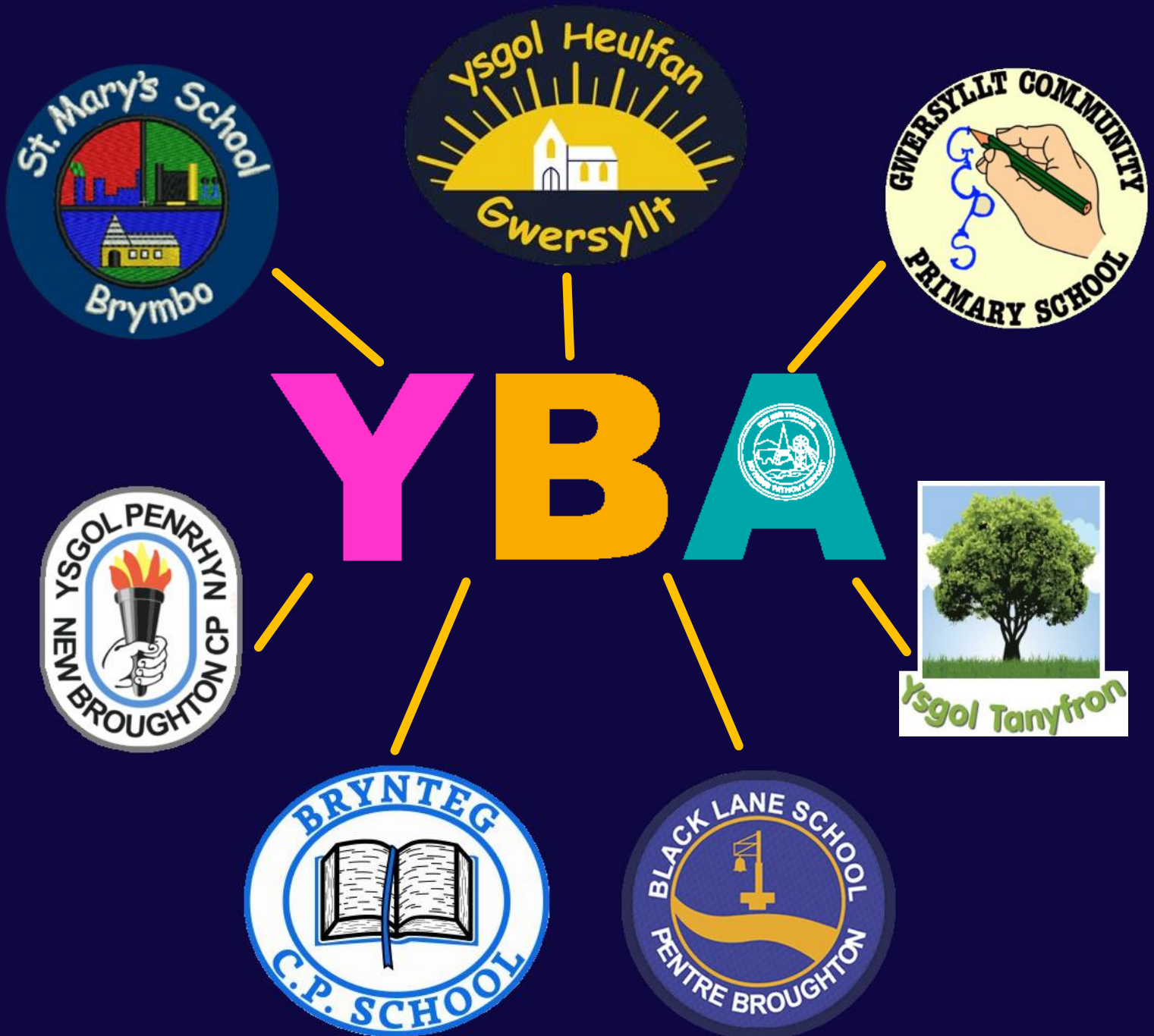


Newsletter

Summer 2021-1st Edition



Welcome

Welcome to our very first edition of our Bryn Alyn Cluster Newsletter. We are delighted to be able to work together to bring you news of all the amazing activities and achievements that have taken place in our cluster of schools. Each school has contributed with news and events from this term. We are looking



forward to being able to celebrate the successes of our young people through this newsletter and sharing this with you. We hope you enjoy our first edition.

Dream. Reach. Achieve.

Competition

Who doesn't like a competition?

This is the very first Newsletter to include news from YBA and all of its Primary School Cluster. It will come out three times a year and we are hoping to have a different cover on each issue, so this is where you come in.

We are holding a competition to all you budding designers out there.

Like the Name and front cover of the Newsletter but think you can do better then why not send in your ideas.

It needs to show how you think we should all work together in our community, and the competition is open to anyone with a great idea.

So, send in ideas for the name of the Newsletter and as the Newsletter will come out at Christmas, Easter and the Summer we thought each cover should correspond to the season. So, we will pick the winner of the new name and 3 winners for the front cover design.

Your design will be on the front cover of the edition and your school will be on the first 2 pages and there will also be a prize awarded when the Newsletter is given out.

Send your entries to Mrs Dawn Beet, include your name, year group and school name

Email: mailbox@ysgolbrynalyn.wrexham.sch.uk

Post: Ysgol Bryn Alyn, Church Street, Gwersyllt, Wrexham, LL11 4HD



Results Day 2021



Our Year 11s returned for their provisional results day on Friday 18th June. The sun shone, the ice cream van came, leavers hoodies were received and a fabulous 'Class of 2021' Yearbook, kindly donated by the Friends of YBA, was given out! It has been a difficult year but yet again our pupils demonstrated their resilience in these exceptional circumstances.

We are so very proud of you all!



Ice cream anyone??



PSE Day

Wow what a day!!!! Years 7,8,9 and 10 all participated in a full PSE Day focusing on Health and Wellbeing. A variety of sessions were provided from agencies including the Armed forces, knife crime, Food Standards, Network Rail, alcohol and substance mis-use, young carers, healthy relationships and many more.

Additionally our pupils enjoyed physical activities such as team building, football, boxing and drama. The pupils were a credit to our school community.

Mr Jones and Mrs Evans-Lea thanked all staff and pupils for their support and input.



“It was a great day with a lots of different activities. The workshops were really interesting and the form time team building was fantastic” Carys Yr9

Prince's Trust



Prince's Trust



The Prince's Trust programme and qualification has been running for more than 10 years at the school.

It is a GCSE option for KS4 pupils and focuses on a range of skills and projects.

The Level 2 course develops ICT, literacy and numeracy, alongside a range of projects such as, teamwork, community studies, healthy lifestyle, career choices and undertaking enterprises.

Each year the Prince's Trust offers workshops and enrichment sessions to our young people. However, due to the current situation this has not been an option this year.

Instead, they have kindly bought a range of gardening equipment to be used at the school. Along with Mrs Evans-Lea,

pupils have been developing the outside spaces at school to provide an environment they are proud of.

As well as enhancing skills it develops confidence, a pride in their community and communication skills which are vital in school and later life.

“Keep up the good work, keep cooking”

Simon Rimmer



A celebrity chef was the special surprise ingredient for the announcement of winners in recent competition at a Wrexham school.

During lockdown, staff at Ysgol Bryn Alyn, in Gwersyllt, decided it was really important to think of ways to keep pupils busy and try to encourage them to participate in cooking at home.

Teacher Amanda Williams said: "Food is a fundamental part of family life.

"During their online food lessons, we looked at meal planning and healthy food and I encouraged pupils to send in any photos of food that they had either helped in making or made themselves.

"It became a fabulous way of interacting with them and I was so proud of what they all achieved.

"Monday was my favourite day. Most pupils had done some cooking over the weekend and my online classrooms were flooded with photos of the food that had been created.

"I commented on every photo sent in and encouraged the wonderful talents of the YBA Master Chefs.

"Following this, to keep up momentum, I decided to do a dessert competition. Again, the Master Chefs at YBA did not disappoint!

"We received some wonderful entries and *Sunday Brunch* star and celebrity chef **Simon Rimmer**, kindly did a video for our winners.

"We are so proud of the cookery talent here. We certainly have some future top chefs in the making!"

WINNER: Logan Millington Yr7—Chocolate Strawberry Cloud

SECOND: Sophie Kocker Yr10—Lotus Biscoff Cheesecake.

THIRD: Kayla Roberts Yr7—Home made Sticky Toffee Pudding with a Toffee sauce.



Duke of Edinburgh Award



MASSIVE CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST DofE BRONZE EXPEDITION GROUP.

Our very first Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition went out on the 21st /22nd June. Having done their Practice on the 16th June, the group hit the canals! Check out the photos - they all did so very well and seem to be experts at cooking pasta for dinner!

For Rebecca Watts and Sophie Kocker, this means the full completion of their Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award, the first YBA students to achieve this through the school. We are so very proud of you both for setting the example to pupils following in your footsteps. Well done!

For Sophie Binnion, Alice Edwards, Trinity Jacobs and Izzy Watkiss-Thomas they have completed the expedition section and are in the process of competing the other sections of the award, Skills, Physical and Volunteering. They will be very close behind Rebecca and Sophie in achieving the full award. A great achievement girls!

Thank you to Mr Ebrey and Mr Gordon for their support and expertise.

Silver Next!



¡Bienvenidos a Ysgol Bryn Alyn!

(Welcome to Ysgol Bryn Alyn)

Recent years have seen a trend in school Modern Languages departments which has seen the more traditionally taught French and German replaced with Spanish as the Modern Foreign Language of choice. We at Ysgol Bryn Alyn made that switch last September and the pupils are loving it.



Learning Spanish has many advantages over French or German. Firstly, it has a very friendly spelling system! Unlike English, with its plethora of spelling rules and even more exceptions to the rules, Spanish spelling is really easy to get to grips with. Once you know how each letter is said and a few easy rules, what you see is what you say, which helps learners to build confidence much more quickly.

Furthermore, there are lots of cognates in Spanish – that is words which look very similar and mean the same, which means you can often guess the meaning of a new Spanish word. Also, because of some easy cheats with Spanish, it's possible to learn how to express quite a lot without having to memorise all the different forms of the verb.

Who doesn't love going to Spain? We Brits love our holidays in Spain and the Canary Islands and some of us even get as far as Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Spanish (or Castellano) is the official language of 21 countries, not including the U.S., where over 50 million people speak Spanish as their mother-tongue. Spain has it all; wonderful year-round climate in the south, amazing cities and festivals, fabulous food and breath-taking ski resorts in the Pyrenees and Sierra Nevada, near Granada.



Whilst I mention Granada, we have a partner school in Granada who we are planning projects with. For now, they are on-line projects via the internet, but as soon as it is safe to travel again, we will be organising a trip to Granada. We'll

Diversity Week at YBA



All year groups had whole school assemblies based on the importance of diversity and embracing everyone's differences. There were also some great lessons within the curriculum focused on diversity too!

The Humanities Faculty (RE) looked at how different faiths respond to diversity, and how diversity within religion can promote tolerance, respect, understanding and empathy. There have been some brilliant discussions!



Our Librarian, Mrs Taylor has put together some reading materials based on LGBTQ+ recommendations. Visit our library to find out about the diversity of authors on offer and check out the pictures below for more LGBTQ+ reading recommendations.

Expressive Arts

Ysgol Bryn Alyn has a thriving Expressive Arts programme which is inclusively nurtures talent and creativity for all. Self-expression through Arts subjects is a vital part of developing the whole individual and our curriculum and extra-curricular programme aims to develop creative and ambition learners, preparing them for life within and outside of the classroom.



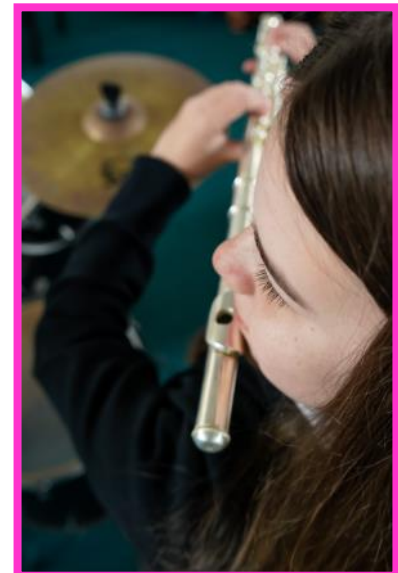
YBA Expressive Arts Opportunities for 2021-2022

Students have the opportunity to attend Drama Club every week. Students will work on script extracts and devise their own drama performances on issues such as Social Media, bullying, equality. YBA's much anticipated school production of Annie will be performed in July 2022. Our new Year 7's will be able to take part in auditions for the school show to join the performance and backstage cast. We cannot wait to get working on this production!



Mrs Noon is leading an Erasmus+ international programme which partners our school with schools in Italy, Poland, France, Denmark, Portugal, Greece and Turkey. Students have the opportunity to work with Manchester University to create a Theatre in Education Performance on Healthy Lifestyles and living and the impacts of Social Media on modern society. The final performance will be toured to all of our feeder Primary schools in the Autumn term. 14 Year 9 students have been selected to take part in this programme whereby they will visit a partnership school in Europe and take part in Drama and Art workshops using Art as a stimulus for performance. What an opportunity!

In September Mrs Noon will be setting up a playwrighting group as part of the New Views Playwrighting competition set up by The National Theatre in London. Students will attend a playwrighting group led by Mrs Noon to develop their own One Act Plays to be entered into the competition for the chance to have their play directed and performed by professionals at The National Theatre in London. Playwrighting masterclasses by leading industry professionals will take place with our stu-



Music is led by Mr Humphreys- YBA have 70 students taking part in Peripatetic music lessons provided by Wrexham Music Coop, we offer many different instruments such as violin, flute, guitar, drums and singing. KS3 choir runs every Thursday lunch time. Music club will take place on Tuesday lunch times from September where students can develop their keyboard and composition skills. KS3 and GCSE Music students will be involved in the Expressive Arts Christmas concert, school production of Annie and numerous other performances throughout the Year.

Expressive Arts

We have a number of theatre trips planned for next academic year including *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe* and *Wuthering Heights* at The Lowry Theatre, Liverpool Empire and Theatre Clwydd. Expressive Arts Students will also attend performances and workshops at the Llangollen Eisteddfod and visit Ty Pawb Art galleries and exhibitions.



We also offer art, drama and media extra-curricular clubs which provide students with the chance of develop their art, dance media technology skills to create radio broadcasts, marketing campaigns, set design, dance shows and gallery exhibition pieces.



We can't wait to welcome our new Year 7's into our Expressive Arts family.

Rewards

We have lots of reward opportunities here at YBA as our pupils strive to achieve in all aspects of their education. For example, pupils who reflect our REACH values through engaging in their learning, attending school every day and going 'above and beyond' as a pupil at YBA.

We are so very proud of them all!



Doughnut break reward for good Behaviour for Learning scores (treat awarded each Half Term)



Ice cream van onsite for the Year 11 results day, class of 2021



Courtney Lewis

being presented with her

Headteacher Award for Half Term 5 2020/21



Year 9s receiving their certificates for their B1 top achievers of the week award.

School Council

YBA have a very active School Council led by Mrs Byrne (Faculty Head of Languages). All our Year 11 Prefects are automatically co-opted onto the Student Leadership Committee that are part of our School Council. Mrs Slinn is currently recruiting our new student Prefects including two Head Prefects who will lead this team. We encourage all our pupils to get involved in our Pupil Voice, we value listening to the views of our pupil body and responding to suggestions and discussions made. We have form representatives for each tutor group and then a formal voting system takes place to elect our Year representatives who then sit on the School Council. They attend meetings every half term (and during lockdown we continued with this 'virtually') This year they have met with our Wrexham MP, Sarah Atherton as well as being involved in our pupil panel for staff interviews. They have been a vital part of developing our new Rights, Respect, Equality Policy and our Head Prefects have been regular contributors to YBA Governing Body meetings. #TeamYBA #PupilVoice #GetInvolved

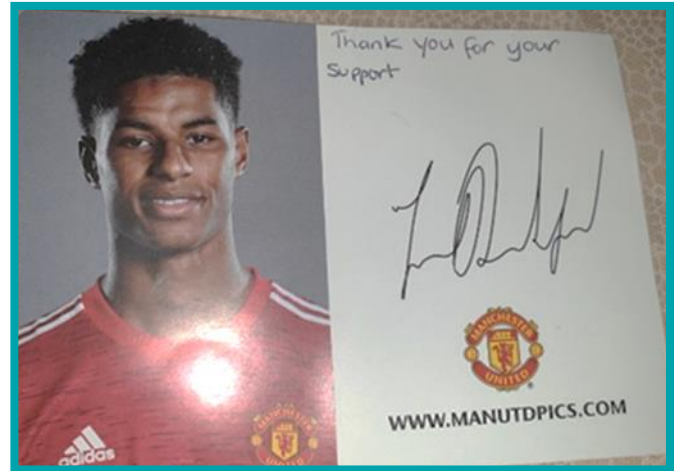




Marcus Rashford

Pupils in years 4, 5 and 6 have been learning about the Rights of the Child and have been inspired by Marcus Rashford's recent campaign on Child Food Poverty. The children have researched the campaign and used this to express their opinions and develop formal letter writing skills.

Every child wrote a letter to Marcus Rashford expressing their opinions on the campaign. The children were so pleased and excited to receive a reply, with a 'thank you' card and a signed Man Utd. Football shirt!





Spheros

Years 4, 5 and 6 have been developing their coding skills! The children were challenged with moving the sphero from one place to another by programming directions, distance and calculating angles. The children demonstrated great teamwork and problems solving skills as well as applying their numeracy skills.





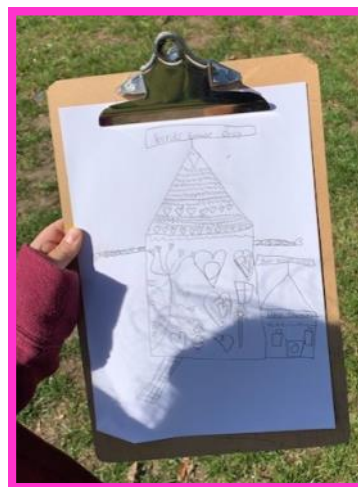
Jaxon's Wood



Over the last few weeks and months here at Gwersyllt CP, the school have decided to take a look at our outside provision and areas. As you may be aware we are lucky enough to have a gorgeous new building and the furniture and equipment to go alongside that. We wanted to take the opportunity to ensure we had the outside space to match.



In order to create a suitable area we brought in a company to cover the side fence (and stop any litter from getting into this lovely space from the adjacent car park) and create a zone by building a wooden fence around the perimeter.



Our Harriers teacher, Mrs Davies, then called on as much help as possible to design the inside of this space. We asked the pupils, during lock down, to put forward ideas and with the help of a few people in the know. We managed to design and make a huge variety of bug homes, hedgehog homes, fire pits and other sculptures.



Since our return, and the brief window of lovely weather we were treated to, every class has had the pleasure of visiting this new area. It is a quickly become many pupils and staff's favourite place in the school. That, alongside all the equipment brought in for it, has ensured it will be great resource for many years.



The final job was to name it. The school decided on **Jaxon's Wood**, in honour of a pupil who we will always remember with great fondness.

Our next challenge is to continue with the Orchid we have started at the bottom of the field.

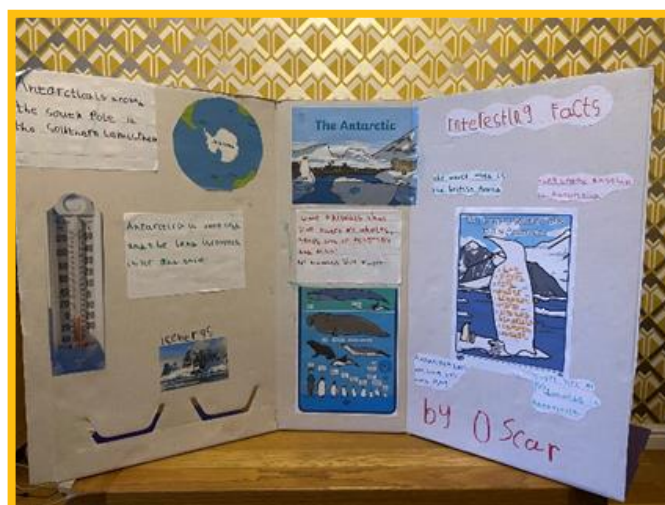




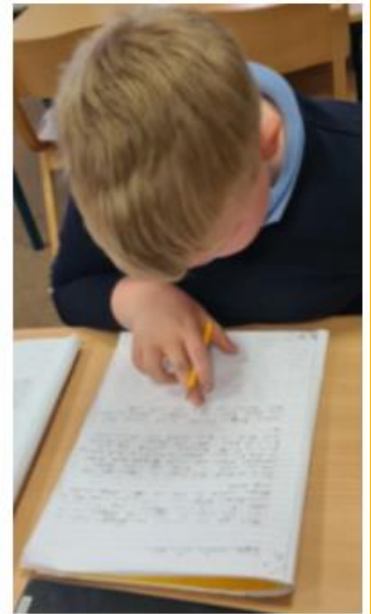
Thank you to the parents and pupils for being wonderful this year.

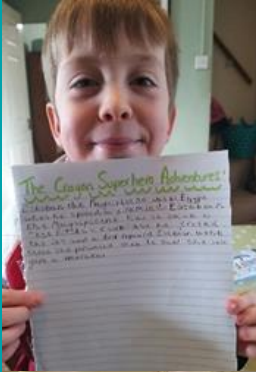
During the School closures the work we got was spectacular.

Here are a few examples but we could have filled this space many times!

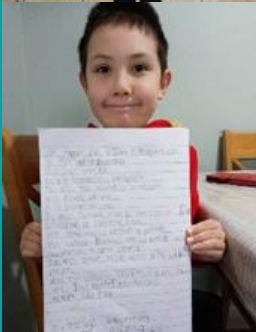
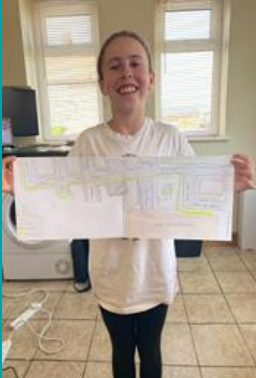


Ysgol Santes Fair





We would like to thank all of our children and parents for their fantastic work during Lockdown. The children are now back in school and are producing excellent work. We have been blown away by their efforts. Well done everyone!



I have made a house for a hedgehog. I put paper inside so he will be warm. I want a hedgehog to sleep in there today!

Mayor visits Ysgol Penrhyn



What a year so far!!! Thank you to our whole school community for rallying around and working together through these most difficult of times.

The school year started so well, with a visit from the Mayor to open our new outdoor classroom, dedicated to the memory of Alexaa Powell who tragically died two years ago.



We had a fabulous opening of our new Trim Trail on the return of our pupils from Lockdown – we had a fabulous morning Mr. Owen, our former Foundation Phase Leader (now Deputy Headteacher at Ysgol Rhosddu) had the honour of cutting the ribbon, and having the first turn on the trail!



During the second half of the summer term our Year 6 class will be having sailing lessons at Gresford Sailing Club, we will report on how we get on in the next issue.



Outdoor Learning

Following lockdown and our return to Brynteg C P School, staff and pupils decided to improve our outside spaces and make the most of outdoor learning. First they tackled the overgrown vegetable plots. These were weeded, new compost added and a range of vegetables, fruit and salad seeds planted. They are now seeing healthy looking strawberries, potatoes, beans, beetroot, lettuce, herbs and much more growing.



An area at the entrance of the school was sown with wild flowers and a number of small trees which had been given by The Woodland Trust were planted in a nursery. These include sycamore, oak, horse chestnut and hawthorn. Once strong enough they will be moved to create a natural fence around the field. Pupils did some research into the different types and created information boards with QR codes so everyone can find out more about them.

