



Cardiff High School Newsletter

SUMMER TERM 2012

Headteacher's Message



How quickly a school year passes! Since September, the staff at Cardiff High have worked incredibly hard and have focused on making this great school even better. There have been many exciting changes along the way, all designed to create an environment conducive to excellent learning. Listening to parents, staff, students and governors regarding your ideas for the future of Cardiff High School and your

views on current developments has been invaluable and has helped shape many of our decisions.

A range of new and dynamic initiatives have been introduced throughout the year. The focus, however, remains fixed upon quality learning and teaching and upon continually developing classroom practice. This term there has been a significant level of research undertaken in order to reflect upon our teaching strategies; we look forward to reaping the benefits of this in the coming years. Meanwhile, our Pastoral Team continues to work extremely hard to ensure that students' wellbeing remains a priority and that all learners are supported to achieve their full potential.

Despite limited resources, the school has committed significantly to improving the Information and Technology infrastructure within the building and also the hardware and software required to enhance learning. Improving communication with families has been a key priority for the school and I have been heartened by some very positive comments received from parents in response to this.

Planning proposals have moved on a pace within the last few months and, hopefully, the new build will begin in November 2012. My aim is to

share the full plans with you in the near future. It was wonderful to hear that our new All Terrain Pitch has finally been agreed and that it will be located at the rear of the school site.

Significant, exciting developments within the curriculum have been developed for September; this will include changes to the option process, curriculum timings and a major new initiative for the delivery of PSE, Welsh Baccalaureate, Thinking Skills and Careers. More to follow.

We are very excited about the fact that Cardiff High School became the first secondary school in the authority to run and manage its own catering facilities.

Against a background of significant change in education in Wales we can all be very proud of the work that has been done to prepare our students for their exams and in instilling in them the qualities to equip them for life.

Next year will be very challenging as there will be a large construction programme starting which will lead to fewer classrooms to house our large student body. It will be a time of great pressure but we will endeavour to work through this process as the rewards will be vast. The new year will also be the signal for an Estyn Inspection. I am confident that everybody associated with the school will contribute to the process and help ensure that it as successful as possible.

Finally, we say goodbye to a number of highly respected members of staff this year. We wish them the very best of luck for the future and thank them wholeheartedly for their contribution to Cardiff High School.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you a restful summer.

Head Teacher

Let it Snow ! Let it Snow ! Let it Snow !

On Friday 6th April 40 pupils from Years 8-9 accompanied by Mrs Baynham, Miss Savage, Mr Toye, Mr J Jones and Party Leader Mr Olsen headed off on the annual Junior Ski trip.

Sunday was a 'white out' with heavy snow fall all day, strong winds and a temperature of -10°C, but the pupils hardly noticed as they threw themselves into their lessons. For the rest of the week, 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. The staff ridiculously decided to use up some of their free time by accepting Miss Savage's challenge and 'running the Felseralm' the 1.5km winding road that ran from the hotel to the main road and back. Unsurprisingly none of the pupils were willing to join in!!

Evenings were filled with a mix of activities, a trip to the very impressive new Amade Therme pool, where the taller members of the party were able to try out the only water loop slide in Austria, bowling in the hotel, a quiz involving large amounts of chocolate, shopping trips into Obertauern, a pizza evening in a local restaurant, when we were again caught by heavy falling snow and presentation evening.

Throughout the trip, the behaviour of all the pupils was exemplary. They showed patience in the long journeys, good stamina in what was a

physically tiring week, and most 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.



Young Geographer of the Year 2012

~ Royal Geographical Society

The Geography Department is working on the Royal Geographical Society's annual competition to find the 2012 Young Geographer of the Year. Our students will be able to demonstrate their geographical skills in a creative way and will be competing for the title alongside students from around the UK. The question our young geographers need to answer is:

What are the connections between your local area and the 206 Olympic and Paralympic nations, and how do they influence the local geography?

Students will be working on this theme for several lessons between now and July. In this time students need to explore and explain a

small number of the most interesting connections (at least five), between Cardiff and other Olympic countries. Entries from the younger categories 9-11 years, 12-14 years and 14-16 years should take the form of an annotated diagram or map (no larger than A3 in size). Entries from students 16-18 years category should be submitted as a 1,500-word essay, which can also include illustrations.

Entries will be submitted to the department for short listing before being sent to the Royal Geographical Society for final judging. This is an exciting opportunity for our students and we hope to have some finalists going to London for the awards!

Good Luck!

Italy Study Tour 2012

The Geography Department is taking 40 students to Italy in October 2012. The trip has received an overwhelming response from both students and parents and the department wishes to thank all for their support. The study tour will provide our students with an opportunity to see geography in action and will deepen their geographical knowledge and understanding. The proposed itinerary will take in Herculaneum, Pompeii, Vesuvius, the Amalfi coast and the Isle of Capri. It promises to be an exciting tour and all involved are excited and looking forward to the adventure!



Year 11 revision



In an Olympic year, Year 11 and 12 pupils have made Olympian efforts in their preparations for their GCSE and AS level exams respectively. The tone was set at CHS Ambition at UWIC during the Easter holidays for English and Maths pupils and maintained throughout the Spring and Summer terms with Cross-age tutoring and Revision Saturday (over 120 Year 11 pupils attended). We'll let the pupils explain the detail.

"Cross-age tutoring was an opportunity for me to practise maths after school every week." – Bethan Ponting (Year 11)

"I have really enjoyed helping out with the variety of cross-age tutoring schemes that the Maths department has run this year." – Jennifer Ferris (Year 12)



Away from the demands and pressure of exams, pupils from across the school have made some outstanding extra-curricular efforts.

Three Year 8 (Yuchen Fu, Hamza Punjabi and Jess Bradley) and two Year 7 pupils (Yifei Chen and Christine Mineva) achieved Gold awards in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Maths Challenge. Yifei's score was exceptional and gave him entry to the Olympiad paper. Ethan Ren (Year 10) and Emily Godbehere (Year 9) both achieved impressive Gold awards in the Intermediate Challenge and qualified for the Olympiad papers receiving Certificates of Merit.

Outside the classroom, Jaguar Cars continues to build momentum. Dafydd Evans (Year 8) tells more: "Jaguar cars is a educational club which is a computer-based challenge involving percentages, multiplication, division and The Maths Department has also embraced technology and earlier in the year launched its own Twitter feed - @CHSmaths. It is worth following to keep up with CHS Maths chat, test information and cross-curricular links.



There Is No 'Right Way' to React

That was the advice given to Mr Olsen, and Year 12 Students Jenny Ferris and Maddy Pribanova before they undertook a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Camp, as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project'.

Before the visit to Poland a preparatory seminar had already seen the trio meet and listen to a Holocaust survivor as he told his struggle for survival not only in Auschwitz but also in two other Nazi Concentration Camps during the last two years of World War II.

The visit began in the small snowy Polish town of Oswiecim with a look at the now unused Jewish Cemetery. However the main focus of the day was the visit to the two sites of Genocide - Auschwitz I, the Concentration Camp and Auschwitz II Birkenau the Extermination Centre. Being taken around both sites you were constantly reminded about Nazism's brutality in dealing with the Jews of Europe. The tour of Birkenau culminated at dusk in an emotive memorial ceremony held next to the destroyed crematoria, led by Rabbi Barry Marcus of the Central Synagogue.



The follow up seminar saw the girls plan their 'Next steps' project, which involved delivering assemblies to all year groups across the school, as well as a Q&A session with their peers about their experiences, and a display of what they felt to be the important 'lessons' which can be seen in the Foyer to the Dining Hall.

Based on the premise that 'hearing is not like seeing', the project certainly made clear the universal lessons of the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance and clearly illustrated what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable.



CHS visit the Big Apple



Forty four Business, IT, Economic and Law pupils spent February half term taking in the sights of some of the world's most iconic attractions of New York City. Our guide was also able to deliver a moving and personal account of September 11, when we visited the newly constructed Ground Zero. During a visit to the United Nations Headquarters the pupils learnt about the role that the UN plays in world politics, law and economics.

At the Sony Technology Centre, pupils traced the history of technology and were able to experiment with both old and new technological developments. No visit to New York would have been complete without a visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island – here pupils learnt about the history behind this immigration gateway and some of our pupils were able to see if any of their relatives could be found on the immigration database. Fantastic views of the NYC skyline were observed from the top of the Rockefeller Centre and there was even time for a quick skate on the ice in Central Park. A fantastic time was had by all with pupils describing it as a "trip of a lifetime"!!!



Higgs Boson - Found!

If you've never heard of the Higgs Boson particle then you won't be aware of the significance of a pupil from Cardiff High school finding it. According to Wikipedia the Higgs Boson is 'a hypothetical elementary particle predicted by the Standard Model of particle physics' which 'explains why other elementary particles have mass'. Scientists in Cern are currently carrying out experiments using the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) to find it. The Higgs Boson is often referred to as the God particle and only when this particle has been discovered can we accept that the Standard Model is correct.



A group of AS Physics students attended the National Particle Physics Master class 2012 at Swansea University last March. The day involved a series of lectures on particle physics followed by a practical session in the labs where the pupils were asked to analyse sets of experimental data from Cern. It was during this session that Billy Magee, one of our year 12 students, whilst trawling through hundreds of sets of data, actually found one positive result showing the existence of the Higgs Boson. WOW! Unfortunately, to our disappointment, we later discovered that this result was a fake and had been placed there in the hope that someone would find it. Nonetheless, the day was a great success and shows that armed with a little knowledge, our year 12 Physics students can compete with the best that the world's scientific community can provide!

Year 13 UCAS Applications

UCAS

2011/12 has been another successful and busy year for Year 13 students applying to university. This year 153 of our students have applied to university through the UCAS system and to date 138 (90%) have accepted offers to study at university from October 2012.

Students have applied to a wide range of universities and nearly 60% of students have received offers from Russell Group Universities. Of particular note this year is the fact that 6 out of the 8 students who applied to study medicine have been successful in gaining places. Two students, Angharad Chandler and William Searle, have received offers to study at Cambridge, and Ami Isaac was successful in obtaining a scholarship to study at Aberystwyth next year.

Congratulations to all our students who have been made offers and we wish them good luck in achieving the grades they need to take up their places.

Year 12 students have already started to prepare for next year's UCAS process with applications starting in September.

Many students have attended Open Days and students will be given further information about the UCAS application process at a school UCAS Information Day in July, where students will attend talks on writing personal statements and register for UCAS. The school is in the process of planning a Higher Education Evening for parents in September 2012.

Physics Students - Smoking!

This year, a group of nine year 12 Physics students participated in the Engineering Education Scheme in Wales (EESW) with Mr Toye. The students were partnered with Laing O'Rourke, a local engineering company, and given a real engineering problem to solve. The team were asked to analyse the smoke seal design on the fire doors Laing O'Rourke currently use and them to improve it. They met with engineers to discuss the problems and talk through any ideas they had.



During December, the team attended Cardiff University to complete the practical aspects of the scheme and build a prototype to test different solutions. After Christmas, they produced an engineering report to detail the initial problem, list all possible solutions, explain their final solution and evaluate the project.

The scheme completed with a presentation day held in the Celtic Manor Hotel in Newport where they had to present their findings to a group of experienced engineers and were questioned on their design.

The feedback we received from Laing O'Rourke was extremely positive, in fact the company intends to implement some of the ideas outlined in the report and presentation. The feedback from the EESW was that our students came up with a detailed set of solutions with an extremely well thought out and clear presentation.

Well done everyone!

Legal Eagles Trip to London

The Cardiff High School Law Department took part in its annual visit to the Houses of Parliament, Supreme Court and City of Westminster Court in February. Pupils took an active part in an engaging workshop on Democracy and Law Making in the Houses of Parliament as they attempted to make a law to improve the provision of Politics Education in schools. This was followed by a tour of Parliament where we brushed shoulders with many members of Parliament including the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson!

A guided tour of the Supreme Court was topped off with a discussion with a trainee barrister, giving pupils the opportunity to ask questions and seek career advice. The City of Westminster Court allowed pupils to see real cases in action and to witness the reality of daily proceedings in court.

Finally, the evening entertainment comprised a Jack the Ripper guided walking tour which gave pupils an insight in to one of the most horrific cases in criminal history; a real eye-opener for the study of Criminal Law in year 13!



Cardiff High School New Catering Team!

Exciting culinary times lie ahead for all pupils and staff, as Cardiff High School has decided to take over the running of its own catering provision. After successfully bringing the cleaning service in-house in September 2011 and seeing the benefits with regards to level of service, quality and value for money, the school leadership team has decided that this is the way forward for catering at Cardiff High School. This will allow us to make changes to provide a fully Appetite for Life compliant food selection in a well managed and well run environment designed to increase pupil wellbeing. The provision will offer a better selection, better service and a focus on better value for money for students and staff. Any surplus will be reinvested into the school to directly benefit pupil well being and achievement at Cardiff High School. Over the coming weeks, the school will be consulting and working with pupils through the School Parliament to allow us to plan and shape the changes to the facilities, services and menu selections available which will hopefully be launched in September 2012.

In charge of the new team will be Hilary Chaplin who has over 20 years experience in catering in education and admits to looking forward to



the new challenges and freedom that being part of a new in-house catering facility will bring. She acknowledges that with the support and enthusiasm of her assistant cook Andrea Swain and the rest of her catering staff, that everyone will see a difference in the standard of service and in the variety and quality of food on offer. With the forthcoming introduction of a cashless till system, pre-order meals and fresh salad bars, Cardiff High School has ensured that we are always looking for new and innovative ways to improve the all round educational experience of our pupils and staff.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



A big congratulations to all staff and pupils for reducing our landfill waste for the 2nd year in succession. Also an extra special thanks to the entire housekeeping department; Brian Harker, Neil Board and Tony Geach who make sure that all the rubbish is correctly sorted and bagged before finally going into the main waste containers.

After receiving a grant from the Welsh Assembly Government in 2010 to increase our recycling efforts, the school purchased 9 external bins and 60 internal recycling bins. By raising awareness amongst all staff and pupils via assemblies and poster campaigns on the need to recycle more, an instant change was noticeable in the amount of waste being recycled. The approximate figures for the last 3 years general landfill waste are as follows:

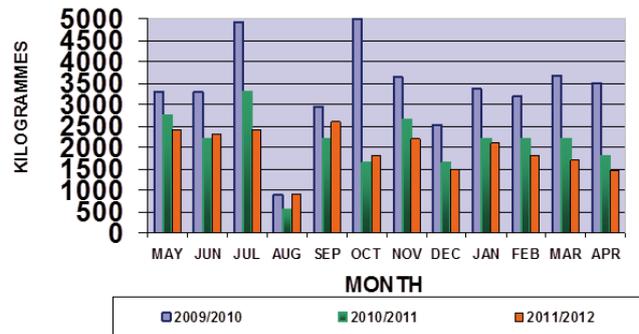
2009 / 2010 39,000 kgs

2010 / 2011 26,000 kgs

2011 / 2012 23,000 kgs

This not only saves the added expense associated with removing the extra waste which can be better spent elsewhere, but also reduces the schools overall carbon footprint due to the amount of extra waste being recycled. Give yourselves a big pat on the back!!!

CARDIFF HIGH SCHOOL LANDFILL WASTE



After School Activities

Most people think that once the school bell goes at the end of the day then the school is cleaned and closed up for the night. But on the contrary, a whole new world opens up of after school activities which include Adult Education evening classes, sporting clubs and theatrical groups. Just to give you an idea in a typical week, we host a variety of activities which include:

Martial Arts – Tae Kwon Do (Wednesday Evening / Saturday Morning)
Krav Maga (Due to start in September)



Sports – Football (Most evenings, local clubs) / Netball / Archery (Saturday Morning)

Theatrical – Zumba / Vocal School



If you are interested in taking part any of these clubs or activities then check out the details on the school website under the Estates Department section, where the contact details of the organisers will be listed. If you are interested in hiring out the sports hall, gymnasium, dance studio or any rooms within the school then please contact the estate department with your requirements at cnewton2@cardiff.gov.uk.

TeacherTeach – pupils teach their teachers Welsh

In October 2012, an innovative scheme to develop members of staff's proficiency in Welsh was launched within the school. Students who had attained excellent grades in Welsh at GCSE were recruited to help members of staff in developing their confidence in Welsh.



“Co-construction is a tried and tested educational technique,” said Mr Gwynedd, a member of the Welsh department and the member of staff responsible for putting the school's Welsh across the Curriculum policy in action, “And getting high achievers in GCSE Welsh to give teachers one-to-one Welsh lessons seemed the obvious thing to do”

A total of eighteen members of staff signed up for the scheme. Their knowledge of Welsh ranged from complete beginners to those with a good, but rusty knowledge of the language. One of those who felt she benefited from the scheme was Mrs Falcus, Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum) whose very appropriate comment about the scheme was: “Bendigedig!”



NSPCC Teddy Bears' Picnic



On Bank Holiday Monday, May 7th, the NSPCC Teddy Bears' Picnic was held for the 6th year in its new home, Cardiff High School. This popular family event was started in 2007 by Liz Mullen to raise funds and awareness for the NSPCC, and has now raised nearly £20,000 in total. This year VIP guests Iggle Piggle and Upsy Daisy came to join in with the teddies and the children, as they danced and played their way through the afternoon.



Liz is very grateful to Cardiff High School for hosting the event and would like to thank Head Teacher Steve Jones and Estate Manager Chris Newton for making it possible for the event to go ahead, which in the end raised £3000 on the day for this worthwhile cause.

Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 netball team had a fantastic season winning all of their matches and at the end of the season they won the Year 7 County Championships beating Howells, Llantwit Major and Corpus Christie in the finals. The girls were crowned County Champions and won tickets to watch the Celtic Dragons play. Players included Issy Richards, Lauren Evans, Catherine Davies, Elysse Haywood, Emma Lowe, Molly Murphy, Isabelle Edwards and Humnah Malik.



The Winner Takes It All

Winning isn't everything – This was the subject that the junior public speaking team debated in this year's Rotary Youth Speaks competition. All of the speeches this year had to have an Olympic theme and the girls combined winning, the Olympics and Abba lyrics to make this their most successful year to date.

Rebecca Daniels, Josie Davies and Georgia Brown have formed the junior team for three years now and this year they stormed through various zone finals to make it to the regional final in March.



Science Club

Salters' Chemistry Festival



Four of us from Science Club took part in the Salters' Chemistry Festival at Bristol University in May. We had to be out of bed and in school very early.

When we arrived at the University (after getting a bit lost) we were all led into a big lecture theatre and introduced to Tim, the Head of Chemistry.



Our first task was to analyse different forensic evidence, using chromatography and solution reactions. We felt like real crime scene analysts! We really enjoyed the chromatography; we have never done this before and it was really fun.

For our next challenge we were asked to complete a working iodine clock. This involved mixing two solutions together and working out how to get the colour change to appear at a certain time. This was very hard, but we all had fun together anyway.

To finish off a brilliant day there was a presentation of certificates for the schools that took part in an amazing demonstration shown by Tim.

I love Science Club because we make really cool things and carry out awesome experiments. My favourite experiment so far has been making bath bombs, as we chose our own scents for them. I have even made some more at home since.

Some of the other experiments we have carried out are; making custard bouncy balls, growing crystal gardens, making slime and much, much more.

Next on our list of fun experiments is making mirrors and snow globes which I am very excited about.

Eve Edmunds 7J

SMART MATERIALS SEMINAR

On a Friday evening after school, a group of year 12 and year 11 Chemistry students accompanied by Mr. Nigel Jones attended a seminar on "Smart Modern and Exotic Materials" by Professor John Cave, a nationally recognised expert in this field of Mindsets, Middlesex University.

The students had an opportunity to examine some of the weird and wonderful properties of smart materials such as thermochromic materials, lenticular plastics, superstrong magnets, quantum tunnelling composite conductors, 'smart link' silicone, shape memory alloys, motion control gels and viscoelastic compounds.

The advanced manufacturing presentation featured the exciting new developments in 3D printing technology which has now extended to 3D printing in metal. The availability of this technology to produce affordable bespoke articles from a consumer's own drawings or models is in sight!

Careers in Focus

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) has had another busy year, with a successful 'Careers in Focus' event and a new member of staff.



Beth Wood joined the LRC in October 2011 and has 'hit the ground running!' Her passion for fiction is contagious, and the number of pupils loaning books has doubled in comparison to last year's figures. Beth's exciting display boards and active promotion of individual authors and genres has had a direct influence on encouraging the pupils to read books they previously would not have considered. Graphic novels have proved to be a hit as well as the dystopian genre.

Our 'Careers in Focus' event last term focused on Law and was a great success. We were fortunate enough to have barristers, solicitors, paralegals and a QC visit the LRC during the lunch breaks. As always, Rachel Watson from Careers Wales also came along, providing advice and information to support our guests. This event would not be able to take place without the support of parents/guardians who generously volunteer their time. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to support this event over the last two years. We couldn't have done it without you!

Ciao! Nihao! Hola!

The Multilingual Reading Circle was launched in 2009 to celebrate the 41 languages spoken in our school and to encourage pupils to read in their home languages. It was first aimed at Year 7 pupils who love languages and reading, but it is now open to all year groups. It is held every Wednesday lunchtime. So far we are reading books in nine languages including Italian, French, Arabic, Urdu, Spanish and Mandarin. We speak six languages between us: Urdu, Punjabi, German, Arabic, French and Italian. We now have over 130 bilingual books in 17 languages which are kept in the LRC.



School Parliament News: Mock Council of the European Union

Earlier this year Cardiff High School was invited alongside other schools across Wales to take part in an annual event held at the Welsh Assembly Buildings in Cardiff Bay. As part of their roles as Head Boy and Head Girl in our school, Tim Hawthorne and Gemma Baldwin, both in Year 13, act as Chairs of the School Parliament. Our Chairs were honoured to represent the school at this prestigious event. It was decided by way of a draw that Cardiff High School should represent the Member State of Slovakia.

There were two motions on which students had to debate from the perspective of Slovakia. The day also involved a brief from Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM (First Minister of Wales), a speech from Jonathan Scheele (Head of European Commission Representation in the UK) and lastly a tour of the Senedd. Overall a fantastic day was had by all with students gaining huge amounts from the experience.



Their Names Liveth for evermore.



On Thursday 31st May, 32 pupils from year 9 departed for the battlefields of the Great War, accompanied by Mrs. Dowell, Mr. Desambrois, Mrs. Toye and Mr. Olsen.

Friday was spent around the Ypres Salient looking at the key sites that saw Ypres become a key town in the struggle for supremacy on the 'Western Front'. First stop was at Poperinghe for a visit to the New Cemetery, and to hear the story of the 17 men buried there who were shot by the British for either desertion or cowardice. Meanwhile 100 metres down the road, Mr Olsen was helping Emily

Force before the party searched through the 53,000 names to locate a number of fallen old boys from the Welsh Regiment.

Sunday was another hectic day, with an early start as the party headed south to visit sites on the Somme. On route there was time for two special visits as Freya Barrow located her relative J. L. Jones in Gorre British & Indian Cemetery, and Beth Davies was able to pay her respects to Private Thomas Jones in Brown's Road Cemetery.

The end of the day had a Welsh emphasis with a short service held at the Welsh Division memorial at Mametz Wood during which Ryan Macey 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!

Frankish locate her relative, Sapper J Heathcote of the Royal Engineers who was buried in the 'Old' Cemetery. From there it was off to the muddy preserved trenches of Sanctuary Wood Museum, before a visit to the Memorial Museum at Passchendaele with its recreated bunker system. At Tyne Cot Cemetery a short service was held at the Memorial Cross and a wreath in memory of the 4 'old boys' remembered there, and Private A. P. Meredith, relative of Matthew Payne, who was among the 35,000 names of the 'Missing' listed on the memorial at the rear of the site. The party then proceeded to Llangemarck German cemetery where the pupils were asked to consider the very stark differences between how the two sides commemorate their dead, before a short meal stop in central Ypres and reassembling at the Menin Gate for the 'Last Post' ceremony, during which Huw Davies and Emily Frankish lay a wreath on behalf of the school, Sam Haworth lay on behalf of the Air Training Corps and James Farmer the Army Cadets



6 Nights, 5 Modes of Transport and 3 Countries

Over the last 2 years CHS has been involved in a Connecting Classrooms Europe project that has brought schools together from across Europe where the focus has been centred on the theme of Inclusion and Diversity. During Whitsun half-term, Conall Duddy and Evie Jones from 8R, together with 9 other pupils from Cardiff schools, embarked on a road trip visiting the 3 countries with whom Welsh schools are linked as part of the project. Our first stop was Budapest, Hungary where the pupils experienced a drama lesson and created a piece of art work; were taught to make Csipetke and sampled the infamous Goulash (where they were filmed and featured that evening on the local news!!!); took part in a sight-seeing "treasure hunt" of the city and finally attended the Hungarian schools jamboree that celebrated the work that their schools had done this year. A 4 hour train ride took us to the next leg of our tour to Arad in Romania. Here we visited an Art School, which teaches Art, Music, Drama, and Photography (and Conall was interviewed by the local TV station!!!).



Evie Jones and Conall Duddy together with the rest of the Welsh pupils who visited all three countries.

We were greeted by the Headmistress, and treated to a musical ensemble that portrayed the work that their pupils had created this year. Pupils were then split into groups and assigned a topic about Romania and asked to research it. Our final visit was to Paris, France where representatives from all 40 schools across the 4 countries came together to reflect upon how the project had developed this year and how it will be moved forward over the forthcoming year. After spending 11 hours in the British Council offices all the pupils were treated to a boat trip down the River Seine and visited the Eiffel Tower.

Cathedral Of Science Inspires Artwork

Year 10 students visited Oxford University museums as part of their ethnic art course work. The Natural History Museum was designed as a 'cathedral of science' and home to the university's scientific collections. Students were given a talk on the museum's illustrious history which includes hosting the famous evolutionary debate on Darwin's Origin of Species between Huxley and Wilberforce in 1860.

The students were then introduced to the anthropological collection which is housed in the Pitt Rivers Museum which was by far the highlight of the trip. The largest object on display in this unique space is an 11.36m high totem pole originally from Queen Charlotte Island, Canada. Pupils were fascinated by the curious displays and genuine artefacts which included shrunken heads of the upper Amazon.

Throughout the trip the behaviour of the pupils was exemplary, many so engrossed in drawing the vast array of objects, they would have liked to stay there all day.

Sketchbook work and photographs of the visit can be seen on the Art department website



From ordinary to extraordinary

This year's GCSE and BTEC exhibition was exciting, individual, imaginative and personal. No two pupils' work was the same and the work on display is confirmation of the excellent standards being achieved in Art. The GCSE exam theme was Ordinary and /or Extraordinary and you could see that the pupils had enjoyed themselves creating their numerous masterpieces. Once again the best works were seen in the sketchbooks that are cherished by our pupils. Congratulations to all the art students who have worked productively over the past two years.

Students' college success

Several of our art students have successfully achieved places to study Art on Foundation and direct entry degree courses. Jack Siddal, Che Al-Kelaby and Molly Phillips go on to study Art Foundation at Glamorgan University. Finnuala Jenkins will be studying Fine Art and Samantha Havard will be studying Illustration. Both have gained direct entry onto degree courses. Elliot Downs has gained a place at Glasgow School of Art to study Architecture and Damian Melis will be studying Graphic Design at St Martin's College, London. We wish them all every success in the future.



FilmClubCHS are getting Keen!

Members of the sensational extra-curricular society FilmClubCHS were honoured to meet the prestigious film director, writer and artist Dave McKean at Chapter Arts Centre at the end of last term. McKean, best known for directing *Mirror Mask* and, more recently, *The Passion of Port Talbot* starring Michael Sheen, answered questions as part of an official film club event.

The event was a very insightful and enriching experience for all who attended, as McKean spoke candidly about the film making and creative process. He was even gracious enough to sign a couple of Mr. Poole's vintage *Sandman* comics! This event follows other exciting FilmClubCHS events such as the online conversation with Hollywood director Joe Dante.



Future Netball Stars In The Making



Over 40 netballers from year 7 up to year 13 enjoyed a recent visit to the school from 3 current Celtic Dragon players. The girls were invited to take part in master classes run by a Welsh International Goal Shooter, a New Zealand International Centre and a Goal Keeper from Trinidad and Tobago.

At the end of the session Welsh Netball Development Officer, Claire Joll, commended the players on their skills and was very complimentary about the standard of netball. The year 7 netball team obviously took some of these tips and skills on board as they went on to win the Cardiff and Vale tournament to be crowned County Champions for 2011-2012.

Raising The Profile Of Achievement



Cardiff High School has long enjoyed a variety of achievements both in the classroom and in extra curricular activities. The decision was taken this year to reconsider the current reward system in school and to raise the profile of rewards in order to celebrate these achievements more publicly.

As a result of lengthy discussions with the School Parliament it was decided that the current merit system would be updated. The school

currently adopts a merit sticker system, however this is in the process of swapping to a school stamper in line with school ESDGC policy.

The pupils are excited about this addition to the rewards system and the first batch of queue jump tickets has already been issued.

We are also excited to be introducing a "colours system" which would see any pupil in years 7-11 achieving 100 merits in any school year receiving an "achievement" badge to be worn on the lapel of the blazer. These colours will also be introduced for exceptional performance and achievement in extra curricular activities such as Physical Education, Music and Drama as well as for contribution to the many societies within school.

Departments will also be sending home achievement postcards on a half termly basis to any pupils who are worthy of additional praise for their efforts in one or more subject area.

Number of Merits	Reward
25	Achievement certificate in assembly 3 day queue jump ticket for school canteen
50	Achievement certificate in assembly 5 day queue jump
75	Achievement certificate in assembly 8 day queue jump
100	Achievement certificate in assembly 10 day queue jump

P.E. NEWS...

Badminton

Matthew Prichard

Matthew's achievements in Badminton have been truly outstanding. His performances deserve recognition and the progress he has made in recent years has been magnificent.



His most recent performances have been in the Welsh Nationals. Matthew was a finalist in the singles and winner in both the doubles and mixed doubles. Matthew has represented Wales during the year in Glasgow in UK quadrangular and also his honours have taken him further afield to Switzerland and Belgium to play against European opposition.

Matthew will soon be involved in a badminton Europe camp in Slovenia as well as playing in the UK Schools' games in London.

Cardiff High School Rugby

As always the Rugby Teams have been extremely busy this year with approximately 100 games being played from Year 7 to Year 13 throughout the season. A large number of pupils have shown outstanding commitment and loyalty, always representing the school in the manner expected of them. The School 1st XV were involved in a play-off for the League title with Ysgol Y Cymmer from Porth, losing narrowly in an exciting game, with many other sides making excellent progress as the season progressed.

At Under 15 level Will Beeching, Alex Lloyd, Jerry Casserly, Adam Hakimian and Ahman Azaden all represented Cardiff Schools with Will playing for Cardiff in the Prestigious Dewar Shield Final on The Millennium Stadium. Both Will and Alex have been selected for the Cardiff Blues South Squad for next season.

At Under 16 Level Joe Williams of Year 11 was part of a highly successful Blues South Team, which eventually led to Joe being selected for Wales at International Level; a fantastic achievement. Well Done Joe!

Finally Jacob Morgan of Year 13 continued his development as a Rugby League player by being selected for the Welsh SENIOR squad for the Tri Nations Tournament which can be seen on Sky Sports. Another outstanding achievement; congratulations Jacob.

At this point we would like to thank Mr Huw Lewis for his outstanding commitment to the development of Rugby in School and particularly Mr Tom Hancock who will be leaving us at the end of the current school year. Mr Hancock has made a superb contribution to the development of Rugby in Cardiff High School and will be sorely missed, many, many thanks from all the players.

Fond farewell to Year 11!

Cardiff High School bade farewell to Year 11 on Thursday 10th May 2012. The day began with a celebratory assembly which recognised the varied contributions and achievements of the year group over the past 5 years at school.

During the course of the assembly, over 40 certificates were presented to members of the year group by Mr Stephen Jones (Headteacher) to recognise students in a range of categories.

These awards were made even more special, given the fact that the majority were nominated by, and voted for by the form classes.



The pupils also showed their appreciation to staff by presenting gifts to their form teachers, and Mrs Baynham (Achievement Leader for Yr11) was overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness shown in the form of flowers, pictures and chocolates to name a few.

Breaking with tradition, Year 11 were then taken to the school canteen to enjoy refreshments provided for them while they took photographs and signed yearbooks and T-shirts. The canteen staff also kindly decorated a huge cake for year 11 which was enjoyed by all.

We wish you all the very best of luck for the future!



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS...



National Festival of Music for Youth 2012

The Senior Boys Choir at CHS are set to impress a large audience in Birmingham Town Hall this Summer having been selected as one of only 25 choirs in Britain to perform at the National Festival of Music for Youth. This is quite some achievement for the school's choir which has been impressing local audiences for many years now. The National event is the culmination of regional auditions which saw more than 30,000 musicians competing, and so to be one of the finalists is superb. The Senior Boys will perform a wide



range of music ranging from the traditional folk carol Riu Chiu from the Basque Country to the unforgettable Gee Officer Krupke from Bernstein's West Side Story. Mr Leggett and Mrs

Crossan will be very proud to lead this inspirational group of performers as they fly the flag for Wales on this national platform.

Coursework Clinics & Revision Classes

The decision to provide extensive revision and course work drop in sessions this year proved very popular in the Music Department. The vast majority of the Yr 11-13 students took advantage of the opportunity to receive additional support and guidance from the departmental staff during a range of after school and lunchtime sessions. The quality of composition submissions was again outstanding this year and reflects the dedication of the pupils.

Year 8 Charity Appeal

Year 8 have been involved in a charity appeal to raise money for a pupil in Roath Park School, who has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. Imogen Hurrell needed to raise money for a trip to America to have an operation which will hopefully enable her to walk. Many fundraising events took place including a sponsored row during their PE lessons, girls v boys netball match, a 5 aside football tournament and a treasure grid. The total amount raised was £1000.



Talented Musicians Shine

The Spring Term 2012 saw the fourth annual Young Musician of the Year which is aimed at giving our most able and talented performers a platform for solo performance on an annual basis. This competition was a huge success with a large number of students competing in the preliminary rounds. Following a whole day of auditions the finalists' concert was of an exceptionally high standard and parents, competitors, friends and staff enjoyed a huge variety of musical styles. The professional panel of adjudicators praised the young musicians for their dedication and for proving such an inspiration to their peers. The winners of the three categories were Kris Page [Yr 13], Alice Howell [Yr11] and Raphael Rosin [Yr 9]. Congratulations to them all. The date for next year's competition is set, so get practising!

Summer Concert

The Junior Hall was the venue for our Summer Concert in which the focus was firmly on the lower school students in Years 7-9. The evening was packed full of great performances and was the perfect opportunity for the school to welcome parents and the local community to enjoy the music making we promote at Cardiff High School. It was also the opportunity to say thank you and farewell to the Yr 13 leavers who have been so involved in music making at school. We wish them every success in the future.

Life in the Old Girls yet!!



One of the Trustees of the Cardiff High School for Girls, Lyn Hull, carried the Olympic Torch through Abergavenny.

61 year-old Lyn is a loyal supporter of events at Cardiff High and works as a fund-raiser and volunteer for Ty Hafan and the British Heart Foundation. She also sings with the Castell Coch Choir.

What an excellent role model for all the members of Cardiff High!!

WELSH DEPARTMENT NEWS...

On tour

Year 7 and 8 went to Llangrannog in March. Yno, roedden nhw yn nofio, dawnsio, merlota, sgio, gwibgartio, dringo a llawer mwy. Roedd yr haul allan a doedd dim byd gwell i wneud na chael hufen ia ar y traeth yn Llangrannog. Diolch i dafarn y 'Ship' am eu haelioni.



Year 9 and 10 participated in the St David's Day weekend at Eurodisney in Paris. Mickey and Minnie were dressed up in full Welsh costume and the fireworks were Welsh in colour. We listened to winning choirs from Wales perform before enjoying ourselves on a ride or two.



Let's celebrate



Eisteddfod day is always a fun and lively day at school. This year, students from years 7 and 8 were in their team colours and fully celebrated the event by also raising over £400 for Marie Curie cancer care.

The crown competition was won by Fiona Guan who wrote a beautiful poem on 'Cymru'. Alex Harrison won the chair and his poem was also a celebration of Welshness.

Congratulations also to the 2 winning forms – 8S and 7K – all the hard work paid off!

Diolch i'r holl athrawon oedd wedi helpu gyda'r dydd ac i bawb oedd wedi cefnogi.

Winners



In the recent Urdd Eisteddfod held in Caernarvon, Rebecca Daniels from year 9 won the individual recitation for learners. The poem depicted a stropky teenager discussing school with her mother. I am sure that Rebecca needed all of her acting skills to portray the role well! If you would like to see her winning performance please go the Urdd website – www.urdd.org and follow the links to Wednesday results. Ardderchog Rebecca.



Angharad Chandler Davies and Ami Isaacs from yr 13 also gained recognition on stage by winning second and third places in the Learners Medal. Both are completely bilingual by now and are testament to what is possible with hard work and dedication. Rydym yn falch iawn ohonoch eich dwy.



Year 11 Prom 2012

Year 11 turned out in great numbers to enjoy a very successful Prom that was held at the Park Inn, Cardiff, on Friday 22nd June.

Everyone enjoyed a 3 course meal, light hearted entertainment and a post dinner disco all meticulously organised by Mrs Lindsey Davies, Miss Bev Jones and Mrs Nonny Matthewson and Alison Monnickendam.

There was an array of beautiful gowns and dresses as well as exceptionally smart suits and tuxedos.

The evening was the perfect way to bid farewell and good luck to a fantastic year group, and to pass on our congratulations to them for the mature way they all conducted themselves during their recent GCSE examinations.



Students of the Term

Year 7



Elysse Hayward



Yife Chen



Sophie Thomas, Sophie James, Ulfat Khira & Saida Hosseini



Alex Harrison

Year 9



Fiona Guan

Year 10



Jessica Davies

Year 12



Iona Monnickendam

Year 13



Oliver James

Best wishes to...



Tom Hancock joined us in 2008. Good luck as Head of Department in Bro Deryn!



Martin Gwynedd joined us in 1999. Good luck as Head of Department in St Teilos!



Alison Lambert joined us in 2006. Good Luck as Assistant Headteacher in Hawthorne



Tracey Hales joined us in 1998. Good luck in Cyfarthfa

Staff Retirements



Phil Henshall joined us in 1988. Best wishes in your retirement



Lindsey Davies joined us in 1981. Best wishes in your retirement!

Good luck and best wishes also to our Learning Support colleagues as they move on to pastures new—Freya Colclough, Robert Comley, Alun Mills, Melissa Smith and Shan Richardson. We also wish Natasha Charles the best of luck as she takes up her post as Assistant Headteacher in Pencoed; to Ruth Demery as she moves to Croesyceiliog, to Jen Lloyd in her new school, Godolphin and Latymer; to Richard Thomas in his new role as Head of Department in Abersychan; to Elaine MacDonald in her new post and to Phil Henshall as he begins his retirement.

Finally a fond farewell and best wishes to Trevor Wood who has been at Cardiff High since 1982.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2012

Wednesday 5th September

All pupils return to school

Thursday 6th Sept

Year 12 Induction Day

Monday 10th Sept

Year 12 Parents' Information evening

Year 13 Parents' UCAS evening

Monday 17th Sept

Year 10 Parents' Information evening 7pm

Thursday 27th September

Presentation of Awards evening

Wednesday 3rd October

Music Transition Day and Concert

Monday 22nd October

Yr 7 Meet the Tutor Day

Thursday 25th October

Yr 6 Open evening

Yr 9 Options evening

INSET DAYS

Monday 3rd September 2012

Tuesday 4th September 2012

Friday 26th October 2012

Wednesday 16th January 2013

Year 6 Feeder Netball and Football Tournament

All of our feeder schools were invited to take part in our annual Year 6 Netball and Football tournament. Roath Park, Lakeside and Rhydypennau attended and many competitive matches took place. It was a chance for the pupils to visit Cardiff High School, use some of the PE facilities and meet pupils from the other schools in preparation for next year. Cardiff High also hosted a Dance Festival for our feeder schools to come and perform in our dance studio and share the good practice in creative activities happening across the schools.



Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games



Education and the Olympics

The Olympic and Paralympic Games have inspired schools all over the country to get involved during 2012. Underpinning the Games is the philosophy of Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the Modern Olympic Movement. He saw in the Games an ideal opportunity to develop a set of universal principles – or Values – that could be applied to education and to society as a whole, as well as to sport itself.

We have been able to incorporate the Olympics in all sorts of ways. We're already committed to Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC). Focussing on the themes and values of the Games, we've promoted healthy living, participation, respect, culture and art, through art projects, quizzes and competitions and provided other educational opportunities, as well as sports and physical activities.

During the morning form-room sessions that we call "Thought for the week" pupils have been given the opportunity to focus on many different aspects of the Olympics whilst enjoying a countdown to the games.

"We've also – perhaps most excitingly – had the opportunity to give away free tickets to pupils at the school. We decided to do this through a nomination process, for those pupils who truly embody the Olympic values, either at home, in school, or elsewhere – it's a lovely opportunity to get to reward truly outstanding contributions."

