



# Cardiff High School News letter

SUMMER TERM 2014

## Headteacher's Message



With this academic year heading to its conclusion, I am already extremely excited about next year. After a number of years of disruption, caused by the building programme, we can all look forward to a year when our focus is on school improvement. I am very proud of the way we have all worked together to support one another through the last two

years. However, education in Wales is undergoing significant change, with the introduction of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework, a new curriculum to be implemented in December 2014 and funding challenges. It is imperative we all continue to ensure the best outcome for our pupils and work together to achieve this aim.

We continue to improve our facilities and I am working closely with the Local Authority to further enhance our resources. When we return in the Autumn Term, Ty Celyn will have been transformed into our new Sixth Form base with IT facilities, study space, communal areas and the Sixth Form pastoral team on hand to support pupils.

We continue to fundraise to support our aim of having outstanding facilities to match our outstanding teaching. Please see page 6 for further details. This year, we have enjoyed unprecedented interest in studying in

the Sixth Form, and we have been overwhelmed by record numbers external applications. Likewise in Year 7, we have a huge number of applications which the Local Authority is administering. Even with our new building, we are bursting at the seams and require new resources!

Exam preparations have been outstanding this year and the additional hours staff have given to supporting our pupils, has been quite exceptional. I hope both students and staff are rewarded for their efforts in August. Already we are planning what we can improve for next year!

Next year, Cardiff High School will become the first recognised secondary, 'Outstanding Teacher Hub School' in the Central South Consortium. This will enable us to provide top quality teacher training, not only to our own staff but to staff from other schools. This is a very exciting development.

Although the new term seems a long way away, it is only a few school weeks. Please note that on September 4th and 5th 2014, a NATO Conference will be held in the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport. I will be advising all staff in school to allow a little more time for travelling that day and will ensure that staff leave site as soon as possible at the end of the day to avoid possible road traffic congestion. However, we will be open as usual.

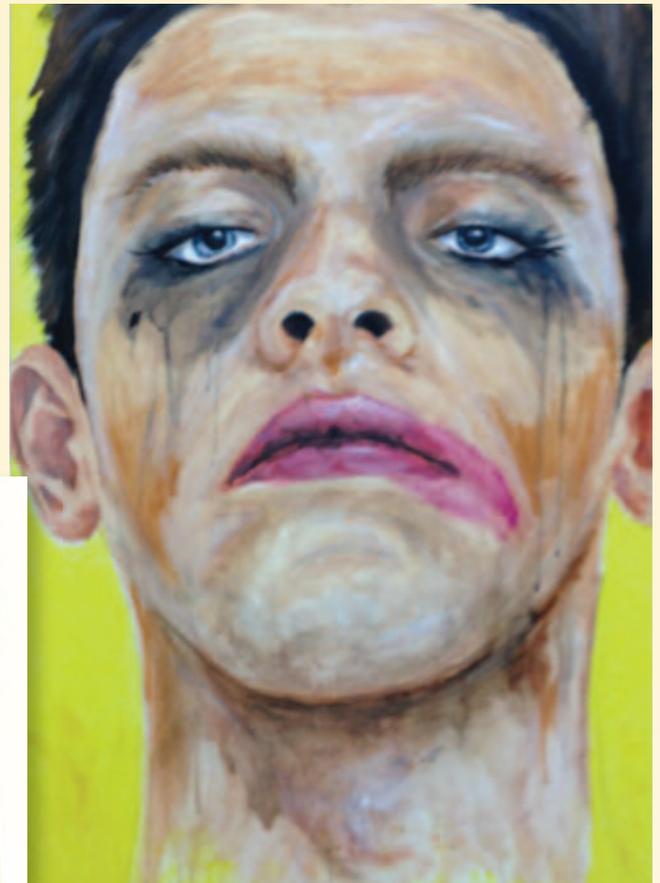
Finally, may I wish you all a good summer and I look forward to seeing you in the new academic year.

*Sygan*  
Head Teacher

## Art News

Two exhibitions have recently taken place in the Art Department at Cardiff High School. On view was the very successful work of the exam classes in years 11, 12 and 13. Both exhibitions were very popular and well attended by parents, pupils and teachers alike. This is the first year pupils have had the opportunity to work in the new purpose built facilities. The Art Department have enjoyed another very successful year and are extremely proud of the pupils' creativity, individuality and hard work.

The year also included a very popular and successful trip to Paris which included visits to the Espace Dali and the Museum D'Orsay.



# Young Enterprise

Y12 students enjoyed huge success at the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Young Enterprise Final, winning the Most Innovative Product Award, Best Trade Stand, Best Interview and the overall award for Best Young Enterprise Company.



The winning Young Enterprise group, Clarity, produced a solution to broken iPhone chargers. They designed both the product and the packaging themselves then liaised with a company to mass produce it, making over 700 fully packaged products. The scale of this production is impressive from a company which only began in September.

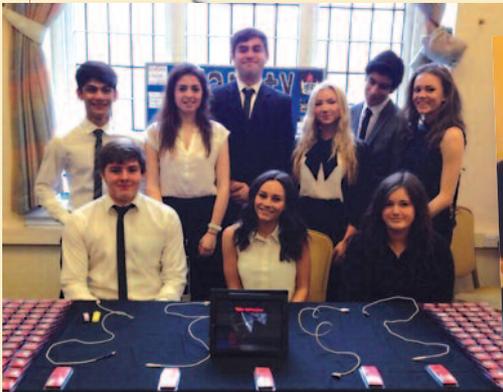
Cardiff High School's second Young Enterprise Company, Aguzzo, produced 100% handmade senses. These products looked outstanding and the group rightfully won Best Trade Stand and Best Interview at the final.

Clarity will go on to compete in the Welsh Finals on the 17th June. We wish them the very best of luck!



## Thanks...

A big thank you to YC Lim of YC Sports for sponsoring Cardiff High School's new mini bus and for all his support in many other areas of school life.



# Congratulations to all cast and crew in the very successful 2014 production of Les Misérables



Cardiff High School students took to the boards in our new purpose built auditorium for a show stopping performance of the West End classic "Les Misérables" in February. With a cast, crew and orchestra of well over 100 students the show was met with thunderous applause and standing ovations. The characterisation of Victor Hugo's epic novel was worthy of any professional theatre.

Charlie Collar's unique performance as Jean Valjean was both masterful and inspirational and proved the perfect counterpart to the commanding Javert, played powerfully by Tom Barber. Joe Gage created a touching, emotional Marius, breaking the heart of Eponine movingly played by Jess Davies, and winning the heart of the fantastic soprano Bethany Hughes' Cosette. Mathew Leaman as Enjolrais led the revolutionaries to battle at the barricade with true command whilst Emily Hurst's Fontaine left not a dry eye in the house with "I dreamed a dream".

Amidst the tragedy emerged two true comic characters who delighted and revolted in equal measure! Sasha Owen's Thenardier was balanced perfectly by Lauren Evans as his madame!

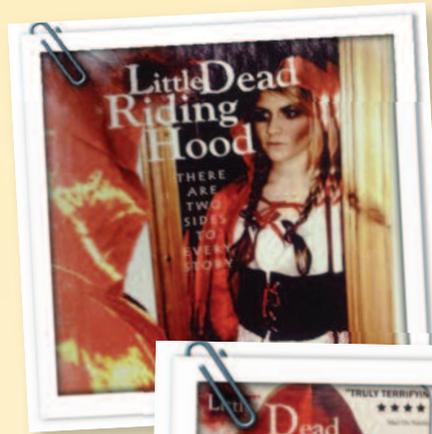
Both brought the house down!

## Silent Stars

The Media department has been very busy preparing students at KS4 and KS5 for success during this incredibly eventful exam season. GCSE revision sessions were well attended so we wish our pupils every success on results day.

The recently returned Year 12 media students are already preparing for Year 13 as they are researching 'British Film' and co-constructing lessons that explore notions of *Britishness* as mediated through contemporary film texts. Findings have been presented to an audience of peers using their ICT skills and audio visual stimuli, ensuring relevant and topical debates ensue.

Year 13 have certainly set the bar when it comes to the production of innovative, creative and technically accomplished media texts. Some of the noteworthy pieces include the creation of a trailer for a silent film which perfectly aligns image with music [some of our younger pupils are the silent stars...] by Bethan Ayres, a trailer for a psychological urban thriller which could be a contender in any independent film festival by Hattie Williams, and a poster campaign for a contemporary horror that promises all the dark pleasures of that genre, created by Fahim Khan. These students are all set to pursue higher education courses and careers in sound engineering, filmmaking and graphic design respectively. We hope all our Year 13 leavers achieve their deserved success and the department is sure that in the future we'll be seeing their names in lights.



## Maths Department

### Walking Talking Mock

It's 8:30am. In 30 minutes you will begin what is generally regarded as the most daunting GCSE examination, your Mathematics exam. The mere thought of Mathematics is enough to send many parents, never mind pupils, into a cold sweat; just ask Mrs Olsen. In which case, why did our Year 11 pupils appear so positive, troubled only by nervous excitement, ahead of their Non-Calculator Maths examination on 9 June?

We believe our pupils' positive mindset was down to their own excellent preparation, and in part down to a very special revision session held the preceding Saturday morning: the Walking Talking Mock.

The Walking Talking Mock is a new initiative developed in partnership between the Mathematics and English Departments and the Key Stage 4 Achievement Team. During the session pupils sit in the exam hall, in their exam seat, in exam conditions and work through an exam paper. The only difference between this and the real exam is that there are breaks, perhaps up to 15 of them in the Mathematics exam. During the breaks, pupils are taken through an exemplar solution of the question they have just tackled, marking and correcting their work as necessary. As a result, at the end of the examination, every pupil leaves their exam seat, in the exam hall, with a complete and 100% accurate exam paper. So, when the big day arrives, every one of our pupils knows what it's like to feel success in a Mathematics exam.

Does it work? In November, we conducted our first Walking Talking Mock ahead of the Foundation GCSE examination. The buzz created among the pupils following the mock was inspiring, and Higher Tier pupils, who had not taken part, were soon clamouring for their own similar session. Pupils' results? They were beyond our most optimistic expectations and we believe the Walking Talking Mock played some part in their success.

This summer we are working with our partner school, Lliswerry High, to

develop and run a Walking Talking Mock for their pupils ahead of the GCSE Mathematics examination. Through sharing our experiences we hope to make a small, but significant, difference in giving all our pupils a positive mindset going into the Mathematics exam.

### Maths Success

This year has seen some outstanding mathematical achievements by our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students. Following the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February, five students from Years 9, 10 and 11 qualified for the next round of the competition; congratulations go to Rory Xiao, Alex Harrison, Emily Godbehere, and Eleri Williams. Eleri also qualified for the next round in the Senior Maths Challenge! Year 9 pupil, Yifei Chen, deserves a special mention having qualified for the International Mathematical Olympiad; his performance placed him in the top 7% of all students who participated in this round of the competition.

As if that wasn't enough, on 3rd April, Yifei Chen, James Martin, Kanghee Bae and Zaid Dudhniwala competed in a UMKT Team Maths Challenge regional final and beat 25 other schools to win a place in the National Final to be held in London at the Royal Horticultural Halls on Monday 23rd June. Given that over 1700 schools competed in the regional finals and 80 have qualified to take part in the National Final, this is an outstanding achievement by all four students. The competition combines mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offers students another way to express and develop their enjoyment of mathematics. We wish our talented mathematicians much success in the National Final and look forward to more mathematically prosperous years ahead!

# History Department

## Centenary Battlefields Tour 2014

On Thursday 22nd May, 29 pupils departed for the battlefields of the Great War accompanied by Mr. Desambrois, Mrs. Toye and Mr. Olsen. After a short stop at Dover to collect our guide Peter Crook, the party arrived at the Ypres Lodge in Lo in the early hours of Friday morning and headed to bed for a good night rest before the first day of the tour.

Friday's tour of the Ypres Salient began on foot, visiting 3 nearby cemeteries, and finding out about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It also allowed us to locate the first of many 'old boys', Guardsman H Gribble, buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery. From there it was off to the muddy preserved trenches of Sanctuary Wood Museum, where after a 'wellie selfie' the pupils explored the trench and tunnel system. A short coach ride brought us to the Memorial Museum at Passchendaele with its recreated bunker and trench system, before moving on to Tyne Cot Cemetery, where a short service was held at the Memorial Cross and a wreath laid in memory of the 4 'old boys' remembered there. The party then proceeded to Langemarck German cemetery where the pupils were asked to consider the very stark differences between how the 2 sides commemorate their dead, before a short meal stop in central Ypres and reassembling at an incredibly crowded Menin Gate for the 'Last Post' ceremony. During this Amy Doyle and Rebecca Ellis-Hillman laid a wreath on behalf of the school, before the party searched through the 53,000 names to locate a number of fallen 'old boys' from the Welch Regiment.

Saturday was supposed to be a day of relaxation with a trip to the local Bellewarde Theme park. However, a short stop at Essex Farm cemetery was squeezed in so that pupils could see the site where Canadian doctor John McCrae wrote the famous 'In Flanders Fields' poem, and see the much visited grave of Private Valentine Strudwick, at 15 one of the youngest British soldiers killed in Belgium. Once at the park both staff and pupils took advantage of the water rides to cool down in the sunshine, before spending the evening bowling.

Sunday was a long day, with an early start as the party headed south to visit sites on the Somme. On route there was time to stop at Fromelles to

see the Australian 'Cobbers' memorial, and at Neuve Chappelle for a brief photo stop at the impressive Indian Memorial. The first stop on the Somme was at Newfoundland Park which stood on part of the battlefield from the 1st July 1916, and we heard the story of the massacre of both the South Wales Borderers and the Newfoundland regiments. From there it was on to Thiepval and the giant Memorial to the Missing, where we located Cpl. Harry Lloyd, great granddad of Mr. Sealey. The end of the day had a very Welsh emphasis with a short service held at the Welsh Division memorial at Mametz Wood, during which Molly Murphy laid a wreath at the foot of the Welsh Dragon. Peter Crook told us the story of the ill fated Cardiff City Battalion, before taking us to the Dantzig Alley Cemetery to explain to us the exploits of 'Mad Jack' - Siegfried Sassoon the famous War poet and officer in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, and his one man attack on Mametz Wood! On the way home there was time to squeeze in family visits for both Simon Evans and Will Godden.

Monday saw tiredness kick in and a very quiet journey home!



## Chess al fresco!

Cardiff High School chess club is proud to unveil its new outside chess tables and a giant chess board. These facilities are available for all pupils and we have already established a busy outdoor chess club on Fridays during lunchtimes. Pupils are also welcome to bring in their own pieces or borrow a set from Mr Nicol.



We also have our annual CHS Chess Tournament starting soon – please see Mr Nicol to sign up. Chess club meets as usual on Mondays and Fridays in T4 or outside if the weather's good! For more chess news, puzzles and photos follow @CHSChess on Twitter.



# Commemorating D-Day

To commemorate D – Day we would like to share with you details of a past pupil of Cardiff High School for Boys, found whilst researching our archives and the history of our school. Lt. Derek Dutton landed on the beaches at Normandy on D – Day (6th June 1944) and was killed in action near Breville, Normandy on the same day.

## Cardiff High School – D-Day Hero

Derek Alan Dutton, born 20th November 1919, attended Cardiff High School for Boys from

**January 1930 – July 1933**

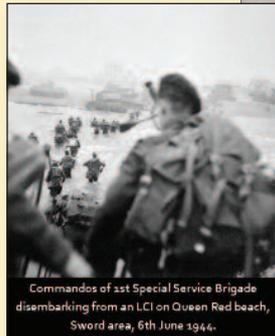
**Unit** – 6 Commando – South Wales Borderers

**Rank** – Lieutenant

**Date of Death** – 17th June 1944 (official date of death 17th June, but reliable eyewitnesses claim he was killed in action on 6th June 1944, near Breville, Normandy).

**Age** – 24 years

**Gravesite** – Pontypridd Crematorium, Glamorganshire Panel L.H.



Above: Commandos landing on the beach at Normandy.  
Right: Cardiff High School for Boys



## Geography News

### Geography World Cup!

The Geography department is fully embracing the 2014 World Cup with Years 8 and 9. To extend their understanding of the topics studied, Year 9 students undertook a “Development World Cup” activity. Students used different statistical indicators, such as life expectancy, GNI and adult literacy, to complete different stages in the competition in order to find out which country would win the tournament based just on development.

Year 8 have completed an independent study of Brazil and have furthered this with group work looking at the climate issues of World Cup venues.

Students have looked at how the climate impacts on different groups of people visiting the tournament and have constructed graphs to show data for each location. All students have thoroughly enjoyed their learning experience and now have a deeper understanding about Brazil and the countries participating in the tournament.



### GCSE Geography Revision Sessions

Our Year 11 Geography students fully embraced the revision sessions put on by the department in the run up to the GCSE examination. All sessions, including the Saturday revision session, were attended by large numbers of students eager to extend their learning and improve their examination technique. We wish all our students well for the future and hope many return to us for AS Geography in September!

## Economics & Business

This term, Economics and Business Students have been revising for their GCSEs and A levels using a new, innovative tool to ensure they are ready for the exams. The department has created over 50 videos which have been used to

- describe complex topics
- prepare students for lessons
- improve exam technique
- explain past papers

These videos have been accessed by students via the department Twitter account, @chseconbusiness. Students have commented on the value of the videos, which have been accessed over 2500 times by Cardiff High Students since November. This amounts to over 15 days' worth of viewing, allowing students to be fully supported during their revision at home. You can access the department YouTube channel on [www.youtube.com/user/innesrobinson1](http://www.youtube.com/user/innesrobinson1)

## Sociology News

The large number of students currently studying Sociology at AS and A Level shows how the subject remains a very popular choice. A promising set of Year 13 January exam results followed on from very pleasing results last summer and has seen a large number of pupils opting to continue their study of Sociology at university.

Although Sociology is only studied at Key Stage 5, pupils lower down the school will have opportunities to explore some sociological issues during the flexible week through analysing the cultural, religious and ethnic changes to Welsh society based on census data.

Furthermore, the department maintains strong links with other schools and organisations, most notably the Runnymede Charity in London. The link with Runnymede has led to the publication of pupil work in “Migration Stories” as well as Cardiff High pupils presenting research findings to MPs in Parliament.

## The Special Study Paper and Legal Fiction



After the excitement of Parliament and the Supreme Court earlier in the course, classes in Years 12 and 13 have been focussing on mastering the English legal system and an introduction to Criminal Law. The OCR's method of assessment in the A2 Criminal Law course is particularly interesting as it promotes a critical approach to studying.

Marginally greater weight is attached to the more conventional paper where students must complete one

of a choice of essays. These invariably ask students to evaluate some area of criminal law – murder and the defences of insanity and automatism featured this year. The Year 13 class have focussed on developing structured approaches to such questions. The remainder of the paper puts the student in the position of a legal advisor faced with various hypothetical scenarios such as an unlawful killing or a series of assaults. Much of this year has been devoted to organising responses which strike a balance between Parliamentary law, case law and the likely argument that prosecuting and defence lawyers might raise in such cases.

Readers may be more interested in the second assessment. For a considerable number of years the OCR Criminal Law course has required that students sit their Special Study Paper. This seeks to mitigate the stress and intensity of a conventional exam and goes some way towards replicating the work of practising lawyers. Early in the academic year the board publish 'pre-release material' on a particular area of criminal law. The second exam is centred on these materials but rewards broader reading.

This year we received extracts from established legal texts and judgements from leading cases on robbery and burglary. In the case of *R v Hale* (1978) the Court of Appeal considered the requirement that force be used 'immediately before or at the time of' stealing for a defendant to be guilty of robbery. We then assessed the merits of the Court's idea of theft as a 'continuing act', as the defendant and his accomplice had tied up their victim and made threats regarding her son after getting their hands on her jewellery box. In the bizarre case of *R v Collins* (1973) the defendant climbed a ladder and entered a house dressed only in his socks. The Year 13 students then consider the particular nature of criminal trespass alongside matters tackled a year earlier – the reluctance of judges to reverse a decision of a jury in the Crown Court and the impact of decisions in the higher courts on society.

The close reading of legal materials and this taste of legal analysis and research have resulted in some sophisticated work. Several of this year's students have declared an interest in putting their studies to good effect at a higher level.

## THIS TERM OUR FUNDRAISING IS TARGETING... PE and MUSIC

To help us raise funds please text  
**CHSPE or CHSMusic**  
to 70500  
to donate £5

Thank you to the Partnership for our new equipment



Table Tennis



High jump bed



Chess

# Science Department

Since our last newsletter, exam season has descended upon the school. Pupils in Y10, 11, 12 and 13 have been making the most of the vast number of revision classes and drop in surgeries available to them. Revision videos made by the department and published on Twitter and Edmodo have also proved to be very popular. Sessions have been very well attended and we wish all of our pupils the very best for results day.



## Y12 Museum Visit

Year 12 Biology students went to Cardiff National Museum this month. They spent some time with a team of scientists carrying out a biodiversity study. They were lucky enough to be given a rare tour of the many laboratories and collection libraries hidden away in the basement. They also had a session with a team of research biologists and saw many unusual and interesting species of plant and animal found in Wales. They even saw a brand new species discovered by a Welsh entomologist- but we can't tell you about that as we have been sworn to secrecy!



## Science PLC

This term will see the appointment of representatives for a new Science PLC. We are keen to hear the views of pupils as to what they like, dislike and want to see more of in the Science department. We will be enlisting the help of a team of students that will represent all year groups and all abilities. The PLC will meet once a term to discuss ideas and to see how we can maximise engagement and enjoyment in both lessons and through extra-curricular activities.

## Lab in a Lorry

We are excited to welcome Lab in a Lorry in September. Lab in a Lorry is an interactive mobile science laboratory which gives pupils the opportunity to explore science through open ended experiments. Guided by scientists and engineers from industry and academia, the students relish the opportunity to work with 'real' scientists.

The Lab is fitted with three distinct lab areas where groups can take part in each of the fun and informative experiments.



## Science in the Sun

The BTEC Biology group have been busy this term. They are taking advantage of the recent spell of nice weather to complete a survey of flora and fauna found in our school grounds. They have drawn a map of the area and are now recording the different plants and animals found in our school grounds. They have learnt how to use transect lines, pooters, sweep nets and quadrats. Y10 have also been making the most of the sunshine, competing to work out exactly what speed the fastest sprinters were running at and comparing to Usain Bolt. They also calculated the velocity of a football over large distances.

## Curriculum Changes

September will see big changes in the Science department. KS3 schemes of work have been totally re-written and the new material will be introduced to all three year groups at the start of next term. We aim to provide a stimulating and challenging skills based curriculum with an emphasis on practical work. Y10 will also see changes as we are moving to the WJEC exam board. Staff wise, Ms Addams will be leaving us in July to explore a new business venture. We have appointed Mr Nathan White to teach Chemistry from September and we are very excited to have him on board.

## Flexible Week

We have been busy planning for this year's Flexible Week in which science will feature heavily. Y8 will be given the opportunity to explore the environment at Roath Park, collecting various samples to analyse back in the labs. Y10 will gain a fascinating insight into the world of Forensic Science. Pupils will have the opportunity to carry out the real techniques used by scientists to help solve crimes before being treated to a special guest lecture from Dr Carolyn Morton- Head of Forensic, Analytical and Chemical Sciences at the University of the West of England.



Matt and Rachel from ACT Training College were kind enough to give the Year 10 Food Technology class a helping hand with making layered biscuits and came in to run a workshop with them. Year 10 really

enjoyed working with the chefs and picked up lots of tips during the session. The session covered some of the syllabus for the GCSE course and the knowledge learnt will be valuable during the year ahead.

The GCSE Food Technology groups visited The Chocolate Factory in Swansea. During the visit they were taught about chocolate, its origins

## Food Technology

and how it is processed into the products they know and love. They discovered the secrets of branding and how the same processed chocolate is sometimes sold as luxury and budget, just with different packaging! The group then had a tour of the factory and got to see how chocolate is manufactured. Seeing the industrial machinery in action has brought this section of the course to life. Pupils saw how Advent calendars and Easter eggs are made, which inspired us to make vacuum formed chocolate moulds when we returned to school. It was a very enjoyable trip!

The Year 9 Catering Skills groups have been busy completing their Food Hygiene Level Two qualification. Well done all!

## Year 12 spend some time with US Embassy members

The few hours I and my peers spent with two US Embassy members recently was a unique and enlightening experience. The average person my age doesn't pay much attention to the ins and outs of politics and the arguments opposing sides present. I think it's easy to limit oneself to one viewpoint because we too often see issues in black and white, trying to find a sense of belonging by aligning ourselves. However, after our time with the embassy I hope the students from our school, Cathays and Bishop of Llandaff have opened up to new information and viewpoints.

It was hugely refreshing to hear the bare truth from intelligent, well informed members of government, even if not the UK's. I learnt a lot last Wednesday because someone in the know took the time to engage with me, something which doesn't happen enough. I, like many others, find it difficult to understand the viewpoints behind certain aspects of American foreign and domestic policy, but the truth has become clear to me after speaking to real Americans with no agenda. The topics ranged from conflict in the Middle East to issues with the mental health care system – the second being something I did not know was an issue in The United

States. I also did not know this was a reason that America has such a large homeless population because there are no places to house patients anymore. This meeting really encouraged me to think about the ramifications one wrong element of a government policy can have. As this information was shared with our group it made me question whether similar problems existed in the U.K. and if there was anything being done. I don't know for certain if there is, but I want to find out.

On behalf of my fellow students I'd like to thank the school for this opportunity and send thanks to the organisers and embassy members for broadening my world view.

*Rachel Walsh*

## Visit to the Senedd

On the 17th of June 2014 I attended the Senedd with my ethics teacher, Mrs James, and fellow classmate Rachel Walsh. The visit entailed guest speakers delivering speeches about the launch of a new pamphlet with regards to what Islam really says about violence, peace and conflict.

Along with Rachel, I had to deliver a one minute speech about the significance of this pamphlet. When I first saw the pamphlet I felt reassured for those who do suffer at the hands of prejudice and take the view of the media literally. Fortunately for me I live in an environment of equality but I understand in some parts of the world, and even in the U.K., that this isn't the case. As a practising Muslim, a student of the Qur'an and the faith, I condone peace and justice for all not violence and terror.

I spoke from the Muslim perspective and other speakers spoke from the social perspective. What the event meant to me was the feeling of freedom for me to express my views without being judged. Speaking from this viewpoint I used the teachings of my religion to support the pamphlet.

The pamphlet is a source of education – it is really well written and attractively presented. It has broad teachings from all schools of thought in Islam, which are useful as it helps the average British person to fully understand the view that Islam is a religion of peace and mercy – not violence.

References were made by the speakers, including myself, to the medias' negative portrayal of Islam. Attending the event and promoting the pamphlet made me feel proud as the purpose of the event was to educate and to emphasise that Islam is a peace loving religion.

*Iskandar Malik Year 12*



*Alice Corby, Rachel Walsh, Eleanor Imperato, Sulaiman Ali and Tom Barber with the Members of the US Embassy on Wednesday 11 June at the Bishop of Llandaff School.*

### Staying in touch



Please sign up to ParentMail2© to receive emails and texts from school. Once you have registered with ParentMail2© you will also be able to top up your child's dinner money online and view what they are purchasing in the canteen on a daily basis.



To follow us on Twitter we are @officialCHS Please go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and sign up



For up to date news like our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/cardiffhighschool](http://www.facebook.com/cardiffhighschool)



Keep up to date with all that is happening at school. The Cardiff High School website should be your first stop for information. [www.cardiffhigh.co.uk](http://www.cardiffhigh.co.uk)

### Boden Shopping

Thank you very much to everyone who supported the CHS Boden shopping party in February. Your enthusiasm for Prosecco, raffle tickets and, of course, shopping raised an amazing total of £1604!

A massive thank you again to all those who helped in the planning and running of the event, which made it a great success!

We are hoping to host a spring 2015 party so watch this space for news of a date...



## Welsh

### Eisteddfod Ysgol

The school eisteddfod was a very successful day. The eventual winners were 7L and 8H and their form tutors were very proud. Ethan Evans won the crown whilst Alys Williams was chaired for her poem. The pictures are available to see on the department's gallery on the school website. The fun was obvious to all as the students enjoyed singing, reciting, playing their instruments and dancing. Much of the work had been completed before the day as students had prepared their off stage entries. Their winning work is displayed all around the school on various display boards.

**Llongyfarchiadau i bawb a fu wrthi yn helpu ond yn enwedig i Mrs Normansell am drefnu'r dydd. Braf oedd gweld y plant yn mwynhau wrth gefnogi llwyddiannau ei gilydd.**

### Welsh Department On Tour

March was a very busy month in the department as Year 9 visited France, whilst Year 7 and 8 headed off to Llangrannog. 40 students from Year 9 celebrated St David's day in style with Mickey and Minnie in Eurodisney. The Urdd and Eurodisney have been collaborating for many years and winners from the Urdd Eisteddfod perform in a special Welsh weekend. It was fantastic to see Welsh choirs entertaining France. The students also went to the Eiffel Tower as well as learning about the history of Ellis Humphrey Evans. He was a Welsh poet killed in action in 1917. He died before being told that he had won the national eisteddfod Chair. Year 9 went to visit his grave at Mammetz Wood.

Around 150 students then headed off to Llangrannog for a weekend of fun and games.

Aeth llawer i sgio, nofio, gwiwgartio, dawnsio, dringo, marchogaeth a llawer mwy. Diolch enfawr i'r staff am roi o'u hamser unwaith eto.



Eating ice cream on a Friday afternoon is always a highlight as the parlour opens especially for us. The Urdd camp has recently opened a new sleeping block and the students enjoyed their time using the new facilities available for us.

Please check out the department gallery for photos of both trips.

### Glanllyn

Rhian and Cathryn Williams from Year 11 were lucky enough to be chosen to attend a Welsh course in Glanllyn in North Wales. Only 15 places were available on this course in April. As well as practising their Welsh, they participated in various activities at the centre including gorge walking, canoeing and climbing. I am sure that they will benefit from this excellent opportunity.

Congratulations to Rachel Bevan and Rhys Crimlisk for coming second and third in the Urdd Eisteddfod at Bala in the Learner's Medal. Both had submitted a variety of written tasks as well as being interviewed by the adjudicators. Well done to both.

### 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 it is therefore highly recommended by the school.

## French

### The Art of Communication

A large number of our pupils in Year 10 have worked with our French assistant, Elisa, to establish an email and letter exchange with their peers in a French secondary school, 'Collège Jean Vilar' in Poitiers. The school is named after the famous actor and theatre director who started his career in the 1940s. He created a "people's theatre" and became a dominant force in the decentralization of theatre, believing that the theatre should be for all and not just for the elite.

The pupils have enjoyed the opportunity to use their developing French to communicate with young people of their age and to use French in a 'real life' situation. We hope to continue this link and to use new technologies to enable them to speak to each other, thus enhancing their confidence to use French more spontaneously and meaningfully.

### Flexible Week

We have been busy planning for this year's Flexible Week in which French will be involved in the theme 'Wales in the World'. Year 9 will be given the opportunity to explore the important issue of stereotyping; exploring ideas based around the French culture and the Welsh culture. Pupils will also be discovering the art of analysing French adverts and producing an advert to promote Wales in a positive light.

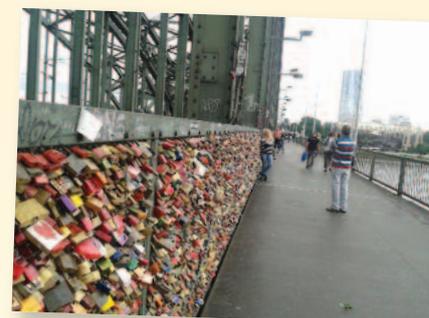
## German

### Cardiff High Goes to Market

The Christmas markets in Cologne that is! Last December for 3 days, 40 pupils and 5 staff explored the beautiful city of Cologne, one of Germany's oldest and most awe-inspiring cities. We climbed the 509 steps of Cologne Cathedral – some pupils racing to the top in under 5 minutes! Impressive! – to be met with a wonderful panoramic view of the city, the river Rhine, the stunning Hohenzollern Bridge and, of course, the numerous Christmas markets below us. In just a few days we visited the impressive Chocolate Museum, where pupils were able to create their own chocolate bar, and the Hohenzollern Bridge. Here the pupils experienced one of Cologne's most charming traditions – the love lock.

**For several years now, love locks have been considered one of Cologne's most charming traditions. As proof of their love, couples fix padlocks to the railings on the Hohenzollern Bridge; to ensure everlasting love, they then throw the key into the Rhine river below. To prove our love for our school we added our own lock!**

But the main highlight for the pupils was the Christmas markets themselves. Here they practised their German in a truly authentic setting, purchasing gifts for themselves and their families and friends and, of course, indulging in the local delicacies, such as waffles, Schnitzel and the famous Currywurst, which has won a few more fans – including Miss McDade!



Thanks to everyone who made it such an enjoyable and successful visit!



## Sixth Form Musicians at Oxford Open Day



Talented music students, Tom Barber, Alice Howell and Patrick Morris, were among a select group of musicians granted places on an exclusive Oxford University taster day recently. The day afforded the musicians the opportunity to see the various colleges and to attend lectures and seminars as well as to meet lecturers and students.

The experience was memorable and most beneficial for the three musicians who are county and national performers.



## Musicians on the move

The music department gathered recently to say good luck and farewell to the Year 13 Musicians who are preparing to leave CHS. It was also an occasion to acknowledge and thank two of our music staff who leave us this summer. Mrs Natasha Owen has been a stalwart of the department for over a decade having led countless musical ensembles and played a prominent role in numerous school musicals. Mrs Owen will pursue her work with the County Peripatetic Music Service as a piano teacher.

We would also like to thank Mrs Sarah Roberts who has worked in the department since January. Mrs Roberts, who trained as a teacher at CHS, will take up a new teaching role in Cardiff in September and we are indebted to her for her huge commitment and enthusiasm whilst acting as a temporary teacher within the department.



## Fantastic new music facilities at Cardiff High School

The music department has now truly settled into its new purpose built department and the facilities we have are truly exceptional. Our students now benefit from the use of three purpose built music classrooms which are not only fully equipped with a class set of music PCs and musical instruments, but are also linked to a central recording room, enabling us to record professional quality music with ease.

The class rooms are complemented by a suite of practice rooms used by students to rehearse and by our team of visiting expert instrumental and vocal teachers. All the rooms are also sound proofed to a very high standard ensuring that classes and students have the very best learning environment.

Add the purpose built Neuadd Celyn concert hall to the mix and it is not difficult to see how the new facilities have transformed provision for students. The hall, which was able to accommodate audiences of 300 people for the school show, is also fully equipped with the newest high end sound and lighting facilities which will ensure that the schools' exceptional traditions of musical theatre and concert performance are maintained.

## Only Kids Aloud's Visit to Cape Town

Sam James

On Monday 30th April I left the WMC with the Only Kids Aloud choir. After a long flight, with a change over in Dubai, we finally arrived in Cape Town. Even the journey to the hotel was exciting, with the beautiful view of the Cape and stunning Table Top Mountain.

As well as rehearsing with the Cape Town Opera Chorus and Bryn Terfel, we also had visits to Boulders Beach and Robben Island. There are over 3000 African penguins on Boulders Beach and we spent an afternoon taking lots of photos of them. Bryn decided to join us when we visited Robben Island Museum, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned. The guide told us all about Mandela's experience and achievements and we were even able to touch the gates of his prison cell.

The highlight of the visit was performing in the Arts Cape Theatre with Cape Town Opera and Bryn Terfel. The concerts were part of the 20th Anniversary of democratic celebrations. The atmosphere was amazing and we had standing ovations in both concerts. Singing 'Spirit of Hope', which was composed by Paul Mealor especially for the Only Kids Aloud choir, was very special. It included 'Invictus', a favourite poem of Nelson Mandela and one that inspired him deeply.

I am really looking forward to performing the pieces again with Only Kids Aloud at the Llangollen Eisteddfod in July. I had the most amazing experience in Cape Town and I know it is something I will never forget.



## Religion and Philosophy News



### GSUS LIVE Visits CHS

During the week beginning Monday 12th May all pupils in KS3 and some in KS4 had their RP lessons in the GSUS LIVE Exhibition. This involved members of local churches, who had previously received training, delivering a fully interactive ICT session. Pupils watched a series of video clips and were asked to select one theme – Fear, Rejection or Forgiveness – to help a fictitious young person with their particular problem. The pupils responded very positively to their experience, which not only allowed them to investigate Christian teaching, but to reflect upon issues which concern young people in today's society.

Ahead of the Easter holidays, Year 8 Religion and Philosophy students were again 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.



### Jewish Living Experience

On Wednesday 14th May a group of pupils in Years 7 and 8 visited a Judaism exhibition at the Senedd. Pupils had the opportunity to meet with members of the Jewish community and share their experiences of living the faith in Wales. The activities included dressing up, tasting Jewish cuisine and examining Jewish artefacts. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experience and were commended on their attitude, behaviour and enthusiasm.



# Drama

## Drama Department June 2014

The department has been extremely busy this year and the students who have been preparing for practical performances have worked incredibly hard. After the huge success of 'Les Miserables' in February there was no chance for a respite as Year 11, 12 and 13 all threw themselves into their devised and scripted performances. The quality and diversity of work this year was so encouraging to see and the many hours put in by the students outside of lesson time really paid off.

The Year 9 Drama students have been busy this year. They ran workshops with Year 6 pupils from Rhydypennau Primary, which were a huge success, and as a result are going on tour! They will be taking a Theatre in Education piece to the four primary feeder schools at the end of June to educate, inform and entertain the Year 6 pupils who are due to make the transition to secondary school. The work has been devised entirely by the pupils and highlights many of the aspects of high school life with the intention of putting minds at ease and answering many questions about what to expect in September. All the very best Year 9!

The department is also always keen to forge links with theatres and theatre companies. As a result we have teamed up with the Sherman Theatre who will be running workshops in the next academic year with Key Stage 4 and 5 students on 'The Fresh Ink Project'. This will mean that professionals from the stage will work together with pupils from Cardiff High to write five minute scripts which will be acted, directed and performed by people from the Sherman Theatre. These will take place in October 2014 so please feel free to come along and enjoy!

P.S. The eagerly awaited announcement for next year's show will be revealed in the coming weeks.



*Year 9 students running workshops with pupils from Rhydypennau Primary School*



## English Theatre



*The emotional scene between George and Lennie*

## Theatre Trip

In February, a hundred Year 10 students packed up their 'bindles' and headed off for Newport to see a performance of a tragic tale of friendship and shattered dreams. Set in the aftermath of The Great Depression, *Of Mice and Men* is a book that students really engage with and we were thrilled to be able to see a production of this GCSE set text.

The set was minimal and sparse, rather like life would have been for itinerant workers at the time. This is not the first time we have seen a Tin Shed production and so expectations of a great performance were high and the pupils eagerly anticipated the arrival of George and Lennie to the stage. They weren't disappointed!

The use of music and the constant movement of props allowed the set to change quickly and efficiently. The performance of the actors was engaging, allowing the pupils to see the characters they had read about in class come to life. Lennie (Robert Hopkins) was fantastic as was the dramatic scene when Curley's Wife died. The friendship between George and Lennie was beautifully portrayed and I am sure there were a few tears at the end of the play; I know Mrs Bennett had to dry her eyes.

Being able to see a production of a set text makes a huge difference to our pupils and their understanding of the literature they are studying. We're always proud of our students when they represent us in the wider community but when we were stopped on the way out of the theatre by a member of the public who congratulated us on Year 10's 'impeccable behaviour and manners', that really made the day complete.

## Putting Theory Into Practice



In recent times the Psychology Department has been working with a student, Luke McGuire, who is completing his Masters Degree at the University of Cardiff.

The Psychology Department always jumps at any opportunity for A-Level learners considering career paths in the subject to get some hands-on research experience. Although the participants on this occasion were Year 8 and 9 pupils, a number of our AS Psychology students were enlisted to act as research assistants. This allowed them to gain skills in the application of ethical procedures through the consent and debrief techniques utilised as well as putting their numeracy skills to the test with some number crunching in the analysis of the data produced.

Luke McGuire's research was focused upon children's decision making and whether decisions to share (or not) are dependent on the rules of the friendship group. This is an interesting idea which could produce results that have important implications for the wider social and emotional themes that we address with students through their Wider Curriculum Dimensions studies.

We look forward to receiving a copy of Luke's final report and research findings and welcome other invitations from similar organisations for A-Level students to participate in or help administer such research projects in the future.



## An Old Friend

The Psychology Department has recently made a new friend in somebody who is ultimately an old friend and student of the school.

Despite several of the textbooks he has written lining the shelves of our cupboards, it was not known that the acclaimed Dr. Nigel Holt had previously been a student of CHS.

Dr. Holt now works as a senior lecturer in Psychology at Aberystwyth University where he also holds the role of Director of International and External Relations in the Institute of Human Sciences. He has previously been a principle examiner at A Level and, as previously mentioned, has many publications for students studying to AS, A2 and undergraduate level, covering many fields of interest from across the subject.

Dr. Holt is keen to use his expertise in the subject to give back to the school that is ultimately at the heart

of the considerable success he has enjoyed over the course of his career. Dr. Holt will be coming in at the beginning of next term to hold a series of sessions with our current A-Level students about following a career path in Psychology, developing research skills which will directly benefit the students' ability to access course content and applications to university and the UCAS process, which will obviously be a huge priority for the majority of our learners at that time.

And what did Dr. Holt want to ask us... 'Does Mr Nigel Jones still work in school and do you think he would remember me?' I'm not sure who was the most star struck!

Watch this space for further news following Dr. Holt's visit.



## Remembering Owen

Students, staff and parents are continuing to raise funds for the Remembering Owen foundation in memory of Owen Morris, a delightful young man, who tragically died at the beginning of this school year.. All monies raised will go to the charity CRY, Cardiac Risks in the Young, and will help to provide screening for

teenagers in the local community. Pupils have raised a staggering £3,800 already with donations to the non-uniform day, the selling of Valentine's Day roses and purchasing Remembering Owen badges. Staff training for the 100 mile cycle from Cardiff to Brecon and back is going well.

Twelve teachers will be joining the over 100 members of the local community involved in 'Owen's Ride' which will take place on 5th July and 6th July. The ride is starting at the Cardiff City stadium, heading along the Taff Trail to Brecon for an overnight stop and finishing back here at Cardiff High School.

Please continue to support this very worthy cause, which aims to raise a total of £20,000, by joining in with forthcoming fundraising activities. Check out the school website for details or follow the progress on Twitter @RememberingOwen.



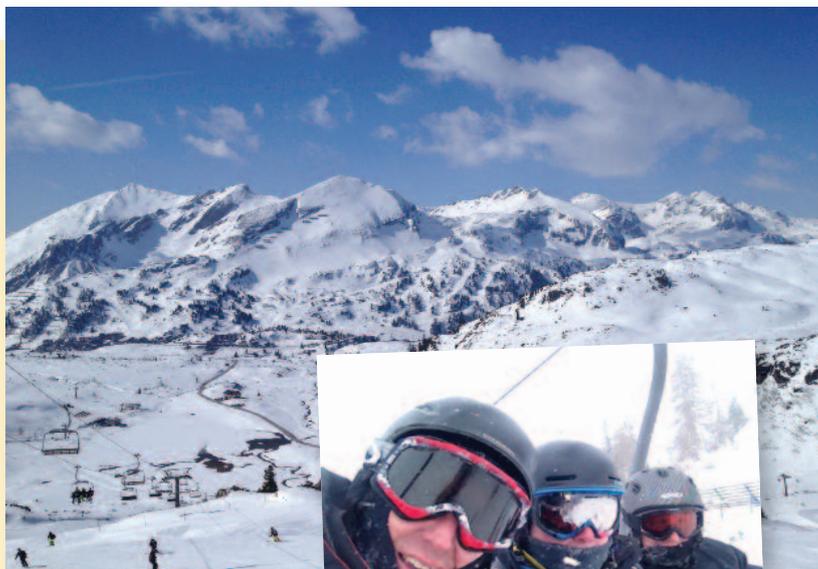
## The snow's more like Christmas than Easter!

On Friday 11th April, 40 pupils from Years 8-9, accompanied by Miss Warlow, Miss McDade, Mr Toye, Mr J Jones and Party Leader Mr Olsen, headed off on the annual Junior Ski Trip.

After a very delayed ferry crossing the journey made slow progress thanks largely to Bayern Munich football traffic, arriving on Saturday evening at our destination Jugendgästehaus Felseralm in Obertauern, a ten minute drive from the resort centre and our nearest lift.

After a quick stop in town to do the 'ski fit' on the Sunday morning, it was off to the slopes to meet our team of instructors, who warned us a storm was due later in the day! After a good first day on the slopes there was still no sign of any storm.

Monday began bright and clear with temperatures in a strong wind down to -9°C, but the pupils hardly noticed as they threw themselves into their lessons. By the end of the day still no storm, so the party went for a walk around the shops in the town centre – the storm then arrived!! It started to snow and continued for the next 48 hours, bringing around 50cms of fresh snow. For the rest of the week, conditions were great with the fresh powder bringing superb piste conditions. The pupils progressed really well, especially as the weather improved and the sky cleared. The advanced group impressed with their skiing of black runs and moguls, the intermediates with their skiing of reds, while the 2 beginner groups made excellent progress, all skiing intermediate slopes by the end of the



week. There were a few trips to the local Krankenhaus, but for nothing more serious than a few twists and sprains.

Evenings were filled with a mix of activities: 2 trips to the very impressive Amade Therme pool, bowling in the hotel, a quiz involving large amounts of chocolate, shopping trips into Obertauern, and a pizza evening in a local restaurant.

Throughout the trip the behaviour of all the pupils was exemplary. They showed patience on the long journeys, good stamina in what was a physically tiring week and, importantly, good humour. The quality of their behaviour was commented on not only by our staff, but also by the ski school, hotel and drivers. They were a pleasure to take away and did themselves and the school proud.

## Girls Athletics Results

The girls have had a great start to the athletics season. In the recent Middle Championships Emily Griffin won the discus and the 800m in a new Championship best performance: 2.19.14, and Caitlin Xerri won the 300m. We are hoping that both girls will now be selected to represent Cardiff and the Vale in the Welsh Schools Championship next month. Other notable performances include Chloe Smith finishing 2nd in the shot and Shinjee Park finishing 3rd in the triple jump.

The combined events competition saw Caitlin Bevan finishing 7th in the junior girls section and Lauren Evans was crowned County Champion for the second year running, with some exceptional performances including 5.38m in the long jump.



### Girls Cricket

Congratulations to the girls cricket teams who represented Cardiff High at the recent 5x60 cricket Chance to Shine competition. Our A team progressed through to the semi-finals.

### Girls Football

Congratulations to Caitlin Bevan, Millie Gall and Anna Richards who represented Cardiff and the Vale Schools Football Association in the national finals, finishing runners up.

## Boys Athletics Results

It has already been an exciting start to the Athletics season. The Senior Boys' team have taken team glory in the Senior Athletics Championship. Added to this have been very impressive performances by a number of individuals:-

Lauren Evans: Lauren's performances continue to stagger everybody. She ran in the final of the 75m Hurdles in the Indoor AAA's in Sheffield and was unfortunate not to win. She has recently won the Cardiff and Vale Combined Championships and was a magnificent performer in the Year 9 County Championships, becoming triple county champion.



Luke Evans: Luke became county champion in the 1500 walk and will now go on to represent Cardiff and the Vale in the Welsh Schools Championships.

### Combined Events

A number of Cardiff High School athletes have been selected to represent Cardiff and the Vale in the Combined Championships later this month in Newport.

They are Jordan Fender (Y10), Adam Malik (Y9), Lauren Evans (Y9), Georgia Brown (Y11) and Alia Yadollahi (Y11). We wish them well.

### Girls Tennis

Following a very successful season last year, which saw both the Year 7 and 8 girls' team and 9 and 10 girls' team progressing to the final stages of the UK national competition, we look forward to embarking on what I am sure will yet again be a very successful season for Cardiff High in both age groups. Matches are due to commence towards the end of June and we wish the girls well.



## DOUBLE CHAMPIONS!

### Y10 & 11 football teams crowned Cardiff & Vale Champions

#### Y10: CHS 4-0 St Teilo's

A 4 goal second half blitz blew away St Teilo's as Y10 were crowned CVSFA Champions for the first time. The score line does not reflect the actual game. A tight first half ended with few chances for both teams. The first goal was always going to be crucial and a moment of class from the CHS front two opened the scoring. Marcus Moses' through ball picked out Joe Tong, who finished clinically via the post. St Teilo's rallied and created a great opportunity to equalise; however, it was brilliantly saved by Sam Cradick. Joe Tong then capitalised on a defensive error to double the CHS lead. Y10 were now very much in the ascendancy and Tiago De Brito Micallef scored a spectacular free kick to end the game as a contest. There was still time for sub Joe Worth to round the St Teilo's keeper and score with his first touch.

Massive congratulations to the team who have remained unbeaten all season and recorded many emphatic victories along the way!

#### Y11: CHS 3-0 Fitzalan

Year 11 capped a memorable season in the CVSFA Cup with a comprehensive victory vs Fitzalan. The first half was tight, with CHS creating the greater openings. Jon Leighfield and Nick Davies were both close to opening the scoring, whilst Cian Cocks was denied an opening goal due to a foul in the build-up. CHS were awarded a penalty on the stroke of half time and Nick Davies kept up his 100% record from the spot to slam CHS into the lead. The next goal was vital and two arrived in the



space of 3 minutes. Dana Saed reacted first to an Ethan Grant knock down to double the lead before Nick Davies scored his second, showing great composure to finish after a scrabble in the Fitzalan box. CHS defended solidly and kept their discipline to see out the rest of the game to complete the win and take home the trophy!

## History made in agonising defeat

#### Y11: CHS 1-1 Eifionydd

(Eifionydd won 7-6 on pens)

Unfortunately the Y11 team were defeated on penalties in the Welsh School's Cup final. The game was played at the Park Hall Stadium, home of TNS in Oswestry, and with many CHS parents and staff in attendance the scene was set for a tense afternoon. In a game played in difficult conditions CHS edged a tight first half, with Seun Oduwiaye and Nick Davies' efforts from distance the closest either team came to opening the scoring. In the second half, Eifionydd were first to strike, finishing clinically following a fortunate ricochet on the edge of the box. As they have done all season, the boys refused to be beaten and responded positively. Alex Koukouravas was inches away from an equaliser with a back post header. With time running out, Cian Cocks was quickest to react after Nick Davies' free kick was turned onto the post. With the teams unable to be separated the game was to be decided by penalties. Sudden death penalties were required and the game was finally decided in the 8th round of spot kicks.

A heart breaking defeat, but the boys can take great credit for being the first ever CHS team to reach a national football final. It is the end of era for this team, who were unbeaten in normal time over a 2 year period and beat all before them in South Wales. #historymakers



### GOLDEN BOOT RESULT

With 142 goals scored between 40 pupils this season, the eventual winner was Y11 pupil Nick Davies with 17 goals, a new record for a single season. Y7 pupil Toby Yebdri was 2nd with 8 goals, whilst Seb James (Y12), Jordan Lewis (Y8) and Joe Tong (Y10) were joint 3rd with 7 goals each. Special mentions to Y11 centre backs Cian Cocks and Dana Saed who scored 6 goals each.



## Senior Rugby

The Senior Rugby team completed a successful season by playing in the final of the Welsh Boomerang Vase at Cardiff Arms Park v Bro Myrddin (Carmarthen) on the 11th April. As the current holders of the Vase, the team was full of high expectations but under no illusions that Bro Myrddin would prove easy opposition. Ex pupil and current Cardiff Blues player, James Down, was on hand to deliver an inspiring team talk before the game. In very warm conditions it was Bro Myrddin who had the upper hand in the first half, leading 15-3, but a second half revival saw the team exchange the lead. With the game locked at 25-25 and try, conversion and penalty count equal, the two teams could not be split and, for the first time ever, the Vase was shared.



# *A Fond Farewell To Staff Members*



**Caroline Fletcher**



**Caryl Warlow**



**Jerry Cleal Harding**



**Sue Cubitt**



**Helen Carew**



**Pauline Campbell**



**Paul Evans**



**Natasha Owen**



**Judith Mitchell**



**Simon James**



**Sandra Ashton**



**Gill Taylor**

Also  
**Esther Addams**  
Photograph not available

**Cardiff  
High School**

