



# Ysgol Maesydderwen

Newsletter: Summer Term 2023-24



## A message from our Headteacher

It's that time of year once again where I marvel at how quickly the year has flown and reflect on how much has been achieved once again. This is especially so this term where our learners have taken part and excelled in so many activities. A small selection of these stories is included in this newsletter. I hope, like me, you find it both interesting and informative.

### GCSE and A Level Results Days

This year the dates for results days are as follows:

- A Level – Thursday 15 August 2024
- GCSE – Thursday 22 August 2024

Results can be collected from the school on the day of the results being issued between 9am and 12pm.

### School Uniform

From September 2024 the school uniform will be:

- Years 7 to 11 – new school uniform
- Years 12 & 13 – no school uniform but learners will need to carry an identification lanyard

### Year 6

Our Year 6 transition days and new intake evening have gone well and our new learners have started their journeys with us. We are looking forward to working with our new September 2024 intake and their families.

### Return to School September 2024

There will be a staggered start to the re-opening of the school in September. The return dates for each year group are as follows:

- Learners in Years 7, 12 and 13 – Tuesday 3 September 2024
- All year groups – Wednesday 4 September 2024

### Farewell

At the end of the summer term, the school will say goodbye to the following permanent members of staff:

- Ceryl Jones – 32 years at the school
- Caryl Jones – 12 years at the school
- Jan Millar – 12 years at the school
- Rhys Williams – 2 years at the school

The school would like to thank each of them for their service to Ysgol Maesydderwen and wish them all the best for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of our Ysgol Maesydderwen community for their support this year. We look forward to working with you again next year as we continue the improvement journey of the school to ensure that learners leave prepared.

I wish you a safe, relaxing, enjoyable summer break.

Phil Grimes  
Headteacher



# Sporting Updates

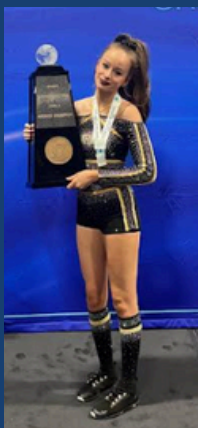


## Cheerleading World Championships

Huge congratulations to our Y10 learner, Isabel Grimes who earlier this term won a Bronze Medal at the ISAF World Cheerleading Championships in the International Open Level 6 competition.

Representing Gymfinity Sports Academy, her team, Ladies of the Crown, are the first Welsh team to medal at Worlds and the first UK team to medal in this division.

Isabel's role in the team is a flyer, an athlete who is lifted into the air during a stunt or pyramid and she then performs a set of gymnastics moves. The team have qualified for Worlds 2025 and next April Isabel will be returning with her teammates to Florida in a bid to upgrade to Gold.



## Sports Day

A fantastic day had by all for our annual sports day. Not our traditional one, but an indoor fun race and game style event brought out smiles and a competitive element in our learners.

Thank you to all the learners who worked hard, and congratulations to the Giedd house who won the overall day.

## Mounted Games Pony Club

Sienna Norton is riding for the Mounted Games Association Pony Club in the Royal Welsh Show this week.

Sienna Norton Year 9 has ridden for Wales in May 2024 in the Mounted Games competition Under 18s. Sienna won a Bronze Medal for Wales with her riding team. She was the youngest team member of the whole competition. We are very proud of Sienna!!

## Athletics

An enjoyable and successful day in Brecon for the Maesydderwen Athletics team. There were some good performances from all pupils with some great results. A special mention must go to Myah Davies who placed 1st in her 1500m final, winning by a long stretch, who will now go on to represent the county in this event in July. We wish her good luck for that. A fantastic day had by all.



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# Humanities News



## Humanities Politics Days

During the skills days this term, Yr 7 and 8 pupils have had the opportunity to investigate local politics. They have discussed local issues and experienced a Question Time event in Ystradgynlais Rugby Club with local town and county councillors. We have been really impressed with the level of maturity in our pupils, discussing contemporary local issues and the quality of a lot of their questions. We hope they have found this a very meaningful experience.

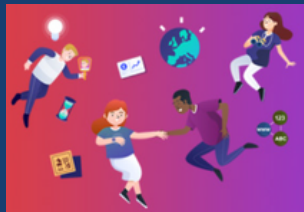


## GCSE Geography Trip

On Monday 8th April, GCSE geographers braved the wind and rain to spend the day investigating a sand dune ecosystem and management at Oxwich Bay, Gower. Mrs K. Rees and Mrs L. Davies would like to thank them all for being such a credit to Ysgol Maesydderwen and for being in such good spirits despite the weather!







# Humanities News



## Travel and Tourism Trip

The Travel and Tourism class had a lovely day investigating tourist attractions in Swansea on Monday 15th July. They had a tour and a very informative talk about the LC as a Welsh tourist destination and a very enjoyable experience on the climbing wall. We also visited the National Waterfront Museum and had a look around the outside of the new Swansea Arena.



## GCSE Religious Studies Trip

The Y10 GCSE RS class had an excellent learning experience at Llandaff Cathedral and Cardiff Reform Synagogue. All students were engaged and inquisitive and a credit to the school.







# Enrichment Opportunities



## Prince of Wales Band

We were privileged to hear an amazing performance from the Prince of Wales Band this term. Our learners danced, clapped and marched throughout!! We were also delighted to welcome Ysgol Brotawe learners to join us. Thank you so much to Dave and his amazing band for a wonderful experience, ysbrydoledig!



## Mountain Biking

Key Stage 3 pupils have undertaken an excellent opportunity to refine their mountain biking skills this term. Some real resilience and skill on show! Da iawn pawb.



## Year 13 Leavers

We were recently very pleased to welcome back our outgoing Year 13 learners and their families for a very special Leavers' Assembly. Mr Grimes, Mr Rees and Mrs Brodrick emphasised the many achievements of the learners over their time in Sixth Form and their whole seven years at Ysgol Maesydderwen. It was also an opportunity to look forward as learners move on to the next exciting phase of their lives. Pob lwc, pawb!



## Oxford University Trip

Some of Ysgol Maesydderwen's Year 12 Seren students enjoyed an inspirational visit and stay at Oxford University's New College.

## Year 12 Welsh Baccalaureate

This term, Year 12 completed their Global Citizenship Project Research Review presentations, and an introduction to the Independent Project at Aberystwyth University. Thanks to Hanna and the Reaching Wider Partnership for arranging the visit, which included an archive tour of the National Library of Wales.







# Expressive Arts Updates



## Joseph Herman Workshop

Thanks to Menna Buss, Vivian Rhule and the National Library of Wales for an amazing experience for our Year 8 and 9 artists. They explored the work of Josef Herman and the idea of belonging in our community. The work they produced over the two days really was exceptional, showing the range of talents and skills pupils at Maesydderwen have.

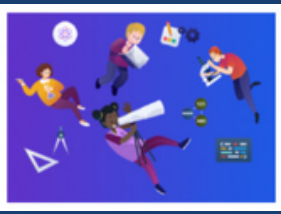
## Back to the 70's School Show

We were privileged to enjoy excellent performances over two nights at the 'Back to the 70s' school show on 9th and 10 July at the Welfare Hall, Ystradgynlais. A big congratulations to all performers and crew members for such a professional performance. Da iawn!



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# Science & Technology News



## WRU Minecraft Club of the Future National Winners

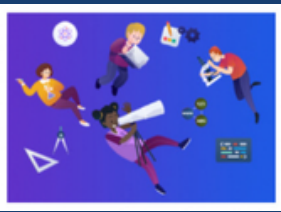
Congratulations to our Year 8 team who became the National Winners of the WRU Club of the Future Challenge with Minecraft Education at the Principality Stadium on Tuesday 9th July 2024. The team were praised by the judges for their team work, communication skills and thought that had been placed into the design of their stadium. We are extremely proud of them. Da iawn.



## Fab Lab Workshop

Thank you to FabLab at Cardiff Metropolitan University for coming in to do a 3D printing workshop with sixth form learners and the 3D printing club. They gave us lots of project inspiration and we had a chance to use the 3D printing scanner and printed out Jayden on our 3D printer. We look forward to welcoming you again FabLab!



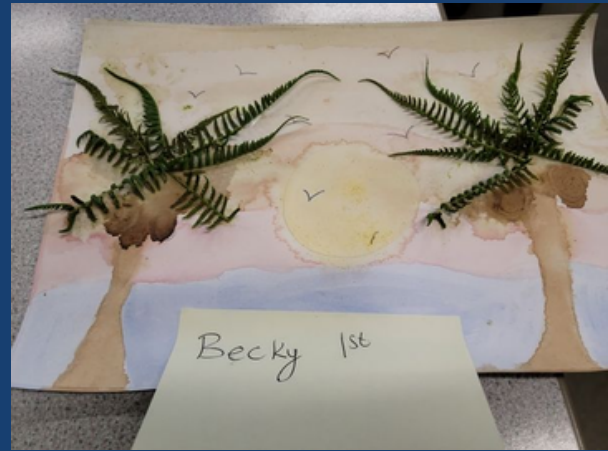


# Science & Technology News



## Skills Dropdown Days

**A wonderful effort was made by Year 7 and 8 learners where they were being creative in Science, making their own paints, and using plants to make collages. Well done all.**



## Bug Hotels

**Year 9 pupils have been studying and investigating how to make the best bug hotels. This term they made them! The bugs will be very happy to book into these posh rooms we are sure!**



## Biodiversity

**Another successful skills day took place in Science with Mr. Clarke and Mrs. Jones. Learners on a nature walk were looking at the local biodiversity and taking part in a plant and minibeast treasure hunt, followed by using any of the flora collected from the ground to create an array of 3-d multimedia artwork.**







# Community Links



## Swansea Valley Rotary Club

Massive thank you to the Swansea Valley Rotary Club for their support and generous donations to the learners of Ysgol Maesydderwen for their hard work and great success in the Youth Speaks and Young Chef competitions this year. It was inspirational to have them into whole school assembly this term to celebrate the great work of all involved. Diolch yn fawr iawn!



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Well done to our DofE learners who took part in the practice expedition at Margam Park this term. It was a fantastic effort by all in preparation for the final expedition in September. Da iawn pawb !





# KEEP IN TOUCH



Keep up to date with the activities and achievements of our learners by visiting our website and social media channels, or by clicking on the images below!



You can also keep up to date with your child's achievements, attendance and behaviour through Class Charts, by downloading the free App or visiting the Class Charts website.



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