

ISLWYN NEWS

Sporting Success

This Summer term has brought some fantastic sporting success for Islwyn pupils.

Firstly, there have been a number of pupils who have received international honours in their given sport. Ellie-Grace Lord has represented Wales in cricket. Lexi Walton has fought her way to success to become Welsh champion in boxing. Jake Sheppard has been selected for the Wales Rugby League U16 team. Aimee Cake, Nyree Lowther and Dylan John have all been selected for the Welsh School FA. Finally, Niamh Corchran-Lockley has been selected to play for Wales U18 Touch Rugby. Well done, all! We are so proud of you.

In the world of dance, Freya Walker's hard work has paid off and she has qualified for the UK National Dance finals



in July.

There have been a number of successes in cricket this summer term in the Caerphilly Schools competitions. Year 8 boys came out overall winners. The girls came join first what was a very close contest. Well done, all!



In swimming, Macy Davies [year 7] and Ioan Mills [year 10] attended a swimming camp in Majorca. This was a brilliant opportunity for them as they could progress their swimming skills while they were away in preparation for the summer nationals in which they have both qualified for many races. Llongyfarchiadau a pob lwc Macy and Ioan!



There have been a number of successes in the District Athletics Championships this year. The following pupils trained hard and have secured their places as district champions in their respective events for their Year Group:

- Charlie Davies - 200m
- Rhys Birt - 800m
- Poppy Howells - 800m and High Jump
- Lara Patterson - 200m
- Myah Newall - 100m
- Millie Hiscott - Discus
- Lowri Brass - 300m
- Freya Pryce - High Jump
- Eva Mae Evans - 300m
- Oliver Morris - 300m
- Ethan Green - 800m
- Grace Hawker - Discus and Shot



Honouring Our Heroes

80 Years Since D-Day

On 6 June 1944, the largest amphibious invasion in military history took place. Consisting of the combined forces of the army, air force and the navy, around 133,000 Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, in an operation code named OVERLORD, also known as D-Day. The mission took place across five beaches - Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

The British forces took Sword and Gold; the Canadians took Juno, and the Americans, Utah and Omaha in the start of a campaign to liberate Europe from the Germans. General Dwight. D. Eisenhower was in charge of the operation, which was set to take place on the 4th of June, but the conditions were too rough and it was postponed until the 6th, when he made the decision to go. Over 4000 men died and 9000 were injured or missing.

On the 6th June 2024, it was the 80th anniversary of this historic event and two year ten pupils, Lowri Morgans and Oliver Pask, attended the 80th anniversary memorial at Cefn Fforest Cenotaph, to read out two memorial poems, War Baby, by Pamela Holmes and A Quiet Place. Along with the memorial poems read out by the Islwyn pupils, there were memorial speeches and prayers read out, along with the names of the approximate 100 fallen soldiers were read out along with The Last Post before wreaths and crosses were laid at the Cenotaph. There was a real community feel to the day and the pupils were honoured to be part of such a historic events. Lowri and Oliver also got to meet Rhianon Passmore MS during the day who thanked them for their readings. Islwyn High School will forever be thankful to those who sacrificed so much for us.



Battlefield Journey

Year 10 pupils are excited to visit the battlefields of France and Belgium as part of their GCSE History course on 10th July 2024.

As part of the trip, pupils will be laying crosses of remembrance at the graves of the brave soldiers from Oakdale who gave their lives on the battlefields of WW1. Pupils from Islwyn attend the Remembrance Service every year, but thought the trip would be a great opportunity to extend their gratitude and respect even further.

We will be setting off at 5am on Wednesday 10th July and after reaching Calais will be visiting the frontlines of the Battlefields of Ypres, Flanders Field Museum and attending the ceremony of the last post at The Menin Gate .

On the second day we will visit the Battlefields of the Somme, including a guided tour through Beaumont Hammel and Newfoundland Park with its original trench systems to explain the events of the 1st of July 1916. We will also visit Thiepval Memorial to the Missing which bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme sector and have no known grave. A particular highlight will be the visit to Mametz Wood with its Red Dragon Memorial to the 38th Welch Divisions who suffered horrendous losses in the battle.

We are looking forward to the trip and the opportunity to remember and honour the soldiers from our village.



A Day At Cardiff University

On Thursday June 27th, the Seren Academy University Intensive Day took place, offering Year 10 learners a diverse range of workshops including English, Architecture, Law, Software Development, Cyber Security, Politics, Media, Journalism, Dentistry, and many more.



The day began with a tour of the University and its various campuses, giving pupils a glimpse into university life and what it will entail. The pupils were excited to be given the opportunity to see first hand the workings of a university and the challenges it will bring. The buildings were spectacular and gave a real glimpse into the history of further education at the capital.

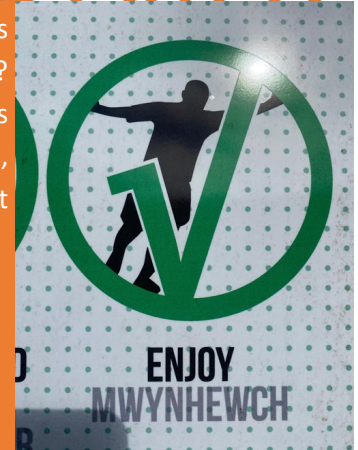
After the tour, pupils attended their chosen morning lecture, followed by their afternoon workshops. The workshops varied in nature, with some subjects being more theoretical, while others were more practical and hands-on. This event provided pupils with a unique chance to experience what university life and lectures are like, gain valuable insights into potential future studies and an opportunity to gain knowledge on various subjects they had not explored before.

The pupils were accompanied by Mrs Morgan and Mr Hillier. All the pupils would like to say a huge thank you to both teachers as they were willing to give up their time to organise and make this trip possible which made the experience even more memorable and meaningful!



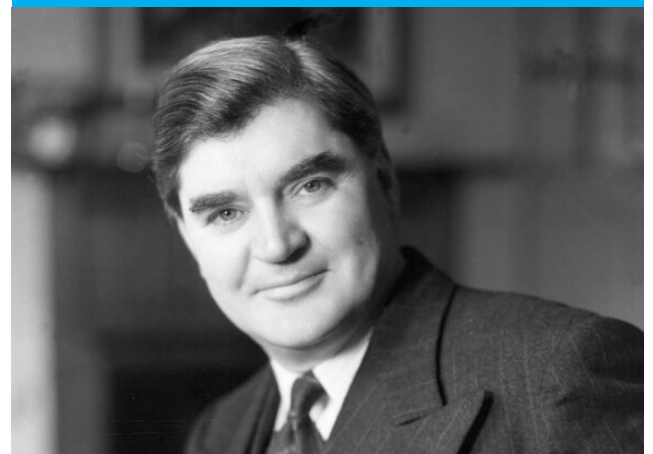
Where Am I?

Do you recognise this section of photograph? If you know where this is found in the school, see Mr Morris, the first to do so wins a prize.



GUESS WHO?

Who is this person from history? If you know, head to Mr Morris' classroom (304) because the first person to name this person correctly will win a prize. A clue: You'll feel sick if you don't get this one!



NAME THE TEACHER

How well do you know your teachers? Read the answers to the questions below and try to work out whose answers they are! Once you think you've worked it out, head to the teacher's room. If you're right and you're the first there, they'll have a box of chocolates waiting for you!

Do you have any pets? Yes – a Labradoodle called Percy.

What weird and wonderful hobbies do you have? I'm working towards an ultra-marathon.

What was your dream job when you were younger? I always wanted to be a professional sportsman.

What was your favourite subject in school? History was my favourite subject at school.

Young Carers Trip

The young carers recently spent the day at Bryn Bach Park as part of the young carers program in school. The park regularly hosts a series of outdoor activities and the pupils enjoyed a fun packed day of activities trying out new experiences that they may not have tried before. They took part in in go-karting, the climbing wall, archery and stand-up paddle boarding. This was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils and gave them a great chance to learn new skills and work as a team.

We are extremely grateful to Pontllanfraith Rotary Club who fully funded the trip in recognition of all that young carers do to support their family and loved ones. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to make new friends and develop their social skills They can't wait to go again!



End Of Term Fun

Pupils at Islwyn were given the opportunity to attend a number of end of year reward trips to give them the chance to unwind with their friends after a year of hard work. Year 7 visited Legoland and had a fantastic day with the Year 7 pastoral team. Year 8 visited Drayton Manor and Years 9 and 10 got the opportunity to visit Thorpe Park.

The pupils had a wonderful time and were grateful to the school for organising these events. What a lovely end to a successful year!



Thank You To Our Senior Team

As the interview process for next year's Student Leadership Team commences, we would like to thank the current team for their support over the last academic year. Thank you to Head Boy - James Bowden, Head Girl - Olivia Beal, Deputies—Ollie Williams, Jake Guy, Harri Titchener, Sophie Venn, Faith Gladwynn, Megan Titchener and Assistants/Senior Prefects—Alix Jones, Zak Hackland, Cory Hancock, Dylan John, Chloe Adamson, Erin Carthew, Alice Porter, Alba Calzaghe, Emily Barlow, Lilli East, Grace Locke and Hollie Seer. Your work has been really appreciated and we wish you all the best for the future.



Performances To Be Proud Of

11 pupils, their teachers and families travelled to Maldwyn in North Wales to compete in the URDD Eisteddfod. The music and welsh departments teamed up and we all braved the mud to compete in recitations and instrumental ensemble. The pupils were outstanding and were broadcast live on the S4C click app. Although they did not win this time, they certainly put Islwyn High on the map and received many compliments from the Maes. The early morning competition times meant an overnight stay where they got to enjoy some social time and a stint on the high ropes, all in all - an excellent experience they'll never forget!

The West End was Calling out for Lacey Leadbetter this month in their search for a star to be. Lacey got through the auditions, heats, and got to the semi finals in Manchester. Already planning her set for next year with hopes of getting to the final, and one day to the West End.

Last but not least, Islwyn's rock band played at Caerphilly Pride on 15th June and blew everyone away with an amazing set. Well done, all!



Criw Cymraeg

We are the Criw Cymraeg and we are here to tell you all about our latest achievement. This half term, we have earned the Siarter Iaith Bronze Award. In order to achieve the award, we had to raise the profile of Welsh around our school. This was a huge task but one that we knew that we could achieve.

Before we started the hard work, we did a tour of the school and identified potential areas where we could include Cymraeg.

We started our tour in reception. Now, Welsh can be easily seen in reception and the **large Welsh flag** outside also promotes Welsh culture. We have also been to reception to train our staff on their use of **incidental Welsh when using the phones**. Our Head Boy and Head Girl have also recorded the phone options in Welsh too. Diolch, Olivia and James!

Signage around the school was a big issue! A lot of our signage around the school was in English. Therefore, we needed to change these.

We have also had to encourage pupils to speak Welsh too. Our teachers have also played a huge part in this, and they have been trained on incidental Welsh by Miss Bow. **Each member of staff has a 'cheat sheet'** which helps them to use incidental Welsh in their lessons. This has become very competitive, especially in the Science Department!

Both pupils and staff have been trying to speak as much Welsh as possible to earn **Tocyn Iaiths**. If a member of staff or pupil gets a tocyn iaith, they are able to join us in Room 330 on a Friday lunchtime for Welsh cakes and orange juice.

We also have a staff and **pupil Duolingo competition** that is tracked over the fortnight. Our staff are currently working towards the bronze Duolingo award.

Each form class also has a Scryblo Sydyn board. During form times, we are able to ask for a post it note to write down any words that we can that are linked to the theme that is set.

We are currently writing **words that are linked to the topic of food**, as this is what we are studying in Welsh. Pupils have two weeks to gather as many words as they can. Each fortnight, we will update a points sheet that can be shared during Friday's Year 7 assembly.

As **Criw Cymraeg, we meet every Thursday lunchtime with Mrs Price**. We discuss what we have achieved and targets to move forward. We also discuss our **phrases of the fortnight** and tracks of the fortnight. We hope that these raise their profile a lot more next year, and they will be shared with Mrs Bowden for briefing notes. Hopefully, this will encourage a lot more staff to use the A1 use of Cymraeg on the system.

Mrs Price has also held a **recitation club for our pupils**. The intention was for these pupils to compete, with the hope of entering the National Eisteddfod and they did! Unfortunately, we didn't come away with any prizes but we hope to compete again next year. Mrs Underwood has also met with these pupils to create our very first Welsh podcast! We'd like to do more of these and have met with Mrs McAuley from EAS, who has said that there will be opportunities for us to do so.

Diolch yn fawr am ddarllen heddiw.

Hwyl fawr!



Welcome To Islwyn Raising Awareness

On the 26th June, the Year Sixes from varying primary schools, were here at Islwyn, in their newly assigned form classes for their first transition day.

The pupils arrived and made their way into the Sports Hall, where they were then placed into one of six form classes. From there each form was accompanied by four year ten pupils who were there to assist with the transition; Iestyn Alderson, Seren Allen-Ridge, Sejal Chahaun, Harri Clarke, Morgan Compton, Jacob Evans, Skye Francis, Rhys Gamage, Ruby Gregg, Tiffany Hardwicke, Isabelle Hopes, Ziyi Huang, Philo Hurley, Chloe Jones, Evie Lewis, Layla Mcginty, Christopher Moore, Lowri Morgans, Griff Morton, Stephanie Nelson, Catrin Poole, Ellis Stonelake, and Ruben Williams. The Year 6 pupils were then taken to their forms where the form teachers led activities to help make the year sixes feel welcome and so that everyone could get to know each other.

Following break time, pupils were given a taste of lessons at Islwyn. In the science department the pupils gained their Bunsen Burner Licences and did the flame test with different metals to change the colour of the flames. In the technology, the pupils either took part in cooking, or product design where they baked cupcakes, or got to customise their own bookmark, or spinner.

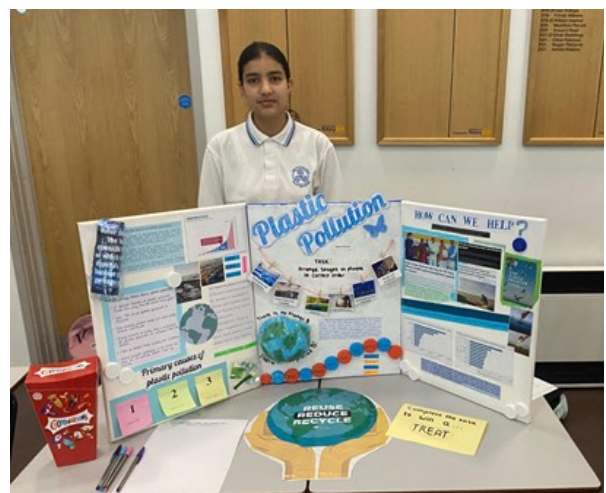
It was lovely to see so many smiling faces leaving us on that day. Thanks to all the year 10 pupils who contributed on the day they were excellent ambassadors for our school and their leadership skills were certainly developed that day taking an active role. Well done all!

On Friday 28th June, Year 10 pupils presented their **“raising awareness on plastic pollution”** strategies to the year seven pupils within the school, to teach them about the impacts that plastic pollution can have on our planet. This was all part of their Global Conference, an important aspect of their Skills Challenge Certificate GCSE. Year ten pupils really loved sharing their facts, ideas and thoughts on this global issue and teaching younger children ways in which they can help to slowly decrease plastic pollution. There were lots of interactive activities for students to take part in which further enhanced their knowledge of plastic pollution and willingness to understand and tackle it.

Year ten pupils have been working really hard over the past couple of months and have shown fantastic effort while making their own strategies in which they presented at the Global Conference. A variety of strategies were seen on the day such as posters, presentations, leaflets, sculptures, children’s books, display boards, and many more!

The year seven pupils and members of staff thoroughly enjoyed the conference and found it highly informative, gaining valuable insights and knowledge. Year ten pupils also learned a lot from what different pupils had to present and the feedback they received from others.

Well done Year 10!



Summer Quiz

Can you answer these questions without relying on the internet? Give it a go and see how many you can get right. Good luck!

1. Who became Prime Minister on Friday 5th July 2024?
2. How many time zones are there in Russia?
3. What is the best-selling book series of the 21st century?
4. How many keys does a classic piano have?
5. Where was the first modern Olympic Games held?
6. Name Pixar's first feature-length movie?
7. How many of Henry VIII's wives were called Catherine?
8. What colour is found on 75% of the world's flags?
9. What is the main ingredient in black pudding?
10. Which country did Germany invade to kickstart World War II?



A Fond Farewell

It was lovely to celebrate Mrs Watts' retirement with an afternoon tea with current staff, past pupils and past staff.

Mrs Watts is retiring after 40 years in Education. She worked at Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School as both a class teacher and Head of SRB and when Oakdale and Pontllanfraith amalgamated she moved to the new school in her role as Head of Islwyn SRB. She has always gone above and beyond to ensure our pupils have the best experiences possible.

Every year she brings the school together with an amazing Christmas concert that celebrates the pupils' talents.

She will be missed by pupils, staff and parents. We thank her for all her dedication and commitment and wish her a healthy, happy retirement!



Riddle Time

1. What word contains 26 letters but only has three syllables?
2. What five-letter word typed in all capital letters can be read the same upside down?
3. David's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle and _____?
4. I am easy to lift, but hard to throw. What am I?
5. What is more useful when it is broken?
6. What goes up, but never comes down?

ISLWYN HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS

Annie JR.

Book by Thomas Meehan Music by Charles Strause Lyrics by Martin Charnin

NEWBRIDGE MEMO

Tuesday 16th July 2024 7pm
Wednesday 17th July 2024 7pm

BOX OFFICE: 01495 243252 WWW.NEWBRIDGEMEMO.CO.UK/EVENTS ADMISSION :£7, £5
FAMILY TICKET: £20