable amount of money for charity.

**Voluntary work** is something that many of our students are involved with. They volunteer at Hafan Y Waun; in the town's charity shops; Ceredigion Museum; help to run local sports; Cub, Beaver and Scout groups, and they help to improve Welsh language skills on residential courses held at Llangrannog. They are involved in fund-raising events at local primary schools.

**Sports Sessions.** The Sixth Form help with the running of sporting activities through 5x60. They also support the Head of Sixth Form in maintaining close links with the university sports centre with the Gym inductions for the new intake of Year 12s.

**The School's Activity Days in July.** Students organise and lead a range of activities for the whole school during activities week. These included quizzes, films, sports sessions and game shows. The students also helped to run events organised by departments within the school.

**Continued links with external organisations** which have provided training opportunities for our students. Amnesty International and Debate Groups are thriving at Penglais. These Groups are under the control of the Sixth Form. The Rotary and Aber Instruments are very supportive of our school community as is the University.

**Supporting the work of the PTA** through organising and running stalls for the Autumn Fair and selling raffle tickets. They have also participated in the popular Curry and Quiz Night.

**Supporting the fund-raising activities of local groups,** for example, by bag-packing at Morrisons.

**Supporting events within school.** The Sixth Form students have been excellent ambassadors for the school, not only at its Open Evening but also at Careers Fairs, information evenings and of course the celebrating achievement event.

**Enrichment activities.** The Sixth Form run two weekly debate groups. One is a Science Debate Group and the other on Current Affairs. Both groups are very well attended and run completely by the sixth form. They also run 'open debates' and debates specifically for the lower school. We are excited to be competing again in the Cardiff Schools Debating Competition in October.

## **WORK RELATED AND ENTERPRISE EDUCATION**

Year 7 took part in the Crucial Crew event where several public services explained their roles in the community. The focus of the day is on how to stay safe and highlighting the importance of public sector job roles. They also evaluated their personal skills through PSHE lessons. This event gives pupils a chance to not only develop their skills such as team work and problem solving but also gives them an opportunity to ask questions about careers in the public services.

Some pupils in Year 8 and 9 are taking part in the work related Agored qualification which teaches self-awareness and time management, decision making and exploring entrepreneurship. They will also be exploring job opportunities and career planning in Year 9. This is done with the careers advisor in Bont and through WBQ lessons. They are learning interview techniques for college places or job interviews.

Year 9 have also had the opportunity to see how their choices can affect their future career opportunities through *Your Future Your Choice*. This is held in November before the pupils choose their options for Year 10. They learnt about: being an entrepreneur; higher education and Welsh in the workplace. This takes place over a whole day and the pupils get to find out information and ask questions to guest speakers from local companies, colleges and universities. This will help them to think about what they need for the future

and what qualifications or skills they need to get the job or career they want.

In the Higher Education or Further Education (HE/FE) workshop, they gave the pupils an understanding of HE/FE after school; what college life is like / Grants / Applications process / variety of courses / costs / funding and to help them consider if this is the route they would like to take. Also to consider HE/FE courses and the importance of subject choices moving into year 10. The Entrepreneur groups explained their career paths to where they are today. They also explained how they set up their business including costs / customers / marketing / budgeting / funding / advantages and disadvantages of being self-employed. Careers Wales was delivered by the school Careers Adviser who showed the pupils how to register onto Careers.com web page. They then used the web page to find different sets of information e.g. Apprenticeships/Job vacancies/Labour Market Information/Local job trends. This was to introduce the pupils to the web page and how useful it will be over the next 3 years in school when researching Business sectors, job vacancies and training routes. *Welsh in the Work Place* helped the pupils to understand the importance of Welsh in the Work Place and how the Welsh language can open up potentially more work opportunities.

Year 10 and 12 took part in a trial for an App working with the NHS and Sort. The NHS's clinical placements are exclusively available through Sort. Pupils will have the opportunity to work with the NHS in Bronglais to do clinical work experience, which has never been done before in schools, and will give the pupils opportunities to work with a variety of professions particularly anyone considering nursing, physio or occupational therapy. The NHS work experience opportunities will be exclusive to just five schools/colleges in West Wales who have signed up to the app trialling. Pupils who were interested in working in a job for the NHS were invited to meet the app designers and the careers advisor within the

NHS for Hywel Dda, Rob Blake. They explained the variety of jobs within the NHS and the app. Pupils signed up as beta testers, which meant they got to see job opportunities before any other pupils in Wales for companies such as Land Rover, Virgin, and the NHS. The best suggestions and beta testers also got to win a prize and two pupils from our school were successful. We had a successful winner in both Year 12 and Year 10.

Year 10 attended the Ceredigion Careers Festival in the university. This is run with Careers Wales and Business Class and allows pupils to explore opportunities and speak with employers about possible apprenticeships and future careers. Students were required to complete the work book during their visit and choose five careers that they are interested in; to visit the stands and ask the employers questions that will help them to fill in the booklet. The booklet will be a useful reference when planning their career route. This will be running again this year and measures have already been put in place for the pupils to take a more active role in the day. We have pupils creating a video and there are interactive sessions explaining careers and apprenticeships during registration time for Year 10 forms.

Year 10 Work Skills pupils have attended a week long work experience with employers at various local companies gaining important skills and qualities for future work. This is also part of their qualification for Level 2 BTEC. These pupils have also been preparing for job interviews with the careers advisor through the Cynnydd project.

Year 11 designed a game in their WBQ lessons and learnt how to promote their game to external assessors. They learnt about entrepreneurial skills and promotion.

Year 12 pupils have taken part in the enterprise unit for the Welsh Bac where they are required to set up and run a business as a social enterprise. Visits have also been

undertaken to university open days for Years 12 and 13 pupils.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

During the academic year 2016-2017 the Music Department has maintained the extra-curricular music opportunities offered to all students at Penglais.

The Music Department runs a variety of ensembles: School Choir, Main Wind Band, the Jazz Band, School Brass Band, School String Group, and a String Trio. All these participate in many community events annually and also compete in competitions such as the Urdd Eisteddfod and Music for Youth. The whole music department participated in the Christmas service, which was held in Llanbadarn Church in December and contributed to many other performances with the Celebration Assembly and the Prize Giving and Caroling in Llanbadarn community. A large group of students also visited London in January where we saw Wicked and Matilda and also went on a guided tour of the National Theatre. However, the highlight of the year by far was the School production of Sweeney Todd where we performed to a sell-out audience in almost every performance.

### **Highlights of the year:**

- Christmas Concert at Llanbadarn Church
- Trip to London to see the musicals Matilda and Wicked
- Many students managing to get their work performed with the Steve Bingham and Steve Crowther ensemble as part of the Dyfed Young Composer.
- Success by some students in the National Youth Groups.
- Sweeney Todd.
- Numerous performances at Borth for the senior Citizens.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **September 2016**

A composition workshop for GCSE and 'A' level students was held at Aberaeron in preparation for the Dyfed Young Composer competition with the resident Steve Bingham and Steve Crowther ensemble.

### **November 2016**

Lynne Plowman, a leading contemporary composer, visited the school to work with GCSE and A-Level students.

### **December 2016**

Lynne Plowman, returned to work with some more pupils who wish to submit compositions for the Dyfed Young Composer Competition.

Penglais Brass provided musical items for the turning-on of the Llanbadarn Christmas lights.

The annual "Candles and Carols" service was held at Llanbadarn Church and the year 9 vocal ensemble were invited to perform at the University Christian Union carol service, which was a huge success.

### **January 2017**

Music trip to London to see Matilda and Wicked

### **February 2017**

Sweeney Todd.

Nansi Dingle got through to the final round of the Rotary Competition and was very successful.

### **March 2017**

Lynne Plowman, returned for individual tutorials with more pupils who wish to submit compositions for the Dyfed Young Composer Competition.

Musical items were provided for the prize giving event at the Great Hall and school colours were handed out to Year 11 pupils.

### **April 2017**

The Penglais Windband competed in the first round of the Music for Youth competition held in Haverford West. Also, the year 9 newly formed pop group also competed.

Four of our music students were successful enough to have their work performed in the final of the Young Composer of Dyfed competition held at Rhosygilwen.

### **August 2017**

Following their A-Level results, **ALL** of our Music A-Level students are going on to study full-time music courses in higher education!

Edith Smith, a year 11 pupil, successfully gained a place to study Musical Theatre at Drama School.

The Music Department gained 100% GCSE pass rate from A\* - C for another year running.

Richard John  
**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**

**Penglais School Examination Officer's Report 2016 at 10 Oct**

**GCE EXAMINATION STATISTICS**

**Table 1: Penglais School A2 Level performance in 2017**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Total entry</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U/X/Q</b>
Art	17	0	2	2	4	5	1	3
Biology	13	2	2	3	4	0	1	1
Chemistry	24	2	7	7	5	2	1	0
Chinese	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Design and Technology	16	0	1	2	4	8	1	0
Drama	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
English Literature	15	1	2	3	4	2	2	1
French	4	1	2	0	0	1	0	0
Geography	26	3	4	8	8	2	1	0
Geology	6	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
German	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Health and Social Care	11	0	2	6	1	2	0	0
History	48	0	9	13	14	11	1	0
Information Technology	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Italian	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	27	8	4	3	3	1	7	1
Mathematics Further	8	2	3	3	0	0	0	0
Media Studies	22	0	0	3	12	4	2	1
Music	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
PE	11	0	1	2	3	3	2	0
Physics	28	7	3	8	8	1	0	1
Psychology	26	0	6	9	6	1	3	1
RE	12	0	1	1	4	4	1	1
Sociology	17	1	1	4	5	6	0	0
Spanish	4	0	0	3	1	0	0	0

**Table 2: Welsh Baccaulaureate (new this year)**

Entry	Pass	Fail
133	110	23

**Table 3: Welsh Baccaulaureate Skills Challenge Certificate (new this year)**

(Equivalent to one full A Level)

Entry	A	B	C	D	U	X
133	30	44	31	13	7	8

**Table 2: Sixth Form BTEC results by subject. (Only Level 3 subjects count towards Level 3 threshold: Certificate = 1 AS grade, sub diploma = 1 A2 grade)**

	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass
Business Level 3 Certificate	0	0	0	4
Business Level 3 Sub Diploma	1	2	0	4
Travel and Tourism Level 3 Certificate	0	0	0	2
Travel and Tourism Level 3 sub diploma	5	0	1	1
Vehicle technology Level 3 Sub Diploma	0	0	1	5

## GCSE EXAMINATION STATISTICS

**Table 4: Examination results at GCSE by subject**

There were 181 pupils on roll in Year 11 in January 2017.

Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U/X
Arabic										
Art	40	7	4	14	4	8	3	0	0	0
Catering	8	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Child Dev	15	0	0	1	5	5	4	0	0	0
Chinese	19	3	3	7	6	0	0	0	0	0
Classical Civ	17	5	1	4	3	1	2	0	1	0
DT Graphics	22	2	6	6	6	2	0	0	0	0
DT Resistant	11	0	0	2	1	5	2	1	0	0
English Lang	178	11	21	50	42	25	13	13	2	1
English Lit	150	12	23	55	35	17	4	2	1	1
French	22	4	7	8	3	0	0	0	0	0
Geography	77	16	20	12	20	6	3	0	0	0
German	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health & Social	17	0	3	8	1	0	2	2	1	0
History	76	12	18	14	17	6	7	2	0	0
IT	21	0	4	7	5	0	3	1	1	0
Mathematics	177	21	21	28	43	23	20	9	6	6
Mathematics Num	178	28	23	21	32	25	22	5	2	20
Music	11	3	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
PE Full course	31	1	11	5	9	3	1	1	0	0
Polish	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RE	16	1	2	5	2	3	2	1	0	0
Science (Core)	167	9	29	32	53	26	9	4	4	1
Science (additional)	166	22	23	34	48	19	7	2	2	9
Spanish	8	0	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	0

Welsh 2nd Language (full)	81	19	18	28	10	3	1	2	0	0
Welsh First Language	50	0	4	11	20	11	2	2	0	0

**Table 5: Short course entries and grades (equivalent to half a GCSE)**

Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Welsh 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lang short course	45	0	0	3	7	12	6	4	9	4

**Table 6: Welsh Baccalaureate (New this year)**

Pass is either at National (equivalent to A\*-C) or Foundation (equivalent to D-G)

Entry	Pass	Pass	Fail
	National	Foundation	
175	84	53	38

**Table 7: Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate (New this year)**

(Equivalent to one full GCSE)

A pass at P\* is equivalent to grades D-G.

Entry	A*	A	B	C	P*	U	X
175	1	10	46	53	28	2	35

**Table 8: FSMQ (Additional Mathematics) – This is an AS Level qualification Year 11 pupils have opted to study in their own time.**

Subject	Entry	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Maths Additional	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3

**Table 9: Year 11 Vocational Course results by subject**

Subject	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Worth in GCSE
					Equivalent
NVQ Level 2 Engineering	0	0	0	10	2 (A*-C)

NVQ Level 1 Engineering	0	0	0	2	2 (D-G)
City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Hair Services	0	0	0	6	2 (A*-C)
Level 2 NVQ in French	0	0	0	2	0.5 (A*-C)
Level 2 NVQ in Spanish	0	0	0	4	0.5 (A*-C)

**Table 10: Year 11 BTEC results (Certificate = 1 GCSE, Extended certificate = 2 GCSEs)**

Subject	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	GCSE Equivalent
Level 2 extended certificate in Workskills	0	0	0	12	2 (A*-C)
Level 2 9-credit award in Workskills	0	0	0	2	0.5 (A*-C)
Level 2 certificate in Workskills	0	0	0	1	0.5(A*-C)
Level 2 6-credit award in Workskills	0	0	0	23	0.25 (A*-C)
Level 2 award in Workskills	0	0	0	1	0.25 (A*-C)
Level 1 6-credit award in Workskills	0	0	0	1	0.25 (D-G)
Level 2 award in Home Cooking Skills	0	0	0	2	0.5 (A*-C)
Level 2 extended certificate in Blacksmith & Metalwork	0	0	0	1	2(A*-C)
Level 2 certificate in Personal & Social Development	0	0	0	4	1 (A*-C)
Level 1 extended certificate in Vocational Studies	0	0	0	4	2 (D-G)
Level 1 diploma in Vocational Studies	0	0	0	1	2(D-G)
Level 1 certificate in Vocational Studies	0	0	0	2	0.5(D-G)
Level 1 award in Vocational Studies	0	0	0	1	0.5 (D-G)
Level 1 certificate in Land-based Studies	0	0	0	1	0.5 (D-G)

**Table 9: Year 11 Examination results at Entry Level by subject**

Subject	Entry	3	2	1
English	9	6	3	0

**Table 10: Examination statistics at GCSE by subject for Year 11 in 2017**

For Summer 2017 The WAG data is NOT age related i.e. it includes all pupils who were on roll in Year 11 in January 2017.

	Number	%
Number of pupils on roll in Y11	181	
Number and percentage entered for GCSE/Entry Level Certificate	179	98.89
Number and percentage entered for at least one GCSE	179	98.89
Number and percentage entered for Entry Level only	0	0
Number and percentage without a GCSE or Entry Level Certificate	2	1.10
Number and percentage leaving school without a GCSE or Entry Level Certificate	2	1.10
Number and percentage passing the Level 2 threshold	129	<b>77.2</b>
Number and percentage passing the Level 2 threshold <b>including Mathematics and English Language</b>	104	<b>59.4</b>
Number and percentage gaining Level 1 threshold	170	<b>95.0</b>
Number and percentage achieving A - G in at least one GCSE subject	178	<b>98.34</b>

These are provisional and still waiting on the final enquiries about results.

**SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18**

**AUTUMN TERM**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 74 days  
(Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – INSET Day  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – INSET Day)

**SPRING TERM**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 54 days

**SUMMER TERM**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018 65 days  
(Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – INSET Day)

Directed days +2 days

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS 195 days**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2017-18**

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 (INSET DAY) pupils only	1 day
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	5 days
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2017 (INSET DAY) pupils only	1 day
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	10 days
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018 to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2018	5 days
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	11 days
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 (INSET DAY) pupils only	1 day
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	1 day
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2018 to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2018	5 days
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July and Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July (INSET DAYS – taken as twilights)	2 days
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2018 to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2018	28 days
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS</b>	<b>70 days</b>

*Please note that this calendar is subject to any changes which may arise as a result of government policy decisions. Ceredigion County Council does not accept liability for any losses incurred in respect of altered holiday arrangements following such changes.*

