




Annual Activities and Events



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YSGOL
ABERCONWY



A photograph showing three students from behind, riding bicycles on a gravel path. They are wearing red jackets and carrying backpacks. In the background, there is a school building, a green fence, and hills under a cloudy sky.

At Ysgol Aberconwy we offer students a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom, to develop their skills and broaden their perspective.

This is a snapshot of some of the vast array of trips and activities that we arrange during the year - we hope you find it interesting and informative.



September

Activities and Events

Glan Llyn Trip

The annual September Glan Llyn trip allows our Year 7 students to get to know each other, develop as a team and to develop their Welsh language skills. Students spend 2 nights at the centre and participate in a wide variety of water sports.



September

Activities and Events



School Photographs

Class and individual student photos are taken within the first 2 weeks of term.



School Council Elections

Elections for the new School Council take place in September.

Our Millionaire Readers

At Ysgol Aberconwy, all lower school students spend 20 minutes a day reading as part of the Accelerated Reader Programme. We celebrate the number of words all our students read in the Library corridor and our Millionaire readers receive certificates.

2019 Millionaire Reader



October

Activities and Events

Restart a Heart Day

The whole school takes part in CPR training.

All our year 7 students learn how to administer CPR during a workshop with their form group. Everyone else is given the opportunity to attend a lunchtime refresher session.

We are all CPR trained!



Duke of Edinburgh Training

Year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 Students participate in expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

October

Activities and Events



Ysgol Aberconwy Open Evening

We open our doors to welcome lots of new faces at our annual open evening.

Families from across the county enjoy exciting and engaging activities around the school and meet members of staff and students.





October

Activities and Events

Forest School

We have an established Forest School. Our students learn about and develop their understanding of nature and the local environment.



Su'mae/Shwmae Day,

To celebrate su'mae/shwmae day, students enjoy a variety of Welsh language themed activities: from practising tongue twisters, listening to Welsh music at the silent disco and meeting Welsh celebrities.

Alistair James, Capital Fm presenter (and former Ysgol Aberconwy pupil)

creates a Welsh radio Programme with the year 7 Welsh first language class during his visit.



October

Activities and Events



Project Based Learning Showcase

Year 7 parents come to school to see the project work and informally meet the teachers.



November

Activities and Events

Year 9 Science for Health Day

Our Year 9 students enjoy sessions about the benefits of healthy eating, not smoking, using drugs or drinking alcohol and also learn about mental health & hygiene.

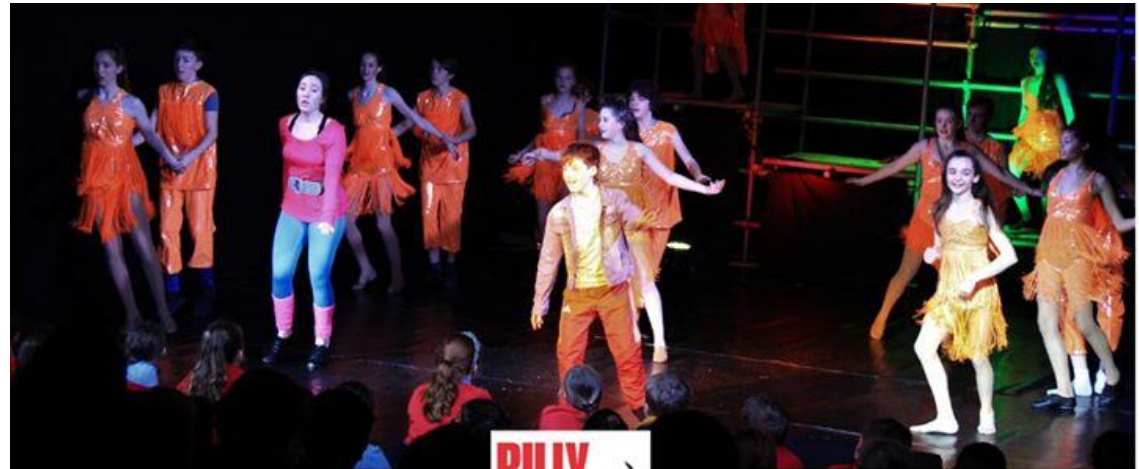


Gathering the Stories Film Project

Ysgol Aberconwy students, working alongside Ffilmiau Cymunedol Davies, film in the community, recording people telling stories about their lives in Conwy.

The School Musical

Every November the school produces a Musical. Generally, we involve children from our Primary feeders and Aberconwy students from all Years. We place great emphasis on developing the full range of production skills from marketing, to lighting and sound, set design and of course acting, dance and singing. Our recent productions include We Will Rock You, Billy Elliot and Hairspray.



November



Activities and Events

Children in Need Day

There is a buzz of excitement around the whole school in the week leading up to Children in Need. Students and staff organise and participate in a variety of fundraising activities from dressing up to selling cakes. A group of teachers even take part in the Conwy half marathon to help raise money.

Ysgol Aberconwy raises thousands of pounds for BBC's Children in Need every year!



School Garden

Before the Winter season hits, students and Mr Misiak harvest the last of the vegetables, prepare and tidy the garden ready for Spring.

Students Join University of Wales Mentoring Scheme

Modern Foreign Language students take part in a project with the University of Wales to raise career aspirations.



December

Activities and Events

First Place in the Iris Prize Scriptwriting Competition

Students spend two days working with a professional film crew, after coming first in the Iris Prize scriptwriting competition for schools across Wales.



Plant a Tree Day

The Gardening Club and Ganolfan Inclusion Centre plant hazel trees donated by the Woodland Trust on the school grounds.



MFL Department Visits a German Christmas Market

Language students visit Cologne for a weekend, soaking up the culture, cuisine and atmosphere at a German Christmas market.





Xmas Jumper Day

We raise money for Save The Children and collect bags of donations for Conwy Food Bank with our wear a Christmas jumper day.



Seven Year 7 students Became Millionaire Readers - Each read over 1,000,000 words during the term!

December

Activities and Events



Year 9 Geographers Create Eruptions

After making erupting volcanoes, students narrate and film the eruptions to use in their oracy assignments, based on the eruption of Mt. St Helens.

School Christmas Dinner is Served...

Christmas dinner is served by Sodexo staff!



December

Activities and Events

Taking Performing Arts to the Local Community...

Students spread Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear! Following the Carol Service in St Mary's Church we visit local nursing homes and organisations to perform.



Our Gathering the Stories Journey Continued...

The short film that students produced with Davies Community Films are premiered at Clwb Yr Efail in Conwy.



January

Activities and Events



Student Iris Workshop

Ysgol Aberconwy students and staff welcome back the Iris Outreach film crew to host a workshop giving students the chance to work alongside and network with industry professionals from TV and Film.



Student film "Our Souls" Premieres and Wins Award

Our student filmmakers win the Education Short Award with their film Our Souls at the Iris Film Festival. Here's what the critics said... "Our Souls was engaging, convincing and sophisticated film making. Schools are still a place where LGBT+ kids can suffer, and this clearly shows the positive impact talking about it can have. A moving, important film."

A Visit From Singer and Songwriter Livvy K

Livvy, a mental health advocate, visits Ysgol Aberconwy. She performs songs, does a Q&A session and signs autographs.



February

Activities and Events

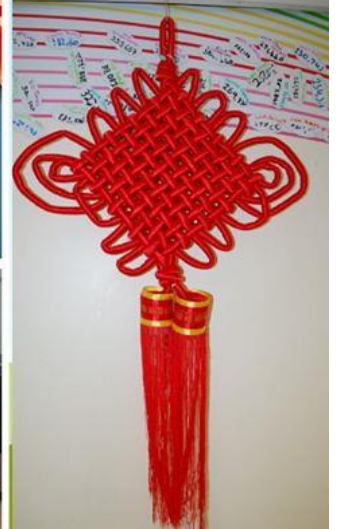
United Nations Language Workshop

Tracey Hayes, who works for the United Nations in Switzerland, flies to the UK to speak to Year 9-12 students about the value of having foreign language skills and the need for a second language in the Global Economy.



Welsh Language Music Day

Year 7 students celebrate Welsh Language Music Day by composing and performing music - on this occasion with the Ukulele!



Celebrating Chinese New Year in School!

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 enjoy a mixture of lessons to celebrate the festival and learn more about Chinese culture and tradition: from Chinese cooking lessons to paper cutting classes and from Tai Chi to Chinese calligraphy.



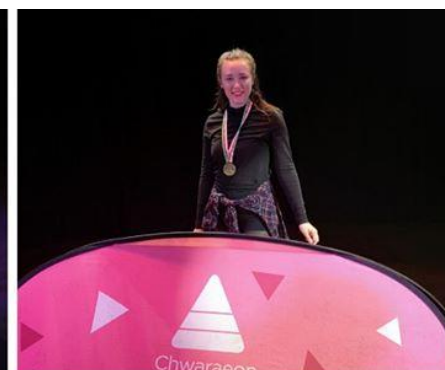
February

Activities and Events



Dance Success at Urdd

Ysgol Aberconwy students win 27 medals!



Students Compete at CRE8

Y9 students take part in the CRE8 North West Wales Event, winning the Best Teamwork award.



February

Activities and Events



National Story Telling Week

Year 7 pupils visit Queen Elizabeth Court care home to read to residents as part of National Story Telling week. They were told stories of the war by a resident and his wife who have been married for 70 years.

Phoenix Project

14 students participate in a full week of training with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service at Llanfairfechan Fire Station. They learn about fire safety, dealing with peer pressure and making good choices. All of the students involved develop their team working skills and met challenges throughout the week that tested them both physically and emotionally. They learn that they can cope under pressure and that the support of their peers is essential.



February

Activities and Events

Airbus Work Experience

Students enjoy a week's work experience at Airbus.



Year 11 and Year 9 GCSE Options Evenings

Students and parents visit the school to discuss Sixth Form and GCSE options.



Cross Country Qualifiers

Nine students compete in the Eryri Cross Country Championship: three qualify for the nationals.



Urdd Gymnastics

Aberconwy students compete in Aberystwyth.

March

Activities and Events

World Book Day Celebrations!

Staff and students dress as their favourite character to raise money for charity.



Cooking up Success

Amelia comes third in the Cogurdd Competition in Llandrillo College. She worked extremely hard to achieve this, making two dishes in an hour and a half.



Crucial Crew Workshops

Our year 7 students take part in a series of interactive Crucial Crew workshops. Speakers come from the British Transport Police, Road Safety, RLNI, St Johns, Dogs Trust, Food Standards Agency and the Fire Service to engage with students and discuss a wide variety of personal safety issues.





Ysgol Aberconwy Eisteddfod

Each year we hold an Eisteddfod for Students in years 7 & 8 to showcase their talents across a wide range of subjects. In 2019 our winners were:

Enillydd Cadair Iaith Gyntaf/
winner of the Welsh First
Language Chair

Lucian

Winner of the Crown (for work in
English)

Jodie

Enillydd Tlws y Dysgwyr / winner
of the Learner's Medal

Elin



Welcoming Students From Germany

We welcome students from the Friedrich Ebert Gymnasium School in Bonn, Germany, who were visiting Wales for the first time.



March

Activities and Events



Speakers for Schools

We welcome the Executive Director of The Edge Picture Company, Pete Stevenson, as part of the Speakers for Schools programme. He gives an inspiring presentation about working in the film industry, followed by a small workshop with our 6th Form Film and Media students, where they were given the opportunity to work with him on a client brief and pitch.



RSPB Great Debate

Ysgol Aberconwy are runners up in the RSPB Big debate.

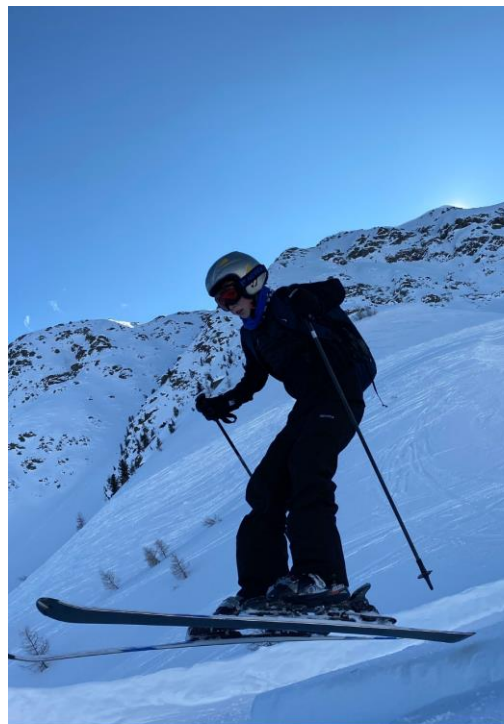
St David's Day Celebrations

Students parade from Ysgol Aberconwy to St Mary's Church, to participate in the celebrations taking place in the church. Our pupils join students from other schools to recite poems and sing songs. In school our students take part in quizzes and guest speakers talk to students about the importance of the Welsh language.



March

Activities and Events



Ski Trip

Students develop their skills and learn to ski on a range of slopes on our annual ski trip. Advanced skiers find lots to challenge them, even a few jumps and off-piste sections.

By day four most students can manage to ski from the highest point. A fantastic achievement for students who had no skiing experience three days previously.



April

Activities and Events



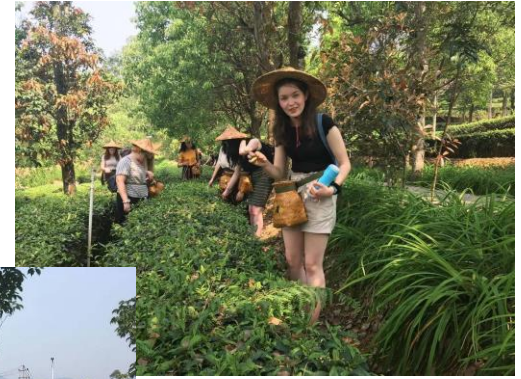
Overseas Trip!

Students enjoy a two-week trip to China to continue their studies in Mandarin, staying at Xiamen University with pupils from Argoed High School and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

As well as having lessons in Mandarin, they are also treated to cultural activities such as traditional wood-carving, painting and martial arts.

The Confucius Centre at the University provides opportunities for the students to practise their Mandarin outside the classroom, with visits to a local tea-picking and tasting business, local temples and a beautiful island off the coast of Xiamen called Gulang Yu.

Before leaving the University to spend a few days being tourists in Shanghai, the students sit their final exams - they all pass!



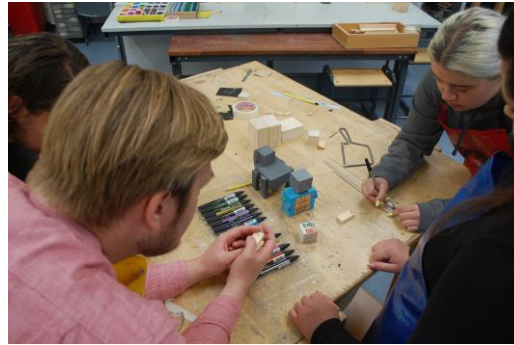


May

Activities and Events

Three Students Receive Prestigious Welsh Livery Guild Award

Following a tough and rigorous application process, three Ysgol Aberconwy students are chosen to receive the prestigious Worshipful Livery Company of Wales Schools Award. On Friday 12th April, Jean Bryson presents Nina (Year 9), Edward (Year 10) and Geneva (Year 10) with their awards. They are presented with framed certificates and awarded a financial prize to support their ongoing educational needs.



Teachers Visit From a School in Iceland

We welcome teachers visiting the UK from Brekkuskóli, Iceland! During their time with us they meet students and take part in class activities too!



Am Dro Day!

Throughout April and May students work alongside pupils from Porth Y Felin to create multiple arts projects, culminating in an exciting and interactive arts showcase at St. Marys Church in May 2019!



We Are the first Secondary School in Wales to Achieve the Corporate Health Standard Award!

Assessors from the Welsh Assembly Government Healthy Working Wales Team, visit Ysgol Aberconwy to carry out an inspection of two key areas: organisational support and specific health issues. Following the inspection, the school is awarded the Corporate Health Standard Silver Award.

The assessors recognise the changes that have taken place over the last five years, the role of the Headteacher in leading the change, and the determination to put people first by involving both students and staff not only in the scope of policies but also in an extensive range of activities and initiatives to support health and well-being.



May

Activities and Events



Visiting the Somme Battlefield in France

45 students and staff visit the Somme battlefield in France in May 2019. The group took time to visit the trenches at Thiepval wood and to reflect in the Sunken Road: both sites were key in the battle which started on 1st July 1916. A memorial service is held at Mametz wood, where the Welsh fusiliers fought as part of the battle.



June

Activities and Events



Goodbye and good luck to our Year 11 Students

In June we officially say 'goodbye' and good luck to our Year 11 students! Reminding them, the end of one chapter in life is just the beginning of another... the best is yet to come!



Sports Day

During the last week of term we hold our annual whole school sports day! Students have the chance to take part in a variety of sporting activities throughout the day, getting the chance to win valuable points for their house team!



We Raise over £2177 For Aberconwy Mind!

We take to the streets of Conwy once again to complete a sponsored walk. In total we raise £2177.04. This will go towards establishing an Aberconwy Mind, student and staff base, here at the school.



July

Activities and Events



There's a buzz Around the School...

Students enjoy a visit from a Master Beekeeper to learn all about Bees, their purpose in the hive and the important roles they carry out. They also meet volunteers from Soroptimist International, who talked through different products, produced with help from our little winged friends.



Year 6 Transition Week

We welcome Year 6 pupils from our primary schools. They spend a week exploring the school, meeting the teachers and taking part in a variety of fun and interesting lessons.



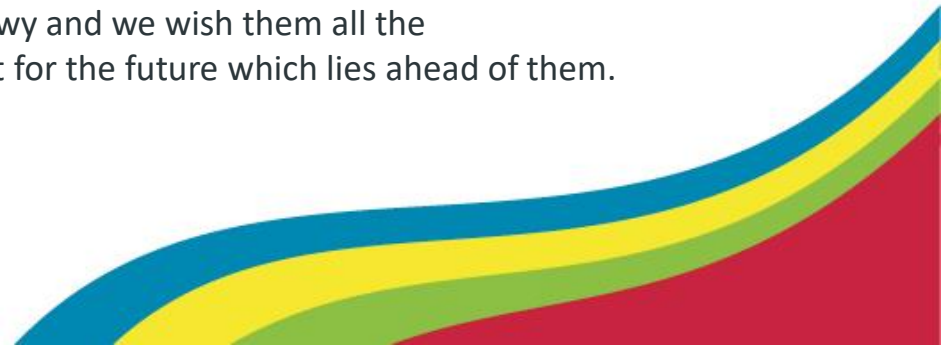
Design and Arts Exhibition

We open our doors to parents for our Design and Arts Exhibition. During the event we display the fantastic work our students have produced as part of their qualifications.



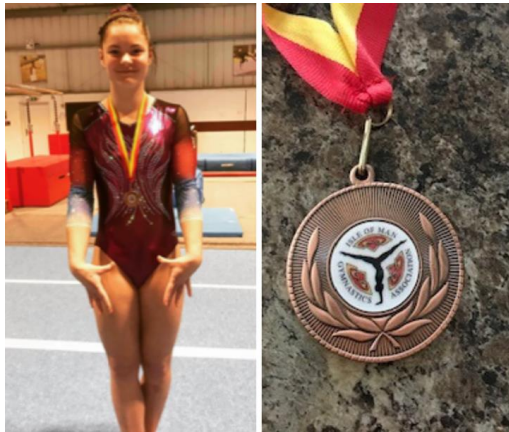
Sixth Form Ball Celebrations

We celebrate with our Year 13 students at their Sixth Form Ball. We're extremely proud of all their achievements during their time at Ysgol Aberconwy and we wish them all the very best for the future which lies ahead of them.



Representing Wales...

We are very proud of the achievements of our students who have taken part in a huge range of activities both inside and outside of school. We'd like to congratulate them for all they have achieved. Here are a selection of those who have been the best of the best in Wales over the last few years!



Congratulations to Amelie who won 3rd place in the vault representing the North Wales Area Senior Girls gymnastic squad. She also competed in a gymnastics competition in Malta against students from around the world!



Well done to Lewis, Sam, Jaydon, Tom, Jack and Sophie, who all did a fantastic job at a recent Welsh Weightlifting Competition, with everyone walking away with a medal!



Congratulations to Sophie and Erin who have been selected for the FAW Trust Girls National Under 15 Camp.



Congratulations to Ella who has been awarded the 'Explorer Scout Young Leaders' (ESYLs) Belt for her contributions to scouts and for successfully completing the ESYLs' Scheme. Not only has she achieved this fantastic position, she is also one of only three in Wales to be awarded the belt!

Nine students from Ysgol Aberconwy competed in the Eryri Cross Country Championship. Three qualified for the nationals Cai took 2nd place, Caitlin 5th and Ceri 8th in their respective categories. Sam (Y7) also made the reserve list. Well done everyone!



Representing Wales...

A huge well done to:
Martha – Eryri Netball
Shana – Wales Cricket
Lucian – North Wales Hockey
Congratulations on your selection!

Sam represented Wales at a weightlifting competition held in Austria, where he was up against lifters from across Europe!



Mia was selected for the Wales Under 15 Girls Football Team and achieved her first Welsh Cap!



Congratulations to Ben & Sam in who finished 1st and 2nd place respectively in the British Youth Weightlifting Championships!



Congratulations to Jacob for winning silver in the World United Martial Arts Competition!



Congratulations to Geneva who competed in the SSU Welsh Karate Championships and walked away with Gold for Kata in the Black Belt Category!



YSGOL ABERCONWY

