

MARCH 2026

# MIN Y TRAETH

YSGOL EIFIONYDD BULLETIN



## A FEW WORDS FROM THE HEADTEACHER

### Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you sincerely for your continued support during a very busy and successful term. This term has been full of rich experiences, from Eisteddfod successes and cultural celebrations to creative, scientific and sporting activities. We are extremely proud of the effort, commitment and positive attitude of our pupils, who have embraced every opportunity. The contribution of our staff and the wider community is key to this success.

*Mr Dewi Rhys Gwyn*

### Relic Workshops with Year 8

We recently welcomed Relic from Bethesda to deliver special workshops for Year 8 pupils, where they gained hands-on experience working with recycled plastic. Everyone had the opportunity to create an injection-moulded item from reused plastic. They also tried shredding plastic and sorting different types of plastic, to gain an understanding of how materials are recycled and reused.

The workshops were a great opportunity to learn about the importance of the circular economy, sustainability, and the 6Rs, and to see how design and technology can help reduce waste and protect the environment.



### Design and Technology Department Work This Term

Pupils across the Design and Technology department have been very busy this term, developing a wide range of practical and creative skills.

**Year 9:** Groups have rotated between different areas, including cooking, making a bucket hat, and weaving, in order to gain experience of different techniques and materials.

**Year 8:** Pupils have been working on an upcycled clothing project, as well as designing a digital logo for Portmeirion, combining creativity with digital skills.

**Year 7:** Pupils have completed their first textiles project by making a snood, learning basic sewing machine skills and how to work with fabric.

All projects help develop skills in designing, making, creativity and problem solving.



### Neutralisation Competition - Science

Year 8 pupils recently took part in a neutralisation competition during a Science lesson. Pupils used acid and alkali to try to achieve the correct neutralisation, helping them develop their understanding of chemical reactions in a practical and engaging way. The activity provided a great opportunity to reinforce scientific skills, work safely with laboratory equipment, and apply knowledge in a competitive situation.

### STEM Racing Competition Success

Congratulations to Ethan Lodge and Sam Cok (Year 11) for taking part in the North Wales STEM Racing Competition as part of their Engineering course at Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor.

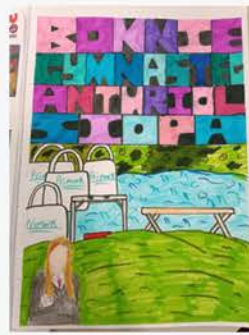
Their team, Porthmadog Bulldogs, was very successful and won the award for the Best Designed Car. This was an excellent achievement and a valuable experience in developing their engineering and STEM skills.



### Year 7T Self-Portrait Work

Following their self-portrait writing task in the Welsh lessons, pupils in 7T created artwork in the style of *Oriel Odl*, presenting themselves in a creative and personal way.

The activity was a great opportunity to combine writing and art, helping pupils develop language skills and personal expression while presenting their identity in a visual form. Well done 7T!



### Year 8 English – Conflict Topic

Year 8 pupils have been studying historical artefacts in their English lessons as part of their conflict topic. Pupils had the opportunity to see a Crimean War bayonet, a World War II medal, and a World War I Medical Corps swagger stick.

Seeing real artefacts helped pupils to better understand the historical context and inspired their reading and writing work on the theme of conflict.



### Game 24 Tournament

A Game 24 competition was held during Maths lessons in December 2025. The 17 pupils who came top from the Year 7 classes went through to the final round, where there was a close and exciting competition. All pupils took on the challenge very well, showing strong numeracy and problem-solving skills.

The final results were:

- 1st – Simi Cook (7P)
- 2nd – Siwan Jones (7P)
- 3rd – Griff Gray (7T)
- 4th – Guto Hicks (7M)

### Maths Mastery Workshops

Lili Lewis, Ellen Baillot and Mathew Washington (Year 9) attended a Maths Mastery course at Ysgol Friars, Bangor, organised by the Royal Institution. The workshops were led by specialists in Mathematics and education, combining theory with interactive and challenging activities. The experience provided a valuable opportunity for the pupils to develop their mathematical skills, work with pupils from other schools and enjoy new challenges in a positive and supportive environment.



## Eisteddfod Success

Congratulations to Gwern Pugh, Eleri Hinde and Deio Rhys on their recent successes. Gwern was successful at the Urdd Eisteddfod Eryri, winning both the Piano Solo and Percussion competitions, while Eleri was successful with her artwork at the Felinheli Eisteddfod. Good luck to Gwern who will compete in the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Anglesey in May with his Piano Solo.

Congratulations also to Gwern and Deio Rhys on their excellent success at Eisteddfod Gadeiriol Chwilog.

Well done to Eleri Hinde (Year 8) for winning with her artwork at the Garndolbenmaen Eisteddfod recently. Thank you to all the other pupils who took part – keep creating! Here is an example of Eleri's work:

The Year 7 *Parti Bechgyn* and the Year 7-9 *Parti Llefary* who came third at the Urdd Regional Eisteddfod in Brynrefail last Saturday. Well done to everyone for representing the school so well.

## Performances and Celebrations

Thank you to Deio, Gwern, Gwawr, Swyn and Anna for entertaining the Merched y Wawr branch in Porthmadog during their St David's Day celebrations. There were performances on the piano, horn and guitar, as well as a monologue. We are very proud of you all.

## Welsh Music Day

To celebrate Welsh Music Day, special activities were organised at school, including a disco for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils with DJ Owain Llŷr, as well as a non-school-uniform day to raise money to support similar activities in the future. The Creative Council also selected music tracks each week leading up to the celebration, sharing Welsh music with the whole school.

## The Mari Lwyd – Year 8 Art

In Year 8 Art lessons, pupils have been working on the lino printing technique, learning how to create prints by carving and inking to produce unique patterns and images inspired by the Mari Lwyd and the work of artists Efa Lois and Ruth Jen.

Here is an example of excellent work by Gethin Lewis.



Deio, Gwern, Gwawr, Swyn and Anna



DJ Owain Llŷr entertaining the crowds



Year 7-9 Recitation Party

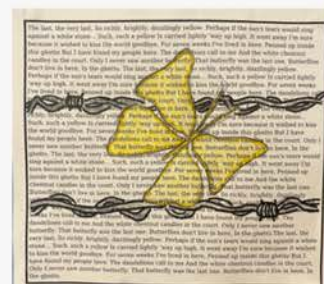


Year 7 Boys' Party

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Recently, Ysgol Eifionydd marked Holocaust Memorial Day. Pupils had the privilege of attending a live presentation by **Max Snijders**, a Holocaust survivor, who bravely shared his personal experiences of this tragic period in history.

At lunchtime, pupils gathered to pay their respects, deepen their understanding of the Holocaust, and reflect on the lives that were lost. As part of the remembrance, pupils wrote messages in memory of those who perished, ensuring their stories are remembered and honoured.





Year 7 girls enjoying their free breakfast

## Mental Health Week

The School Council agreed to support Mental Health Week by organising a variety of activities to raise awareness among pupils.

Mr Crowe led sessions during assemblies, as well as specific sessions for Year 10 pupils. Slides prepared by Miss Alaw Roberts discussed the importance of eating a healthy breakfast, and as a result a free breakfast was provided on Monday morning for any pupils who needed it.

Several fundraising and awareness activities were also held during the week:

- Pancake sale on Thursday
- A special Chinese lunch in the canteen on Thursday
- Ice lolly sale on Friday

The main focus of PSE lessons during the week was staying safe online, highlighting the importance of digital safety and emotional wellbeing.

A team from the School Council also played a netball match against staff at lunchtime on Friday, which everyone enjoyed.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the activities. The week was a valuable opportunity to learn more about the importance of looking after mental health and wellbeing.

## Personal and Social Education

Thanks to the charity Keep Wales Tidy, a small fruit garden package has arrived at the school. With help from the Dref Werdd team to install the equipment, the plants have now been planted and we look forward to seeing them grow, hopefully with some warm weather.

Many thanks to Dawn Jones, a member of the Porthmadog First Responders, for training Year 7 and Year 11 pupils to use a defibrillator (AED) and practise basic life-saving skills. This was a very valuable experience for the pupils.

Several important awareness sessions were also held for different year groups:

- Year 7 – Session by Manon Davies from the Sexual Assault and Abuse Centre (North Wales) to raise awareness of sexual violence. The session was funded by North Wales Police.
- Year 11 – Presentation by PC Rhiannon Wright on road safety, including discussion of a tragic incident near Ruthin, encouraging young people to make safe decisions.
- Year 9 – Presentation by PC Rhiannon Wright on domestic abuse, discussing awareness, safety and where to get help.

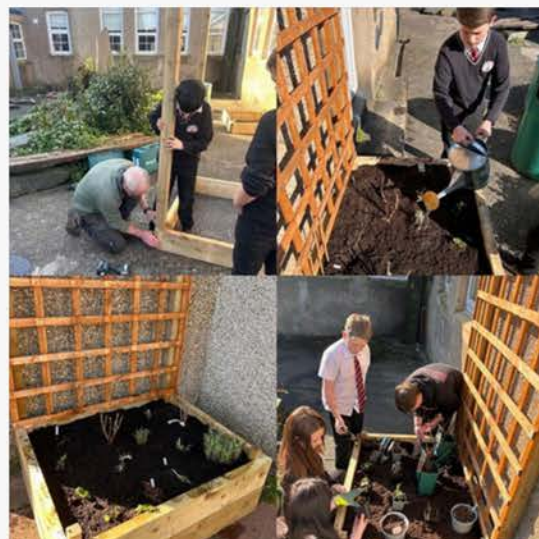
These sessions provided an important opportunity to develop pupils' knowledge, awareness and life skills.

## Physical Education Department – Activities and Successes

It has been a very busy term for the Physical Education department, with pupils competing and taking part in a wide range of sports. Pupils have started enjoying pickleball this term, with practice sessions taking place on Thursday lunchtimes. Badminton has also been very popular, with sessions running every Friday lunchtime.



Congratulations to Eva Mulholland and Ella Russell for competing in a recent swimming competition. Congratulations to Paige Mulholland and Arabella Parsons on their success at the North Prelims 2026 gymnastics competition in Deeside over the weekend. Arabella won three silver medals as well as a second place trophy in the competition. Paige won two gold medals and a silver medal for the routine.



Pupils and the Dref Werdd team planting plants from the Keep Wales Tidy gardening pack.



Year 7 pupils proudly showing their certificates after defibrillator training with Dawn Jones from Porthmadog First Responders.



Pupils from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 enjoyed taking part in the Urdd 5-a-side tournament, where both the girls' and boys' teams reached the quarter-finals. Well done to everyone.



Congratulations to Scarlett Harvey, who continues to be successful in netball and is now playing for a team in Chester.

A great achievement, and we are very proud of her dedication and progress.



Well done to Elsa-Jane, Mari Evans, Lottie Jenkins and Siwan Jones, who have been representing Gwynedd Schools over the past term. Elsa plays for the Under-16 team, who have been very successful in the North Wales fixtures, finishing second in the league table.

It was great to see the school competing in a hockey tournament in Efailnewydd, where the girls won one game, drew one and lost two. It was an enjoyable morning of sport and competition. Well done girls.



Congratulations to Max (Year 8) on successfully passing his 2nd Dan Black Belt in Karate. Max now helps train others and is known as Sempai, meaning senior mentor. An excellent achievement.

Year 8 girls recently competed in a dance competition in Stoke, with great success. Elenid came 3rd out of 8 teams, and Grace and Scarlett came 2nd. Good luck to all three as they go on to compete in the British competition.



Year 7 and Year 8 pupils enjoyed an afternoon of singing on Thursday 19th March with Mei Gwynedd during a singing workshop at Y Ganolfan in the town. Many thanks to the Welsh Grant for their support and for providing such a great experience for our pupils.



## Welsh Council and Clwb Cymru

At a recent meeting of Clwb Cymru, we were joined by Liam Evans, a journalist who works for BBC Wales and is a familiar face on S4C News. He spoke about his career and his experiences reporting the news from countries such as the USA and Israel, as well as local events closer to home.

Many thanks to Liam for his time, the pupils learned a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed the session.

### Visit from BBC Wales Journalist Liam Evans

*After listening to Liam Evans' presentation, I found the experience very interesting. As someone who hopes to become a journalist in the future, hearing about his work and experiences made me even more certain that this is the career I would like to follow.*

*Hearing about his work around the world, from Pen Llŷn to California, was fascinating, and it was also interesting to learn about what happens behind the scenes and how technology in journalism has changed over the years — from needing a full van of equipment to using a normal phone.*

*Overall, the talk was very inspiring and I would like to thank Liam for visiting Clwb Cymru at Ysgol Eifionydd.*

### Deio Rhys - Year 11



Gwion, Kian and Deio with Liam Evans



Year 9 and 10 boys enjoying the St David's Day lunch.

## St David's Day Celebrations 2026

At the end of the week we had the opportunity to celebrate our patron saint in a variety of ways. We held a themed assembly led by members of the Welsh Council, enjoyed a special lunch in the canteen, and the monthly Clwb Cymru session involved decorating Welsh biscuits.

For the first time this year, a St David's Day parade was held from the school to the harbour and back. It was a special experience for pupils as they celebrated their identity and heritage by waving flags and singing in Welsh.

Thank you to Miss Alaw Roberts from the Technology department for preparing Welsh cakes for everyone when we returned.

## Welsh Grant Transition Event 2026

During February, Year 5 and 6 pupils from our partner primary schools attended transition sessions at Ysgol Eifionydd with a focus on St David's Day. These sessions were organised in cooperation with the Welsh Grant project across the catchment area.

The aim was to give pupils the opportunity to discuss their identity and heritage by creating a personal design for their school's St David's Day parade flag. They then worked with the i-Create department to decorate their own unique banner for the parade.



Year 7 pupils and primary school pupils proudly waving their flags during their St David's Day parades.

## Happy Easter to Everyone!

Thank you to everyone for a busy term full of hard work and dedication at Ysgol Eifionydd. We hope everyone enjoys the Easter holidays — a well-deserved break. We look forward to welcoming you back after the holidays, ready for a new term of learning and activities. **Happy Easter to all members of the school community.**

**Important Dates: Return to School for Pupils: Monday, 13th April, 8:55am**

