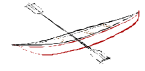


Sheldon Standard

Issue No 210 30 January 2009

Plas Pencelli - 2009



During the second week in January, forty four Year 10 students visited the LEA Outdoor Education Centre in Plas Pencelli near Brecon. The students had a superb week taking part in the following activities - Climbing, Caving, Canoeing and a Mountain Walk day. On the final day all groups took part in an adventure gorge walk to finish the week.

The challenges helped the groups improve their confidence, leadership and teamwork, as well as overcoming fears and learning how to work effectively in the outdoor environment. Mr. Douglas, the group leader, accompanied the students with Year 10 staff - Mrs Beresford, Mr Moules, Mrs Taylor, Miss Merriman, Mrs Minors and Mr Anderton - all the staff joined in and thoroughly enjoyed the week.

Highlights of the trip - cliff climbing in the Gower in brilliant January sunshine, caving and overcoming fears, walking over Pen-y-fan in rain and hail - hot chocolate and soup, and superb food!

A brilliant week and well done to all the students and staff.



Mr Douglas

A great start to the year for dance at Sheldon

GCSE Dance

On Thursday 15th January year 11 GCSE dance students performed to 200 local primary school children as part of their examination. It was a really successful afternoon which ended in a question and answer session with primary pupils enthusiastically asking the dancers all about their experience. We also held a workshop for a group of 20 local gifted & talented year 5 and 6s. Sheldon dancers taught a sequence from their exam pieces to the primaries which resulted in the primaries performing for us. Everyone involved worked incredibly hard and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Miss Miles and Mrs Freeman were thrilled with the standard of exam work. Well done to everyone!

Chippenham Dance Festival

The annual Chippenham Dance Festival is in its second year, organised by School Sports Co-ordinators from the Chippenham secondary schools. It took place at Abbeyfield school on Tuesday 27th January. Taking part were Colerne, Christian Malford, Kings Lodge and Monkton Park primary schools, local dance group 'Jax Dance', Abbeyfield and Sheldon secondary schools. It was a great event with a wide range of dance styles and original choreography displayed. The 'Sheldon Dance Company' performed dances choreographed by Kitty Smith. Julian Lewis in year 12 also created an original dance for the festival. The audience responded positively to the Sheldon entries and I am extremely proud of all the dancers who demonstrated professionalism and a high standard of performance. Well done to Mel, Roxy, Sophie, Lucy, Amy, Katie, Romany, Kelly, Julian, Stacey and Lorna!

Lindsay Freeman

WORK

Work, work, work all day long, why is it so tiring?
I hate it so much, Although when it's coming to Christmas or Halloween
We have a get together which is lots of fun.

File, file, file more things to do
Sort out this sort out that
I barely get free time, a five minute coffee break
And lunchtime only,
but straight after that, I never regret it so.

Type, type, type so many emails to send
Letters, letters, letters, around 8 a day,
Meetings, meetings, meetings about meetings
Copy, copy, copy documents all day
PHEW, I'm glad it's over now
But, tomorrow I have to do it all over again!
by Rhianna Holtom, 7ECT

CALLING ALL PARENTS

- Do you think the facilities for young people in the Chippenham area could be improved?
- Are you concerned about how or where your young people spend their leisure time?
- Would you like to help make things happen for them?
- Would you like to be part of a new group that aims to take positive action for the benefit of young people and their issues in the community?
- Come along to a first informal meeting on Saturday 7 February from 10.30-12.00 pm in the cafe at the Bridge Centre.

For more information contact: Richard Williams, Senior Youth Development co-ordinator (Chippenham 464407)



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HEAD-ITORIAL

The Appointing Season Starts Again

This week, snow permitting, we are beginning our annual programme of teaching appointments ready for September 2009.

At Sheldon we have a low turnover of staff. Of our 120 teachers, we normally expect 7 or 8 to leave each year; most for promoted positions, some for retirement and a few occasionally to make a career change. However, because the sixth form has been growing in the last five years we have normally appointed at least a dozen new staff, many of them newly qualified teachers. This has put us in a good position to make judgments on the quality of young teachers entering the profession.

The fields we have been able to attract for posts in the last few years have been outstanding. There are many reasons for this. Firstly, we have usually been able to recruit early and get the pick of newly qualified teachers. Secondly, Sheldon is an attractive place to teach: behaviour is good, our programme for newly qualified teachers is excellent, we are able to offer a variety of teaching including A level, our teaching accommodation and resources are good or better, and North Wiltshire is a nice place to live. Thirdly, we are fortunate to have strong links with four local universities with large secondary teacher training programmes. But also, the general quality of young, and not-so-young, people entering the profession is rising.

This week will be a very good test of the teaching market because we are appointing in two important "shortage" subjects: physics and mathematics. The signs are encouraging; we have attracted a good number of high quality applications for each job. I am looking forward to meeting the candidates on Tuesday and Wednesday and I am sure that they will be impressed by our school and our pupils. A school depends, above everything else, on the quality of teachers in the classroom, so appointing new teachers is by far the most important part of my job.

Gerard MacMahon
Headteacher

Year 7 Science Day

Year 7 had their annual science days this term where they spent the whole day carrying out a variety of experiments and seeing a science show. Students had to get to grips with viscosity timers and building a car park in lessons. The show allowed them to see all sorts of whizzes and bangs as well as getting the opportunity to do some experiments themselves. They investigated sound by making bangers and screaming straws, chemical reactions with rockets and made real flubber. The days were a fantastic success and all students were excellent having a lots of fun while doing science.

Mr Grundy

Enrichment Fund AGM Monday 9 February 2009

Sixth Form Centre

All members of the Enrichment Fund are welcome.

You will have the opportunity to consider the latest round of bids from subjects, year teams and clubs.

Congratulations to Chris Harber (10LXF) who is a national swimmer. Chris trains eight times a week for 20 hours or so, and swims for Bath University. He has won Silver in recent Nationals and is now training hard for the next level, the 100m back, and also the 200m back stroke British Championship times.

Well done Chris - good luck for the future and don't forget to let us know how you get on!

After having successfully auditioned, Katie Thomas (11PMG) has been accepted to take place in a performance of Coppelia with the English Youth Ballet. This performance will take place in February at Swindon's Wyvern Theatre. Well done!

NANTES 2009

Last year's trip to Nantes was very successful. This year the trip is back with a twist! It will be part residential/part exchange. Letters with more details will be handed out to Year 9 and 10 pupils soon.

Miss P David

A Technquest Treat for Our Gifted and Talented Musicians!

On Monday 12 January Mrs Dobson took a group of KS3 gifted and talented musicians to Technquest in Cardiff for a day of musical exploration. Pupils had the opportunity to enjoy and experience the hands-on exhibition, and discover all sorts of interesting things about music and sound. After lunch they were then treated to an interactive talk about music and technology. Mrs Dobson was most impressed by the behaviour, politeness and enthusiasm of all the pupils, and was even asked by staff at Technquest if we were a private school! Thank you to Miss North for organising the trip, and well done to all the musicians who made the day such an enjoyable one.



GCSE Music Students Warm up a Cold Evening

Last Thursday a very cold evening was warmed up by the fantastic music played by a number of GCSE music students (and a few non-GCSE music students!) at the GCSE Music Performance Evening. Performances ranged from a Radiohead number to a Grieg piano piece, and from solo numbers to original acoustic compositions on guitar and voice. All students gave confident performances, and supported each other, and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Well done and thank you to all performers: Lizzie Tunnicliffe, Leanne Scoynes, Dominique Orleans, Jacob Byrne, Callum Henry, Miles Gilbert, Ryan Strudwick, Connor Yates, Stuart West, Warren Andrews and Ruth Knight.

MUSIC NEWS

Luke Featonby as he passed his guitar grade 3 with a merit. Congratulations Luke.

Get your Standard by e mail. Contact Carolyn Wakefield at sheldonstandard@gmail.com and a copy will be sent to you each time the Standard is issued. Items for possible inclusion should be sent to c.wakefield@sheldonschool.co.uk