



# Cardiff High School Newsletter

SUMMER TERM 2013

## Headteacher's Message



As another school year draws to a close, so we bid a fond farewell to a number of highly respected members of staff. We wish them the very best of luck for the future as they embark upon their next exciting challenge. We would like to thank our colleagues who are about to retire, having devoted their career to the profession and to making a huge impact on the lives of so many pupils:

Mrs Bev Jones, Miss Deidre Evans and former Deputy Headteacher Mr Rex Hendricksen. Between them all, they have given almost 100 years' service to Cardiff High! We wish them all a long and healthy retirement.

It has been a remarkable year for the School. It began with our best ever performance in the GCSE exams, highlighting Cardiff High School as Wales' best performing school in the key indicator of 5 A\* - C GCSEs, including English and Maths. The challenge, of course, is to constantly improve. Throughout the year everyone associated with the school has had to work extremely hard to further raise standards.

In January 2013 the building programme finally began following several delays. This has provided a significant obstacle in terms of school planning to ensure no disruption to pupil learning. Both staff and pupils have adapted quickly to changing surroundings. The building works, while welcome, also leave us with a dilemma that I will return to.

In March of this year we were inspected by Estyn. This proved to be a hugely successful inspection for the school with the top judgements achieved across all the key indicators. The inspection was an important indicator of where the school is in national terms and whether the significant changes in the last few years have been successful.

In April I wrote to parents regarding the proposal to consider a consultation regarding a Federation with Willows High School. At present, the school awaits further developments regarding this proposal.

With this in mind I return to the present building works and the dilemma I mentioned earlier. The project is a £4,000,000.00 build designed to meet the growing population of Cardiff High School brought about by the change in catchment area. While it will achieve this aim, the school has a significant population on a very small site and accommodation will remain a challenge for us. More pressingly, while the infrastructure of the new build is welcome, difficult financial times mean that for the new classrooms built, there is no central funding provided for desks and chairs and there is limited funding for modern technologies. On a larger scale for the new sporting areas, the disappointment is that there is only limited support for new PE equipment which would not only benefit our pupils, but the wider community. For Music and Drama the school receives a new stage, but no lights, sound system or even a stage curtain. In addition, the school is in desperate need of new IT and other equipment. In April 2013 we planned our budget for the forthcoming year. In the most difficult of financial times, as a school we have maintained all of our front line staffing when many public sector services face cut backs. However, difficult economic times are limiting our ability to purchase equipment for learning and teaching. We have two choices: we wait until funds become available or we fundraise.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a guide to our fundraising needs which I have put together in conjunction with the Partnership. Pupils in Cardiff High receive an excellent education and it would be fantastic to further enrich the experience of our current and indeed, future pupils. I hope you will take the time to read the fundraising guide.

I am very excited about the future of Cardiff High School. While it has been an exciting year, our prospects for improvement are hugely encouraging.

Head Teacher

## Grease 2013

Faced with the loss of our stage and relocation of the music department, there were some who thought that this year's school production would be unable to live up to the glory of past shows. But it's safe to say that any sceptics were blown away as pupils took to the stage in February to perform the much-loved musical "Grease". Under the expert tutorage of the music and drama departments, we donned our leather jackets and dancing shoes, armed ourselves with fake cigarettes, and headed out into the spotlight to relive those "Summer Nights", watch a drive-in-movie, and tune up ol' "Greased Lightning". The audience reaction proved that once again the students of Cardiff High School can both entertain and amaze.



Jack Ayres portrayed the cool and charming Danny Zuko in spectacular fashion, bringing humour and heartbreak to his rendition of "Sandy", while Jess Davies told the story of Sandy Dumbrowski's journey from naïve cheerleader to worldly greaser with wonderful ease.

Elizabeth Millard and Oliver Carter, playing the fierce Rizzo and tough-yet-loveable Kenickie, quickly won the audience over with their broad smiles and sensational voices. Four months of hard work, aching feet, and sore throats all paid off as the cast, crew, and band produced yet another success in a long list of high quality Cardiff High productions.



Like many other year 13s, I now face the realisation that Grease has been our final show with the school, and the last time we'll perform with the friends we've made over years of rehearsals. Productions of Oliver, Les Miserables, Guys and Dolls, and West Side Story have all played major part in our school life, helping us develop new skills and increased confidence, and I know that everyone will join me in thanking the Creative Arts team for giving us those incredible opportunities. We can't wait to come back next year and see what delights lie in store in Miss Saigon!

## Thank you to The Partnership – Enhancing The Learning Experience!

The staff and pupils at Cardiff High are extremely grateful for the hard work and dedication of The Partnership. Thanks to their wide ranging fundraising efforts, pupils will benefit from the recent purchase of a 3D printer, interactive whiteboards and a very exciting iPad suite!

These items will, undoubtedly, enhance the learning experience for our pupils. We could not have purchased them without The Partnership's efforts. **Diolch yn fawr!**



## Mathematics Department

Imagine being selected to take part in an exclusive Mathematics Summer school at Oxford University. For many of us, just the thought is beyond our wildest ambitions. However, it's the reality for Year 11 pupil, Ethan Ren, who will be joining 40 of the UK's most talented young mathematicians during August at Balliol College for a week of problem solving, competitions and juggling!

Outstanding achievement and competitive success have been in evidence across the Mathematics Department this year. In December, five Year 11 pupils, Alice Howell, Mathew Pritchard, Ethan Ren, Alice Kahan and Caitlin Ray won the University of Glamorgan U17 Maths Quiz, beating over 50 teams from across South Wales from both the comprehensive and independent sector, (much to Miss Saddique's delight!). In February, our young team of Year 8 and 9 mathematicians, Yifei Chen, Daniel Bailey, Laurence Zammit and Rory Kilpatrick, achieved an impressive joint 2nd place in the UKMT Team Challenge event held at Whitchurch High School. The individual achievements of Elin Barrett and Jenny Ferris (Year 13) also stood out, both achieving 100% in the FP1 Further Maths module in the January examinations.

February brought Year 11 ambition to the fore. Over the course of an unprecedented 12 weeks, over 90 pupils took advantage of the Maths Surgery. Year 12 Maths consultants were overwhelmed by the demand for their tutoring and coaching services. Combined with the Autumn surgeries, over 100 Year 11s have taken up this offer of support this year – that's ambition!

@CHSMaths Twitter continues to thrive, providing revision updates and lots of interesting Maths information. If you're not following, why not?

In July, we will say an emotional good-bye to two excellent maths teachers. Miss Melia is departing for a teaching adventure in Dubai, or is that strategic planning for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar? Miss Evans, meanwhile, will bid farewell to teaching as she takes her retirement. Since joining Cardiff High in 1981, she has made a huge contribution to the success of the Maths Department. An outstanding teacher and mathematician, she has always put the needs and learning of her pupils at the forefront of all she has done. Her support for the Department both inside and outside the classroom has been invaluable. She will be a great loss to the department and pupils and staff will miss her greatly!

## Business and Economics in the real world

It has been a busy year for students in the Economics and Business Department. Our first ever Bank of England Target 2.0 team excelled in the Welsh final by achieving second place, narrowly missing out on the UK national final. The team consisted of Bryony Pearson, Alex Morgan, Malik Latif and Karim Ahmed-Foad. They confidently presented their opinions of how the Bank of England should react to the current economic crisis and ably weathered 15 minutes of challenging questioning from the judges. With a new year group starting the competition this term we hope to be even more successful in this prestigious competition next year.

Two Cardiff High School teams impressed at the Cardiff Young Enterprise Final showcasing their newly developed products with outstanding presentations. This year personalised photo keyrings and "make your own gift cards" were the products of choice and both teams were able to produce very professional looking products. Sadly this didn't translate into profit for either of the two companies but they learnt a great deal about the barriers to starting a successful business which will be valuable for their future as young entrepreneurs!!

## ICT Department

The ICT department is delighted with the introduction of interactive whiteboards in all classrooms and feel that the professional learning communities have acted as a perfect vehicle to allow the ICT department to help and successfully up-skill Cardiff High Staff in their use of ICT technology. The use of mobile technology has increased dramatically within the school and also through the professional learning community the ICT department have been able to help develop and support staff with maximising the potential when embedding this type of technology into their lessons.

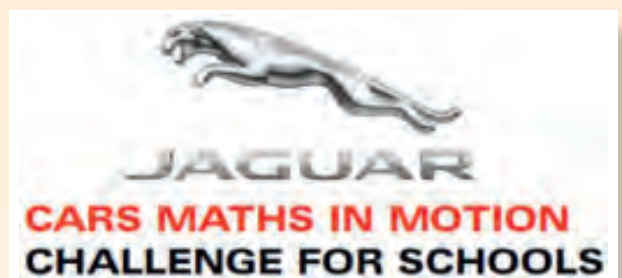
The number of pupils attending ICT lunchtime clubs and revision sessions has dramatically increased this academic year which has had a positive effect on the pupils' attainment in their controlled assessments. This has been further enhanced by other departments making effective use of Moodle, their use of the ICT Toolkit and the fact that pupils have been able to purchase a copy of the software suite for use at home at a reduced fee from the ICT department.

## Jaguar Cars at Cardiff High

At Jaguar Cars Club, students design, model and race a Formula 1 car using specialist software. Students use maths, technology and engineering intuition to perfect their cars before racing them to find out who has the fastest car!

Last month, two Year 8 students won the annual Cardiff High race and were entered into the next round of the competition. They were again successful and were therefore crowned the fastest in Cardiff and the Vale! Unfortunately, their bid to progress to the UK Final was unsuccessful - hard luck boys!

The club meets at lunchtimes and welcomes all students to join in the fun!





# Communications!

I am hoping that a large number of prospective Year 7 parents are reading this newsletter! I would like to tell you about ParentMail, Facebook, Twitter and the school website.

Firstly, soon after your child starts at Cardiff High, you will receive a letter with an activation code which will enable you to register for ParentMail2! You may well have used this service in your primary school and will already know how useful and reliable it is, but for those of you who have not, here is a rundown of the benefits:

- Never miss a letter home, no need to look in the bottom of bags!
- Be alerted instantly if your child does not arrive at school
- Top up your child's cashless catering account online
- Keep track of what your child is eating on a day to day basis
- Take advantage of our calendar in ParentMail for up to date events
- Hopefully coming soon, payment for trips online

Please sign up when you receive your activation code; this really is an invaluable service, there is even a parentmail2 app that you can download to your phone!

In addition to parentmail2 we also use Facebook and Twitter. Both of these social networks are brilliant for receiving instant messages and for relaying information. Cardiff High Schools facebook account is [www.facebook.com/cardiffhighschool](http://www.facebook.com/cardiffhighschool) and we post photos, pupil achievement, events etc here for you to enjoy. Twitter is also an amazing communication tool. Every department at Cardiff High has a twitter account which provides lots of information regarding revision, homework, topics of interest and teachers tweeting whilst on trips with updates and photographs. To follow us on Twitter please follow @officialCHS

If you would like any further information please email [sarah.young@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.young@cardiff.gov.uk)

## News from the Geography Department

### Co- construction Approaches to learning across KS2-3

The geography department has enjoyed working closely with its feeder schools on collaborative approaches to teaching and learning throughout the year. A member of the geography department has visited our feeder primaries on a fortnightly basis to build on the links we have already made. This has been hugely beneficial in developing geographical terminology and collaborating our teaching and learning strategies in order to ensure pupils have a common base when they arrive in year 7.

We are looking forward to collaborating further in this way with our colleagues at our feeder primaries in coming weeks and in the next academic year.

### Geography Club

Lower school pupils have used skills they have learnt through the blank cheque approach to carry out their own investigation into the social, economic and environmental impacts of the school buildings work. The blank cheque approach is based on the concept of co-construction whereby students are empowered to shape their own learning on a topic forming their own questions for enquiry with support and guidance from their teacher. The approach introduced to Cardiff High by Paul Ginnis, author of the Teacher's Toolkit, They have interviewed and filmed staff and pupils about their thoughts on the buildings work. The students have also identified a number of ways to reduce potential negative impacts of the building work.

### Welsh Advisors

The geography department has introduced pupils Welsh Advisors in each class this year. The advisors role is to support and encourage their peers and teachers in their use of Welsh within the classroom. This has had a significant impact in increasing the use of Welsh within the classroom and students take pride in supporting each other and their teachers.

## CHS Law Department News

### CHS Law Department Trips and Visits

The Law Department organised an overnight visit to London 15th and 16th February 2013. Pupils visited the Houses of Parliament for a tour of the Palace and a Select Committee Experience. CHS pupils debated on the effectiveness of Scrutiny Committees, beating Clapham Girls School! Pupils also observed court proceedings in the Old Bailey Central Criminal Court, whetting the appetite of pupils who want to be barristers. The afternoon's activities finished up in the Supreme Court for a tour of this prestigious court followed by a Jack the Ripper Walking tour, not for the faint-hearted!



Outside the Old Bailey Central Criminal Court



### Debating in Parliament

In March, year 12 and 13 pupils got a taste for university life, attending an evening lecture in Cardiff Law School entitled 'Fighting for Human Rights for People in the Developing World: Standing up for the Local David's Against British Goliaths'. The lecture captivated the interest of pupils who also enjoyed complimentary refreshments in the very swish university Common Room.



Lecture in Cardiff University Law School

# *French Department News*

## **Year 7 French – Spelling Bees**

On Tuesday 23rd April, eleven pupils from CHS made their début in the South Wales

Spelling Bee regional final. Against very fierce competition, our four French Spelling Bees in Year 7 kept their nerve at the competition, an annual event run by Routes into Languages. Madame Mann ran the training sessions for the pupils (with the assistance of Rory Kilpatrick 9K) and accompanied them to the competition venue, Ysgol Bryngwyn in Llanelli.

Competitors had one minute to spell as many words as they could in French, from a list of 150 words they had memorised. On this occasion, there was a sting in the tail as our French Bees did not fly through to the final but we will return next year, buzzing with anticipation of a victory!



**Year 7 Spelling Bees 2013**

## **Year 8 French – Fashion gurus**

Christian Dior, Chanel, Louis Vuitton.....Cardiff High School Year 8 French fashion house strutted their stuff in the classroom. Designing their own detailed outfit in French and delivering a running commentary of their partner's catwalk début, Year 8 raised the rafters.

The cultural dimension of the activities was also highly evident. French music by St. Germain played as the pupils showed off their outfits and performed their voice-overs in French. The outfits themselves reflected the cultural diversity we have here at Cardiff High School. Bravo à tout le monde!



**Year 8 girls – French fashion gurus**

## ***CHS School Parliament making links with feeder Primary Schools!***

On Tuesday 4th June 2013, two representatives from our School Parliament travelled to Marlborough Primary School to meet with representatives from the School Councils of each of our feeder primaries. Sabah Sheikh and Zaid Dudhniwala, who are both in form 7R and represent year 7 on the School Parliament, met with School Council members from Lakeside, Rhydypenau, Roath Park and Marlborough Primary schools in the first cluster meeting of its kind between school councils.

It was fantastic to hear about all of the good work and steps forward being made as a result of the action of the School Councils! We then went on to discuss the way in which the school councils were run in the different centres; this gave an opportunity to share practice and consider how ideas which work well in the other schools may be potentially integrated into our own.

The final item on the agenda, however, was transition. The primary school council members, who were largely in year 6, had several burning

questions about the forthcoming move to High School! Sabah and Zaid, being in year 7, were able to allay many of their fears and inform the year 6 students about all of the exciting opportunities which they will be able to take advantage of in September. As you would expect many of the questions addressed areas such as the type of food available in the canteen, how strict the teachers are and how much homework they will get....all pressing issues for our prospective year 6 students! As a need has been identified, Cardiff High's School Parliament will be continuing to work with the feeder primaries in the run up to the end of term to help that transition from year 6 into 7 go as smoothly as possible.





# Make your move!

Cardiff High's chess club has gone from strength to strength this year. We have invested in new boards, pieces, clocks and even a demonstration board! We meet most lunchtime in BAY 1 and it's great to see so many students passionate about chess. We play blitz games, longer games, solve tactical problems and offer informal lessons to those starting out on their chess adventure.

During the spring term, eight students competed in the Cardiff and the Vale Junior Chess Championship, with many of them beating older and more experienced players.

In fact, we are in the middle of our own tournament - the Cardiff High Chess Tournament, where 20 students have now been whittled down to just 4. Watch this space for a report on the semi final and final! We also have plans for a teachers vs students chess competition in the new academic year - I think the teachers will need all the help they can get!

For more chess news, tournaments, puzzles and photos follow @CHSChess on twitter



Are you an ex-student of Cardiff High School?

Would you be interested in signing up for the CHS Alumni?

We are just in the process of putting together a database of ex-students so that we can keep you up to date with events, news and all that happens at school.

If you would like to be added to the database please email [sarah.young@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.young@cardiff.gov.uk)

Please let others that you keep in contact with from your school days know about the CHS Alumni!

## Introducing two ex-Cardiff High Students...

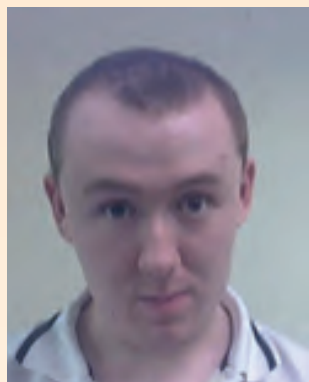
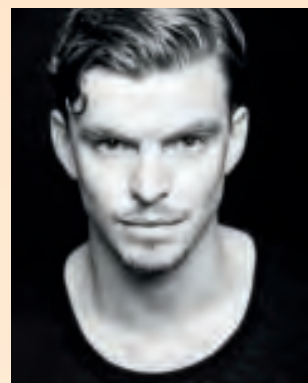
### CHRIS GORDON: Attended CHS from September 2001 to July 2008

I am just finishing at the Royal Welsh College of music and drama. After doing a three year course BA (honours).

Earlier on this year I was lucky enough to get interest from several agents in London which was essential for my pursuit for acting work. I went with the *Eamonn Bedford Agency*, a well-established and respected agent, with over 20 years' experience in his line of work.

Professionally I am just starting out but have managed to get a few good jobs under my belt. Earlier this year I played the part of Gethin in the series 'STELLA' on SKY1. I have also done a few music videos, most recently 'Kids in glass houses' new song 'Drive' who are a Cardiff based band.

My most recent television role was a part on the last season of 'POIROT', doing my scenes with the likes of David Suchet, Zoe Wanamaker and Sean Pertwee. My career seems to be going in the right direction and I am auditioning for lots of great stuff (Game of Thrones, Silk, Bloodline, The Smoke).



### RICHARD MATHEWS: Attended CHS from September 2000 to July 2005

Past Student Richard Matthews recently had an article published in the Western Mail entitled **"Disabled People Must Be Treated As Humans"**.

Richard, who is Autistic explains in his article that the current benefit reforms has led to disabled people being attacked in the media.

After leaving Cardiff High School after gaining 8 GCSE's Richard moved onto Coleg Glan Hafren to study for his A levels and from there to Swansea University to study a degree in law.

He now attends the University of Westminster where he is studying a Part Time One Year LLM Legal Practice Masters.

If there are any other success stories from past pupils of CHS that you would like to share please let us know.

The school is currently trying to support the next generation of actors, writers, journalists and sporting stars by effectively equipping our new build.

If you would like to help by making a donation or have fundraising ideas please contact [sarah.young@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.young@cardiff.gov.uk)

“ T U A ’ R G O L E U N I - T O W A R D S T H E L I G H T ”

# German Department News



## The German Department in Berlin

During the February half term eleven 6th Formers flew to Berlin to enjoy the sights and sounds of Germany's vibrant capital city. Despite the students' claims that it was just an excuse for Mr Jones to eat Currywurst (curry sausage!), a full and interactive itinerary was planned with visits to the DDR Museum and the Mauermuseum. Here we learnt about life in communist East Germany and the efforts of many Berliners to escape to the West. It was not all work however as we scaled the iconic Fernsehturm (by lift!) and practised our language skills in Alexanderplatz and went shopping in the famous KaDeWe, the second largest department store in Europe! The students commented that they enjoyed doing things together as a group, including meals together and they particularly enjoyed the freedom and the "relaxed attitude" in our apartment and during the shopping trip (although some thought that Mr Jones worried too much about them!). All enjoyed the wide variety of activities and language games that engaged them during the trip. The highlight? Well, we did manage to enjoy the renowned Currywurst, which proved such a hit that next year we may even add the Currywurst museum to the schedule! Yes! There really is one!

On another note, congratulations to Rihanna Gilani, Cardiff High's very own spelling bee champion in German after beating off stiff competition from schools across Wales for a place in the national final.



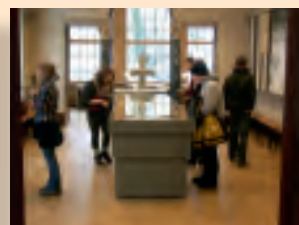
## Berlin February 9th-12th A Level History

In the early hours of Saturday morning 30 bleary eyed sixth form students joined Miss Hales, Mr. Desambrois and party leader Mr. Olsen at school for their transfer to Heathrow and very early flight to Berlin. By 11.30 the group were on the streets of Berlin in the first snow shower of the weekend, posing for a quick team photo in front of the Brandenburg Gate before stops at the new 'Gypsy' memorial and Soviet War memorial, before investigating the Holocaust memorial and thankfully the warmth of the underground exhibition.

Sunday morning saw the group visit the Memorial Museum at Wannsee, site of the Nazis' organisation of the Holocaust, an idyllic lakeside setting dusted with frost and snow, juxtaposed against the cold horrors of what went on inside. Next stop was the Olympic Stadium to view what remains of the site of the 1936 games, before moving on to the museum at Sachsenhausen Concentration camp and discovering how the inmates, including several British airmen were treated by Hitler's SS. The evening was spent unwinding with some bowling, with Mr. Desambrois proving to be fiercely competitive, but a sore loser!

The sun shone on the Monday as the group descended into the 'Berlin Underworld' to view the bunker systems that still exist below the city. The Resistance Museum saw Mr. Olsen act as tour guide around an exhibit mostly in German as no proper guides were available! After a quick curry wurst for lunch at Potsdamer Platz it was the Topography of Terror (site of the former Gestapo HQ) before walking back to the hotel via the luxury of Fassbender & Rausch chocolate shop complete with chocolate Reichstag. History overload for the day was reached with a moonlit visit to the Reichstag Dome.

Tuesday saw the group examine some of Berlin's more recent history, by visiting the Berlin Wall memorial and the reconstructed 'death strip' that East German guards used for patrolling. It was then a short subway ride to Bebelplatz and the site of the book burnings by the Nazis, before relaxing with an afternoon around the shops and heading home, exhausted by Mr. Olsen's desire to walk everywhere and cram in so much!



"TUA'R GOLEUNI - TOWARDS THE LIGHT"



# ***"Sir why won't my boots do up?"***

## **Junior Ski Trip March 22nd-30th 2013 Saalbach-Hinterglemm, Austria**

The intrepid skiers from years 8 & 9 set off for Austria this year via a late night ferry crossing to Calais and a journey through the night. Twenty four hours later we arrived in our resort, in the dark, and unable to find the hotel, which was tucked away up the mountainside, where only the locals know about!

The Hochkogel proved a comfortable base, once we'd found it, and looked after us well with a never ending supply of clear soups with various things in it including pancake!

The Sunday morning saw us make the downhill walk to the slopes and meet up with Nikki and his team of instructors. They would be the patient guides and teachers of the 4 groups for the week. Each day saw new challenges, including bright sunshine and heavy snow. The basics of skiing were mastered quickly by most, though getting boots on the

right feet did prove difficult later in the week as tiredness began to set in! Red runs, slalom races and even the sight of Mr Toye falling over would all feature before Friday.

Evenings were spent out and about, visiting the luxury of the Tauern Spa resort, with its numerous pools and slides, bowling at Bobby's bar, and eating too much pizza! The last night saw awards with Joe Tong and Ines Ismail picking up the coveted 'Tourists of the Week', while Sam Cradick and Anna James were 'Best Skiers'.

The pupils were exemplary throughout and made it a very enjoyable and straight forward week for the Ski Team of Mr. Toye, Mr. Jones, Mr. Olsen, Mrs Baynham and Miss Savage who all thoroughly enjoyed themselves as well. The Twitter coverage also seemed to go down well with the important people- the parents, who were able to see the resort and activities from the comfort of home!



## ***'Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it'***

This year Robyn Dando and Lauren Morgan (year 12) represented the school in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. This is their account of their trip to Poland.

### **Our Experience at Auschwitz Birkenau, Poland 27th February 2013**

It is impossible to prepare yourself for a visit to Auschwitz Birkenau. On arrival to the first part of the camp, Auschwitz, it all seemed very surreal as the buildings seemed to look like any other army barracks however on entering it became clear of the horrors that happened there.

Here we saw many disturbing items, people's shoes, hair, glasses and suitcases all which were once owned by the camps inmates. The things we found most horrific were the piles of hair displayed behind glass cases. Some of the hair was still in plaits, bringing the whole situation to life. All the items told a story of an individual rather than a group of people which was the main message that our trip organisers wanted to put across to us.

On our visit to the second camp Auschwitz Birkenau (the extermination centre) we first went up into the watchtower and saw the vast space that this camp covered. From the tower you could see all the huts, furnaces and paths where the prisoners would walk everyday to await their fate. Standing there, knowing the stories behind the images, will stay with us always.

Over 60 years have passed since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. 6 million are thought to have perished during the Holocaust; of those 1.5 million were children. We believe we must forget those who were persecuted and should try and act on the lessons it teaches us.



# English Department News

## Kids Literature Quiz Competition

In November 2012, Mr O'Brien and Ms Davies took two teams of enthusiastic Year 7 and 8 literature lovers to compete in the internationally renowned 'Kids Lit Quiz Competition'.

Both teams battled against stiff competition from Wales and England in the regional heats and only narrowly missed out on progressing to the national heats.

One team finished fourth out of twenty, whilst the other Cardiff High School team ended in a very respectable seventh.

***Congratulations to all that took part. We have our sights set on the national heats next year!***

## Published Poets

Having read Welsh poet Zoe Brigley's 'For the Love of a Husband' Year 10 were inspired to write poems about people who were close to them. Mrs Esseen and Ms Williams' groups had a very emotional poetry slam with both laughter and tears.

Poems by Laura Bleeahan, Emily Godbehere, Caitlin Gall and Zena Al Kelaby were published in an anthology of work by young writers from across Wales.

## World Book Day

The English department love a bit of drama and so when the opportunity arose to dress up as literary characters there was little persuasion needed.

Co-ordinated by Mrs Bennett, (who came as Elizabeth Bennet) we manage to cover most text types across genres. Not sure about the pipe though.



## Youth Speaks

It was another successful year for both junior and senior teams in this prestigious competition. The junior team had their first outing and put up an excellent display against stiff competition. We look forward to seeing more from Philippa Godbehere, Rebecca Mellor and Tara Azaden.

The seniors repeated their success from last year and shared a 'few of their favourite things' with the judges. Georgia Brown, Josie Davies and Laura Bleeahan were indeed the ones the judges wanted and we now consider ourselves one big public speaking family. [Groans] A Big thanks to Frank and all at Cardiff East Rotary for their support and all the parents.



## Creative Writing Club

It has been a busy and successful year for Mr O'Brien's Creative Writing Club! Scribblers across all Key Stages have penned scintillating short stories and ponderous poems all year round.

Highlights have included a number of pupils getting their work published in the Young Writer's Short Story collection and others entering the NASA competition to send their haiku poem into space!

A big thank you goes to all who have attended regularly throughout the year and for those of you who just popped by every now and again to share some of your fantastic work. **Diolch!**



# Welsh Department News

## Urdd eisteddfod success

Hwre i Megan

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Megan Jones am ennill Medal y Dysgwyr yn yr Urdd eleni. Roedd rhaid iddi ysgrifennu tri darn ymestynnol mewn gwahanol ddulliau yn ogystal â chael ei chyfweld gan y beirniaid yng Nghanolfan y Mileniwm. Megan was the star of the day on Tuesday in the Eisteddfod in Pembrokeshire as she was interviewed by numerous radio and television companies after winning the prestigious Welsh Learners medal at the Urdd Eisteddfod. Jenni Ferris was second in the same competition. This was the double for Megan as she had already won the Carys Lewis Jones memorial prize for writing an essay on her hopes for tomorrow. Katie Monnickendam was second and Jenni Ferris third. All of her work in the competition has now been published. As a school we are very proud of their success.

## Recitation success

Well done to all who competed in the Urdd. Rachel Daniels won through to the national as well as the year 8 and 9 recitation group. The seniors went a step further achieving stage success. Rebecca Daniels was third in the individual recitation for under 19s. The group came second with their rendition of 'Parti ym Mhobman'. If you would like to see these competitions, go to the Urdd website [www.urdd.org](http://www.urdd.org) and follow the links – Tuesday for Megan and Thursday for the recitations.



## Additional Welsh speakers!!

Congratulations to Mrs Hannah Edwards on the birth of Betsan Rose Edwards (Beti Rose) and also to Mrs Emma Brittany on a baby boy – Luca Ellis.

## Clubs

A variety of clubs are now up and running within the department. The 'Spelling bee' is aimed at year 7 who have been involved in the Spelling Bee competition in Llanelli. Well done to Ian Ren from year 7 as he came in the top 4 in South Wales and will now continue to the National Competition.

Sblat is a youth group for KS3 students, run by KS4 and 5 students. They meet in Ty Celyn every Wednesday. Dance, Art and Drumming workshops have been held during the term.

## GCSE help

For those out there who still need additional help with their Welsh – a new revision guide has been published and is available from the school at £3 a copy. The school has been helping with the creation of this guide and therefore is highly recommended by the school.

## Research into the language

At present we have a research student from the University of York working with the department. Rachael Price is from America but teaches Spanish. She is looking at the views and opinions of young people in Wales towards the Welsh language and many from years 9 and 10 are involved in this interesting project. Edrychwn ymlen at ddarganfod ei chanlyniadau gyda'r ymwchwil yma.

# Music Department News

## Young Musician of the Year 2013

2013 saw the fifth annual Cardiff High School Young Musician of the Year Competition, which gives an opportunity for our most able and talented performers to shine.

Once again this year the audience enjoyed performances of an exceptionally high standard which included a range of different instruments and a wide range of styles.

Congratulations to the winners in all three categories:

**Junior Category: Ben Barber (Year 9)-Alto Saxophone**

**Intermediate Category: Tom Barber (Year 11)-Trumpet**

**Senior Category: Bianca Luu (Year 13)-Violin**

## Summer Concert



The Senior Hall was the venue for our Summer Concert in which the focus was firmly on the lower school students in Years 7-9.

The evening was packed full of great ensemble performances, including solos from the Young Musician of the Year competition winners and a recently formed Junior String Quartet.

It was the final concert for our year 13 pupils who have made a very significant contribution to all aspects of music making at Cardiff High. We wish them every success in the future.

## Looking Ahead



The excitement is building in the Music Department as we approach an important new academic year in which we will be moving into our newly built Creative Arts Block.

A grand opening will be held with the school production of the musical **Miss Saigon**.

Audition will take place in September, and we are confident that all pupils will embrace and thoroughly enjoy the experience.

# Design & Technology Department News

## 3D Printing in D&T: Special Thanks to the Partnership

In Design Technology we are striving to be the best in terms of the experiences we offer and the equipment we use to do this. We would like to give a huge thanks to the Partnership as with their fantastic support, we have been able to raise funds in order to purchase a 3D Printer. This piece of equipment will allow students to convert their 3D CAD drawings into physical plastic models. This piece of equipment is allowing us to further equip one of our rooms as a specialist Computer Aided Design and Manufacture studio.

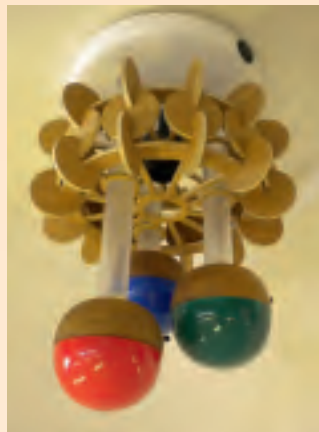
Here are some images to demonstrate what the printer can do.



## Breaking News AS Level Product Design News

Zach Cater's Product Design project has been nominated for the WJEC Design & Technology Innovation Awards as the external moderator was extremely impressed with his AS Level Lighting project.

The project is now in the selection stage of the competition; successful selection will result in his work being entered into the Innovation Awards competition and displayed at exhibitions held in Bangor and Cardiff. This exhibition will consist of the very best WJEC Design Technology projects.



### *Thank You from the Design Technology Department*

Over the past several months we have had a great working relationship with both pupils, staff and external agencies.

We would like to thank the Year 9 Catering Skills, Year 10 and 11 Food Technology classes for supporting Miss Powell in catering for the PE Fund Raising Evening.

We would also like to thank the Intellectual Property Office for coming into school and teaching the A Level Product Designers about innovation and protecting ideas.

Again this term we have had several visits from Simon O'Rafferty, a designer from the Eco Design Centre based in Cardiff.

He has helped us out by attending Year 12 lessons, talking to students about their projects and by sitting on our panel of judges at the Product Design student presentation evenings.



## Clothes Show Visit

A group of 34 GCSE and A level Design Technology Textile students visited the Clothes Show Live where we experienced the fashion industry first hand.

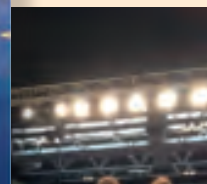
Many University stalls had inspirational students work with folios and items displayed to explore.

There were catwalk shows where we could see, close up, the designs of current fashion as well as designer statements which we will probably see in the high street in a years' time.

The main catwalk display was based around a day in the fashion world.

The students were able to access many fashion products to inspire, develop and make within the design specifications at GCSE and A level course work.

A great day was had by all.





# Religion & Philosophy News

## 24 Hours that Changed the World

Ahead of the Easter holidays, Year 8 Religion and Philosophy students were treated to an exciting, interactive workshop led by local Christian youth workers.

Taking the theme of the action serial '24', students were introduced to the dramatic events that unfolded in the last 24 hours before Jesus' crucifixion.

Groups were given the opportunity to explore the significance of these events for Christians all over the world today.



## Philosophy Café

The Philosophy Café continues to flourish. In recent discussions, we have explored a range of philosophical questions, including 'what is art?' and the purpose and meaning of love. We welcomed a member of the Estyn inspection team to our discussion of good and evil, and even got a mention in the recently published report.

Due to the success of the after school Café and the enthusiasm for philosophical discussion and debate during our dedicated Philosophy weeks, we are going to be running a lunch time Café next year, exclusively for Lower School pupils.

We are also looking to recruit a team of students to drive the Café forward next Year. Please see a member of the Religion and Philosophy Department if you would like to be involved.



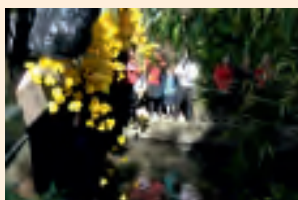
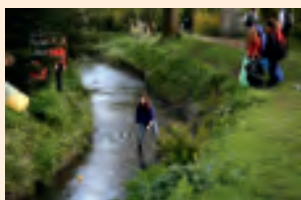
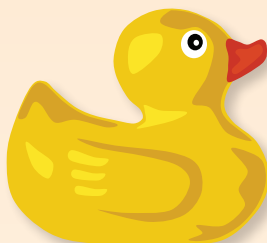
## 2013 CHS Duck Race

2013 CHS Duck Race got off to a quiet start but soon form classes were selling for all their worth!

By the day of duck race we had raised over **£2000**. The winning form was 7H who will receive a prize before the end of term.

The winning Duck went to one of our Year 7 pupils.

Great fun was had by all who took part and all funds raised come back into school for the benefit of the students.

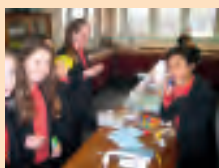


# Science Department News

## A blast.....National Science and Engineering Week

Pupils blasted their way through National Science and Engineering week, designing balloon rockets that had reduced air resistance, identifying criminals by lifting finger prints off sample objects. The creative scientists produced rainbow fizz which was not only aesthetically beautiful, but identified the different pH of compounds by using indicators that change colour with varying PH. Some participants warped and bent light to show that objects can be deceptively hidden (or cloaked, by using the properties of light). The more explosive personalities wrote secret messages in fire that could only be read when they were set a light.

Mr Snook commented "Each year National Science and Engineering week gets bigger, more explosive and the activities are totally interactive. It is about the pupils being creative and having fun with science, to inspire their curiosity".

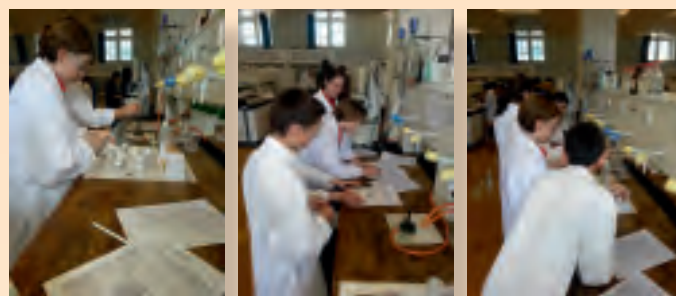


## Salter's Chemistry Festival at Cardiff University

Four pupils from year 8 Taher Esufali, Elizabeth Whittaker, and Evelina Sinkeviciute and Iwan Rhys-Jones and Mr Snook battled it out against 10 other secondary schools in the epic Salter's Chemistry Challenge at Cardiff university.

They faced elimination rounds, which included identifying chemical compounds by completing a series of chemical tests. They were marked on their skill, precision, answers and overall ability to work as a team.

In the second round they faced fierce competition from the private school Rougemont and had to complete an experiment to identify the correct amount of compound in an exothermic reaction that would raise the temperature of the reaction by 6 degrees. They worked tirelessly as a team, and this was commented on by the judges who were extremely impressed with their methodical techniques. Well done to the Cardiff High School team, who were not the challenge winners, but who were the most methodical team, with the most team spirit.



## Spectroscopy in a Suitcase

Year 12 and 13 pupils had hands on experience when Cardiff University Chemistry department outreach team and Mr Snook organised a spectroscopy in a suitcase workshop.

The pupils were able to have hands on experience using the £95,000 piece of equipment to sample different compounds, and work out unknown samples including identifying the chemicals that made up Mr Snook's tie.

Pupils were engaged and were able to apply their Chemistry skills to use working laboratory equipment and novel techniques, while also preparing them for their AS and A2 level examination.



## Hot Off the Press: Science Club and Science department in collaboration with Cardiff University

Mr Snook of the Science department is working in collaboration with Cardiff University, to bring creative, exciting and relevant science to pupils which reflect research that is being created at Cardiff University.

The Science club and Mr Snook have been involved with workshops presented by Dr Kelly Berube on the BioPhysics of Bogies: looking at the consistency of snot and its functions.

Dr Sarah Hall was involved delivering a workshop on Cardiac and lung function including Heart dissection and lung capacity.

Future workshops include Dr Sheila Dargan and Sumit Mistry's interactive workshop on making muscles contract using magnetic stimulation, looking at Electro-Encephalograms (EEG) and stimulating parts of the brain to make parts of the body move.

Dr Tim Jones and Dr Sally Oberst will be delving into the history of the Earth and the geological story of the world. These will also provide the basis of the year 7 and 9 flexible science days at the end of the summer term at Cardiff High School.

This will help bring cutting edge research ideas into the school and stimulate and engage pupils into potential future careers in Science.



# Art Department News

## Promoting literacy through Art

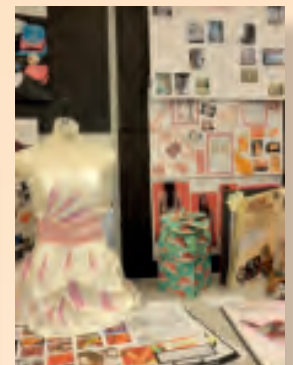
During the spring term, Year 9 pupils were involved in a market place activity where they taught each other about Picasso's 'Guernica'. This was a painting created by Picasso in 1937 during the Spanish Civil War. It is considered by many to be one of the most influential paintings of the Twentieth Century. Pupils were introduced to the artwork as a class, and then split up into group to learn about key elements of the work including style and technique, symbolism and subject matter. In their groups, pupils were then asked to creatively present their findings to the rest of the class.

This years' GCSE and BTEC exhibition were both exciting and imaginative. The work on display confirmed the excellent standards being achieved in art. The GCSE exam theme was 'Force' and pupils investigated this in diverse ways, looking at the powerful force of nature as well as the physical force placed on objects and machinery. Once again some of the best work was seen in the preparatory sketchbooks. Congratulations to all the art students who have worked productively over the past two years.

Several of our BTEC first certificate students will go on to study vocational courses at Cardiff and the Vale College in September. Sam Grimwade intends to study animation and Emma Ryan will be progressing to a BTEC diploma in Art and Design.

We have been very pleased this year with the standard of the Art work produced by our AS and A level students. This was seen in the recent exhibition of work in May. Throughout the year students in year 12 and 13 have been more ambitious in both the scale of their outcomes but also the concepts and subject matter they have researched, studied and produced practical responses to. Themes that Year 13 students chose to use as starting points for their extended coursework projects were: personal identity, natural decay, the role of photography in art, popular culture, structures and applied decorative arts.

Several of our students have successfully achieved places to study art on foundation and direct entry degree courses. Molly Malleson, Natalia Crothers, James Shorey and Georgia Hudson will go on to study art foundation at Glamorgan University. Lauren Thomas has gained a place at Swansea Metropolitan to study graphics and Ffion Richard will go on to study fashion marketing. We wish them all every success in the future.



## Sports News

### Senior 1XV Rugby – WRSU Boomerang Vase Champions 2012/13



The Senior 1XV team played in an enthralling encounter against Ysgol Y Cymer, Rhondda at Pontyclun RFC on 24th April.

Having already defeated Treorchy (w/o), Olchfa and Gowerton the Cardiff HS team faced a team that had already won the Division 2 East title.

With a blend of experienced Year 12 and 13 players and some youthful Year 11 players, the boys played with enormous commitment and passion.

Tries from Jordan Lane x2 and Tom Mullins x2 secured a famous 29-12 victory.

# Sports News

## Cardiff High Basketball Double!

Cardiff High Basketball club have had a very successful season this year. Both the year 11 and year 8 teams were crowned Cardiff and Vale champions. The year 11 team beat Cowbridge Comprehensive 51 – 42 in the semi-final and beat Barry Boys 45 – 39 in the final. The year 8 team managed to beat Sir Richard Gwyn 41 – 22. It is the first time that Cardiff High has managed to win the cups at two different age groups. The pupils have worked hard for their success and hope to go on to achieve further success next year.

*Kenton Friedl*



## Cross Country

The school continues to produce excellent Cross Country runners with some pupils gaining county colours by representing Cardiff and Vale in the Cardiff Cross Challenge and the Welsh School Championships in Brecon.

The ethos of giving as many pupils the opportunity to run for school in league races is extremely refreshing with regularly over 60 boys and girls running.

The PE Department were particularly pleased to be awarded the H.J.Lear Ltd Challenge Shield for the best performing school in 2012/13 season.

## Athletics

Although it is still early in the season, there have already been some outstanding individual performances. In the County Multi Events championships Lauren Evans of Year 8 became County Champion breaking the record points total which had stood since 1996!

In the Under 17 championships three boys became county champions, John Cove in the 1500 metres, Nick Jones in the 3,000 metres and Ellery Thomas in the Discus.

In the Under 15 championships Jordan Fender won the 300 metres, Lauren Evans won the 75 metre hurdles and the High Jump and Emily Griffin not only won the discus but also won the 800 metres breaking a school record that had stood for 28 years!

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISING EVENING 2013

On February 22nd 2013 the PE Department hosted a very successful fundraising evening in conjunction with Miss Lydia Powell (Food Technology Department) and ably assisted by year 9 pupils.

The evening consisted of superb music entertainment provided by the Barber family as well as a delicious 3 course meal, after dinner speakers and silent auction. Our guests of honour were Nicky Piper MBE and Craig Quinnell.

Proceeds from the evening went to George Thomas Hospice, Whitchurch and directly into the Physical Education Department Fundraising efforts for the new sports facilities.

Due to such an overwhelming positive response from parents a similar evening is planned next year.

## Badminton

The badminton team of Matthew Pritchard, Rory Xiao, Darren Luu and Ethan Ren attended the Top Schools Championships in Welshpool in February. The team won their group, and then defeated Hawarden in the final 4-1 to be crowned National Champions for the third year running.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION PRESENTATION EVENING 2013

Date for your diaries!! Wednesday 3rd July 2013 will see Cardiff High School PE department hosting their first annual PE awards evening for pupils across years 7-13. Further details and tickets will be available in the coming weeks.

## Year 8 and 9 Hockey

Both the Year 8 and 9 Hockey teams had a sound 2012 – 2013 season showing good skill levels, commitment and teamwork. The 8 girls were undefeated during their matches and finished the season coming in 3rd place in the county tournament. We are looking forward to the new hockey season in the new academic year with the introduction of the brand new facilities.

## Year 10 Hockey Success

The year 10 hockey team have had a fantastic season, with many outstanding individual and team performances. A number of the year 10 squad have also represented the senior hockey squad this season showing the tremendous talent in this current year 10 team. The team have drawn twice with Radyr in the semi final of the county tournament which has seen a change of format this season. Frustratingly having beaten Glantaf previously in the season they now face potentially them in the County Final if they can beat Radyr in a short match and penalty flick contest!

SQUAD: Alia Yadollahi, Emma Pearn, Caitlin Gall, Laura Bleehen, Beth Davies, Josie Davies, Ikra Jehangir, Georgia Brown, Erin Bourne-Smith, Phoebe Orbell, Zena Al-Kelaby

## Year 7 and 8 Tennis

The Year 7 and 8 tennis team had a fantastic county tournament this year with the Girls A team winning every match 6 – 0. The girls will now progress to the national stage of the tournament to be played in September. The B team narrowly missed out on qualifying for the B team competition with the results coming down to the very last game of the tournament.

Erin Oelmann in Year 7 is currently ranked as the number 1 tennis player for her age group in Wales.



## Year 9 and 10 Tennis

The Year 9 and 10 Tennis team had a very successful tournament this year with the girls qualifying for the next round of the national competition to be played in September. Special congratulations go to the captain Alex Oelmann who played some fantastic tennis and displayed why she is currently ranked number 1 in Wales. Her doubles partner Emily Griffin also represents Cardiff and the Vale county tennis team.



# Sports News

## Year 7 Netball

Year 7 netball had a very promising year. Following a very positive start to training - with numbers exceeding 35 at lunchtime sessions, games soon began. The girls showed great enthusiasm for each game, and the year went very well with only one game being lost, and even then, with only one point difference. It was then time for the Cardiff and the Vale semi-finals tournament. 8 girls went to Talybont, only to find that it was only Cardiff High and Cathedral school competing in our pool. After a great battle, Cathedral were too strong on the day, and with more shots going through the net, took the game with a win of 5 - 3. A very close game and Cardiff High year 7 netball team did the school proud. Leaving disappointed, the girls vowed to beat Cathedral School next year! Well done on a very good year of netball year 7.

## Year 8 Netball



After a very successful Year 7 Netball season the Year 8 girls did not disappoint into the 2012 - 2013 season. The girls all displayed their tremendous skill levels in each and every game that was played cumulating in maintaining the county championship for the second year in a row being unbeaten all year.

Special congratulations must go to the following pupils who have represented Cardiff and the Vale county team Lauren Edwards, Elysse Haywood, Molly Murphy and Izzy Richards, With Cath Davies also part of the Cardiff and the Vale county development squad.

Elysse Haywood has excelled herself this season with being selected for the U15 Welsh Netball team. Elysse is the starting Centre for the team 2 years before her age group and is also part of the U14 hub development.

## Year 9 Netball

The Year 9 Netball team had a successful 2012 - 2013 season finishing 2nd in their county tournament. Both the A and B teams demonstrated high levels of skill and commitment throughout the season and hope that it continues into Year 10.

## Year 10 Netball Success

Congratulations to the year 10 netball squad who beat Llantwit Major, Stanwell and St Richard Gwyn to reach the County Finals held at Talybont on Monday 11th March. The team has had a very successful season and have shown real dedication to their training. Well done girls!!

SQUAD: Emma Pearn, Laura Bleehen, Caitlin Gall, Beth Davies, Erin Bourne-Smith, Alia Yadollahi, Josie Davies, Georgia Brown, Zena Al-Kelaby

## Year 7 Football

The year 7 football team were unfortunately knocked out of both cup competitions in the first round, both on penalties! The team have responded very well, unbeaten in all friendly games, playing a fantastic brand of passing football. A particularly highlight being the team's 5-2 victory over Whitchurch.

## Year 8 Football

Following an excellent cup win over Whitchurch the year 8 team lost narrowly in the next round away to Cowbridge. Special mentions for consistently strong performances from Seb Donnelly, Matthew Wainwright, James Phezulu and Jack Yebdri. Promising signs from an enthusiastic squad.

## Year 9 Football

Small margins can make big differences. Two very narrow defeats in cup games that the boys could easily have won meant that a season of real early promise ended prematurely. Messers Tong, Murray, Jones and Evans stood out and with a little more luck, next season could have a happier ending.



## Year 10 Football

The free scoring year 10 team began the season strongly, notable results being a league and cup double over Whitchurch. Unfortunately, following a 2-2 draw, CHS were beaten 9-8 on penalties to eventual finalist Bishop of Llandaff. With Harrison Trinder, Dana Saed, Jon Leighfield and Nick Davies all representing the year 11 team this year, next season holds huge potential for this team.

## Year 11 Football

Year 11's early season performances earned the team a place in the last eight in Wales, defeated in a tight encounter with Bishopston of Swansea. Domestically the team reached the final of the Cardiff and Vale cup, after drawing 1-1 the team were beaten 5-4 on penalties to Llanishen. A fantastic season with many highlights particularly a dramatic finish, where 2 goals in the last 3 minutes, defeated Bishop of Llandaff 2-1 in the semi-finals. Individually, Ebby Marango has received an apprenticeship at Premiership football team Cardiff City FC.

## Senior Football

Heartbreak in the Cardiff and Vale cup as an own goal in the last minute of extra-time knocked out CHS. The team's success came in the Welsh Colleges Cup. CHS finally experienced penalty success (4-3) following a 1-1 draw with Olchfa in Swansea. The team were eliminated by Gower College in the quarter finals.

## CHS Team of the Season 2012-13

Harrison Trinder (Y10)

Jack Murrar (Y9)	Marcus Guidice-Maynard (Y7)	Dave Brown (Y11)	Dana Saed (Y10)
Jon Leighfield (Y10)	Gordan Lai (Y10)	Tommie Shorey (Y11)	Nick Jones (Y11)
	Seb James (Y11)	Joe Tong (Y9)	

## CHS Golden Boot Award 2012-13

1st - Ebby Marango - 11

2nd - Seb James - 8

3rd - Gordon Lai - 7



# *Farewell and Best Wishes to Staff Who Are Leaving CHS*



**Miss K Melia**



**Mr J Adams**



**Miss D Evans**



**Miss K Stephens**



**Mr B Harker**



**Mrs S Newton**



**Mr R Hendricksen**

## ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***

<b>Wednesday 4th Sept</b>	Return to School
<b>Monday 9th Sept</b>	New Year 12 Parents' Information Evening & Year 13 Parents, UCAS Evening
<b>Monday 16th Sept</b>	Year 10 Parents' Information Evening
<b>Wednesday 23rd Oct</b>	Year 7 Meet The Form Tutor Event
<b>Thursday 24th Oct</b>	Year 6 Open Evening & Year 9 Options Evening
<b>Wednesday 27th Nov</b>	Year 11 Parents' Evening
<b>Thursday 6th Dec</b>	6th Form Open Evening
<b>Tuesday 10th Dec</b>	Y12 Parents' Evening
<b>Wednesday 18th Dec</b>	Carol Concert
<b>Thursday 19th Dec</b>	End of Term – details to follow
<b>Monday 6th Jan</b>	Spring Term begins
<b>Monday 17th Feb</b>	School Production "Miss Saigon" begins for four nights