

Summer Term 2021 - Headteacher's Welcome

You don't need me to tell you that it's been an unprecedented year which has brought many new challenges for staff and students, particularly to those in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 who have had to deal with the changes made to the examinations process for the second year in a row. We have been hugely impressed by the determination and commitment from our students to keep learning throughout the pandemic and would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to students, parents and staff for all their support and enthusiasm throughout.

We hope that you enjoy a well-earned summer holiday and look forward to seeing those of you that are returning, in September. To those who are leaving, we wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavours and thank you for all you have contributed to our community.

In the meantime, please enjoy our last newsletter for this academic year where you can read about our activities and achievements during the term and find a list of important future dates for your diary.

Ian Gerrard

Year 7 Students Enjoyed Forest School



Year 7 students enjoyed some outdoor activities in Forest School. They were challenged to use the climbing ropes to move in a large circle using only the trees. They looked at poisonous plants, medicinal plants and tree identification and also learnt how to cook over a fire.

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 2 September 2021-Staff Training Day
Fri 3 September - Staff Training Day
Mon 6 September- **Year 7 and 12** return
Tues 7 September - **All students** return
Fri 24 September - School Photographs

Tues 28 September 2021-Open Evening
Fri 22 October 2021-Last day of term
23 - 31 October - Half-term
Mon 1 November 2021-Students return
Wed 22 December 2021-Last day of term

INSPIRE | SUPPORT | SUCCEED

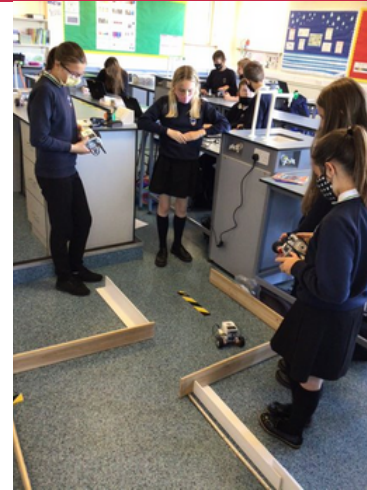
Technocamps



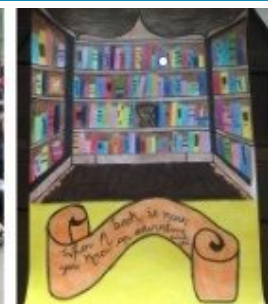
TECHNOCAMPS have been in to deliver STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) enrichment lessons with students in year 7 and 8.

As part of these activities students have been learning about engineering and programming robots, similar to those used in exploring the surface of Mars. Students had to create and assemble their own Robot and programme it to traverse an obstacle course.

There has also been many sessions about coding and computational thinking. Students have been developing and putting their coding and programming skills to use using BBC Microbits.



World Book Day



Our world book day competition was a great success and we received lots of fantastic entries. We can now announce the winners: Congratulations to Kimberley, year 10 who won first place for dressing up as her favourite character and to Emily, year 7 who came second place for her book poster and Ivan, year 7 who came third for his book review. Well done to everyone who took part!

In the School Gardens



Students have made great progress in our gardens. They maintained and planted a dozen fruit bushes in the new community garden outside the school, from resources donated by the North Wales Wildlife Trust, and also built upcycled raised beds.

In addition, Year 10 students Tjay and Michael achieved the Junior Forester Award, by improving local habitats and practising woodland management.

We are also proud to announce that our school and community gardens will be part of Conwy town's entry into Wales in Bloom this year. We would like to say well done to all those involved and thank you for all your hard work!

Da iawn!



Year 7 PBL Origami Butterfly

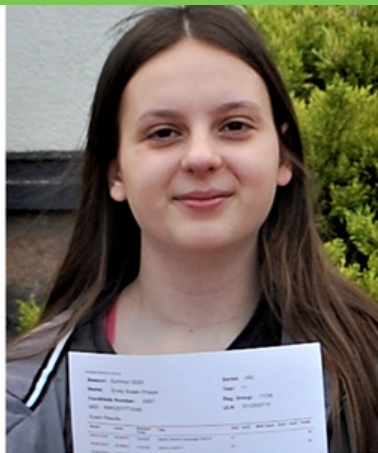


Aberconwy year 7 PBL students contributed to an exciting art installation run by artist Jackie Ley at ST Marys Church, Conwy which runs from the 21.6.21.

Staff and students walked to St Marys and created an 'origami butterfly' with their written reflections, a powerful metaphor for our times.

Our contributions will be brought back to school, displayed as a time capsule of change, renewal, hope, endurance, courage and transformation.

SEREN Success



We are delighted to announce that four of our SEREN year 12 students have been accepted in to summer schools this year.

Congratulations to Erin, Lucy, Emily and Gabriel! They all had to apply through the Welsh Government SEREN network and faced stiff competition from students across Great Britain and abroad. Two will be going to Jesus College, Oxford, one to Cambridge and one to Bath University. They were all delighted when they found out they had places!

The summer schools they are attending cover a range of subjects from Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Philosophy and Theology, Law, Politics and Economics and Engineering. Gabriel specifically looked for a summer school where he will actually be able to stay in Halls of Residence on campus and have a hands on week of Engineering activities.

Lesley Sewell, More Able and Talented Co-ordinator at Ysgol Aberconwy said, "The SEREN programme has been an invaluable life-line to our More Able and Talented students across the whole school through lock down. They have been able to attend on line enrichment events, university open days and university faculty events, including time with lecturers and professors. For our younger students it has given them the opportunity to work together on challenge activities. Having the opportunity to attend prestigious university summer schools has been a great reward for all their hard work and commitment this year."

Tik Tok Film Club



Year 9 students took part in an extra-curricular filmmaking project with the Film Studies department and local filmmaker, Lal Davies. Students were involved in filmmaking workshops, and research based discussions regarding social justice issues that they felt were important. They then created a series of TikTok films to spread awareness on issues such as BLM, LGBTQ+ issues, and ableism. We are very proud of the work that was created for the AberconwyAllies TikTok page, and hope to continue this work next year, where we will be able to open up the group to all year groups.

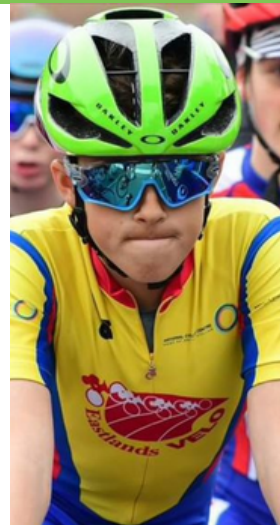
Youngest Person to Complete Pan Celtic Ultra Distance Bike Race



We would like to congratulate year 8 student, Sam on his achievement in becoming the youngest person to complete the Pan Celtic Ultra Distance bike race. The race started on Sunday 4th July in Cornwall and it took Sam just 9 days to complete the 852 miles route which saw him finish his journey in Llandudno on July 13th.

Taking part along with his Dad Duncan, they have so far raised an impressive £1510 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, a charity that is close to Sam's heart as his sister Isabelle, who is 9 years old, has had type 1 diabetes since she was 4 years old. If you would like to donate, please visit his sponsorship page here:

<http://ow.ly/ORP950FhC4z>.



Talk the Talk

A big thank you to Richard Hull from talkthetalkuk.org for his engaging, thought-provoking virtual student workshops that have given our sixth form students a range of developmental tools that encourage confidence to address the demands of Oracy in our changing world.



D-Day memorial service

Congratulations to Owen in year 9 who had the honour to be selected to represent the Conwy Army Cadet Force at the D-Day memorial service, on Sunday 6th June, paying tribute to the fallen alongside the Mayor of Conwy.

Farewell!



As we often do at this time of year, we say goodbye to a number of staff at the end of this term. But this year, we know you would want to share with us in sending best wishes to three long standing members of staff who are heading off into retirement next week.

Liz Brookes has been at Ysgol Aberconwy 18 years as an outstanding Outdoor Activities Leader as well as providing care and support for a large number of ALN students and delivering the Welsh Baccalaureate to students across year 11 and the sixth form. Many of you will have developed a love of the outdoors through the wonderful opportunities she has created, whether on a bike, in a canoe, or on an overnight expedition. Her contribution to the maintenance and use of Bod Silin will also be much missed next year.

Dave Young has been with us for 15 years as an Assistant and Deputy Headteacher. He has been responsible for many areas of school life from examinations to student attendance, but he leaves the greatest impression on those he has taught and supported in the classroom. An exceptional teacher of English, he has inspired a love of the subject in many of the students he has taught, and supported many colleagues in their career development and progression.

John Sadler has been in the school for 23 years as Head of Geography, Head of Humanities and Assistant Headteacher. He has organised trips to Italy, Liverpool, Anglesey and Colwyn Bay(!) and fostered an interest in his subject area that has inspired many students to progress through to University and beyond. He will be retiring to the 'good life' on a farm on Anglesey where he will be keeping bees, and a whole host of other livestock!!

Collectively these members of staff have enriched the lives of many students and the school community as a whole over a total exceeding 50 years! You will be much missed, and we wish you every happiness in your respective retirements. Thank you for all you have done for us.

Year 7 Bake Off



The Year 7 Aberconwy Bake Off had some of the best entries we have ever seen. From 64 participants, it was extremely difficult to find just one winner! There was so much choice and imagination used and the judges were very impressed with the originality and professionalism of the Bake Off entries. After MUCH debate between the teachers, mentors and the Headteacher, the SIX first place prizes went to: Amy, Eryn, Lydia, Amelie, Felix and Thomas. The SIX second place prizes went to Olivia, Riley, Justin, Jack, Chloe and Eve. And third place prizes went to all the other 52 participants!

Sports Day

This year, due to the restrictions of school bubbles, we adapted and ended the year on a fantastic note with individual year group sports day. This concept has proved to be one of the best, with participation from every student in at least 2 events from every single year group. This year they were competing for points by participating and placing in events as form classes, for the Form Championship. We also introduced an inaugural award, of the Victor and Victrix Ludorums.

We kicked off with Year 7, and 7CM took the Form Championship. Ewan Leonard and Lydia Hughes took home the inaugural individual awards of Victor and Victrix Ludorum.

On Wednesday, we were blessed with beautiful weather for the turn of Year 8. 8DC took home the spoils with a barnstorming total of points to win the Form Championship. Imogen Burrows and Harrison Shone took home the again, inaugural Victrix and Victor Ludorums.

On Thursday, a shortened affair with Year 10 saw 10HC take home the Form Championship. Jack Wells and Kimberley Protheroe took home the individual awards.

The last day, was left to Year 9. The sun was beaming and the performances reflected that. Form Champions were 9HC – Alex Morris and Emily Roberts took home the individual prizes.

All in all, a fantastic end to a terrific week. Thanks to all our Y12 PE students who made this week possible, along with the staff who gave up time from their busy schedules to allow it to happen.

Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to the following students for their sporting endeavours:



Sophie Rawling 10HC achieved her first International Cap for Wales Under 15 Girls Football in May 2021. Since then she has gone on to be selected for the Wales Women's Under 17 Football Camp. This is an amazing achievement as the squad was selected from players across the whole of Wales. The squad trained over 5 days at Collier's Park Wrexham and played an inhouse match on the final day in which Sophie scored! The next camp is scheduled for August where the squad will continue their preparations for the Euro 2021 Competition which is in Sweden. Ardderchog Sophie!

Shana Kelly 8CC has been selected to play for Wales U13 Girls Cricket team after attending several training sessions at the SWALEC stadium in Cardiff. She is a right arm leg spin bowler and in her first match for the 2021 season at Port Talbot CC she took her first international wicket! A huge achievement.

Shana started playing cricket at 5 years old and is now currently a member of Bangor CC in which she plays for their weekend 2nd XI and 3rd XI men's teams in which she has also taken wickets. She has worked her way up through the age group teams playing u10s, U11 club and county teams and U13 club and North Wales teams often being the only girl playing in the boys teams. She is looking forward to playing the rest of the season and is proud to represent her country.



Lucian Barnett 8LLC was selected to represent the Welsh Dragons U13 Boys at the UK National Hockey Festival in Nottingham in June 2021. This position was earned by selection from boys across the whole of North Wales. The tournament is a three-day event with regional teams from Scotland, Ireland and English regions taking part.

The Welsh Dragons were tested by very strong teams and represented their country with courage, skill and determination over the six matches they played.

INSPIRE | SUPPORT | SUCCEED

Best-Behaved Form!



With the fewest Behaviour Points awarded to any form, 7LLC won a trip to Bod Silyn! Despite losing some time due to an open gate (the cows were masterfully herded away by our intrepid cowboys Mr O'Rourke, Mr Thomas and Mr Roche) a wonderful time was had by all.



Gweithgareddau haf

I bobl ifanc 11-25 oed yn byw yn gorllewin Conwy

Ymunwch â'n gweithgareddau haf! Dewch a'ch ffrindiau neu dewch draw i wneud rhai newydd!!

Cysylltwch â ni i gael mwy o fanylion neu i ddarganfod pryd rydyn ni yn eich ardal chi. Gallwn ollwng ffurflen gofrestru i chi new ymweld am sgwrs.



tom.griffiths@conwy.gov.uk




Tom

Summer activities

For young people aged 11-25 living in Conwy west

Join our summer activities! Bring your friends or come along to make new ones!

Get in touch with us for more details or to find out when we are in your area. We can drop a registration form off or visit for a chat.



01492 574533 / 07871 986616

facebook @GConwyW
instagram @GConwyW
twitter @GConwyYS

**Are you 11-25? Living in the Conwy West area – Llandudno Junction, Penmaenmawr & Llanfairfechan?
Come and join our summer activities!**

We can drop a registration form off for you or visit for a chat.

Activities can include –

Sports

Arts and Craft

Health and Wellbeing sessions

Community Projects

Cook and Eat sessions

Team building exercises

Get in touch with us for more details or to find out when we are in your area

tom.griffiths@conwy.gov.uk / 07871986616

Visit our Facebook page – @GConwyW

Use the QR CODE found on the poster

INSPIRE | SUPPORT | SUCCEED

Support and Advice

Parent Talk Cymru Parent Support



There's a lot of pressure on parents at the moment. Parent Talk Wales is a free and confidential service for parents of 0-19 year olds in Wales. You can get support with anything that's worrying you about parenting or your child.

We're on hand to support parents, when you need us. Browse our articles on the most common parenting questions from our experts. Or talk one-to-one with a qualified parenting coach about anything that's worrying you. It's all free, and no topic is too big, small, or embarrassing.

This service is also available in Welsh

Visit: parent-talk.org.uk/wales

We're here:

12:30-19:30 Monday
10:30-16:30 Tuesday
9:30-16:30 Wednesday
12:30-19:30 Thursday
09:30-16:00 Friday



Parent Talk Wales is a free and confidential service for parents of 0-19 year olds in Wales. You can get support with anything that's worrying you about parenting or your child. They're on hand to support parents, when needed. Browse their articles on the most common parenting questions or talk one-to-one with a qualified parenting coach. It's all free, and no topic is too big, small, or embarrassing. This service is also available in Welsh

Some child mental health and wellbeing tips to help parents:

<https://bit.ly/3obqBcq>

Online Safety

Online safety – not sure where to start?
<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks>

- Use this website to find information and safety ratings on the apps that your children are using.
- Check that your children are not using an unsafe 'talk to strangers' app
- Is Omegle safe?
(net-aware.org.uk)

Financial Assistance - Grants

Do you need help to purchase school uniform including coats and shoes, school sports kit including footwear, equipment e.g. school bags and stationery, computer equipment, or equipment/uniform for out of school hour's trips and activities like scouts, martial arts, dance or outdoor learning? If so, click on the link below to see if you qualify for financial assistance. <http://ow.ly/1lMu50EJKEQ>