



# NEWSLETTER

## CYLCHLYTHYR

### BASSALEG SCHOOL COUNCIL



On the 23rd of April, the Student Council was fortunate enough to attend a session on budgeting with members from the Welsh Assembly Government. We started with a warm up task involving ranking the importance of national issues, including such important and timely topics as the NHS and Education. After this, we split into different groups that were each assigned an area that required funding; the NHS, Education, Culture and Leisure, Environment and Agriculture, Business and, finally, Transport. During this activity, we were able to work one-to-one with a Welsh Assembly member to look at why each area was deserving of funding and how to formulate a strong standpoint to convince the rest of the room in a speech. Following the speeches, we then had to assign a budget, which we all found a lot harder than we first thought it

would be. Politics and large scale decisions are often dehumanised by the media, but we realised that ethical decisions were having to be made on a limited budget and tough decisions were having to be made. It gave us a taste of being a part of a committee that dealt with these kinds of problems. The session ended with an insightful question and answer activity, where the student council had a chance to inquire about things we could do to highlight places in the school that need more funding, and how the Welsh Government plans to get young people involved in politics. All in all, it was an extremely enjoyable and insightful afternoon and the student council would like to say a huge thank you to the Welsh Assembly members who came to visit!

Spring 2017  
Y Gwanywyn 2017

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



**Hockey** - Congratulations to the first Bassaleg Mixed Hockey team who played and won their premier match against Chepstow, 8-0. Also well done to Estelle Coles and Ewan Bagwell. Estelle has been selected by Hockey Wales for the Wales U16 Girls Squad. She will be representing Wales in the International Test Series vs Scotland U16 Girls and Switzerland U16 Girls in April 2017 and Ewan has been selected to play for Wales U13 hockey team he will be competing in Nottingham in June against teams from Scotland, Ireland & England.



**Rugby** - It's been a successful year all round with the school winning numerous games this season across all age groups. A big mention to the 6th form side that won the Gwent League and reached the quarter finals of the Welsh Cup, the Year 11 team also reached the last 16 of the Welsh Cup. Well done to Lewis Owen, Brodie Coghlan, Ben Hoppe, Owen Peddle and Toby Turner on making the Dragons u16 Squad and Dafydd Buckland and Jack Mineur for making the Dragons u18 Squad. With lots of girls' rugby after Easter it's a great time to be involved with the Bassaleg Stags.

**Netball** - Bethany Proctor, Elinor Kenward, and Lily Scaplehorn have been integral in the Under 16 South East Wales Netball Squads this season. In the Inter Counties Welsh Competition Bethany competed in the 'A' competition and came 4th, Lily and Elinor won the 'B' competition. This is a fantastic achievement and bodes well for their selection next year. Well done!

**Tennis** - Congratulations to Molly Walsh, Year 9 and Lily Scaplehorn Year 10 who represented South Wales U18s, in Scotland.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



**Gym & Dance Display 2017** - Congratulations to the 110 pupils who took part in this year's amazing annual Gym and Dance Display. The pupils wowed 300 primary school children during the dress rehearsal and then went on to perform for parents. The standard and commitment shown by all the performers this year were outstanding, culminating in over 50 pupils taking part in a grand finale!



**Cross Country** - Well done to the following who represented South East Wales at the Welsh Schools championships: Bethan Wainwright, Morgan Davies, Max Coghlan, Ryan Sutton, Elin Griffiths and Ellie Mae Wainwright. Further congratulations go to Ellie Mae and Elin who won medals in the team competition.

**Young Ambassadors** - Well done to Olivia Chidlow, Meirion Thomas, Aneurin Jenkins, Milly Rabaiotti, Brandon Delve and Mia Jones, who, through a series of workshops have completed their 'Bronze+' Award as Young Ambassadors.



**Gymnastics** - Our Sports Acro Gymnasts have had a successful year four pupils now training with the Welsh Squad. Well done to Lauren Clark, Lucy Ellis, Amy Clark and Zoe Watkins and in particular to Lucy Ellis and Evie Shaw who competed in the Welsh Schools Sports Acro Championships finishing in an excellent 4th position. Well done to Elise Morris, Beth Wheeler, Alys Gibbs, Ella Miles, Katie Lewis and Hannah Watson who competed in the Welsh Schools British Gymnastics and to our 2nd place U14 team, Millie Rabaiotti, Elizabeth Willmore, Charlotte Gilles, Hannah Catchpole and Charlotte Phillips. Congratulations also to Olivia Gauregi who regained her Gymnastics Welsh Champion title and regained her place in the GB pathway squad for 2017 and Olivia Rabaiotti who has been selected on the 'Long List' for the next Commonwealth Games.

# HISTORY DEPARTMENT



During our recent visit to Auschwitz, we visited Oswiecim in Poland, a predominantly Jewish town before World War II, where we had a guided tour of Auschwitz 1 and then Auschwitz Birkenau. The day ended with an extremely moving memorial service. Some of the things that stood out most for us included the proximity of the death camps to the surrounding town as well the thousands of personal belongings that were confiscated by the Nazis. It was an incredible but very surreal experience. This trip is something that we, Year 12 students, Bradley Wearing, Ela Hopkins, Ruken Savda and I, Ben James, are going to remember for the rest of our lives.



# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

This term, the Health and Social Care GCSE and A Level classes have been fortunate to have a number of guest speakers to support their understanding of the subject and expand their career knowledge. Dr. Martyn Evans (GP), Emma Levy and Matthew Rees (Flying Start), Vicki-Leigh Edwards (dental nurse), Dr Helena Awuakye (dentist) and Sara Filer (youth worker) all kindly gave up their time to come into school and allow themselves to be interviewed by the group of students. The speakers gave detailed responses so the students had a true reflection of what it is like to work in the care services. An opportunity to visit the Serennu Centre formed part of this experience and students had presentations from a Clinical Psychologist, Social



Services, Occupational Therapy and a Dietician. The information was insightful and students gained a vast amount of knowledge to support their work and inform their decision making regarding their future careers.

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUCCESS



Congratulations to Jess Kerrigan on completing 3 days work experience in Rick Stein's famous sea food restaurant in Padstow, Cornwall. She has produced a powerpoint documenting her experience and outlining the key aspects of the business; this is available on the GCSE Business Year 10 classroom for all students to view. Well done, Jessica!

Congratulations to Emily Mothersole who took part in sequence dance trials on 21st January to qualify for a position in the Welsh Dance Team, which will then enable her to compete in the Ballroom and Sequence World Championships in Blackpool, 17th to 21st April 2017. Well done, Emily!



# LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



Year 8 have enjoyed using their phones in their Spanish lessons to decipher QR codes and work on their language skills. They had fun working together to accurately translate whole sentences. The desire to be the first to finish meant it was very productive - but extremely competitive! By the time you read this, 38 pupils from Year 9, 10 and 11 will have visited sunnier climes, enjoying the culture of Spain and using their 'español'! They will be taking in the sun and visiting some of the more famous sights in Barcelona, including strolling down Las Ramblas and imagining scoring that winning goal in the Nou Camp Stadium. ¡Hasta la vista, amigos!

# STUDENT WELLBEING



## **“It’s Not Ok.” Drama Performance & Workshops**

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and wellbeing, we were pleased to welcome The South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board’s drama production of “It’s Not Ok” to Bassaleg School on Friday 24th March. The performance tackled various issues of Child Sexual Exploitation and Safeguarding to raise student awareness of this growing area of risk and give our learners strategies to protect themselves from potential harm. We feel this is a vital area of students’ learning in personal and social education and that awareness is key to



preventing our young people from getting into dangerous situations. Our Year 8 pupils were involved in the day which consisted of watching a drama performance followed by a series of workshops which required the pupils to carry out role plays on the advice they would give to each of the characters from the performers. The visitors were very impressed with our school and said it is one of the best they have been to across the entire UK! They thought our pupils were well educated, mature and were extremely well-behaved. The feedback from our learners was that they really enjoyed the day and felt that they had learned some tips to help keep them safe.

learned

# MATHS DEPARTMENT



The Maths Department would like to congratulate pupils from Years 9 to 11 who participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge this year. Twenty eight students achieved awards! Year 11: Gold; Ben Taylor (plus Best in School Award). Silver: Elliot King, Sam Stacey, Tomos Phillips, Samuel Morris, Aaron Hayes, Tom Protheroe and Andrew Williams. Bronze: James Silcox, Owen Cranton, Amy Hurst, Bethan Davies, Holly Ford, Lowri Williams, Tom Silcox, Cornell Parr and Steffan Hobbs. Year 10:

Silver; Rhys Jones (plus Best in Year Award) and Mohed Farooq. Bronze; Emily Smith, Jack Davies, Imogen Huckle, Jon Hendy and Will Ballard. Year 9: Silver; Matthew Turner (plus Best in Year Award). Bronze: Hannah Bidwell, Matthew Atkinson and Jacob Shaw. In addition Ben Taylor qualified for the next round; the Intermediate Kangaroo Challenge; we are awaiting his results. "Well done to all who were involved - we are very proud of you."



The Maths department is very proud of the following Year 9 students; Hannah Bidwell, Jacob Shaw and Matthew Turner for attending a Key Stage 3 Maths Masterclass Course at the University of South Wales over a six week period. These pupils volunteered to attend and gave up their Saturday mornings to do so. We are extremely proud of their dedication to the subject and thrilled that they were able to gain valuable skills through challenge and enjoyment. We'd also like to thank the parents/guardians for their continued support since without it Hannah, Jacob and Matthew would not have been able to

attend. We are very grateful for the dedication all round!

# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



**STEM Trip for Renewable Energy** - Fifteen Year 10 girls were invited to attend a tour around Viridor Energy Recovery Facility in Cardiff. The pupils took part in interactive activities, a tour of the facility and a talk from inspirational role models in the STEM sector to encourage and inspire them into taking science and engineering subjects past GCSE. Seeing the way the power station works was fantastic and the girls found the visit incredibly enjoyable and informative.



**CREST Award Club** – We are delighted to announce that several Year 8 pupils have been successful in achieving their CREST Award Bronze Level in Science by undertaking a project chosen by themselves, investigating the best ingredients for a fizzing bath bomb. Well done to Dewi Timothy, Ben Patey, Peter Taylor, Abbie Jordan, Amal Mohammad, Kurtis Tolley, Hannah Lyons, Rhys Hopkins and Ewan Osmond.

**Engineering Education Scheme Wales**  
- Seven of our 6th form Physicists have undertaken the task of working with an engineering company on a real life project. Tom Atkin, Rhys Warner, Thomas Whiting, Jonathan Davies, Jefferson Smith, Lewis Churchill and Matthew Arden have been challenged by Mott MacDonald Bentley and Welsh Water to come up with an alternative to clean the storm tanks at the Abergavenny water treatment plant. After a site visit and 2-day workshop at Cardiff University, the team has come up with



a creative and well-engineered solution with a working prototype, and is preparing to present this to a team of experts. They have found this an incredibly rewarding and interesting project, relating to a real world problem and they are to be commended for the effort they have put into their project!

# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Year 12 enjoyed a fantastic day out at Techniquest in Cardiff on Friday 24th March. They had the opportunity to use laboratory equipment that they wouldn't use until university when studying science degree programmes. The students found the workshop incredibly interesting and lots mentioned how it might make a useful discussion point at university interviews. The course fitted the specification for both A Level and AS Level Biology and many pupils commented on how it has enhanced their understanding of particular specification points. The practical component of the workshop allowed students to perform DNA extraction, PCR, and gel electrophoresis, and demonstrated how a molecular technique can be applied to a major scientific question. This workshop brings together the history of evolution and cutting edge genetic research. Surely there's no better way to bring evolution to life than to look inside your cells and understand the evolutionary history of part of your own DNA?



The Science Department had some fantastic Eisteddfod entries this year, some even made using recyclable materials, and more poems than ever before! The winners were: Year 7, 1st - Maria Padmore, Hafren. 2nd - Stacie Williams and Paige Whitchurch, Ebbw and 3rd - Harvey Redding, Ebbw. Year 8, 1st - Tomos Sherlock, Hafren. 2nd - Ethan Macey, Sirhowy and 3rd - Eleanor Faulkner and Jack Feehan, Rhymni and Sirhowy.

# CAREERS NEWS



**Visit to Lloyds Bank Headquarters** - 'Business Class' is an initiative run by Careers Wales where each local secondary school is partnered with a local business. Bassaleg School is very fortunate to be partnered with Lloyds Bank and we launched this partnership with a visit of the School Council to the Lloyds Bank Headquarters at Tredegar Park. We had a guided tour of the building and an insight into the wide range of departments within what is much more than a bank. We took part in an interactive financial planning session and it was great to see students in mixed age groups working together. Emma Stacey, our Lloyds contact, worked really hard with her colleagues to make the visit enjoyable and educational for our students who clearly very much enjoyed the visit. In the future, our students will be working alongside Lloyds staff on 'A Day To Make a Difference'. This is a programme where Lloyds staff give up a day to help us make improvements to the school site. We are also planning a day for Year 9 in the summer term where students will work with Lloyds on employability skills and building a personal brand.

**6th Form Graduate Talks** - Lloyds Bank were in school again to lead two very useful sessions on student finance with Year 12 and 13 students. Lloyds Bank graduate scheme members, including a former pupil, led informative presentations on how student finance works, how to budget and how to live on more than baked beans!

**Year 10 Apprenticeship Talk by Aldi** - Megan Watkins, leader of the Aldi Apprenticeship team, gave a very informative talk to Year 10 about the different apprenticeships available from Aldi. We also offered talks by Careers Wales on apprenticeships at our recent Year 10 parents' evenings and have a Lloyds Bank event on apprenticeships planned for this year



group for the summer term. As apprenticeships become increasingly important as a career choice, we will continue to work hard to provide our students with as much information as possible on this fast growing area.

# CAREERS NEWS



**Careers Fayre** - On Thursday 16th February we held our annual Careers Fayre. With 42 Employers in attendance, this was a really useful and informative event for our Year 9 and 12 students who were able to discuss careers options with a wide range of local and regional businesses. The event was made possible, as it is every year, by the fantastic organisational efforts of Mrs P Williams who worked to secure exhibitors. The event also was brilliantly supported by Miss J Satherley. We are extremely grateful to them for their dedication and attention to detail in making this such a successful and well attended event. We received some very positive feedback from both Employers and parents following the event.



**Primary School Placements for Health and Social Care Students** - Nine Year 12 Health and Social Care students attended a one week work placement with a number of our local Primary Schools. These are students studying this A Level with a view to working with children in the future. This work experience also forms part of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification's Community Hours and was a great success with very positive feedback from primary schools and students involved.



**Year 11 Employability & Apprenticeship Sessions** - Students who had expressed an interest in college or apprenticeships attended sessions on CV writing and job applications led by ITEC and Careers Wales. Then Lloyds Bank and Costain delivered two highly interactive and informative sessions on apprenticeships. A huge thank you to Mrs J Wheatley for organizing these very impactful events. Three of our Year 11 students are actively pursuing Lloyds Apprenticeships following this session.

**Our Careers Wales Advisor** - We are very fortunate to have a careers advisor based in school. Mrs Gaynor Nash works actively with students in guiding them towards key choices. She would be happy to have an appointment with any student from any year group. If you would like

to make an appointment during school hours for your child please contact your Head Of Year or Mrs P Williams in Griffin Office.

# WELSH DEPARTMENT



On Wednesday March 1st Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils gathered together, in Griffin and Forge hall to experience a range of music and literary performances, celebrations and friendly competition as we held our annual Eisteddfodau. The pupils eagerly await this time of year when they can celebrate and embrace Welsh culture. Pupils competed in a variety of competitions including Welsh recitations, sketches, class songs, instrumental

performances and class choral competitions. Lainie-May Fretwell 7FSC and Tegan Williams 8NB were crowned Bards of the Eisteddfodau. Musicians of the year were Jacob Slater Yr 7, Sam Lewis and Peter Taylor Yr 8 and Harry Bagwell Yr 9. The Welsh Department would like to thank the pupils and staff for their hard work and efforts leading up to the Eisteddfodau. We are all very proud of our pupils. Llongyfarchiadau pawb! Congratulations everyone!



In March, 43 of our Year 9 pupils spent the weekend immersed in the Welsh language on our trip to the Glan-Ilyn centre in Bala. Everyone had an excellent

time and all the pupils were such a pleasure - the Glan-Ilyn centre staff also thought so! A huge DIOLCH and da iawn to everyone who went! From Miss Greentree, Miss Osborne, Mr Scott and Mr Hall!

# GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



Year 12 Geographers have just returned from a busy residential visit to Pembrokeshire staying at Orierton Field Centre. As part of the new A Level specification, students must complete four days of fieldwork and so we did not waste a moment. The students were excellent, coping with the torrential rain and working until 9pm in the classroom every evening. They investigated



the cliff geology and processes around Stackpole (from a safe distance), the sea defences in Saundersfoot Bay, the perception of place in Tenby and the sand dunes in Freshwater West.

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

We saw out the winter term with two fantastic evenings of Christmas music in which all of our groups performed festive items alongside some year 9 drama pupils who recreated scenes from Dylan Thomas's "A Child's Christmas in Wales." We began the evening with a massed performance of the 12th century carol "Gaudete" performed by over 150 singers which was very atmospheric. All of our pupils were, as always, spectacular on both nights and we were delighted to see the famous staff choir make its debut, much to the delight of the pupils.

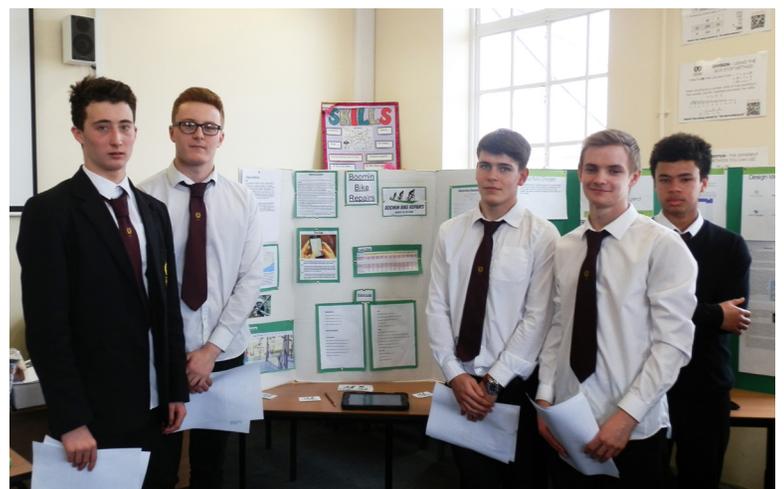
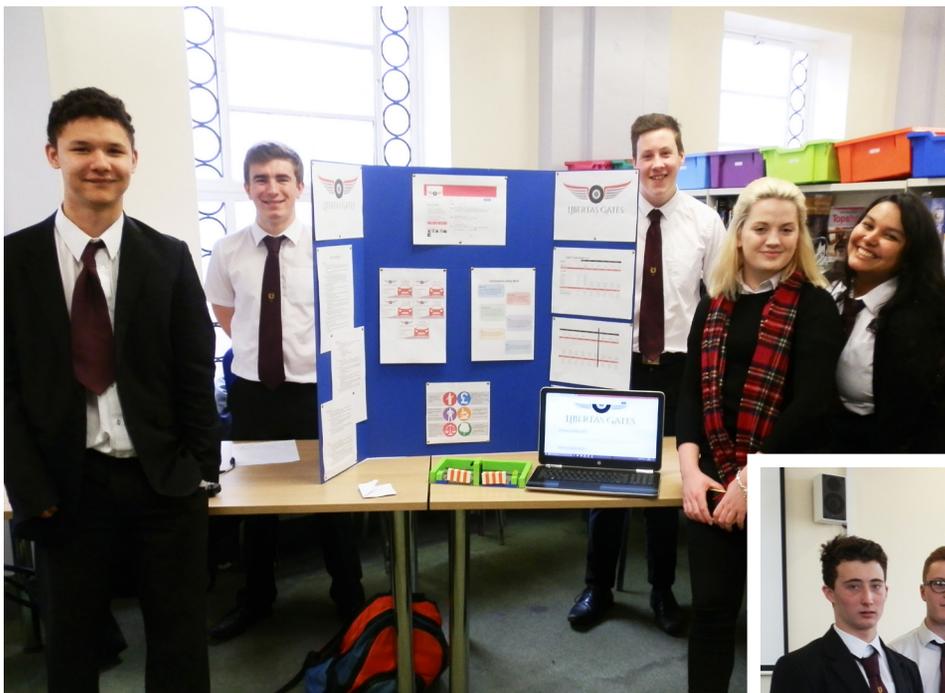
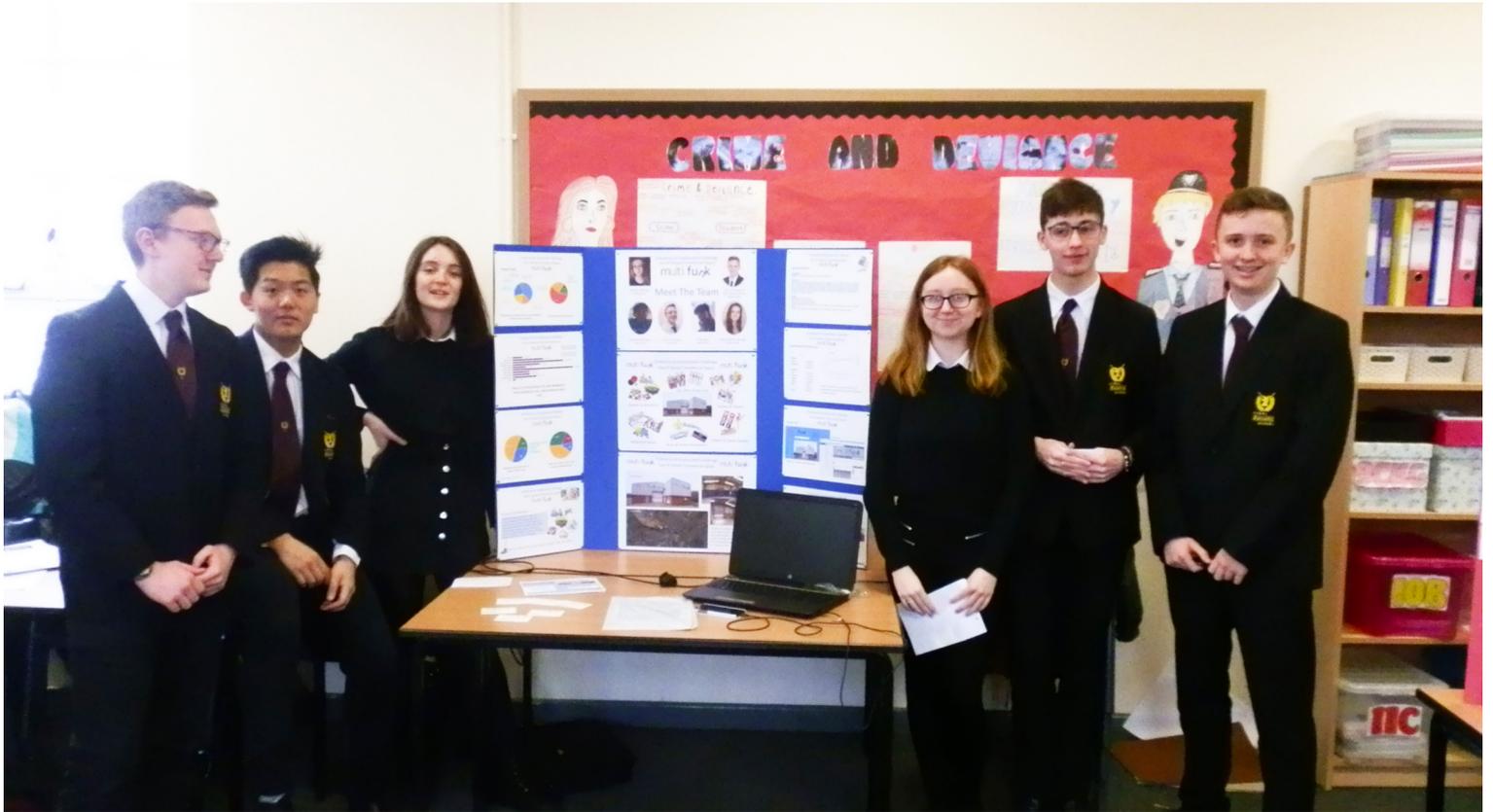
On the last day of term, the Music department were thrilled once again to help with the School Carol Services with Junior Choir helping out in St. Basils and Wind Band in School. It was a lovely way to finish off the term with these carol services. As has become a tradition, the 6th Form also went carol singing on the last day raising a fantastic £220 for Foodbank, Newport.



This term has seen 9 of our Year 13 musicians competing in the Rotary Young Musician of the year competition. Isabella Armishaw, Rhiannon Bray, Noah Jones, Bethan Lewis, Harry Rayner, Alice Sharp, Alex Sweet and Seren Thomas competed in the instrumental category while Ellie Thomas competed in the vocal class. All of our pupils performed well; many congratulations to Ellie and Alex who won the initial round of the competition with Alex going on to come second in Round 2.

Our Year 11 pupils have been practising furiously this term and all performed well in their recent practical GCSE examinations. The moderator was thrilled with the standard of musicianship they displayed. Well done to all. A level pupils have their exam to look forward to next month!

# WELSH BACCALAUREATE



Congratulations to Year 10 and 13 WBQ students who completed their Dragons Den pitches for their Enterprise assessment. It has been a daunting experience for students as they have been grilled by local business people. The experts have been extremely impressed with the creative ideas and the high standard business plans. Thank you to

all the staff from Lloyds Bank, New Directions, Mrs Bobbett, Mr Evans, Ms C Phillips, Miss G Tapsell, Mrs Tuck and Mr Hague for giving up their time to be the Dragons in these assessments.

The Welsh Baccalaureate Department appreciate your fantastic input.

May 2017					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
1 May Day School Closed	2	3	4	5	
8	9 Year 8 Parents' Evening (2)	10	11	12 Year 12 Study Leave Begins	
15 Parent Forum 4	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26 Yrs 8 & 9 (Girls Only) HPV immunisations	
29	30 HALF TERM SCHOOL CLOSED	31		Last Day for Year 13	

June 2017					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14 YEAR 12 STUDY LEAVE ENDS	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	
			1 HALF TERM SCHOOL CLOSED	2	

July 2017					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
3 INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14 Collaboration Lessons end for Year 12	
17	18	19 Community Week	20	21	
24	25	26 SUMMER HOLIDAY	27	28	
31					

August 2017					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17 A Level Results Day	18	
21	22	23	24 GCSE Results Day	25	
28	29	30	31		
	1	2	3	4	