

CHS Summer Newsletter 2019



Another academic year is drawing to a close and the Summer Newsletter is an opportunity to reflect on what has been a very exciting year at Cardiff High School. However, it has been demanding. Funding remains a major issue for the profession, increasingly teacher recruitment is becoming more challenging and of course we are all considering the implications of the New Curriculum for Wales, the biggest change for a generation of learners. Meanwhile discussions continue regarding the expansion of the school. Plenty to think about in the coming year!

In the last few weeks Estyn released its latest inspection findings for the school. As a community we are delighted with the outcomes. At Cardiff High School we have worked hard to ensure the school is a place where both students and staff are happy. It is this sense of enjoyment and fulfilment which is at the heart of our success as a community.

As Headteacher, I am fortunate to work with passionate educators who spend their days working tirelessly to ensure they are the best they can be. The school has a team of hugely dedicated teachers and support staff who share a passion for learning together and demonstrate commitment to the wellbeing and development of students every single day. We also have a governing body who believe in and share the school's philosophy and ambitions which is crucial to our success.

The Estyn experience has allowed us to reflect on where we are. We are rightly very pleased that Estyn recognised all aspects of our work, including academic performance, extra-curricular activities, excellent teaching and the pastoral support students are given here. To achieve this our staff demonstrate huge commitment and immense dedication and it is a real pleasure to work in this vibrant community.

Of course, the school remains very aspirational. We believe that we can always improve. Rest assured we will continue to relentlessly focus on the learning experience in the classroom and what has the greatest impact on students. The focus of the school has always been about us being better practitioners, whatever the changes in education.

This year's examination series has now finished and I know that all involved worked very hard to prepare. The after school sessions, Saturday mornings and holiday sessions were very well attended as staff willingly gave up their time to motivate and support students. I look forward to congratulating students on results days in August.

Teaching is a tough profession, but it is one that can also bring huge rewards. As such we are always very grateful for the messages of thanks and goodwill we have received throughout the year and I have passed these on to staff on every occasion. I have regularly said that I hope many of our students will be encouraged to choose teaching as a future career. It is important we all get behind the profession.

Finally, I saw it written recently that the more we use social media the less social we become. Can I request that if anyone has any concerns in the community you let the school know through the numerous communications channels we have and take the opportunity to come and talk to us.

Thank you.

Science

British Physics Olympiad AS Challenge

The British Physics Olympiad AS Challenge, which is organised by Oxford University, is “designed to be a challenge for the top AS Physicists in the country.” Several of our Year 12 physics’ students rose to the challenge on Friday 8th March. The challenge consisted of a one hour written exam paper that the students completed in their extra-curricular time. The paper consisted of five short multiple choice questions and six more complex and multi-layered questions. The questions focussed on problem solving and pushed the students’ understanding of AS Physics to the extreme, as the BPhO suggests; “the only way to overcome [the questions] is to struggle through them and learn from them.” For example, one such question required students’ to calculate the motion of a photon dependent on its position in the Sun and then relate this to a nuclear fusion reaction, before calculating the number of photons produced in such a reaction.

The students who took part all gave a very good account of themselves and provided some excellent answers to questions. It was encouraging to observe the high levels of diligence and resilience, which students applied to tackle such complicated questions in unusual contexts. All of the students entered were above the National average highlighting their outstanding performance. However, particular congratulations go to Lorca Heeney and Rhian Butler, who both achieved a Bronze Award Certificate as a result of their excellent performance in the exam.



BPhO

British Physics Olympiad



ICT & Computing Paris Trip



In February 2019, a group of students in Years 10-12 went to Paris on an exciting 3 day trip which combined sightseeing, rides and Computer Science activities.



Day 1 and 2 involved sightseeing around Paris visiting the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and Tour Montparnasse, and Bateaux Parisiens River cruise, before transferring to Disneyland ready for the Computing conference on Day 3.



At the conference experts from high profile organisations provided relevant examples and exam case studies to ignite students' aspirations. The speakers included a leading expert in information security, a Digital Commerce Manager for Disney Destinations responsible for defining and executing digital strategy across e-commerce platform, as well as Head Stemette and co-founder of Stemettes (the award-winning social enterprise inspiring the next generation of females into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) roles).



Maths Challenge Stars!

The past couple of months have seen 65 students across KS3 and KS4 compete in the prestigious UKMT Junior and Intermediate Mathematical Challenges. In the Intermediate Challenge Adam Ahmad Azam, Ollie Jones, Gabe Harcombe, Rhys David and Daniel Ahmad Azam all achieved Gold awards. In the Junior Challenge, Abbas Schwarz, Hibah Mohamed, Felix Groves, Sophie Ames, Sean Lay, Susannah Rance, Eddie Jennings and Nye Bradfield all achieved Gold awards. Some of these students also qualified for the Kangaroo Challenge and we await their results eagerly!

In March, Mr Stevens accompanied Monty Hood, Sara Edwards, Mohammed Toor and Adam Ahmad Azam to compete in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge. They finished a very respectable 7th out of 28 schools. The annual competition was based in Aberdare Community School and comprised of a few varied events such as a maths relay and cross-number puzzle. The students represented our school extremely well – well done to all involved!

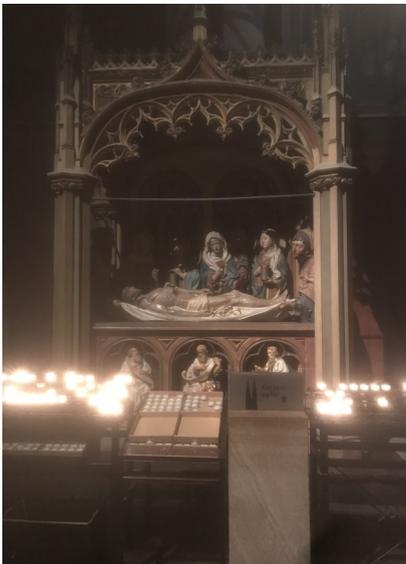
In June Miss Alford took a group of 13 Year 10 students to the University of South Wales for a Maths based conference. The conference aimed to deepen students' appreciation of maths and to uncover the careers that rely on mathematics. The students explored the maths of chemical reactions and dynamical systems and were introduced to happy numbers! Exercise for the reader: Find out what happy numbers are



German Department



Throughout the year our learners have enjoyed many new experiences, with visits from Alex Pickering from the renowned German cultural association, the Goethe Institut, who spoke to our learners about the life and career opportunities that come with learning German, and a Routes to Languages ambassador. Some of our learners were also fortunate enough to work with a Cardiff University German undergraduate on a fascinating mentoring scheme that was very well received.



Our sixth formers took advantage of an event run by Swansea University. For our younger learners the main event for them was of course the Christmas Market visit to Cologne, which once again, left our pupils delighted to be able to show off their language skills and enjoy the beautiful culture, architecture and way of life of this amazing country.

Cymraeg

Eisteddfod Ysgol

The school Eisteddfod was a very successful day. The eventual winners were 7S and 8K. Their form tutors were very proud. Sophie Edwards won the crown whilst Nia Templeton-Hall was chaired for her poem. The pictures are available to see on the department's gallery on the school website. The fun is obvious to all as the students enjoyed singing, reciting, lip dubbing, speed bouncing!! 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. Over £450 was also raised for Marie Curie Cancer care in memory of John Maruza through the sale of daffodils on the day.

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

Winning School Eisteddfod poem from Sophie Edwards

Fy Nghymru

Dros mynyddoedd ac afonydd,
Yn ddwfn yn fy nghalon
Ydy'r lle o'r enw Cymru

Mae ganddi rhywbeth
Yr harddwch, yr ysbryd

Mae yna lawer o ddirgelwch, mae pob un
yn hudol

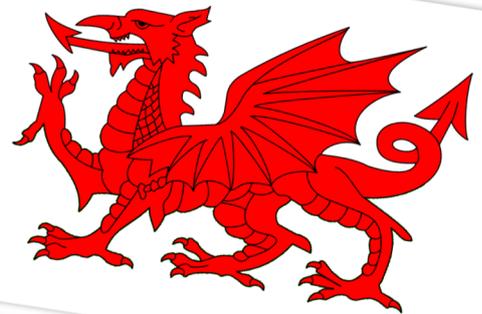
Bryniau bythwyrdd, awyr llachar,
Ogofau Ynys y Barri lle mae'r ddraig yn
gorwedd

Tir o gân, gan ganu yn falch
Calon lân! A'r tyrfaoedd yn rhuo

Bydd ein llais Jones bob amser yno,
Gwasgwch y botwm, trowch y gadair.

Mae'r glaswellt gwyrdd, y traethau,
Gwynt, haul a glaw,
Lle gyda llawer o galon
A dyma yw fy Nghymru.

gan Sophie Edwards



Welsh department on tour

March was a busy month in the department as year 7 and 8 headed off to Llangrannog. Over 120 students enjoyed a weekend of skiing, tobogganing, dancing, archery, swimming, quad biking, go carting and a lot of eating. Many thanks to the staff who helped out on the weekend (especially as this was at the end of our inspection week). Numerous photos have been placed on the school gallery and also shared on twitter. Follow us @CymraegCHS. Aeth llawer i sgio, nofio, gwibgartio, 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!

Urdd Eisteddfod



Da iawn i Rosina Jones year 12 for winning the prestigious Carys Lewis Jones memorial award in the Urdd Eisteddfod at Cardiff. The prize is awarded for the best piece of writing in year 12 and 13. Lucy Morgan was third. Rosie also came second in the poetry completion for fluent Welsh students. Lottie Pearson won the year 10/11 competition with Miella Hood second. Alexandria won the year 8 and 9 competition writing an extended piece on 'Gwyliau'. Nia Abraham Love came second in the year 7 competition writing

a very amusing piece on the life of a welsh cake! All were presented with their medals at the Lanfa stage at the Wales Millennium Centre.



On stage, the students have been busy competing in all the learners' competitions. In the county round

Magdalena Lacey Hughes won the junior individual recitation and represented her county in the National finals. Magdalena was also involved in the Ymgom along with Sophie, Megan and Emma. They took the county round by storm with the group performing a piece about the school council. After a tough competition they won

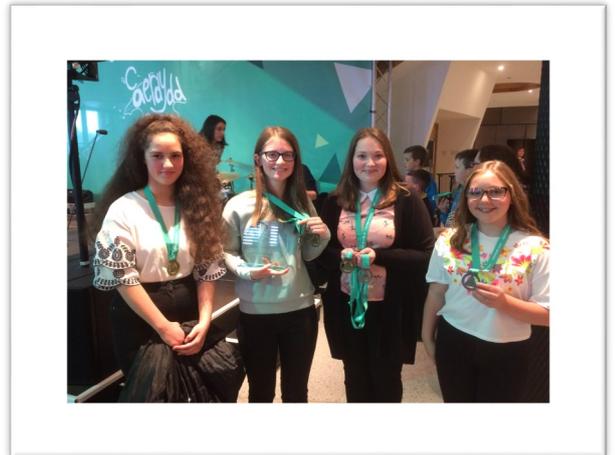
through to perform on the Wales Millennium Centre stage, coming second overall. The recitation groups also won their competition in the county round as they performed pieces called 'Planedau' and 'Cilmeri'. Well done to all.

Gweithio gyda'r Consortiwm

Eleni eto mae'r adran wedi cael eu dewis i arwain y Consortiwm gyda Cymraeg Ail Iaith am y bumed flwyddyn yn olynol. Byddwn yn darparu cyrsiau i athrawon TGAU a Safon Uwch yn ystod y flwyddyn.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

As a school we are indebted to a small group of volunteers who help out every Monday with the sixth form. Margaret, Eleri, Sion, Rhiannon and Lona have been supporting the work of the department for years as they come in to chat with the sixth form in Welsh in order to improve their oracy. Diolch o galon i chi am eich cy-morth.



We are also very proud of Sophia Yeoman from year 13 who came 2nd in the Bobi Jones Learner Competition. Lydia Lisk and Rosie Jones were joint third. The girls (along with Ed Felix Richards) were an important part of the Learners Ceremony on the stage.

GWELL NAG ATGOFION

Dw i'n cofio dy wyneb
trwy'r picseli perffaith.
Gwelais i ti drwy gamera 8MP
fel dw i'n dy weld ti nawr,
dy lygaid yn loyw yn y golau.

Dw i'n cofio dy sŵn
trwy'r seinyddion soffistigedig
tra edrychwn i ar rywbeth ar fy sgrîn.
Dalais i bob eiliad
gan gynnwys dy chwerthiniad heintus.

Dw i'n cofio dy gyffyrddiad
trwy'r cas cynnes metelaidd
Sut cadwaist ti bopeth gyda'i gilydd?
Ac roeddwn i'n dy garu di
Fel dw i'n dy garu di nawr
Ar ben y rhestr 'ffrindiau' gorau
Ti, yw'r un gyda fy holl 'likes'

Dw i'n meddwl fy mod yn cofio pan
roeddwn i'n fach.
Ac roeddwn i ar dy ysgwyddau,
ac roeddwn i mor hapus

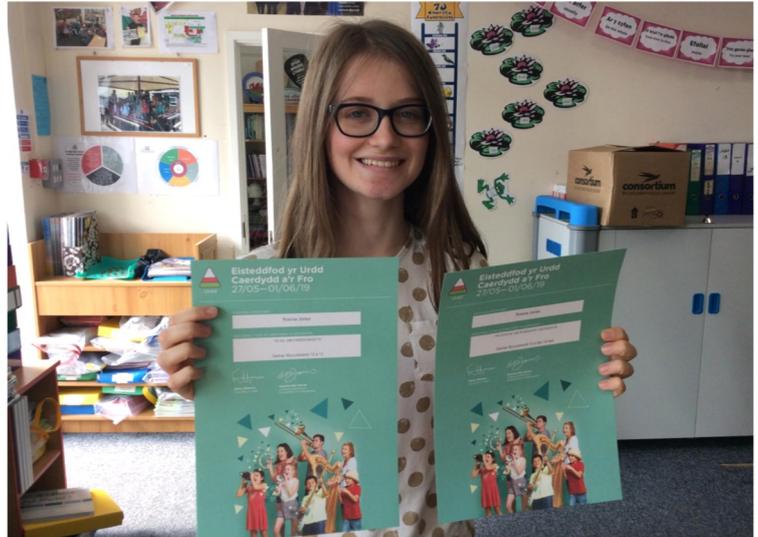
Ond does dim cof arall yn fy meddwl.
Pam fasai
pan mae storfa 128MB gyda fi?

Ti wedi fy ngadael nawr
Ond dw i'n dy weld fel o'r blaen
Dw i'n dy glywed fel o'r blaen
Dw i'n dy nabod fel o'r blaen
trwy fy ffôn.

**by Rosina Jones (2nd in the Urdd
Eisteddfod)**



Urdd



Skills Challenge

It has been an exciting time in Skills Challenge! Year 11 pupils embraced their creative and entrepreneurial skills as they pitched their business plans to local employers. Pupils impressed our judges with their ideas to help dementia sufferers, a game to promote tourism in Wales and an item for the museum shop. A small selection of the visual displays produced by pupils can be seen below:



We would like to extend our thanks to Careers Wales for organising employers from HSBC, Target Group, Conduit Global, Children in Wales, Golley Slater, Vista, Lloyds Bank, HMRC, Sedgwick, D S Smith and Cardiff Community Housing Association. Two of the judges were ex-Cardiff High School pupils, Sophie Grant and Lloyd Isgrove.

Year 12 pupils have recently demonstrated their excellent presentation and innovation skills through participating in a Global Choice Conference. Pupils chose a global issue that they felt deeply about and presented their solutions to the issue in a conference paper and question and answer session. Year 12 are now looking forward to starting the Enterprise and Employability Challenge where they will begin planning routes into their chosen careers.

Year 13 pupils completed the qualification with excellent Individual Projects. The topics chosen by pupils were linked to their future studies/employment plans and ranged from the impact of video assistant referees to Multiple Sclerosis and, of course, the topic issue of Brexit. Best wishes to all our pupils in year 13 as they leave sixth form, you will no doubt find the skills you have developed useful in your future ambitions.

Law

The Law Department led an action packed trip to London in January taking in all the key legal sights. We visited the Old Bailey and observed very moving proceedings in the criminal proceedings of the Alfie Lamb case. We then moved on to a tour of the Royal Courts of Justice and the Supreme Court and Privy Council. Pupils enjoyed a chance to sit in the judges' chairs and caught a glimpse of what it would be like to decide the most important legal cases. In the afternoon, we visited the Houses of Parliament where we had a fascinating tour and pupils took part in a sophisticated debate on removing the tax on sanitary products. Finally, we retraced the steps of the infamous 'Jack the Ripper' on a walking tour through London at night, spooky but interesting at the same time! We walked miles the next day, visiting the British Museum and the sights and shops around Covent Gardens. A great weekend was enjoyed by all.



Debating in the House of Commons Education Unit

Physical Education

PGL Netball Weekend

In March, we ran a successful netball weekend trip at PGL Liddington, involving 42 pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10. Pupils engaged in various outdoor and adventurous activities including zip wire, abseiling, rock climbing, archery, and many more! The netball tournament, which ran over both the Saturday and Sunday, was incredibly well attended and our pupils thoroughly enjoyed. It was also a successful



competition for our pupils with Year 8 finishing 3rd, Year 9 finishing 2nd and Year 10 also finishing 2nd in an extremely close final! Pupils were an absolutely credit to

themselves and the school all weekend and, given the success of this trip, is something we hope to continue to run each year.



Girls Hockey

Our Year 10 hockey squad has enjoyed a very successful end to their year after being crowned Cardiff and Vale County Plate Champions having beaten Fitzalan in the finals! Strong performances from the squad all year allowed them to confidently claim the title and we look forward to potential prospects for next season! Year 9 also enjoyed an improved season finishing 2nd in the plate finals overall. Pupils have demonstrated determination, focus and hard work all year and we are excited to see what the next year has to offer. Year 8 were crowned joint plate champions after an incredibly close final with Bishop of Llandaff. After 0-0 at full time, 0-0 at extra-time and 1-1 on penalties, it was decided that the plate would be shared.

Boys Football Round Up

It's been a fantastic year for Year 7, with over 40 pupils participating in 20 fixtures. The season ended particularly strongly, with 5 games undefeated and beating Eastern High 7-2. Rhys Ruttley is the top scorer in the whole of CHS, Joe Philips has shown class in, midfield whilst Ben Boyce has been a rock at the back. Year 8 were given two difficult cup draws against Whitchurch and Corpus. They produced a great performance against Corpus, losing narrowly to a team that would go on to win the Welsh Cup. The season ended with a great win against Bro Edern, with Sam Long continuing his improvement and goal scoring form. After some difficult cup draws, Year 9 produced some good late season form in friendly matches to underline their potential. A 3-3 draw against Welsh Champions, Whitchurch, was the pick of these victories. Harry Beddall continues to be a rock at the back, with Umer Zahid and Merlin Judson impressing in midfield. There were some memorable performances this season for Year 10, producing comprehensive victories against Glantaf, Radyr and a quarter final win against St Richard Gwyn. They were narrowly defeated, 1-0, by Whitchurch in the semi-final of the CVSFA cup. Abdullah Qureshi and Finlay Charles have again, excelled in midfield, with Jack Lock impressing in goal. Despite an impressive victory against Llanishen, Year 11 were disappointingly knocked out of the CVSFA cup by Willows. It was very pleasing to see Joe Bassett, MacKenzie Bird, Ryan Barnfield, Kyle Evans, James Emberton, Dan Blunt and Owain Jenkins all represented the Senior team this year. A year of rebuilding for the Seniors after losing a lot of players from last year's cup success. A narrow defeat to eventual Welsh Champions, Whitchurch, left a feeling of what might have been. Wins against Llanishen, Bishop and Llanwern showed the boys demonstrate their class. One goal defeats to Bridgend College and CAVC saw the team's search for success end in heart breaking fashion. Joe Bassett and Charlie Allan shone in midfield, with Linus Harman's leadership qualities clear to see.

Physical Education

Rosslyn Park

Another year, another 3 teams competing in the largest schools rugby tournament in the world! Year 8, who were taking part in the tournament for the first time, were drawn in a very tough group with the likes of Ivybridge and St Joesph's College. The boys did themselves proud scoring some fantastic tries. The highlight of the trip had to be the team bonding over food and a few games bowling, where Mr Nutall showed them how the game should be played!



The Year 9 boys were also pitted in a very tight group of Ivybridge, St Joesph's College and Clifton College. Every game was highly competitive with only a try settling each game. In the final match the boys were awarded the chance to play on the main televised pitch, where international referee JP Doyle took charge. This proved to be the best game of the day, with the boys playing an expansive game only to go out of the tournament in the final play to a length of the field try.

The senior XV boys went up to the tournament with full confidence, after being crowned Blues champions, but were up against it in their first game against tournament contenders Cheltenham College. They didn't let this get them down and enjoyed victory in the next game. Player Of The Tournament went to Sollie Simon for his fancy footwork all day, beating defenders for fun. The boys were absolutely fantastic to take away and represented the school perfectly at all times.



Urdd Rugby 7s

The Year 7 boys proved a hit in the WRU Urdd 7s tournament reaching the cup quarter finals before losing out to Dyfryn Amman. The whole squad was outstanding on the day, giving absolutely every inch of effort in every game.

Year 8 continued to impress with the amount they have improved this year. They represented the school magnificently and were unlucky not to get through to the quarter finals.

The highlight of the week being Year 7/8 girls competing in the tournament, some for the first time. The girls jumped straight into the thick of things narrowly losing to a strong Porth side. Despite this the girls progressed to the plate quarter final before narrowly losing out on a semi-final place.



Dewar Shield

A huge congratulations to Finlay Charles, Jack Locke, Woody Facey and Zak Wall on winning the U15's Dewar shield. All four started the game with Woody scoring a famous try at the Principality Stadium.

Physical Education

ATHLETICS

Middle/Senior Championships

The senior boys' team successfully secured the Team Title with Sam Wooding winning the 100 and 200 metres, Dan Austin the 1500metres, Jacob Maullin-Davies the discus and Cameron Taylor winning the javelin. The middle boys' team saw Jake knight and Zak Wall finishing 2nd in the discus and shot respectively.



GIRLS MIDDLE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS (May 2019)

Sixteen year 10 and 11 girls represented Cardiff High School in the annual Middle Athletics Championships at Leckwith. This was the largest team in the Cardiff and Vale area in a competition against 16 other schools. The weather conditions were not kind, with many events being cancelled or rescheduled due to torrential rain. Huge credit to our pupils who performed exceptionally well to finish in overall 2nd position! There were many notable individual performances on the day, in particular, congratulations to Funmi Oduwaiye who became County Shot Put Champion and Lydia Stewart Wason who became Javelin County Champion.

It has been another successful season for the girls' athletics teams. Four girls teams competed in the prelim competition on 12th June and all 4 qualified for the finals on 19th June meaning we were represented in under 14 A and B finals as well as under 16 A and B finals. There were many notable individual performances in the prelims, however it is a team competition so everyone's performances earn points to qualify. The under 14 A Team showed incredible strength in depth to win their prelim convincingly.

All 4 teams went on to compete in the cup finals on 19th June and showed enormous team spirit and endeavour. In a closely contested A final the under 16's finished 3rd, just missing out on the next round by 2 points. The under 14's finished 2nd overall and qualify for the national plate final in Brecon. Both B teams finished..... Well done to all 4 teams!

Netball

COUNTY NETBALL FINALS (March 2019)

Cardiff High were well represented again at this year's County Netball finals with teams in years 7,10 and 11 reaching their respective age group finals. Celtic Dragons and Wales player Kyra Jones was on hand to present trophies and star player awards. Congratulations to Ellie Thomas year 7, Poppy Morgan year 10 and Thea Mycroft year 11 who were all voted star players by their opponents. All competitions were hugely competitive with some closely contested matches. Final positions were: Year7 4th, Year 10 3rd and year 11 2nd.

Physical Education

U15 Junior Champs

The Year 8 and 9 boys' team produced a super display at this year's Junior Championships to win the team section for the 4th time in 5 years. The foundation was set by marvellous individual performances by a number of the boys. Special mention to John Park (Long Jump and 80m Hurdles winner) and Seb James (Hammer winner). Both boys along with Dylan Hands (1500m walk) and Dan Buffrey (Pole Vault) will now represent Cardiff and Vale in the Welsh School Championships in July.

The Year and girls team finished in a brilliant 3rd place overall! Top individual track results: Sophie Lisk (Hurdles 1st), Katie Woodhall (100mB 2nd), Grace Lane (800m 6th), Lola Osmond (1500m 5th), Sophie, Martha, Sophie & Katie (Relay 2nd). Top individual field events: Sophie Lisk (High Jump 1st and Shot Put 2nd), Sophie Davies (Long Jump 4th and Triple Jump 2nd). Also a special mention for Year 8 pupil Sophie Lisk who was one of only three competitors in the whole competition to win double events (Hurdles and High Jump) and also finished 2nd in her two other events (Shot Put and Relay).

Cup Prelims

The first round of the Cup competitions has seen further success for our teams. Over 80 students competed in our eight teams with great success. Both our U14 boy and girl A teams won their matches, qualifying for the A finals. Our U14 boy and girl B teams also qualified for the B team finals. Our U16 boy and girl A teams also won their matches, qualifying for the A finals. Our U16 girls team finished 2nd in their match, but could only qualify for the B final as a B team. There were great performances throughout the day including 1st place event finishes from 29 individual pupils and 4 of our relay teams! An outstanding set of results evident of pupils' commitment and hard work.

Cup Finals

Congratulations to our U16 Boys and U14 girls who have both qualified for the Welsh Finals in Brecon in July. Our U16 Boys go on to compete for the Cup and our U14 Girls aim for the Plate. Our U16 Girls narrowly missed out on a place at the Brecon finals by just 2 points, finishing in 3rd overall. U14 Boys finished in 4th. Notable individual performances of the day came from the following who all finished 1st in their events; Lydia Stewart-Wason (JT), Sophie Lisk (Hurdles & HJ), Jake Knight (DT), Zak Wall (100m & SP), U16 Boys Relay. We look forward to what these teams can achieve in Brecon!

Big Bang Fair 2019

This year, 50 pupils from year 8 and 9 travelled up to the NEC in Birmingham for the national Big Bang Fair. Pupils had an amazing day where they were able to see live shows, demonstrations and talk to experts from STEM fields. Some highlights of the day included pupils watching a show on the importance of digestion and enzymes, they were able to see how enzymes in spit are able to break down custard! Pupils were able to play with liquid nitrogen and work with staff on the NHS stall to identify and manage outbreaks of a mystery disease. Cardiff High pupils were amazing all day and were fully involved in all activities on offer!



The Big Bang Fair
South Wales/De Cymru

Geography

Fieldtrips

It has been a busy term for the Geography department. Year 12 have taken part in two fieldtrips to enhance their learning experiences. The first focussed on deprivation across Cardiff and the second led to an exploration of Ogmore and Southerndown. Some year 12 students have shared their fieldwork skills and experiences with lower school pupils who have all been planning and carrying out local fieldwork activities. This has been a fantastic peer teaching opportunity and all pupils have thrived from it.



Excellence in Geography Award

Ben Cradick, who achieved an A* in his A Level Geography last summer has recently been awarded the Royal Geographical Award for Excellence in A Level Geography. He achieved the highest marks of all students taking WJEC A Level Geography last summer. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects the hard work he put into his studies. He is now continuing his Geography studies at Cambridge University.

Readathon

World Book Day marked the launch of the Cardiff High School Readathon. Year 7 and 8 pupils were invited to take part in a sponsored read which involved reading and raising as much as they could within 2 weeks. Amazingly, CHS readers raised a staggering total of £2230.57! There were some outstanding individual and form efforts, both in terms of the quantity of books read and the amount of sponsorship money collected; ultimately, 7J triumphed as top fundraisers overall! The money raised went to the 'Read for Good' organisation which provides brand new books and storytellers for local children's hospitals. A huge thank you to all those who took part and helped to make a real difference for this wonderful cause. We were rewarded with over £400 worth of book vouchers to help re-stock our school library, so look out for some brand new titles coming soon!



The ASDAN Museum Trip: Inspiring Curiousness!



On January 25th, our Year 10 and Year 11 ASDAN students were able to get a “backstage tour” of Cardiff Museum. The students had the chance to meet with experts in the field and discuss the weird and wonderful items in front of them. Our students asked incredibly thoughtful questions, and were inquisitive throughout the tour. Our tour guide was beyond impressed with how curious and thirsty-for-knowledge our students are, not to mention how impeccably behaved they were. The tour was educational and entertaining (and a little nauseating at times! After all, it’s not every day you get to see the skeletons of extinct animals!), and our students relished the opportunity to learn more about the world we live in.



National Museum of Wales

Cardiff High Past Times

Valerie Mary Austin (nee Chiverton) attended Cardiff High School throughout the war except for some months as an evacuee in the Rhondda Valley. An exceptional student academically, she excelled at piano, ballet and choral singing, and was also Head Girl. One story she often told was of being caught in an air raid on the way to school. The rest of the students had already gone to the air raid shelter. Urged on by the tram driver Valerie raced across the open space to where the headmistress, Miss Rees, was holding the school door open for her. As she dived for safety Miss Rees said sternly, "Valerie, where are your gloves?"



Valerie attended Newnham College Cambridge in 1946 to read Modern Languages. Valerie graduated with a 2:1 and pursued an interest in drama that was to develop into a lifelong love of the theatre. It was whilst directing a French play that Valerie met her future husband Robert, a fellow modern linguist at Queens' College. They married shortly after graduating and moved to Tonbridge in Kent where Valerie taught at Ashford Grammar and Tonbridge school before taking a career break to raise a family. Valerie and Robert had two children, Tim and Sarah-Jane. When Robert was appointed housemaster at Tonbridge, Valerie also assumed the varied responsibilities of being a "housemaster's wife". She resumed her teaching career in 1965 teaching Spanish at Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls. Later in life, Valerie served as a Governor of Waltham Stow Hall and enjoyed meeting up with Cardiff High friends as an officer of the London Branch of the Old Girls Association. Valerie and Robert delighted in travelling to the United States to see their four grandchildren and on Skype watching the progress and antics of their nine great grandchildren.

Valerie's love of and enthusiasm for Wales, and in particular Welsh hymns and Rugby, never wavered even when she moved to a care home. Valerie passed away peacefully in May 2019 after a short illness.

Valerie attending a War-savings rally representing Cardiff High School as Head Girl. Valerie is to the right of the standing soldier. The text is Valerie's thoughts from the family archives.



During the War, there were few State or Civic ceremonies but in my last year at Cardiff High School (1945-1946), I was three times invited to City Hall. The first was to the Inauguration of the new Lord Mayor. Each year one pupil from every Grammar or Secondary School in Cardiff was invited to watch the official Installation and then to write an essay "inspired" by the occasion. We watched from a side gallery of the Council Chamber and were then ushered out past the Grand Saloon, set for the Civic Banquet, to a "treat" of lemonade and buns (at lunch-time!) in a side-room. The essays were judged by the Lord Mayor, who awarded two prizes of books, one for a boy and one, which I was awarded, for a girl. We were also invited "with your mother" to take tea in the Lord Mayor's Parlour with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Neither Mama nor I were very enthusiastic about the engagement beforehand but it turned out to be very enjoyable. The boys'-school winner was a childhood friend whom we had not seen for years and the Lady Mayoress looked at Mama and said in astonishment: "Good heavens! It's Evelyn Bishop!". They had been at school together but knew each other only by their maiden names. So a good, gossipy tea-party ensued. And this time there was a dainty tea, no lemonade and no buns.

Also in that year, I was invited, as Head Girl of Cardiff High School, to read "Princess Elizabeth's Speech to the Youth of Wales" at a War-savings Rally in the grounds of Cardiff Castle. There were speeches also by Major Tasker Watkins, V.C., and by the famous music-hall comedienne Elsie and Doris Waters. After the rally, we went back to a Civic Banquet at City Hall. The Mayor said that as I was representing Princess Elizabeth, I must stand with Major Tasker Watkins to receive the guests. As the first guests arrived, the kind young officer said to the nervous teenager at his side: "Crashing bore all this, isn't it? Smile prettily now!". I felt thoroughly sophisticated but was soon returned to earth after the Loyal Toast, when the Second Mistress sitting beside me refused a cigarette on my behalf before I could do so for myself. In those days, you were not "grown-up" until those in authority told you so!

Sixth Form News

Careers and Apprenticeship Talks

Our year 11 and sixth form students have been given the opportunity to listen to guest speakers at lunchtime discussing careers in Optometry, Medicine and Law. Thanks goes to one of our parents Chris Evans and two ex-pupils, Martin Clarkson and Melissa Jones for giving up their time to speak with our students.

Our year 12 students have also been given the opportunity to explore apprenticeships as a route for further learning. Sgils Cymru and ARUP representatives delivered dynamic assemblies on higher apprenticeships. Some exciting opportunities were highlighted and inspired our students to think about future learning pathways and careers. Thank you to Careers Wales for helping to organise our speakers.

We have also had a guest speaker from the Army to deliver an assembly to open student eyes to the wealth of opportunities that armed forces can offer.

Thanks to all of those who have given up their time to share their experiences with our students.

McApline HMRC Site Visit

In March a group of year 12 students who are interested in engineering and architecture were invited to the new HMRC site at Central Square Cardiff to their open doors event.

This was a unique chance for students to see behind the scenes at a major live construction site. Students really benefited from the experience and were able to ask questions on potential careers in the construction industry with some gaining work experience from attending the event.



Extending Opportunities

A number of year 12 students visited Radyr Comprehensive to listen to a talk on studying engineering and science at University. The talk was inspiring and gave students a flavour of what life as a STEM student would be like at Swansea University.

In March a number of students attended the Oxbridge Student Conference at Swansea's Liberty stadium. This allowed potential Oxbridge students the chance to ask questions and gain tips on the application process. These students also had the opportunity to attend talks by Dr Jonathan Padley on the application process. Lots of information was passed to students and his inspiring and motivational talk enthused many to apply.

Sixth Form News

Summer School Success

Yale University

Congratulations to Anna Bevan on securing a prestigious placement on the Yale University summer school. Anna visited the university for a week in June and was able to attend seminars and tutorials and really gained a true insight into life in one of the top US Universities. Da iawn Anna! This is the second year CARDIFF High has successfully secured a place on this scheme.



Cambridge and Cardiff University Summer Schools

Congratulations also goes to Miriam Butcher and Barzy Aziz Raza who have secured places on the Trinity College Cambridge Law summer school and Cardiff University summer school for medicine in July respectfully. Both will be able to attend lectures and tour their respective departments and gain an insight into University life.

Swansea University Engineering Summer School

Finally, Elan Tombs will be attending the Engineering summer school at Swansea University in July. This will provide him with invaluable first hand experiences in this field. Well done!

Law Competition

This year, a number of teams from our sixth form entered the prestigious 'Kingsley Napley Legal Apprentice Competition', all vying for the title of winner and the sought after prizes of work experience with the firm and a cool £500 each. CHS was represented extremely well and Team 4 – comprising of Miriam Butcher and Lottie Barratt – narrowly missed out on reaching the national finals. They performed excellently across 4 challenging legal tasks and out of 700 entrants, they finished an incredible 12th! Unfortunately, it was just short of the final 10, but the firm wrote to Mr O'Brien directly, in order to congratulate the girls on their stellar performance. Da iawn to both Miriam and Lottie – clearly, two budding legal experts in the making!



Goodbye and Thank You!

On behalf of the Sixth form team we wish to say thank you to our year 13 students. It has been a pleasure working alongside you over the last two years. The staff thoroughly enjoyed celebrating your successes in the Leaver's Dinner and look forward to further celebrations on results day.



A big thank you goes out to our year 13 prefects who have worked extremely hard for the benefit of the Sixth form and the school over the last year. They have conducted themselves with maturity and with humour in all aspects of school life and have been true ambassadors for Cardiff High School. Our final assembly was a humorous and gracious event which reflected the achievements of the students. Everyone left with a smile on their face! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the role of prefects. The Achievement Team is extremely proud of you!!!



On 14th May, four BBC Young Reporters visited the BBC Wales headquarters in Llandaff, Cardiff for STEM Day. Ahsan, Franz, Dan and Umberto were able to talk to BBC staff members who use STEM in their everyday lives.

From editing clips for Blue Planet, to transmitting images from station to station, pupils embraced the opportunity to learn more about how science, technology, engineering and maths is used within the organisation, to deliver high-definition programmes to the general public.

Weatherman Walking, Derek Brockway delivered a first class lesson on the weather, where pupils were also able to learn more about how low and high pressure systems affect the weather in the UK. Pupils even viewed a live news broadcast from the production control room and stepped into the newsroom itself, to examine technology used in the production of BBC Wales Today. All four boys should be highly commended on their enthusiasm on the day!



Business Studies & Economics

Innovation and Creativity Award Winners 2019

The spring term has been very fruitful for the Young Enterprise team. They have worked tirelessly over the past few months to design a product and enterprise that was both creative and original. Fourteen students in year 12 were involved in the project which culminated in the 'YE Glamorgan and West Company of the Year Final' in May.

The group, whose brand name was 'Imperial', had created a cooking aide that would shield children from burning oil whilst frying. The group held weekly meetings and conducted numerous fundraisers to ensure the success of the project. After conducting their market research, Imperial were ready to create a prototype and launch their idea at the Company of the Year finals in Treforest.



The group was tasked with presenting their idea to a room full of competitors, established entrepreneurs and also the Lord Mayor of Cardiff. The competition from schools around Wales was incredibly strong, with Howells and Archbishop McGrath fielding strong teams. However, Imperial performed impeccably in both their interview and presentation. The group outlined their journey and evaluated their progress during the presentation and the panel highlighted how much the team had clearly learned throughout the process.



After a long day, the results were announced. Imperial were crowned the worthy winners of both the 'Innovation' and 'Creativity' awards. All of us in the Business and Economics department are extremely proud of their achievements!!

Psychology Department



Year 12 students at the University of South Wales Psychology Open Day

A fond farewell is bid to Year 13 Psychology students who have worked incredibly hard throughout their time as A-Level students. It has been wonderful to witness your dedication to the subject over the last two years and there is no doubt this will pay off when you pick up your results in August.

It is also extremely heart-warming that so many of you have decided to continue your study of Psychology to undergraduate degree level. Whatever your next step, the department wishes you all the best of luck - please keep in touch!

Year 12, who have been introduced to Psychology for the very first time this year have approached the subject with a huge amount of enthusiasm and dedication. It has been wonderful to witness so much interest being sparked throughout the year and hope many continue with their study of Psychology into A2 level.

The Psychology Department always jumps at any opportunity for A-Level learners considering career paths in the subject to get some hands-on experience. Earlier in the year, our budding Psychologists had the opportunity to visit the Psychology Department at the University of South Wales where they toured the specialist Psychology labs and received lectures from the teaching staff. Another trip is planned to CUBRIC in the summer term, where students will tour the labs and receive demonstrations of the specialist Brain Imaging equipment housed here. It is fantastic to see so much interest in potentially studying Psychology at University level.

Well done all for a fantastic year!

Cheerleaders!



A group of Year 8 girls competed at the weekend in the National Cheer Finals in Birmingham for their club, Inferno Cheer and Dance. The girls won the L2 junior category against tough competition from across the UK.

A very well done to Erin Brodie, Molly Hurd, Luna Sagar, Inaya Sial, Sophie Ames, Lucia Roberts, Katie Woodhall, Alice Blunt and Grace Lane!

MUSIC NEWS

National Youth Musicians

It's superb to see such a large group of Cardiff High School musicians being selected to perform for their country in the 2019-2020 season. Many of our students take part in weekly school and county level concerts and rehearsals. This dedicated commitment and practice gives them a very sure foundation for the future. This group of performers will go on residential courses this season to work with some of the country's leading conductors and will have the opportunity of touring to perform in the main Concert Halls and Cathedrals in the country. We look forward to seeing them in concert and to hearing about their experiences in due course.

National Youth Choir of Wales: Caitlin Hockley, Rhys King, Holly Bhogal, Emma Jones, Ella McCormack

National Youth Orchestra of Wales: Orchestra: Marla Broadway, Georgia Fenoulhet, Isabella Morris

National Youth Wind Band of Wales: Maya Hoffer

The Phantom of the Opera meets Sweeney and Joseph!

The hit production of Lloyd-Webber's 'The Phantom of the Opera' at Cardiff High School this Spring was a huge success with capacity audiences delighted by the wonderful and mysterious world of the Opera within and Opera. Breath-taking performances from the Lead Cast and Principal Opera Chorus were supported by a superb orchestra of Cardiff High Students. This most ambitious of challenges was such a rewarding experience. The photo below shows the Orchestra on stage next to the famous chandelier.



The Lloyd-Webber link is really relevant to Year 12 music classes who study the musicals of this composer as part of the AS Music course. As such we were also delighted to hear that the role of Joseph in the forthcoming West End production has gone to Jac Yarrow, son of our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Yarrow. Jac has been a frequent supporter of our school shows in the audience for many years. We wish him well for his West End debut and look forward to seeing the production on stage at the London Palladium soon.

Summer Music Showcase, 2019

It was good to see our main hall full to capacity for the summer music showcase. The event was a real celebration of music making with students from across the school performing in a huge range of styles and groups. The Junior Choir took us to the world of Willy Wonker's Chocolate Factory in the song 'Pure Imagination' with the Junior Boys Choir singing the spirited 'Can y Sipsi'. Our Wind Band and String Orchestra were on fine form with renditions from Star Wars and Moondance. The Senior Choir sang their competition programme ready for their appearance at Birmingham Symphony Hall on July 4th whilst the Senior Boys Choir gave a nod to Liverpool FC's recent success with the anthem You'll Never Walk Alone.

Add to this the contribution of our Year 12 Music class playing two songs from Sondheim's Into the Woods, Scott Hughes-Lewis' own composition and the Year 10 Band 'The Nobodies' and you have the icing on the cake. This really was a true reflection of how music can unify and delight performers and audience alike.



Farewell and Good Luck Yr 13

'Time to say goodbye' says the song! It has been a pleasure to work with the dedicated students in Year 13 at Cardiff High School for so many years. Pictured below are the students of the Music Class in Year 13 who leave us, many of whom go on to read music at University or Conservatoire. We also say goodbye to the army of Year 13 students across the school who have been active performer for many years in our shows and concerts. Enjoy the well-deserved Summer break and be ambitious – follow your dreams.



A Day in Hay!



Cardiff High caught Hay fever this term when the English department took fifty KS3 students to the Hay on Wye Literary Festival! During the action packed day, our students interacted with several different authors and took part in talks ranging from the origins of horror literature to the social relevance of Classical poetry! We managed to get a few books signed by the authors, and even made time for ice cream. The adventure carried on during the journey home too, when Miss Roberts and Mr Poole rescued a sheep who had caught its head in a fence. What a wonderful day we had in Hay!



Finally we say farewell to...



Paul Cruz
Art



Sarah Foley
Business Studies



Julia Pearce
English



Isla McMail
Design & Technology



Adam Jones
LSA



Adrian Healy
LSA



James Williams
Humanities



Simon Taylor
Maths



Nick Lumsden
LSA