

# Newsletter

Winter 2023-8th Edition



**YBA**



Ysgol Tanyfron





# Condover Hall

On the 20<sup>th</sup> September our new Year 7 pupils were taken off to Condover Hall for their team building fun residential!

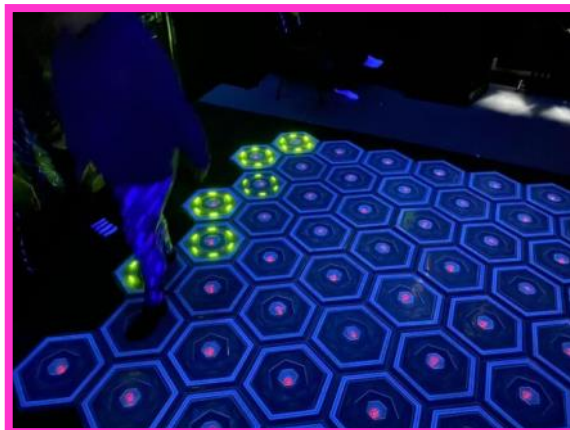


The Year 7 Condover pupils had a fantastic time from day 1!  
All the pupils got stuck into the activities as soon as they arrived...as did the staff.

Ms Godwin did the Abseiling Wall, which really motivated the pupils! Everyone was cheering her on, which was just lovely to see.

Mrs Edwards was in the dark in Laser Maze but found her way out with the help of her trusty team!

Meanwhile other staff took great pleasure in breaking the egg protector contraptions with unihoc sticks



Dream. Reach. Achieve.



The sun was shining on day 2 and our Year 7 pupils continued on their transition adventures!  
It started after a hearty breakfast.

The staff thought the pupils who went through the sensory trail were confident and guided each other, it was true teamwork



Our fabulous Year 7 pupils continued to overcome their fears, and develop their REACH values and above all, see the vital role of teamwork!

All of the YBA staff who accompanied them, were so incredibly proud of our students!





## The H.A.C.K Horse Sanctuary

Our Youth Workers who have created such a link with The H.A.C.K. Horse Sanctuary that allows our pupils access to vital well-being support through working with animals and having the benefits of working outside, stepped it up a gear in November and took pupils to Penycoed Riding Centre to experience actually riding horses! The pupils gained in confidence through their enthusiastic work at The HACK and this was a well-deserved reward for them. Jayne Hughes of The H.A.C.K also gave up her precious time to support this activity too! Continued thanks must go to Gwersyllt Community Council for funding our pupils' HACK activities. We are so very grateful and can see the huge wellbeing benefits that the opportunity to work with animals has given a number of our pupils.



## Erlas Gardens

Our Youth Workers were out and about again with a group of young people from YBA at the end of November. They took the pupils to the Erlas Garden which provides a safe, caring and supportive environment with a strong culture of valuing and inclusion. It promotes personal growth and achievement, highlights the importance of cultural and historical matters, as well as care/safeguarding of the environment and considering the bio-diversity of the natural habitat.

This project will help practise mindfulness in nature and build resilience through nature connection, which can be extremely successful in reducing anxiety and stress in young people, together with increasing their self-esteem and confidence, whilst gaining new skills and knowledge on how food is grown and the lifecycle of a plant.



Dream. Reach. Achieve.



## Woodland Classroom

In November some Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to visit the Woodland Classroom, Park in The Past with our wonderful Youth Workers Tracey Thompson and Mandy Townson.

Under the expert instruction of James, the pupils hit all areas of the five ways of wellbeing (connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give) with an introduction to a variety of practical bush craft and woodland skills activities focusing on well-being and fostering a deeper connection with nature:

They built their own woodland shelters, discovered the secrets of fire lighting and cooked up tasty and healthy campfire snacks giant cookies and hot chocolate

It was lovely to see how positively this experience was viewed by the pupils, and the youth workers loved it too, the morning was support by funding from YSSRG, Youth Service Strategy Revenue Grant. Huge thank you to them for giving our pupils such a great experience.



## GCSE Drama Trip

In October the Expressive Arts Faculty, led by Mrs Noon, took a GCSE Drama trip to see The Importance of being Earnest at Theatr Clwyd. Students were treated to a modern version of the Oscar Wilde's classic play which featured improvisation and lots of audience participation.

Our very own Camron Slade performed with the cast at one point! Brilliant Camron!

A fantastic trip enjoyed by all





# School Council

In November our school council got to meet with Wales' First Minister, Mark Drakeford, one of only four schools selected to join the meeting.

During the meeting, pupils from all schools got to ask Mr Drakeford a number of questions about his journey into politics and his policies and was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils.

Following the meeting, our Cynefin Committee met to discuss how they can raise the profile of the Welsh language in school and received their Criw Cymraeg badges at the end of the meeting.



On 24<sup>th</sup> October YBA hosted the annual Wrexham School Council meeting where school councils from across the city met to share ideas, experiences and good practice of what individual school councils are currently working towards. The school council members had the opportunity to meet other representatives, learn more about participation opportunities and the UNCRC. The young people involved had a great day developing all kinds of skills needed to be an effective school council member and made lots of friends. They are looking forward to sharing what they learnt and using these skills to help represent all of our pupils and drive the school forward.

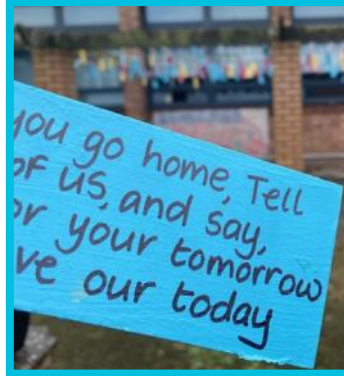
What a fabulous experience





# Remembrance Day

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November at 11am a Remembrance Service was held in our Prince's Trust Garden. Pupils were allowed to wear their uniforms from cadets, guides, ATC etc. and they were worn with pride. We were pleased to see a number of school governors attend along with other guests. All pupils were asked to be upstanding at 11am for a one minute silence.



Mrs Slinn and 5 pupils from our prefect team attended the Wrexham Remembrance Service at Bodhyfryd to remember past and present soldiers and servicemen on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs Slinn was so proud to be accompanied by Katie Dobson, Rhys Broderick, Bethan Moore, Phoenix Mackenzie and Camron Slade to lay a wreath.



Also Miss Corfield and Louie Williams represented the school and laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service held at the Cenotaph Gwersyllt.

Two of our pupils Maisie Roberts and Rhys Richards-Price read at the service where they represented the cadet force.



# Open Evening

## WHAT A NIGHT!

It was lovely to be able to open YBA to our community. It was lovely to see so many ex-pupils with their children looking around at how YBA is now! It was, most of all, lovely to have over 600 visitors who had a glimpse of the inner workings of our fabulous school and many are now VERY excited about the prospect of joining our us in Year 7 next September!

The amazing YBA students and staff demonstrated the opportunities that are open to all, here at YBA. From snakes to science, historical discoveries to street dance and well-being support to academic achievement, YBA was truly at its best on the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

We hope our visitors enjoyed their experience and wish to make YBA their school of choice in September 2024



Dream. Reach. Achieve.



# Primary Visits—Have A Go Lesson

Science and Technology welcomed Gwersyllt Primary School to YBA Headquarters for our first HAVE A GO LESSON this academic year. Have a Go Lessons are part of our transition work to help support Year 6 learners within our cluster in their move from primary to secondary education.

Mr Wheel who led the lesson on Dissecting a Heart was very impressed with the knowledge, behaviour and resilience the Gwersyllt pupils showed.

Well done Gwersyllt on your scalpel skills! We look forward to welcoming other pupils over the next few months to our remaining Have A Go Lessons @ YBA



On Tuesday 5th December we welcomed a group of Year 6 pupils from Heulfan Primary School as part of our transition work. They took part in a Welsh Have A Go Lesson with our Head of Faculty Mrs Bryne.



On 7<sup>th</sup> December, it was the turn of Brynteg Primary School to visit YBA for its Have A Go Lesson . This time it was the turn of Spanish, with their Christmas theme lesson. Many thanks to Senor Brookes. Feliz Navidad a todas





# Brave the Shave

Brave the Shave 2023 - what an amazing event! The high school with a heart struck again!

Ysgol Bryn Alyn were at the centre of this community and yet again the school and community have come together for a fantastic cause, to make a positive stand for a very important charity.

Henry Jones in Year 9 approached Mrs Evans-Lea to ask if YBA could host 'Brave the Shave' (as we did previously prior to Covid). Henry's request came in honour of his Mum who is currently undergoing treatment.

22 of our outstanding pupils (plus Henry's Dad) 'Braved the Shave' to Stand up to Cancer. Mrs Evans-Lea explained, "as a local person myself it gives me great pleasure to be surrounded by staff who truly understand our young people and their values".

We would like to thank our fantastic hairdressers for giving their time and expertise, and especially a HUGE THANK YOU to Wrexham AFC and Aaron Hayden (Henry's favourite player) for coming along to support the pupils- it made everyone's day! It was brilliant to have such support from our local football club. Aaron presented Henry with a signed shirt and 4 tickets to the match on Saturday - what an unexpected reward for Henry and his hard work, driving this fundraiser.

The final total was a little over £3,700 which is truly AMAZING!!





# Spanish Trip

In June Mrs Evans-Lea and Miss Phillips took a number of pupils to Gdańsk and Slupsk in Poland for an amazing trip as part of the Turing Scheme.

Our Polish explorers REALLY enjoyed the fantastic hosting they received in Slupsk. The group moved on from Gdańsk from there and had a busy few days meeting the partner school pupils and staff, saying 'hello' to the Mayor of Slupsk who is an avid supporter of our Turing Scheme trips and is very keen to support these visits. What a brilliant experience they are having! Well done for embracing this amazing opportunity! We can't wait to hear all about it! Memories forever!







We at Gwersyllt CP hope you are warming up for a fabulous Christmas break. It is an extremely busy time of the year but it feels like the past three months have not slowed down at any point. Below is just a flavour of all the activities that have been happening in our school. I am always incredibly proud of the pupils and the enthusiasm that they display in every aspect of school life they take part in .

## RAF Cosford

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a trip to be immersed in all things aviation



## Pentrellyncymer

Whilst that was going on, Year 5 pushed themselves to the limits at our annual residential



## Pendine

A variety of our pupils have been making fortnightly visits to Pendine to support and help the residents. We have also delivered a Remembrance







## Fun Food Chef

Onnen, Derwen, Masarnen enjoyed getting stuck into a whole host of culinary skills with the Fun food chef. They enjoyed getting stuck into the results even more.



## Welsh Day

The whole school enjoyed a whole day including a variety of welsh activities. The cherry on the top was a visit from the Welsh Whisperer who created a school song with Year 4,5 and 6



...and if that wasn't enough we have celebrated Children in Need, Harvest, visited Bryn Alyn for Heart dissection sessions, been to Erddig woods, visited the local hill fort, busked in Chester, had musical guest visits and taken part in coding sessions.

Everyone will welcome a break.





## Harvest

The children decorated the Church window at St. Paul's Church with some beautiful Harvest artwork created by children from Nursery –Yr2. Children from KS2 art club made some clay tea lights holders for the display



## British Sign Language (BSL)

The children have been introduced to British Sign Language, learning simple words and phrases. We learnt colours, letters, animals, simple commands and learnt to sign the song 'What a Wonderful World'.



## Library Visit



All classes have visited Brynteg Library to explore the wonderful resources they have on offer for the community. Children used their library cards to return books and chose new books to read for enjoyment. The children enjoyed listening to a story being read by the librarian.

## 1st Aid Training

Year 6 pupils have completed basic First Aid training, learning about CPR, the recovery position and calling 999 in an emergency. An important life skill that may save someone's life one day!







## Play Buddy Training

All of our Year 5 pupils have completed the Play Buddy training. Our Play Buddies have an important role in school to support other children on the playground to play games, develop friendship skills



## Welsh Immersion Week



All classes in KS2 took part in a Welsh immersion week at Ysgol Min y Ddol. The children learnt lots of new Welsh words and phrases and developed their speaking skills in a real life context. They played Welsh games with pupils from Min y Ddol and developed confidence with their Welsh oracy skills. Lots of children were inspired to become Welsh speakers in the future!



## Wrexham Recycling Centre

All classes in KS2 visited Wrexham Recycle Centre as part of their topic 'Guardians of the Globe'. The children learnt about how rubbish is collected, sorted and recycled. Each class researched the different topics of food waste, litter and single use plastics; how these affect the environment and how they can help to make a difference now and in the future.







# Christmas Celebrations

Christmas is well under way in Ysgol Heulfan. We have been working hard practising our Christmas concerts. Nursery and Reception are taking part in

'The Big Little Nativity'

Years 1 & 2 are taking part in 'The Inn-spectors', and Years 3 & 4 are taking part in 'Lights, Camel, Action!'.



The Christmas trees are up and teachers have made sure the classrooms are looking lovely with their own decorations. The children enjoyed helping to decorate the trees. Christmas has even crept into Forest School, where the children have made their own Christmas trees out of leaves.





## Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner Day! The children really enjoyed having their annual Christmas Dinner with all their friends. We had Christmas music playing, crackers, hats and lovely food. The cooks always make Christmas Dinner day special for the children... thank you!



## The Resource Centre

Miss Barnes' class have been visiting their special friends in The Resource Centre. They sang some lovely Christmas songs while everyone enjoyed their Christmas dinner.







# Antony Gormley

This term our whole school topic has been "All About Me". Our infant pupils explored their creative side and completed a project based on the artist Antony Gormley.

The visited Crosby Beach to see the art installation and then used this experience to create their own water colour paintings and clay sculptures.



# DangerPoint

Year 6 visited DangerPoint in Talacre to learn how to keep themselves safe. They spotted dangers in the home and the community and discussed how to reduce the risk to themselves.





# Christian Traditions

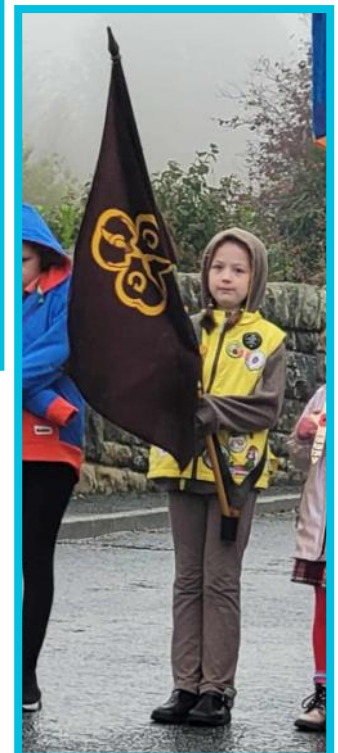


Reverend Will of St Paul's Church in Pentre Broughton invited Year 3 and 5 to learn about the traditional Christening celebration. Pupils were invited to play the roles of parents and Godparents and Reverend Will performed a Christening.



# Remembrance Day

Our Pupils supported the community with their Armistice Day activities. They participated in the community service, contributed art works to the display in Brynteg Community Centre and represented their Brownies and Cubs groups in Brynteg and Wrexham.







# School Council

In preparation for our new school, there will be many opportunities for our pupils to be involved as much as possible. In November, the senior members of our school council team met with local councillors to share their thoughts and opinions about the potential increase in pupil numbers. On the whole, our children see this as a positive as they will be able to make even more friends in the community.

Today, our school councillors have been analysing the speed of vehicles on Phoenix Drive. This will help us further down the line as the council will no doubt consider making adjustments to the busy road and look at potential crossings.

