

# NEWSLETTER

## CYLCHLYTHYR



## Bassaleg School Presents 'Oliver!'



The Bassaleg Music and Drama Society are pleased to notify you that rehearsals are well underway for the February performances of 'Oliver!'.

With over 150 pupils from years 7 to 13 and nine different departments already involved, it is proving to be an exciting extra curricular activity for all.

Songs and dances are being practised; staging and props being sourced; sponsorship being raised; costumes being made and lines being learned.

Tickets will be available in the New Year.



**Christmas / Nadolig 2017**



# P.E. DEPARTMENT



## GCSE PE Visit to Snowdonia 2017

In September 40 year 10 pupils went on a 5 day residential experience to Snowdonia. As part of the GCSE Physical Education course, the pupils completed a multi-activity programme that presented them with physical challenges in the form of mountain walking, rock climbing, mining, gorge walking and team building. Although the weather wasn't always favourable, pupils worked together to complete all challenges set. Well done to all involved!





# P.E. DEPARTMENT



**Swimming:** Emily Jones, Year 8, has been selected for the Welsh Junior Swim Wales National Squad. Emily is now attending the training camp in Swansea.

**Squash:** Lewis Sheppard, Year 9 who has recently been selected to be a member of the Wales Squash & Racketball Academy Coaching Programme. The Academy programme is the first step on the WSRB pathway for many young players.



**Tae Kwon Do:** Joshua Isaac, Year 9, became the 2017 British Black Belt Champion in Tae Kwon Do Patterns in London. It was the biggest competition held in the UK. Josh confidently won fourteen individual rounds of Patterns scoring every point awarded from every judge in every round to go on and achieve the Gold Medal!



**Athletics:** Ellie Mae Wainwright, Year 8, has become the Welsh Pentathlon Champion. And Emily Fry, Year 8, has become

the Welsh High Jump Champion. Congratulations to both girls.



**Gymnastics:** Olivia Gauregui, Year 8, took part in a Gymnastics competition which saw the best elite 12 and 13 year olds in Great Britain compete for all around and apparatus titles in London. Olivia finished an impressive 7th (3rd out of the 12 year olds) overall; 6th on Asymmetric Bars (2nd in Great Britain for 12 year olds) and brought home the Bronze Medal on the Balance Beam (1st out of all 12yr olds in Great Britain).



**Cricket:** Congratulations to Rebecca Forey, Year 9, for collecting her Wales U'13 Youth Cricket Cap.

**Golf:** Will Fido, Year 8, has been re-selected for the Wales Academy Squad 2018. This will be Will's third year in the Wales set up.



**Rugby:** Tom Fitzpatrick, Joe Peard, Aaron Hague, Morgan Mohring, Sam James, all Year 11, have been selected for the Dragons U16 team and will play the other top 7 regions in Wales through the rugby season. Luke Lezar, Jacob Shaw, Lewis Brown, Jacob John, James Grey, Evan Smith, Morgan Koloi, Ethan Gauregui, Scott James, Brandon Tutton, all Year 10, have been selected to play for the Newport Schools' U15.



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



Having completed their training during community week, at the start of September, 53 Year 11 pupils planned and successfully executed their final expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze award.

This year, the expedition was completed in the Wye Valley, meaning pupils had to be self-sufficient for 2 days in the beautiful countryside.

If you have completed your award, the Duke of Edinburgh team hope to see you at the presentation evening on the 28th February, 2018. Year 10 will have the opportunity to sign up for the DofE scheme at the end of 2017, listen out for messages in assembly.





# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



On 29th November, Edan Jefferson, Aimee Dutton, Emma Marshall, Rebecca Forey, Michael Addison and Samien Hoosein were invited to the PLA (Pupil Language Ambassador) Training Day in Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, Caerphilly. This was organised by Sioned Harold EAS Regional MFL Co-ordinator and Routes in Languages. Not only did they successfully achieve their badges as Language Ambassadors but they also won the PLA quiz, beating 15 other schools who attended! They are already busy arranging MFL events and training six more PLAs to help them. Watch this space!



On Thursday 9th Nov, Tim Penn spoke to some Year 8 classes about the benefits of learning another language in a world where global communication is key. He was very impressed with the positive attitude towards languages and communication. We look forward to welcoming Tim back in the future!

MFL have had a busy and exciting start

to the academic year. For the first time in Bassaleg, MFL celebrated European Languages Day, 26th September, with salsa dancing, posters of menus in French and Spanish in both Forge and Griffin Canteen, online games on Kahoot on the theme of food / holidays and Bassaleg staff and pupils demonstrating their foreign language skills. What amazing linguists we have!

Join us for Salsa Dancing in Griffin Gym at 1.30pm today!!  
- Mrs Ciccone

European Day of Languages  
26 September

Journée européenne des langues

**BASSALEG LA COMIDA**  
MARTES 26 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2017  
Cerdo a la Barbacoa, Arroz Chino con Champiñones, Fideos Picantes, Verduras Orientales, Fritas, Pan al Ajillo, Pizza de Tomate y Queso / de Maiz / de Atun, Pasta de Tomate / con Pollo, Yogur de Fresa, Fruta.

**PETIT DÉJEUNER / GOUTER**  
Hot-Dog - £1.00  
Sandwiches au Lard - £1.05  
Muffins au Bacon et aux Oeufs - £1.25  
Bagel a Pizza Verré - £1.45  
Paninis Assortis - £1.70, 1/2, 85p  
Alles de Poulet - £1.05  
Pain Grillé/Crummet/Crepe - 25p/45p/85p  
Rouleau de Pain Sacré/ Bretzel - 60p/ 85p  
Tranche de Pastèque- 75p





# BASSALEG FUNDRAISING



The Year 8 Charity Council have had a busy term, continuing to raise money for the Day Care Unit at the Royal Gwent Hospital which specialises in the treatment of cancer patients. One such patient, Mr Tony Hopkins, contacted the school in the Summer term with an offer to sponsor a charity raffle, in association with the Year 8 Charity Council, to raise funds for the Day Care Unit. Mr Hopkins, who works as a scout for Manchester United, provided 3 fantastic prizes for the raffle: 3 tickets to watch Manchester United play at Old Trafford, a Cardiff City shirt, signed by Bluebirds legend Peter Whittingham, and a Real Madrid shirt, signed by Welsh International Gareth Bale. Thanks to Mr Hopkins' generosity, and the hard work of the Year 8 charity council, £1000 has been raised to help the Day Care Unit continue their work with cancer

patients across Newport. The Year 8 Charity Council would like to pass on their warmest thanks to Mr Hopkins, and to all teachers and pupils who bought raffle tickets and donated money.



Well done to all of Year 7 and especially to 7RTO for being very generous in donating foods for our Harvest Festival. The donated food was given to the Eden Gate Project in Newport.

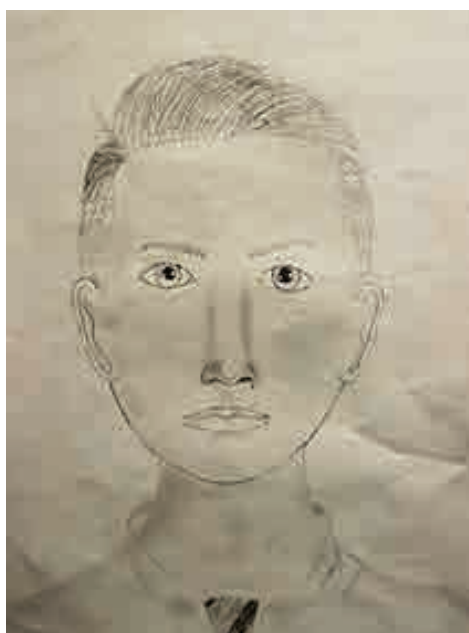




# ART DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to Catrin Ham, Year 11, for winning the Bassaleg School Christmas Card Competition. Catrin's hand drawn design (left) will now become the official Bassaleg School Christmas Card. Well done Catrin!

**Year 9 Self Portraits:** Celebrating some of the wonderful pencil drawings of our talented pupils this year. The portraits (below) were created by: Rebecca Sweet, Amal Mohammad, Jack Walker, Hannah Munro, James Davies and Justyna Zurek. Well done to all!





# EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUCCESS



Well done to Isabel Davies, Year 11 for taking part in the Queen's Baton Relay in Newport.

It was a fantastic experience for Isabel, who spent time chatting to the Officials who were travelling with the Baton, to find out how they got the job!!

Well done Issy!



## DRAMA DEPARTMENT



Year 10 and 11 have been busy creating Theatre in Education performances, ready to educate their audiences on a range of things, including: The Aberfan Disaster, highlighting the dangers of social media and a range of other pertinent issues affecting teenagers in society today.





# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Mrs Thomas was very lucky to be able to arrange a visit from a local consultant surgeon for the Level 3 Medical Science Diploma Pupils. This is a brand new course, currently being offered at Bassaleg School from September 2017. The qualification has been developed in conjunction with Universities and Clinical Pathology laboratories. It provides an engaging and meaningful context led approach to the development of scientific knowledge and skills, and enables learners to develop the tools necessary to understand, assess and suggest solutions to real-world medical problems and challenges. The qualification places significant stress on the development of good practical skills necessary to monitor health and disease. Pupils from the year 12 class were delighted to have been given the chance to work with the medical professional, Dr Simon Weaver; and would like to thank him for giving up his time to deliver a 'hands-on, active' session with them. The pupils have been lucky to have visits from a range of health care professionals during the autumn term including; Mrs Belinda Cook (Royal Gwent), Mrs Karen Palmer (BBI Solutions) and Professor Edward Guy (Public Health Wales). All of these sessions have allowed pupils to relate classroom learning to the real world.

## WELSH ASSEMBLY VISIT

On 7th December Assembly Members from the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee came to Bassaleg School to meet students and discuss and hear their views on physical activities levels, participation rates among young people, gender based attitudes towards physical activity and the effectiveness of Welsh Government programmes. The visitors were incredibly impressed with all of our young people who spoke with great maturity and insight. Many thanks to all of those involved in the day: Alex Cross, Calum Evans, Liam Harris, Lacey Hancock, Rihoko N-Adachi, Jessica Grime, Lowri Freeman, Leo Stark, Freddie Roach, Finlay Jones, Mia Clarke, Olivia Thomas, Logan Taylor, Febin John, Garv Sharma, Maddison Davies, Erin Hull, Abigail Cocchiara, Alice Wareham, Amy Evans, Mohsina Ishaq, Will Gregory, Toby Stark, Hannah Venn, Isla Meredith, Darcy Rees, Will Lewis, Jack Lawrence, Matthew Goodwin, Mia Jones, Olivia Chidlow, Brandon Delve, Aneurin Jenkins and Meirion Thomas.



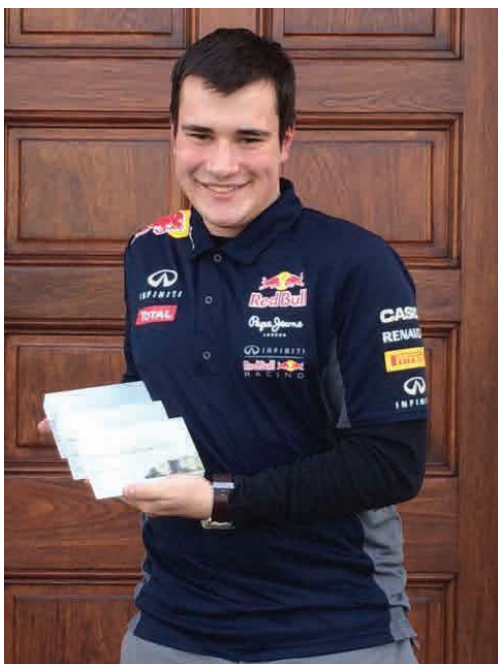


# MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT



**Senior Mathematics Challenge:** The Mathematics Department would like to congratulate our sixth form students who participated in the Senior Maths Challenge this year. Twenty one pupils achieved awards! Year 13: Gold; Maddie Colebrook (Plus best in school award). Silver; Thomas Whiting, Matthew Arden and Jack Mineur. Bronze; Lewis Churchill, Rhys Warner, Abdel Ahmad, Jonathan Davies, Jake Misfud, Lucy Bidwell, Rachel Morris and Jefferson Smith. Year 12: Silver; Andrew Williams (Plus best in year award), Tomos Phillips, Ben Taylor and Mark Sussex. Bronze; Ahmad Shahzad, Aaron Hayes, Alex Heaven, Chenice Cranton and Reece Walsh. In addition Maddie Colebrook has qualified for the next round which is the Senior Kangaroo Challenge, well done and good luck Maddie. Well done to all who were involved - we are very proud of you."

## BASSALEG ALUMNI SUCCESS

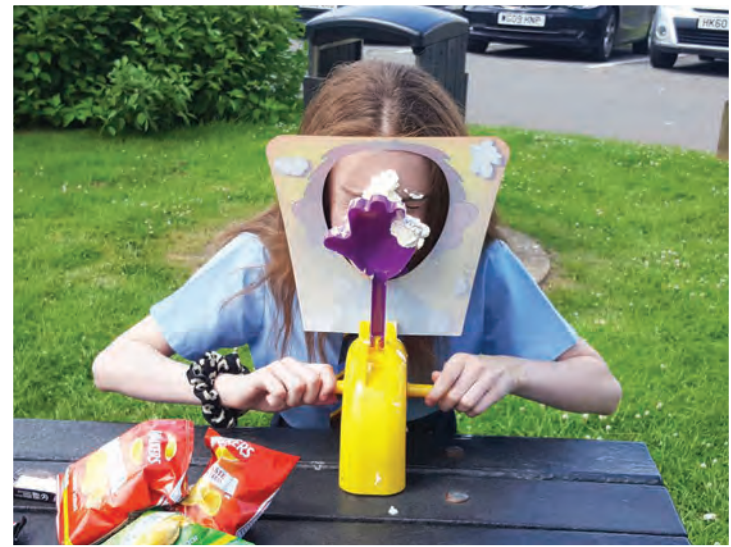


Bassaleg School would like to say a huge congratulations to one of its former pupils - Stephen Pickles. Stephen, who has recently completed an apprenticeship at global engineering and scientific technologies company, Renishaw, and is currently working as a trainee Production Technician, has been given the Apprentice of the Year Award in the Apprenticeship Awards Cymru 2017. Entries were jointly managed by the Welsh Government and the National Training Federation for Wales. The awards celebrate the role of training and skills development, showcasing the successes of high achieving apprentices, employers, tutors and assessors across Wales. Stephen has been at Renishaw for three years, spending his time working at the company's Miskin site, near Cardiff and attending Coleg y Cymoedd (Nantgarw). The budding engineer recently completed his apprenticeship and is completing a HNC at the University of South Wales this year. He will then have the opportunity to study for an HND and potentially a full honours degree. Well done Stephen!





# BASSALEG REWARDS PROGRAM



**Rewards Parties** - Our rewards parties are going from strength to strength. 100 pupils from year 7 and 8 celebrated their successes and we said a big thank you to all of these pupils who have shown high levels of effort and positive behaviour.

**Pro Point Raffle** - Every two weeks we hold a Pro Point Raffle for those pupils who have met our school expectations. Front of queue pass, a free cake and drink, Bassaleg pens and a mystery prize are all up for grabs. This term we will also be awarding our Golden Ticket which we will announce week beginning Monday 18th December 2017. Many thanks to Ceri and the Teacher Active Team for supporting our rewards scheme for pupils with

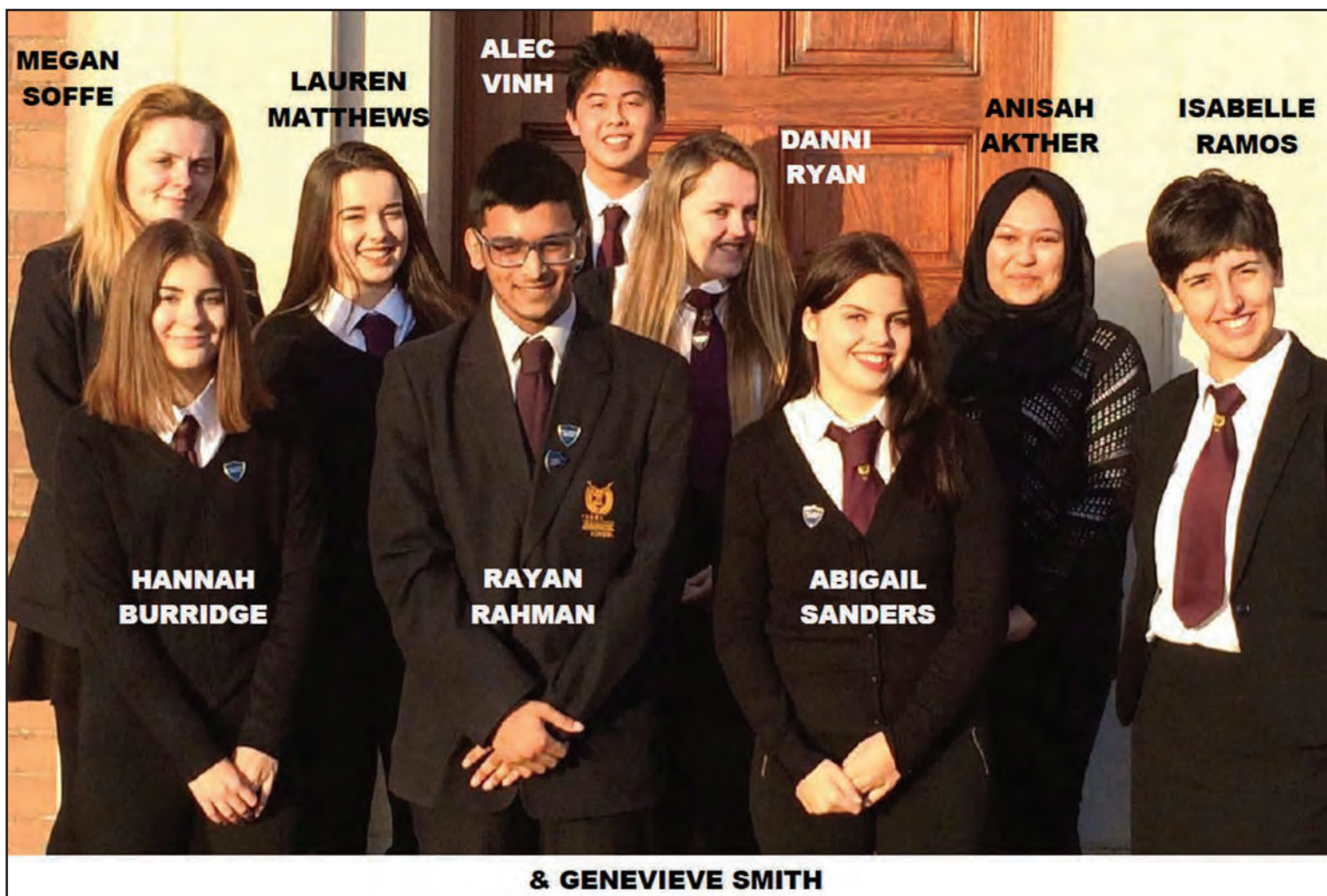
excellent attendance and class / pupil of the month. Pupils have enjoyed lollies on the lawn, cakes and treats with friends in the canteen, all of which has had a positive effect on their wellbeing this year.

Many thanks to all of our parents who have sponsored our pupil reward scheme this year. We have been really overwhelmed by your response and our pupils have been lucky enough to receive iTunes and Google Play vouchers, Dragons tickets, go karting tickets, cinema and swimming vouchers to name but a few. Our termly Headteacher's Golden Ticket (celebrating the resilience of individual pupils) has been presented and our lucky winner will be taking their family to a Dragons match followed by a meal in TGI Fridays! All of the staff of Bassaleg school would like to thank you for your generosity and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





# BASSALEG SCHOOL WELLBEING



On December 5th, after considerable training and planning, the Bassaleg Wellbeing Ambassadors launched their first group. Based in G5 in Griffin, the Wellbeing Ambassadors meet with groups of young people who may need some additional support during a difficult time at school or at home. Our Ambassadors are committed to the wellbeing of pupils at Bassaleg and received 2 days of intensive training from professionals at "Changing Minds"; they continue to receive support from Mr. Batten and Ms. Gray. At present, self-referral forms are available from the Pupil and Griffin offices and should be posted in the secure postboxes outside these rooms. The ambassadors are concentrating their efforts on providing a helping hand and a listening ear to years 7 and 8 at present, but are keen to roll the programme out to other year groups in the new year. In their words: "We offer support for students who need comfort and encouragement." Keep up the good work. All at Bassaleg are very proud of your efforts!

## 'SHOUTS' EVENT



Well done to all our pupils who represented the school at the SHOUTS (Students Help Out Students) Launch Event held at St Josephs RC High School, Friday 17 November 2017. The event was attended by pupils from all Newport Schools. SHOUTS is a restorative behaviour programme lead by Mrs Yates, Assistant Headteacher at St Josephs. The workshop fully engaged each student, arming them with bullying statistics and hard-hitting information through films and presentations, fully involving them in the learning and discussion process and all Bassaleg pupils were a credit to the school.





# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Walking out of the door on the morning of Christmas eve is always fun. Stepping out on to the ice cold pavement without slipping is forever going to be a difficult challenge. Imagining the pavement is an ice rink, I look around. I see the rosy cheeks of Carol Singers wrapped up warm, knocking on people's doors ready to sing with glee and excitement. I, with my wooly hat, Scarf and gloves on, rub my hands together and I try to get a little bit warmer. I put my warm gloves over my ice cheeks and bright nose, and close my eyes. I'm so cold! I 'skate' over to the hill where all my friends are, and I dive into the Cotton Candy Snow where me and my friends begin to make snow angels. Could things get any better when I'm spending time with my best friends on Christmas eve at seven o'clock in the morning?! I thought not, but I was actually wrong! It started to snow! My friends and I giggled with joy as we lied down on the snow to look into the peaceful sky. I can see many snowflakes dancing elegantly through the air as they gracefully fly down to meet the ground. I can't wait until Christmas!

Kaci Noble, 11 years old  
7CB4

The English Department would like to congratulate Estelle Rees and Kaci Noble, both Year 7, for winning the English Christmas Writing Competition.



Also a huge congratulations to Dawood Shinwari, Year 9, for penning a poem entitled 'Mother', that Mrs Scott described as "excellent!" Well done Dawood, keep up the good work.



I look out the window, the sun is dawning,  
It must be Christmas morning!  
I rush downstairs and I see the tree  
Surely all those presents aren't for me?

I tear and tear,  
The wrapping paper is everywhere.  
I gaze at the tree,  
It fills me with glee.

The scent of Christmas dinner wafts in the air,  
We have to wait a few more hours, it's just not fair!  
In the corner the tree is glistening  
Carol singers, Dad whistling.

There is a joyful atmosphere,  
Adults with wine and beer.  
All the Christmas crackers go SNAP!  
We all smell burning, Mum in a flap.

Estelle R 7CB4

## Mother

By Dawood Shinwari

My home is heaven because of you  
You are an angel for me  
Life prospers from you  
You are the well springs of life's mountain

Mother

Oh sweet

Mother

If you were not  
I would be not  
And if I were  
What would I be?  
If I am blissful today  
It is all of your bliss

I remember your sorrows  
I remember your thoughts  
You pray for me through the whole night  
I remember your prayers

You are made of a rose from dirt  
You are the song of springtime  
Gardens

Mother, O' sweet Mother



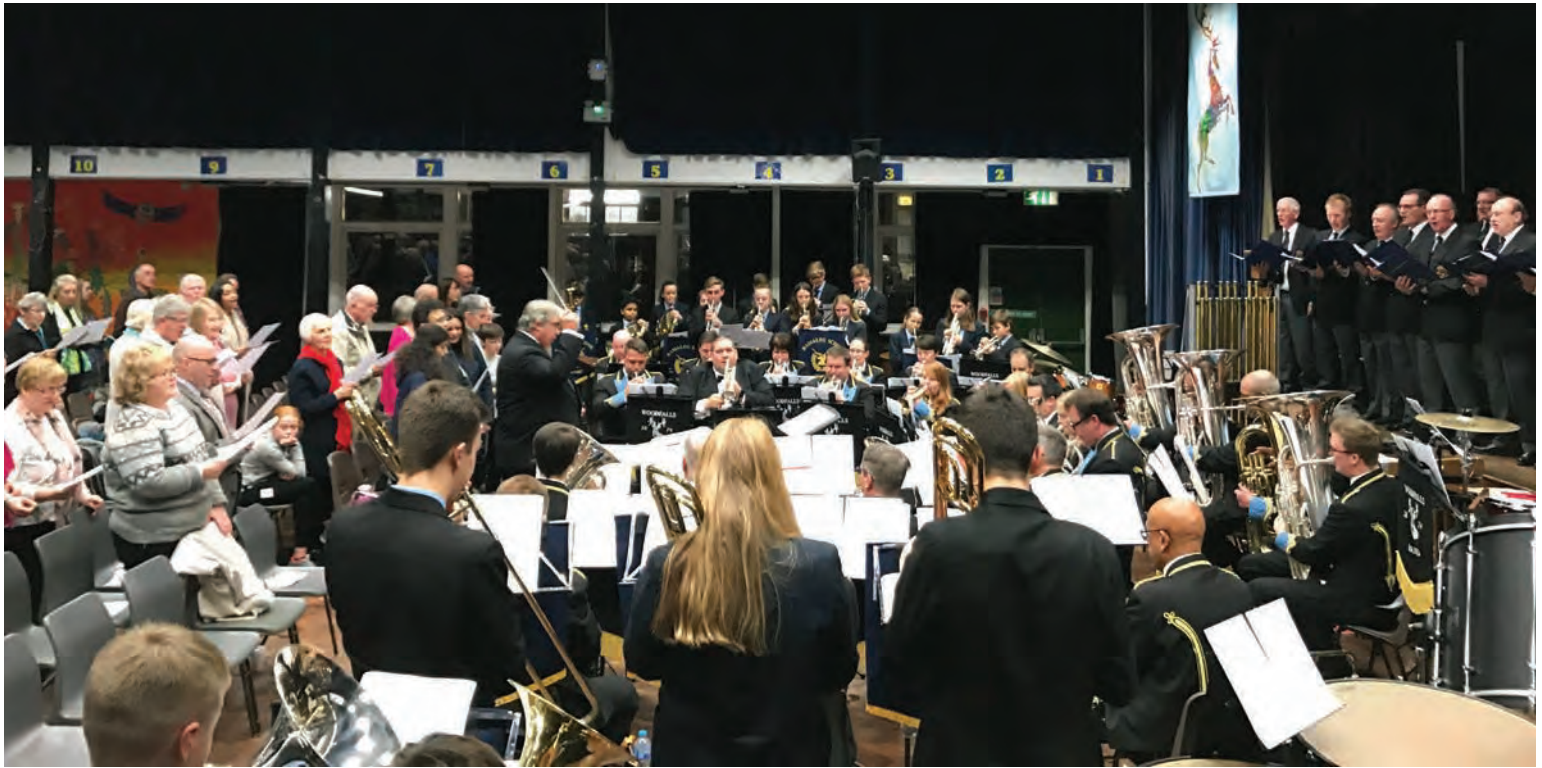


# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Music department has had its usual busy winter term as preparations for the school show Oliver have begun! On November 10th, we were privileged to be part of a moving Remembrance service in Forge where families of past pupils who have served their country attended alongside staff and the whole of Year 10 who respectfully represented the school.

Elicia Hopkins of Year 13 played an incredibly moving "Last Post" as the wreath was laid at the memorial in Forge. Other pupils; Elliot Jones (year 13), Eve Tonner (Year 10) and Laura Gilchrist (year 8) echoed the Last Post around the school to dramatic effect. Our superb 6th form Chamber Choir sang "Tears in heaven" as a fitting end to the service.

Our annual Awards Evening on 21st November, attended by parents and pupils of last year's Year 11 saw our Senior Choir and Big Band performing to a really high standard. Pieces included City of Stars, Seasons of Love from Senior Choir and Moanin', Shake Rattle and Roll and Louie, Louie from Big Band. On December 2nd a small brass ensemble and some of our sixth form singers were privileged to perform at a local community Christmas event in Afon Village, with monies being raised for two charities; It was a fantastic event and we were thrilled to be able to contribute.



Also on the 2nd December, the school hosted the Woodfalls Band from Salisbury, conducted by Dr Robert Childs and the Risca Male Voice Choir, led by Geraint Davies in a Festive Brass and Voices concert. For the finale of the first half, the brass players from school joined with the band and choir for a performance of 'An American Tale', the second half saw us all join together to perform a festive selection of carols and to finish the whole evening off was a rousing rendition of the '1812 Overture'. It was a superb concert and thanks are given to all who helped put this evening on. The proceeds from the concert are being donated to Velindre Hospital.



The Music department has run a competition to design the front covers of the Christmas Concert programme and we are delighted to announce that Zaidh Bashir, Year 7 and Nikita Carnell, Year 13, have been selected as the winners. Congratulations to them and to all who took part. As ever, we thank all the pupils for their hard work and dedication and look forward to seeing you at forthcoming events.

