



Important Dates

20th Aug	GCSE Results Day
1st Sept	INSET Day 1 School closed to learners
2nd Sept	Start of Term
23rd-25th Sept	Year 6 Taster Days
7th Oct	Open Evening
12th Oct	INSET Day 2 School closed to learners
21st Oct	Awards Evening
23rd Oct	End of Half Term 1
2nd Nov	Start of Half Term 2
4th Nov	GCSE Maths Exam
10th Nov	GCSE Maths Exam
11th Nov	Academic Review Day 1
30th Dec	Mock Exams Week
18th Dec	End of Half Term 2
4th Jan	INSET Day 3 School closed to learners
5th Jan	Start of Term
13th Jan	Yr 10 & 11 English & Maths Progress Evening

Community Learning Zone Refurbishment

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Wizard of Oz Goes Down A Storm!

Our annual summer production played out last week to three nights of full houses.



With funding secured from the Schools Challenge Cymru programme we have been able to develop a truly transformative design for a 21st century education environment at Abertillery Comprehensive School. The new Community Learning Zone will enable learners to develop their skills as independent learners, whilst giving them access to a variety of literature and online resources in an environment that is modern and inspiring. Based on the 'learning commons' model where space is shared for individual study, online education, reading and group work, the design aims to sweep away pupil perceptions of an unwelcoming, old fashioned library, replacing it with a space that promotes

literature and learning and engages with all learners, especially those reluctant readers and library users. The physical environment is key to the learning ethos, offering users layouts, furniture and physical organisation, which can be reconfigured according to their requirements. Unlike the silent 'reading room' atmosphere and solitary study of the traditional library, this new learning space will bring learners together to work, study, and socialise in an environment which supports and encourages them to take responsibility for their work and learn independently. We are thrilled with our new Community learning Zone and look forward to inviting members of our community to join us in using it over the coming years.



Headteachers Message



I am thrilled to finally be able to write to you as the newly appointed Headteacher of Abertillery Comprehensive School. As I explained to many of you over the past year it was never my intention to only stay for the original interim period of my employment. I am genuinely honored to be able to continue working with learners, staff, parents and the whole of the Abertillery community.

I am extremely proud of the incredible effort that every member of the school community has made this year to ensure that standards continue to improve. Staff have provided every possible opportunity for learners, who in turn

have shown true commitment and determination towards their studies. As many of you will also be aware, this year we have been fortunate to receive considerable additional support through the Schools Challenge Cymru initiative. This support has allowed us to secure additional teaching staff, increase the resources available to use across the curriculum and allow learners access to a range of experiences outside of school. We have also been able to replace all of the schools ICT equipment with state of the art computers and iPads, refurbish numerous classrooms ensuring they are suitable for 21st century learning and also to create our stunning new Community Learning Zone.

This is a truly exciting time in the life of Abertillery Comprehensive School. Our learners are already benefitting from an incredible range of support, improved facilities and from the outstanding teaching that is being developed across the school. These opportunities will continue to develop next year through our continued involvement in the Schools Challenge Cymru initiative and through our already close working partnerships

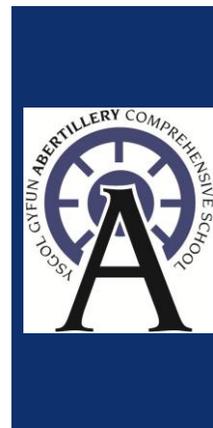
with our local primary schools and other schools across the region.

This is not only an exciting time for the learners and staff but also for the governors and I as we enter the early stages of the proposed Abertillery 3-16 developments. Whilst we have very little detail at this stage, I would like to take this opportunity to ensure you that both the governors and I will be working very closely with the Local Authority. As I have detailed above, we have made significant steps forward this year and we will ensure that this continues with any changes only serving to support us in continuing on this path.

Finally I would like to thank you for your continued support over the last year and for the messages of congratulations I have received since my appointment. Being able to continue working with partners to improve the life chances of so many young people is a true privilege and I look forward to continuing to work with you all over the coming years.

Best wishes

Nathan Jenkins



Year 7 Llangrannog Adventure

42 learners returned recently from an action-packed weekend at Llangrannog, taking part in several indoor and outdoor activities. Arranged by the Team 7 department, this trip allowed learners to try a variety of different activities, practice their Welsh, and experience a weekend away with their friends. Accompanying the students were Miss White, Mrs Evans, Mr Parker and Mr Thomas.

They arrived at Llangrannog late Friday afternoon, where students were shown to their rooms and given time to settle in before heading for supper. They then embarked on an evening coastal walk (which turned out to more of a hike!) where they spent some time on the beach before walking back through the local village. Upon returning, learners changed into their pyjamas and gathered for some birthday cake in celebration of one of their birthdays. The excitement of the next day's

activities was clearly too much for some, who decided to stay awake until early hours of the morning – an interesting and busy night for staff!

There were quite a few tired learners (and staff) at breakfast Saturday morning, but this didn't seem to get in the way of a fantastic day. The day started with a high ropes course, climbing wall and a team challenge. The high ropes course was very popular, with many going back for a second and third turn! It was great to see all the learners supporting and encouraging one another during this activity. Following lunch they had a taste of skiing, and did some go-karting, tobogganing and archery. After some free time to relax followed by supper, everyone went to the disco, before settling down for the evening.

After a better night's sleep, they couldn't wait to get stuck in to the last few activities! These included horse

riding, quad biking, a low ropes course and bush-craft. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the low ropes course, during which their problem-solving and team-working skills were put to the test. Quad biking was also a highlight for many! Following a roast dinner, it was sadly time to pack up and return home. Throughout the weekend we were extremely impressed with the level of determination, courage and teamwork that the learners displayed – they were brilliant!

We would like to thank all the staff at Llangrannog for making the weekend a wonderful experience for our learners and of course the staff who gave up their weekend to make this trip possible. A fantastic weekend, and certainly a return visit in the pipeline for next year!

Life Skills Canoe Trip

Earlier this term we had the pleasure of taking a group of learners kayaking on the river Wye. The group, who were rewarded for their efforts this year in their Life Skills lessons, started at Glasbury and rowed 6 miles to Hay on Wye. The weather was fantastic which made the experience all the more pleasurable as pupils enjoyed a swim in the river to cool down.





Young Scientists Enjoy 'Good, Clean Fun' At L'Oreal in London

24 scientifically minded and inquisitive learners from Years 7 & 8 were given an opportunity in March to visit the L'Oreal Young Scientist Centre at the Royal Institution, London sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government.

In the laboratory learners were issued with the necessary PPE before going on to perform their own experiments on a commercial shampoo. They measured the viscosity, foam height, pH and emulsifying properties of the shampoo.

A pivotal part of this experimentation was to give learners the chance to think about the design and validity of scientific experiments.

They produced a 'standard' product then had the opportunity to adjust the recipe according to what properties they liked the most about the shampoo. Using their results, learners then compared their own shampoo to the commercial product. This workshop also gave the learners an introduction to pH, the process of emulsification and ionic chemistry.

The Royal Institution houses the famous Michael Faraday Museum and in addition to the exciting workshop, the learners had the opportunity to see how scientists worked in the 19th Century.

The learners had a fabulous time and were, as usual a credit to the school. Many thanks to Mrs. Owen and the Welsh Assembly for the chance to partake in this unique workshop.

Careers Pathways Event



On the 8th of January over 24 companies had a stall in the school hall to help support our learners understand the world of work. Members of the community were also invited to ask questions about what qualifications they needed to do the job. It was great to see so many learners and parents from Year 7 to 11 in attendance and everyone found the experience very informative.

Cardiff University also came and offered to take up to 30 Year 11 pupils to a workshop on the 7th of February giving them opportunities to talk to learners and visit the different courses that they have on offer. Another great Abertillery Comp event supporting both our learners and their parents.

Lego Education Helps Motivate learners

A group of learners visited the Eden Education Centre in Aberbeeg every Wednesday afternoon for 6 weeks. During this time they took part in a fantastic programming course.

Learners built robots and programmed them to move forward and backwards in specific areas and created sensors that were sensitive to movement/distance and colour. Staff at the Centre were very complimentary towards our learners regarding their enthusiasm and ability.



Year 8 Become Anti-Smoking Ambassadors

A group of Year 8 learners took part in a two day Assist, Peer Support Smoking Prevention course in Pontypool this term.

Learners learnt about and were shocked by the ingredients that went into a packet of cigarettes and were told of all the nasty effects that smoking has on the body.

They were taught how to help their peers if they were ever caught by the 'smoking bug' and learnt what facts

and figures they could present to their peers to make them realise how harmful it was.

The group took part in fact-finding exercises, role-play and confidence boosting activities.

The NHS staff that organised the event were very complimentary about our learners and said "We have really enjoyed working with this group, they have given very mature answers, have been well mannered and are a credit to your school".

After working with them for two days, staff were confident that these learners will never touch a cigarette and will encourage others not to either!

Well done guys we can't wait to see you putting your newfound skills and knowledge to use.



Kick Plate Art Exhibition

GCSE Art students were thrilled this term when their work was displayed in the Kick Plate Art gallery in Abertillery. The students have worked incredibly hard this year and the quality of their work is clear for all to see. The exhibition was a great success with many members of the local community visiting and commenting on the incredible talent we have at the school. Congratulations to all involved.



Trampolining Success

Congratulations to Bronwen Williams in Year 7 who was part of a team of 4 girls that won Under 13's team gold at the Welsh Trampolining Championships this term in Sofia Gardens in Cardiff. Bronwen competes for Freefallers Trampolining club in Abertillery.

Congratulations should also go to Kristina & Angharad Davies in year 8 who were also competing. Kristina came 1st in Novice under 15s & they both had team gold in Novice under 15s.



Young Scientists Host Gopher Science Labs For Inquisitive Primary School Learners



Scientific Abertillery Comprehensive learners Host Gopher Science Labs for Inquisitive Primary School learners.

Using household items, familiar analogies, simple language and fun to encourage the pupils' natural curiosity, Year 7 pupils became Ambassadors for Gopher Science to pupils from our feeder primary schools. The workshops allowed our learners to develop their own skills in communication, innovation and self-confidence, through demonstrating, and subsequently guiding primary learners through science experiments.

Following the workshop day, the primary schools can use the experience to run activities with their own learners. Each school received a resource pack to take away with them that will enable the learners to become demonstrators and deliver the activities to younger learners in their school.

Gopher Science is a transition phase initiative funded by the Welsh Government through the National Science Academy and delivered by the Society of Biology.

Thank you to all of our feeder schools for sending some amazing learners for the day, and also to our fantastic young scientists at Abertillery Comprehensive.

A huge thank you to all of the Year 7 learners who took part. Book vouchers were awarded to the two pupils who were the most outstanding Ambassadors for the school – Tomos Savage-Taylor and Lowri Adams. Well Done!

A special commendation must go to four other pupils: Demi-Lee Assinder, Caitlyn Coles, Aaron Mainwaring and Callum Rourke who were also outstanding!



**BIOCHEMICAL
SOCIETY**

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Champion at Abertillery Comp

Congratulations to Lewis Hayes who has become a Champion in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

Lewis who is still only 15 mainly competes in the adult categories, which is a massive achievement!

His coaches and teammates from Celtic Pride Martial Arts are extremely proud.

Birmingham International Open - Gold

BJJ British Open - Gold

Bristol BJJ Open - Silver

Hereford BJJ Open – Gold



Congratulations to Cai Stingemore who also won a Bronze Medal recently in the Welsh Kids BJJ Championships.



New Sports Take Hold In Abertillery

William Hopkins in Year 10 has recently competed at the indoor rowing event at the Gemau Cymru sports event in Cardiff. Will submitted his best distance over a 5-minute period to qualify for this huge event. The games are a bilingual signature event for young people in the Welsh sporting calendar enhancing the performance pathway of Olympic, Commonwealth and Paralympic sports. It will provide an opportunity for talented young athletes to compete in a high profile multi-sport event while experiencing an athlete village environment. This was a fantastic opportunity for William to showcase his potential in this new event.

Will achieved a personal best at the event, finishing 6th with a distance of 1347m. After an hours rest Will was then put through his paces by the coaches to measure his leg and arm strength as part of their potential talent identification process. He is now waiting to hear from them regarding his next steps.

Those of you that may be interested in trying out this great event can begin by using the rowing machines in the fitness room upstairs in the Leisure Centre.



Abertillery Girls Go Full Circle at the Celtic Manor

On 13th March 2015, 15 young women from year 9, 10 and 11 attended the Full Circle – Girls into Alternative Careers event at the Celtic Manor. The day began with seminars from very successful women from numerous different industries.

Some of these were:

– Dame Rosemary Butler AM, the Presiding Officer for the National Assembly of Wales

– Philippa Tuttiett, founder of the only all-female construction company in the UK (Female, Building and Interiors) and a Welsh Rugby Union player

– Dr Sarah Forbes-Robertson, Leading professor of Science at Swansea University

– Sheila Bearcroft, President of TUC and GMB union



– Abi Carter, leading forensic scientist

– Helen Walbey of Recycle Scooters, ambassador for women in non-traditional roles

The group were then given the opportunity to attend workshops in the convention Centre of the Celtic Manor. These included Civil Engineering, The RAF, The Army, mechanics, construction, sport science, forensics, The Police force and working with ITV Wales.

As the day came to a close the girls were very enthusiastic and keen to discuss and consider non-traditional roles. Some of them stated, “Men feel superior to women when it comes to work and women need to fight for our rights”, “Determination helps”, “A woman can do a man’s job” and “There are many jobs that are important to women, not just to men”.

They all had a great experience and as usual were a pleasure to take and represented the school brilliantly.

Routes Cymru Showcase Event

Well done to our Pupil Language Ambassadors: Abigail Hucker, Leah Phillips and Darren Davies who were chosen to speak at a languages conference in Cardiff University recently. They spoke in front of 80 language experts about what it's like learning languages at Abertillery Comprehensive School and about the projects we offer such as the 'Adopt a Class Scheme' and the 'Pupil Language Ambassadors training'.

They all spoke really well and were congratulated by many people at the conference for their hard work and commitment. The Director of Languages said they must apply to study Languages at Cardiff University in the future, as they would be ideal candidates.

After the presentations the pupils tried some of the international buffet at the reception party. There were a variety of foods such as Japanese Sushi, Italian food, Chinese and Indian food.

"We have been so lucky to be part of this great experience and I have developed much more confidence"

Leah Phillips - Year 9



ACS Whole School Council's visit to Bishop Gore Comprehensive School in Swansea

On Wednesday July 8th 7 members of our Whole School Council visited Bishop Gore Comprehensive School as part of an on-going collaboration to share good practice and new ideas to help improve our school. The feedback from our learners was really positive with lots of fantastic ideas being discussed between our two schools. I would like to say a big thank you to our Whole School Council members for their hard work and commitment across the course of this year and thank you to those members who were true ambassadors for our school during their visit to Bishop Gore. The school council will continue to work hard.

"During the school council visit to Swansea's Bishop Gore School, we gathered a lot of information about their school that could help improve our school. We found out that the school council was called a Student Governing Body with 3 sub-committees dealing with different issues. This helped them to be a bit more focused and helped changed the school for the better"

Medi Powell & Heather Butcher



Pippins Art Project

Over the past 10 weeks Abertillery Comprehensive and Blaenau Gwent Youth Service have been working with a group of Learning Support Pupils towards a Level 1 Arts Award as accredited by the Trinity Art College. The award was delivered in partnership with Pippins Art and Design LTD.

Throughout the sessions the young people chose, and in some cases designed and painted their own pieces of art which they got to take home with them. As part of the award the young people visited the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff where they spent the morning looking at different types and styles of art through the ages.

The latter part of the day was spent in Cardiff City Stadium where the group painted pictures of famous footballers to be displayed in the stadium.





Lego Education Teaching Numeracy Through Robotics

Earlier this term a group of 14 year 7 boys took part in a Lego Education event using Lego Mindstorms.

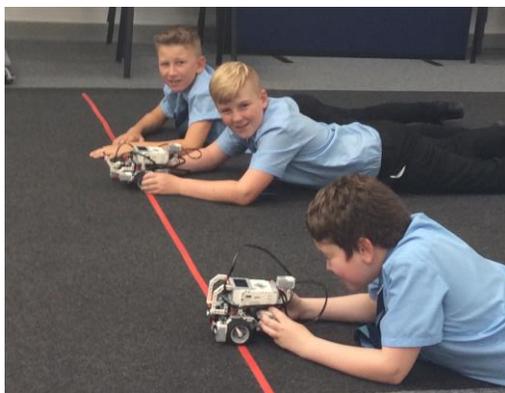
Some of the boys were accompanied by their parents. The group spent the first part of the session learning about the Mindstorm programmes, angles, degrees, speed, distance, rotations and hardware sensors. Following this they paired up to create a robot built from Mindstorm Lego.

During the session the group displayed amazing teamwork and communication skills. After lunch the pairs then began learning to programme their robots to move them in different directions, and problem solve different situations with

measurements and timings.

The teams created group and individual tasks and competitions. They were a pleasure to accompany on a trip and they were a credit to Abertillery Comprehensive School.

Peter Jones of Eden Education Centre said, "They are the best group of pupils I have ever worked with. I am looking forward to many more workshops at the Eden Education Centre in the future! "



ICT Success for Year 7's

Congratulations to Tomos Savage-Taylor and Rhys Morgan of **Year 7** on passing their OCR Essential Skills Wales Level 2 ICT qualification. This is equivalent to a Grade C GCSE. Both boys have worked exceptionally hard during their ICT lessons and have been coming to after school sessions and break time to make sure they completed everything.



Bydd y Gorau

Be The Best

Llywelyn House Message From Mr Jenkins

Well, Llywelyn House it's been another busy year! So many of you achieving a variety of awards, achievements and honours, both in school and outside school. You have made me a very proud Head of House.

Chloe Chivers has been selected several times to play for the Wales u16 squad and scored many goals. Ieuan Taylor has won several championships in MMA. Deri Bull has had a spectacular debut year in his boxing career. JJ Coles-Jones continues to find success in his bowling.

Amongst these sporting achievements have also been musical successes! Macy Landon-

Jones has achieved success through her record contract. Rhian Evans continues to find success with Ynyshir Brass Band and Rhondda Fach Brass band. Many of you have also gained grades in the various instruments that you play. Well done! Of course, Llywelyn House has been well represented in the latest school production "The Wizard of Oz", a massive "Llongyfarchiadau" to all who took part.

Academic success has also been celebrated this year with many Llywelyn learners achieving awards at the school's annual award ceremony in October 2015 our Head Boy, Myles Davies

received the largest number of awards. 4 Llywelyn learners received awards for 100% attendance at the Blaenau Gwent attendance awards in November.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a very happy summer holiday. Look after yourselves

and come back safely in

September.



Congratulations to the top attenders for Llywelyn House!

Anthony Burch
Ben Butcher
Heather Butcher
Angharad Davies
Ethan Davies
Kristina Davies
Molimarie Dobbs
Cameron Barnett
Katy Lawrence

Libbiesophie Dobbs
Samuel Hale
Jack Lane
Elian Lloyd
Chloe Mayled
Luke Mitchell
Lowri Seymour
Katie Stokes
Beth Tidey
Bronwen Williams

Harry Williams
Elisabeth Bayton
Carwyn Fewings
Josh Weston
Katelyn Townsend
Cai Stingemore
Jamie Michael
Lauren Mayled
Georgia Hollings

Mia Brown

Congratulations to the top points for Llywelyn House!

Katie Stokes
Carwyn Fewings
Kristina Davies
Angharad Davies
Ethan Davies

House Captains & Vice Captains



Myles Davies
Jessica Hayward
Rhys Edmunds
Tieghan Hunt





I'r Eithaf

Aim High

Branwen House Message From Mr. Cooper

Branwen House it's been another busy year! So many of you achieving a variety of awards, achievements and honours, both in school and outside school. You have made me a very proud Head of House and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. So a huge thank you to all the Branwen learners'.

Branwen House has been well represented in the latest school production "The Wizard of Oz", a massive "Llongyfarchiadau" to all who took part.

Academic success has also been celebrated this year with

many Branwen learners achieving awards at the school's annual award ceremony in October 2014. Our House Captain and Head Girl, Katie O'Shea received a number of awards.

I would like to wish those learners from year 11 who have left us, every future success as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Be extraordinary!!!

Also a great big Croeso cynnes to our new year 7's about to embark on their journey with us at Abertillery Comprehensive School and in Branwen House.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer holiday. Look after yourselves and come back safely in September. Remember that school starts at 8.40 am on Wednesday 2nd September. We expect to see you in full school uniform and ready to learn!



Congratulations to the top attenders for Branwen House!

Charlotte Blackmore
Megan Challenger
Aran Chaplin
Keenan Chapman
Adam Cross
Leon Gillgrass
Bethan Hale
Katelyn Harrison
Robert Harvey
Aimee Hooper
Caitlin Hooper
Shannon Jenkins

Hannah Morgan
Mathew Morgan
Seren Morris
Leah Phillips
Dominic Prosser
Courtney Shelton
Ben Sheppard
Ptryk Siuchninski
Georgia Taylor
Alex Tucker
Chloe-Marie Warfield
Callum Williams

House Captains & Vice Captains



Joe Tibbs
Katie O'Shea
Zac Dawkins
Mia Lewis



Congratulations to the top attenders for Glyndwr House!

Hunan-Hyder, Hunan-Barch

Self-Confidence, Self-Respect

Liam Assinder
Sam Brown
Tommy Chislett
Callum Clowry
Zoe Clowry
Jacob Evans
Morgan Gray
Leah Hale
Blain Hunter
Chloe Hunter
Joshua Jackson
Chloe Jones

Ross Jones
Ben Livingstone
Abigail Meredith
Ryan Meredith
Cieran Mitchell
Ethan Morris
Michael Owen
Jordan Poulson
Jack Preece
Chandler Rogers

Holly Southwell
Leah Turner
David Walker
Chloe Wall
Emily Wall
Cameron Watkins
Megan Williams
Ben Williams
Jordan Poulson

Glyndwr House Message From Mrs. Williams

Well Glyndwr it's been another very busy year! So many of you achieving a variety of awards, achievements and honours, both in and outside of school. You have made me a very proud Head of House. And I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for the support you have shown throughout the year. I would especially like to thank year 11 pupils who have just left school and wish them all a very successful and happy future. I hope to see your smiling faces in August when you receive your grades.

Glyndwr has also had some sporting success this year with Michael Owen and Sheena Williams who both represented South East Wales and the school in many athletic events and have won several medals. Cameron Williams has played for the County in several Rugby tournaments and Shea Evans is a gold medalist in MMA. Well done to all for these sporting achievements.

We have also had many musical successes in Glyndwr! I must congratulate Megan Broad and Demi- Lee Assinder who had the pleasure of

singing for the Queen at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. Lastly, I would like to wish you all a very happy summer holiday. Look after yourselves and come back safely in September.



House Captains & Vice Captains



Cellan Lloyd
Lydia Edmunds
Billy Thomas
Maisie Morgan



Summer Open Evening 2014-15

We held our 2nd Annual Summer Open evening earlier this term.

The evening was another great Abertillery event with our departments and staff pulling out all the stops to showcase the fantastic work and range of activities on offer to our learners.

We were thrilled to see so many of our community come out and join in the fun on the evening and look forward to seeing many of the younger visitors joining us in the coming years.

It was also fantastic to be joined by many of our community partners at the event and we look forward to continuing to build these strong community ties over the years to come.



1st Annual Eisteddfod @ Abertillery Comprehensive

On Monday 2nd March the whole school participated in our inaugural Whole School Eisteddfod. This was the first time that the whole school had been brought together to celebrate the Welsh festival with presentations about Wales, performances from our learners and some amazing entries into the Eisteddfod competitions. We saw brilliant pieces of artwork as well as cakes designed with a Welsh theme that were truly fantastic. Learners from years 7-11 came forward to perform and gain points for their house, which resulted in Megan Broad (year 11) being crowned as the overall winner of the singing competition. Megan took her

seat in our real Eisteddfod chair that was given to our school following the Ebbw Vale Eisteddfod. She gave a performance to be proud of.



Wizard of Oz Goes Down A Storm

Our Annual Summer Production played out last week to three full houses. The show, which included learners from every year group along with some primary age learners from a number of our local feeder schools, was a huge success. The learners who have been rehearsing for months really did themselves proud with the audiences leaving the theatre full of praise for them.

Once again the incredible talent of our learners shone through making us extremely proud of each and every one of them. Massive thanks must go to Mrs Jones who worked incredibly hard to organize the show and we would also like to thank, CAVMS Musical Director - Mr Murray, Piano – Mr Childs, Drums - Kyle Rosier, Matt and Neal from Your Way Events for sound and lighting and many other staff and ex students for their support back stage and front of house. Another great Abertillery Team effort!



Young Writers Competition

In April, 34 pupils in year 8 entered a writing competition "Grim Tales." We are delighted to announce that all 34 pupils were chosen to be winners and their work selected for publication.

Congratulations to all 34 pupils who are soon to be published authors! The book will be available to view in the school library in the Autumn Term.

Aaron Coleman	Holly Overfield	Ethan Pascoe
Patience Barlow	Katie Stokes	Georgia Hollings
Jenna Thomas	Katelyn Townsend	Jamie-Lee Preece
Bradley Chivers	Kamil Szwochertowski	Jack Preece
Libby Portman	Ffion Martyn	Ethan Davies
Kaci – Paige Lewis	Ryan Meredith	Ethan Owens
Cory Edwards	Aimee Hooper	Benjamin Livingstone
Clarissa Weaver	Nicole Hillier	Travis-Lee Price
Jamie Thomas	Grace Evans	Greg Davies
Dafydd Pitman	Seren Morris	Darius Goodale-York
Natasha Mason	Cameron Barnett	Megan Owen
Jasmine James		



Abertillery Rugby Stars Visit Poland

6 players from Abertillery Comp were selected to play for Blaenau Gwent Schools this season. This is the largest number of boys we have had in the squad for some years, they included Robbie Creed, Kieran Knapp, Ross Jones, Adam Cross, Ioan Davies and Joshua Knapp. Despite not having the most successful season in domestic competitions the team went on an end of season tour to a tournament in Poland. In the tournament they played sides from across Europe and acquitted themselves extremely well. Having travelled all the way across Europe to play the boys were only beaten by Newport and Islwyn Schools who had also made the trip.



LS Soccer Stars

On Monday 8th June, our Learning Support Football team won the Special School Football Festival held at Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre.

Notable victories included a 9-0 win over Crownbridge and 5-0 against Maes Ebbw. We also drew 2 all in the local derby against Pen-y-Cwm. The boys represented the School with enthusiasm, commitment and displayed great sportsmanship. Chandler Rogers Yr 9, the goalkeeper was outstanding. David Walker Yr 8 was the most consistent player scoring six goals. We were all awarded medals as a recognition of our success.

The group were a pleasure to coach. Congratulations boys!



Celebrated Author Inspires learners

We were very excited to welcome local author and Costa award winner Jonathan Edwards to Abertillery Comprehensive this month. Mr Edwards ran a writing workshop with 40 learners from year 8. The learners created 3 pieces of poetry and were inspired by the ideas that Mr Edwards presented. The learners' work will be published in a writing anthology later this year. We would like to thank Mr Edwards for coming and Literature Wales for supporting us with this project.

Here are some examples of the learners' work:

"Palm trees, little children, old women in dated bathing suits." Ffion Martyn, year 8.

"The sea was a lion pouncing up on top of the sand, showing its foamy teeth as it stretched



its claws out." Georgia Hollings, year 8

"The golden light seeps through the windows and doors shining as bright as a raging fire." Ben Livingstone, year 8.

Theatre Trip.

On a sunny July afternoon, 115 learners from years 8, 9 and 10 travelled down to the Wales Millennium Centre to experience the thrill of live theatre; many for the first time.



After a leisurely lunch in the sunshine, we took our seats for the performance of "Oklahoma." It was a fantastic show; the learners especially enjoyed the dancing and the gunshots! Many learners enjoyed their first taste of professional theatre so here's to the next trip.

Yr 11 Prom

This years Year 11 Leavers Prom was held at The Rectory in Llangatock. All of the learners who attended had a fabulous night and looked incredible! A big thank you must go to this years Prom Committee for all their hard work in organising the event and to Mr Jenkins and Mrs Williams for pulling it all together.

We would like to wish all of our Year 11's every success for the future and we look forward to seeing them again on 20th August when they collect their results.



Sports Students get a taste of University life

On the 24th April, the PE department and 41 of our GCSE and BTEC learners attended Cardiff Metropolitan University to take part in several high performance fitness tests and have a tour of the excellent facilities. The learners took part in a variety of speed, agility and maximum power tests throughout the day, learning how to administer reliable and valid tests. The day gave learners an opportunity to see how sport works at an elite level and was an eye opener to many of them. The behaviour and attitude shown on the day by all of the pupils was exemplary.



Street Golf @ Cardiff City Stadium

Three pupils took part in a street-golf event at Cardiff City stadium during half term. The event was designed to encourage more young people to become involved in golf and in this great stadium it certainly achieved that. The pupils took part in a variety of golf challenges, which included hitting balls into the seating area and trying to chip golf balls into the players' baths! With fantastic access to many behind the scene areas it was a great afternoon and a once in a lifetime activity.



Chloe Chivers

Chloe Chivers has had an incredible year of success this year. Chloe was selected last year to play for Wales Under 15s at Football. Having made a significant impression on selectors Chloe has this year gone on to play for the U17's

Chloe has attended training camps for both the U17's and U19's this year as well as travelling all over Europe playing for the team. She travelled to The Faroe Islands to play in an international tournament in which she scored a Hat trick against Northern Ireland helped the team secure 2nd Place. She then played in a tournament at home and scored in games against Kazakhstan and again Northern Ireland. This time the team secured 1st Place. Finally Chloe travelled to Macedonia where she got on the score sheet again and picked up a concussion from the header.



Chloe is off to another U19 training camp over the summer and her prospects are looking bright. Congratulations Chloe everyone in Abertillery is extremely proud of you.

Rounders' Round Up

During the summer term we have hosted three Blaenau Gwent Rounders tournaments for years 10, 9 and 8, which we won in years 10 & 8 with year 9 narrowly missing out to Tredegar. The standard of Rounders performed at the tournaments was high and the pupils showed great teamwork throughout each tournament. The year 8 team were three players short throughout the tournament (playing with six instead of 9). However, they were solid and tight in their fielding, had some excellent batters and were supported well by team manager Kelcie Bevan (Year 9).

Welsh Trials

Twelve Year 8, 9, & 10 girls travelled to Haberdashers School for Girls to participate in a Welsh Rounders trial. The standard there was extremely high with pupils from Rougemont, Haberdashers, St Johns and Cathedral school competing for a spot on the Welsh team. Four of our girls were selected to go through to the next round of trials, which was a great achievement but unfortunately they didn't get selected at the final trial for the squad. These were Maisie Glastonbury (Y8), Lowri Greenough (Y9), Abigail Meredith & Cerys Jones (Y10). Well done to you all girls.



In May Year 5 and 6 came to us on a Welsh transition morning and some of our Urdd Club volunteers from year 7 helped out in these lessons. The Welsh Department put on fun taster lessons and games with Siôn Lewis our 'Urdd' Club coordinator.

After school Urdd club on Thursday's has been a great success, over half of the pupils in the year 7 Bilingual class have attended and they will be receiving certificates shortly. They are currently preparing for a parent workshop where they will teach some Welsh to their parents at the club, and show off what they have been doing each week. We would like to thank Siôn Lewis for all his help this year in running the club and helping out on our Welsh transition Morning. Diolch yn fawr!

New Rugby Coach for Abertillery



Abertillery Comprehensive School is proud to announce that from September we will have a new Rugby coach.

Morgan Stoddart will be joining the school and coaching teams from year 7 – 11 next season.

Morgan who played 85 times for the Scarlets and won 8 caps for Wales, before being forced to retire through injury is currently backs coach at Crosskeys RFC.

Morgan will combine his role at Crosskeys with his work at Abertillery and will undoubtedly make a significant impact on rugby development at the school.



Team 7 Have Another Fantastic Year

Learners in Team 7 have had a busy and exciting year. Each project has offered them the chance to enjoy a range of experiences inside and outside the classroom. Learners have developed skills such as teamwork, leadership and independent learning. Our many successes this year have involved our star homeworks. This has included making models of buildings and writing biographies. This has promoted planning, time management, research and the importance of evaluation and reflection. The standards have certainly been raised for next year!

Our trips to the Senedd and St Fagan's along with our visiting speakers have provided learners with immeasurable experience and understanding in supporting classroom-based work. We look forward to continuing with this next year.

Another highlight in Team 7 this year was our fantastic weekend at Gwersyll yr Urdd, Llangrannog, where all took part in a range of activities such as skiing, quad biking, climbing and horse riding. This truly nurtured friendships, respect and confidence. It also provided opportunities for learners and staff to practice Welsh!

All in all we have had an action packed year with staff and learners enjoying everything that Team 7 has had to offer. Who knows what Team 8 will bring...



Staff Vs. Students Football Match

Staff 5 – 3 Students

The last full day for our current year 11's saw them entertain the staff in this eagerly anticipated football match. Support was evident to see as there were over 70 pupils past and present watching from the side. The staff team also included college students Twm Maloney, Jack Powis, Curtis Davies, Declan Bull and Lewis Jones who have just been promoted to the Welsh league with Aberbargoed Buds. Staff also choose 3 select year 11s in Myles Davies, Cellan Lloyd and Chloe Chivers. Chloe is currently progressing extremely well in the Welsh Womens football team.

It really felt like the community had come together as we had players from the leisure centre and the local fire brigade in Dan Bradley. The game was played in an excellent spirit with the teachers grabbing the vital goals to win the game after extra time. Mr Gordon, Mr Elmore, Mr Pope, Mr Felton, Mr Thomas, Mr Sims and Mr Vincent who participated in the game would like to thank everyone who showed their support for this amazing event. Goal of the game went to Mr Pope with a superb left footed drill into the bottom corner. Man of the match could have gone to anyone but eventually went to Mr Pope for his excellent goal.

GCSE Geography Fieldwork Trip 2015

On February 6th, the Geography Department visited the Craig-y-Nos Country Park in the Brecon Beacons in order to conduct a rivers investigation as part of their GCSE Coursework.

Pupils and staff donned their wellies, winter woollies, hats and scarves and set off on their adventure. Whilst there, we not only enjoyed the beautiful snow-capped mountains of the Brecon Beacons, but were able, with the help of experienced and knowledgeable staff, to conduct our rivers investigation, measuring velocity of the two sources, gathering bedload and team-simulating a meander.

The trip was a huge success. As well as basking in the awe-inspiring scenery, pupils got the chance to see Geography in action.

Pupils were commended for their excellent behaviour during the day.



DofE Expedition A Great Success

13 Year 10 pupils completed their practice expedition on 10th and 11th of July 2015. The routes that the young people used had been planned and prepped and studied prior to their walk. All pupils had been taught to use map reading skills and how to use a compass. Basic first aid and life support had also been covered prior to the exercise.

The route started off at the Skirrid Mountain Inn, where it is said that Owain Glyndwr rallied support.

From the Inn we split into 3 walking groups, complete with all the relevant kit and equipment. The route took in the stunning views of the Black Mountains and long sweeping meadows of the valleys below. The learners had 4 sets of check points to pass through, some being simple waypoints such as a local church or pub, while other way points had been on a hill side and at Llanthony wood.

After the group had had lunch and carried on to the second leg of the hike, each group had to rotate the map leader, so that each person could be assessed by their peers as to how comfortable they had been at map reading. After many a meadow and field everyone had a great time. Their bed for the evening was at Llanthony Priory.

The total distance covered in the first day had been 10k from Skirrid to Llanthony Priory.

Athletics

The County Minors finals took place on Monday 6th July at Spytty Stadium in Newport. The following pupils qualified from the county event a week earlier and these pupils travelled down to compete against the other finalists from South East Wales.

Mason Sharpe – Javelin

Kian Jenkins – Discus

Maisie Pearce – 1500m

Piotr Malinowski – High Jump

Michael Owen – 1500m

Although there were good performances from all of our pupils on the day, the standout performance came from Michael Owen. He set the pace quickly and although one runner tried to maintain the pace set he fell behind after 1 lap. Michael pushed on relentlessly and finished comfortably ahead of his closest rival to claim the title.

Day 2 brought more of the same starting with a long and arduous trek up through Llanthony Priory Woods, with a solid hours walk to the top of the valley, fully laden with Kit.

This walk was the supported element of the activity due to the height of the mountain and the length and weight of their kit bags. The group followed the Beacons way route which brought them back into Cymoyon, Stanton and Llanvihangel Crucorney. This walk had been slightly shorter route than day 1 however because of the incline it was physically harder.

Well done to everyone involved!

