



# Llais Llangatwg Voice

## PUPILS SHINE AT AWARDS EVENING

ISSUE  
80  
CHRISTMAS  
2011

October signals the time of year when Llangatwg Community school celebrates the achievements of its pupils during the last academic year. This year was no exception when pupils, staff and parents gathered to celebrate these achievements. Llangatwg goes from strength to strength as once again, GCSE results hit a record high. Without doubt, our Year 11 pupils have just achieved the best set of evening not only celebrated National and International Netball, Dance Aerobics, Awards, Music, Drama, the World of Work. The faculties are representative areas of the curriculum, at strength and depth in their excellent results. It is also awards evening so that they



awards this year were won by Sarah Wells, Mollie Steers, Alys Bevan, Shannon Chambers, Jessica Preddy, David Slarke and Joe Evans. Mollie Steers (pictured right) won the most prestigious award of the night, Young Achiever of the Year Award, for both her academic success and her massive contribution to Music and the school community throughout her years at Llangatwg. We would like to thank, most sincerely, everyone who presented the awards, including Mr Karl Napieralla OBE (Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning), Peter Hain MP and Councillor J Williams (Mayor of Neath Town Council). Well done to all of our award winners, past and present.



Llangatwg Headteacher, Mr Skilton, recently had the opportunity to travel to China on an educational visit. He reports that "Our visit was part of the 2011 Chinese Bridge for UK Schools programme. Teachers

from five Local Authorities in England and Wales travelled to China to find out more about their education system and to start working in partnership with individual Chinese schools. The visit was jointly funded by the British Council and the Chinese organization, Han-ban which is responsible for encouraging and developing the teaching of Chinese throughout the World". You can read Mr Skilton's full report on his visit on our website at:

[www.llangatwg.org.uk](http://www.llangatwg.org.uk) .....(Tel: 01639634700)

**NEW CENTRE TO OPEN ITS DOORS AT LLANGATWG:** An exciting and invaluable new family service is about to open its doors at Llangatwg Community School. The **LLANGATWG CHILDREN'S SERVICES CENTRE**, will offer support to parents and pupils of families who maybe experiencing a diverse range of family difficulties. The support on offer at the centre will include resident representatives from Social Services, Drug and Alcohol abuse councillors and our Education Welfare Officer. The service is available to both parents and children who feel that they need emotional and social help and support. Rather than having to travel to different locations to meet with different councillors for a variety of reasons, the **Children's Services Centre** staff will be housed in one building at the school. This should ensure easier access for families to have the help and support they need, under one roof.

**HEADTEACHER'S REPORT:** As another busy year draws to a close, we at Llangatwg can look back with a great deal of pride to the successes of our pupils, to date. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all members of staff for their hard work in supporting our pupils in both their academic and extra curricular achievements. You, our parents, are very much appreciated for the support you give to both your children and to the school as a whole. Whether it is transporting your children to after school and weekend activities at school or standing on blustery touchlines supporting our wide ranging sporting teams, your support is very much in evidence. We look forward to once again working closely together during the coming year.

May I remind you that Llangatwg school will close for the Christmas holiday on Thursday, 22nd, December at 2.00pm. We have a staff Inset day on 9th, January 2012, so therefore, school will recommence for pupils on Tuesday, 10th, January. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

*R Skilton*

OUR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FETE WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER IN THE MAIN SCHOOL HALL, STARTING AT 11. 10am (all welcome). JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS THROUGH MUSIC, SONG AND POETRY, IN THE MAIN SCHOOL HALL ON TUESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER AT 6.30pm. We will be joined this year by Catwg Primary School Choir.





**PEER MENTORS:** The **Year 10** peer mentors have taken part in a cross county celebration event held at Margam Orangery. They contributed to the county evaluation project and brought back some new ideas on how we can improve the service in Llangatwg. The group received a talk from Paul Wainhouse, who founded the Mentoring and Befriending Society, and also had lunch with the Mayor. Well done to all involved- you are a credit to the school.

The peer mentors have **changed the location** of their drop in centre **at lunchtimes**. They are now available in the **Library** for **any Year 7 pupils** who feel they want to chat or just fancy dropping by to play a board game.

**Careers News: Year 11** Pupils at Llangatwg have visited the college and have been involved in group work to discuss their options 16+. They also had a talk from Nigel Cram from NPTCVS to stress the importance of enhancing their CV for the competitive world of work and higher education. Some pupils have had talks from Cardiff University about studying Maths and science at university. **Year 9** pupils have a session with local businessmen and entrepreneurs. As part of the Dynamo project, pupils were asked to consider whether they were enterprising enough to start their own business- it seems we already have some budding Alan Sugars in the year group! **Year 10** should by now have a work experience placement ready for DATE. If anyone has not returned a consent form or placement form, please see Mr. Nicholas. **Year 7** enhanced their key skills with careers wales at Carnival Day. Pupils had their attitudes to entrepreneurship challenged and also had a fun day making and presenting their ideas to their peers. Thanks to Mrs Perdue for her excellent preparation and organisation of all the events.

**Enterprise** has had another successful year at Llangatwg. The "Golden Girls" team, led by Mrs Morgan, won the "In School Challenge", organised by Careers Wales. They then went on to represent Llangatwg at the Swansea Bay Young Dragons area final, at the Aberavon Beach Hotel. Their business had to have an Olympic theme. Unlike previous years, the teams had to present a "virtual business". The girls "produced" a range of foreign language speaking dolls that included a phrase book of useful phrases, including French, German and Italian. The team were very fortunate to have their very own



Business Advisor, Mrs Gill Jordan of BT, who helped and advised the girls about the world of business. We thought that Gill looked familiar when we met her for the first time. (We soon found out that she was Mrs Popham's sister). Gill's expertise in the world of business helped the girls tremendously in the weeks leading up to the competition. Mrs Morgan and the team are very grateful for her invaluable support throughout the process. The girls finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in a very impressive line up of teams

from all of the Community/Comprehensive schools in the Neath Port-Talbot area.

**CHOCOLATE HEAVEN!!** The generosity of three of our pupils and their family raised over £200 for Children In Need. With the help of their mother, Joe Mahoney (Y10), Scott Mahoney (Y9) and younger sister Sophie (Y7) made up a mouth watering Chocolate Hamper (which was a daily source of temptation for our Office Staff who were entrusted with its safe keeping—well done, ladies there wasn't a tooth mark in any of those chocolates when the eventual winner collected it). Joe, Scott and Sophie each donated £5 of their own money towards the cost of the hamper while other family members also made generous contributions towards its cost. The three sold raffle tickets during their break and lunchtimes to raise as much money as they could for this very worthwhile charity. The winner of this "feast" was Jessica Isaac Y7. Yummy, scrummy !!!!



50 pupils in Year 9 recently took the opportunity to visit Swansea University for an open day. The pupils enjoyed a tour of the facilities (including the famous Egypt Centre), and a chance to chat to students about life and study there. They also took part in group challenges to promote their confidence and teamwork. A great time was had by all, and many pupils returned more focused than ever to succeed at school and go on to Further Educa-

**COMPETITION:** Are you a budding photographer? Well, spend some of your Christmas holiday photographing something that you think shows winter at its best. It could be a view, animals, birds, a snowy scene with something or someone interesting in it. We're looking for something different and unusual (even funny). We're lucky to have Mr G Evans (Science), who is an accomplished photographer, to help us, at the Newsletter, to judge the competition. Hand in your entries (with your name, form and a brief explanation of why you took the photograph) to Mrs Morgan in O5. Closing date for your entries is **Thursday, 12h JANUARY 2012. No late entries, sorry.**

The winning entry will have their photograph printed onto an A4, 2012 Calendar with a further six copies for friends and family. (Yes, we know we'll miss part of January, but we'll move quickly to select the winner!!!!)



**OXFORD UNIVERSITY VISIT:** On November 25<sup>th</sup>, 27 Year 9 pupils went to St. John's College, Oxford to find out about life and study there. Led by Mr Millington (a former student at St John's) and Mrs Jenkinson, the pupils were given a tour of the college and the city. The trip finished off in the amazing Pitt Rivers Museum. There, the pupils examined artefacts including shrunken heads, a mummified corpse and weaponry from as far back as the Norman period. Hopefully this experience will increase pupils' motivation to achieve success and go to a top University in the future.





The Art department held a wonderful exhibition of GCSE work at the Aberavon Shopping Centre, alongside all other Comprehensive schools in the Neath Port Talbot area. The GCSE Art-work that pupils of Llangatwg produced was of an exceptional standard and was, unquestionably, the best!! The work was inspirational, unique and exciting to look at.

This reflected the hard work that the pupils put into their work (and obviously, the nagging by Mrs Popham and Mrs Hickmott inspired the pupils to get their work finished on time and to a very high standard). The art Department had another successful year with two pupils each achieving 2 A\* grades each. The department is eagerly looking forward to see what this year's Year 11 classes can achieve.



Past pupil Lauren Pittard has recently won a competition where she won £50 for herself and also £50 for school after her ceramic work was entered into a competition in an Art supplies catalogue by Mrs Popham and Miss Barker. Lauren's work will now feature in the new catalogue. Well done, Lauren.

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There is rarely a quiet moment in the **Music Department** and already, preparations are underway for our forthcoming musical. In February, Mrs Evans (Miss Newbrook) and her team will present "The Wizard of Oz". The main cast members have been chosen and are: Kayleigh Clement as Dorothy, Josh Jones is the Tin Man, Rhys Millington is the Lion and Lewis Amphlett Thomas, the Scarecrow.

As a reward for their hard work in producing last year's phenomenally successful musical, "We Will Rock You" Mrs Evans and the main cast (of our former pupils) were invited to London by Sabrina Alouche, to see her very last West End performance as Scaramouche. Sabrina had kindly visited the Music Department to lead a workshop for the cast members leading up to the school production. We wish Miss Alouche all the very best as she pursues other leading roles in the future.

The **Welsh** and **Music Departments** have joined together to arrange a trip to Cardiff in December. Pupils will experience the Santa tour at the Millennium Stadium, see Oliver in Wales Millennium Centre and go ice-skating at Winter wonderland. **(A cultural Triathlon!!)**.

Congratulations to former pupil **Ben Bateman** who continues to enjoy success with the **"Only Boys Aloud"** Choir, who recently featured in a television documentary

**JOKE BOX.....JOKE BOX.....JOKE BOX.....JOKE BOX.....**

A man left the snow filled streets of Chicago for a holiday in sunny Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was meeting him the next day. When he got to the hotel, he decided to send his wife an email. Unfortunately, when typing her email address, he missed a letter, so instead, the email went to an old Vicar's wife whose husband had died a day earlier. When the lady looked at the screen, she screamed and fainted. Her family rushed into the room and saw the email on the screen.. It said: Dearest Wife, I've just arrived and everything is ready for your arrival tomorrow. Ps, It sure is hot down here!!!

**Q** What did the lawyer name his daughter??

**Sue.....Ha!Ha!**

**Q** Where would you find a one legged dog?

**Where you left it!! He! He!**

**Q** What is pink and fluffy?

**Pink fluff! Ho! Ho! Jokes supplied by Catrin Widlake 9R**

**Can you do better? Take your jokes to the Newsletter Team in 05**



**SPORTS NEWS AND FUNDRAISING**

**School Biathlon**

Pupils will be competing in the schools biathlon which will consist of a run and a swim. **Year7's**- Swim 50metres and Run 500metres  
**Year8-11** Swim 100mtres Run 1km  
Watch this space for result

**GIRLS FOOTBALL:** Training every **Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes**

Training every **Wednesday after-school 3.30 - 4.30pm** late bus home.

Under 14's Girls played in the Welsh cup against Dyffryn but lost even though they put up a really gutsy performance. Well done girls

Year 7's played against Cwmtawe and won 3-1. **More players needed for us to improve even further.**

**YEAR 7 NETBALL RESULTS:**

Well done to all the year 7 girls who played their first netball match Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October before half term. They played Cwmtawe and won 3 out of their 5 matches, therefore winning overall. On Tuesday they played Dyffryn at home. All the girls played really well very against a very strong Dyffryn team. The A team won 5-1, The B team drew 3-3. Well done girls  
A good start to the season with fantastic support from parents. Training every Tuesday 3.30-4.40pm

**YEAR 8 NETBALL TEAM RESULTS**

Year 8's have not lost a match this season  
15<sup>th</sup> September Cwmtawe 2-0  
28<sup>th</sup> September St Joesphs 11-6  
6<sup>th</sup> October Dwr-y-Felin 11-4  
18<sup>th</sup> October Cwrt Sart 8-2and2-1

1<sup>st</sup> November Cefn Hengoed 11-5

2<sup>nd</sup> November Cwmtawe 9-3

10<sup>th</sup> November Dyffryn 3-0 and 4-1

**Once again**, Miss Paddison arranged a netball shoot out for **Children in Need**. An amazing **£310.10** was raised during the lesson Well done Year7 and your generous sponsors. This will help increase other money raised by the school on the day, to over £1000.

**Year 7 Netball V Cefn Saeson.** Report by **Jenna Howells** (Team Captain): The team are now bonding together and played very well. **Chelsea** and **Jordanna** were **EXCELLENT** shooters. I thoroughly enjoyed the match and was pleased to score most goals. **Paige Walker** (player of the match) had a brilliant game, being both fast and a great marker of her opponent. In my opinion, we need to work more on our defending as a team, even though we played a fantastic game. There is always room for improvement but I felt proud to be part of such a determined and sporting team. A great, hard fought win to us by 19-16 Well done everyone!! :) **Y8 won 16-0. Brilliant**

# sports Roundup

The PE and French Departments are offering pupils, currently in Year 7, the opportunity to participate in a two-centre adventure activity trip to Southern France and Spain. The trip (subject to Governors approval) will take place from 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 when the pupils are in year 8. The trip will consist of a variety of water-based activities such as windsurfing, canoeing, kayaks, banana boats, catamaran sailing and of course, swimming. As most things are included in the price, pupils will require very little in the way of spending money.

All activities are organized and supervised by qualified instructors and will be tailored to suit the age and abilities of each child.

You can take a look at the website at [www.pgl.co.uk](http://www.pgl.co.uk). Click on the Two Centre Adventure – Ardeche/Med. The trip includes two days descending the dramatic Ardèche Gorge, the most fantastic open boating river in Europe, returning to base each night. One day at the centre, taking part in some of the activities on offer such as Archery, Cat Walk, Jacob's Ladder, Mountain Biking and the Trapeze.

Then, spend three days on the Mediterranean relaxing and trying out a great range of water activities such as Body Boarding, Catamarans, Ocean Riders, Longboats, Ringos, Sailing, Sit-on Kayaks, Windsurfing and Snorkeling. As the trip is not planned until 2013, you will be able to pay the cost of the trip in small monthly installments if you wish and payment cards will be provided for this purpose. More information about payment schedules etc will be provided if you decide to sign up for the trip. The provisional cost of the 9-Day trip will be £750.00 this will include 8 nights and 9 days, accommodation, food, activities and travel by ferry and executive coach to and from school plus a t-shirt. To secure a place on the trip we will require a £50.00 deposit before the 19th December 2011. This deposit is non refundable, should you decide to withdraw from the trip. However, in the event of cancellation by the school, all monies will be refunded in full. There will be 35 places available for boys and girls in year 7 and this will work on a first come first serve basis. Please do not send cash. Cheques should be made payable to Llangatwg Girls P.E. The possibility of organizing some fundraising activities to offset the cost of the trip is also being considered and any ideas and input will be welcomed for consideration. Any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact the PE Department at the school. (01639 634700).

**Kayleigh Silva** is now British Dance Gymnastics Champion - very closely missing out on "World Domination"!

**Kirsty O'Donnell** is a member of the Welsh Ladies Youth Football Development squad and recently spent a week at one of their training camps. Kirsty has already represented Wales several times at this level and to top it off, has scored twice.

**Connor Roberts** is a very lucky young man. He has recently been signed by Swansea City FC as an apprentice. When he leaves school in the summer, Connor will take up his "paid" job and hopefully, "live the dream" Well done Connor.

Thanks to the support of the head teacher and teaching staff at Llangatwg, Connor trains with the Swansea City Youth Team every Tuesday morning without missing out or falling behind with his schoolwork.

**Daniel Jervis** has recently been invited to train with the Swansea Swimming Club. Daniel is currently a Welsh Swimming Champion and is ranked 12 in the Great Britain Juniors Swimming listings. Hopefully, we'll be cheering Daniel on in the 2016 Olympics!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## OSPREYS AND AFAN NEDD SUCCESS

Lewis Evans and Dafydd Harvey (both 110) have made an excellent start for the Ospreys Under 16's. Both were selected after a lengthy selection process starting in December 2010. They have appeared regularly in the Inter Regional Competitions. Ashley Isaac and Tyler Davies have also been playing well for the Afan Nedd District Under 16's team.

**RUGBY Round Up:** Following a defeat to Ystalyfera, Year 7 boys responded with a fine win over Maesydderwen, winning 10–7. Tries were scored by BJ Evans and Ittichai Khemthong. The Year 8 team recorded an excellent win away to Ystalyfera, winning 29–12. Year 9 have been playing Welsh Cup matches. Unfortunately, they lost to Ystalyfera in their first match and drew with Maesydderwen. Tries were scored by Aled Cockwell and Rhys Herbert. Commenting after the match, Paul Napier told our reporter that he had forgotten his boots. Luckily, he was able to borrow Mr Williams'. Paul said that he had never felt fitter or faster during a game. He could perform skills that he never thought possible. Magic boots?? The Y11's have played two Welsh Cup matches but lost both, 42-31 against Dwr-y-Felin and 45-12 against Ystalyfera.



**Neath School's Rugby:** The following Llangatwg pupils have represented Neath Schools under 15's this season: Liam Owens, Keelan Marney, Josh Morris, Adam Nation, Jack Reynolds, Dylan Francis, William Thomas, Jacob French and First Khemthong. The boys have played in the Dewar Shield Competition which is the oldest cup competition in the world. Neath lost their first two cup matches to Pontypriidd and Rhondda and drew their third against North Wales, South. A win in their last match against Islwyn will guarantee that Neath qualify to play in the Morgan Griffiths Plate.

**Year 9 Match Report—By Dylan Evans, 9R**  
Llangatwg v Maesydderwen: Llangatwg were looking strong within the first 10 minutes of the game with some strong running coming from Aled Cockwell and Paul Napier. After 15 minutes of hard work pressuring the Maesydderwen defence, a break from Tom Adams-Norton put Aled Cockwell through for a try. Tom Adams-Norton converted. Maesydderwen bounced back with a try but failed to convert. H.T 7–5. Thanks to dogged determination, and with Llangatwg's forward driving on into the opposition's half, Tom Adams-Norton put up a clever kick behind the defence for Aled Cockwell to chase and score. Llangatwg boys continued to punish the Maesydderwen defence for a further ten minutes but conceded a break-away try. Their outside half comfortably converted in front of the posts. The "never say die" spirit was very much in evidence as the Llangatwg boys bounced back with

some strong attacking play in a whole team effort. The final score was 12–12. A fantastic game with a great team spirit. Well done Year 9. (Look out for Dylan's next action packed report.)

**KARATE:** Talented James Griffiths of 7D, has been awarded a Black Belt grading in karate. He will be presented with his Black Belt next Month. Well done James, a great achievement at such a young age.

**ARE YOU A BUDDING REPORTER? Or would you like your news to be included in the Newsletter?** Mrs Morgan and her team of reporters meet in O5 on Thursdays at lunchtime. Drop in and take a look!

Congratulations to Selina Jones, of 10A, who recently won the NPTCVS award for volunteering. Selina received her award at a glittering celebration held at NPTCBC. The award celebrates the fact that Selina volunteers both in the community and at school. Well done, Selina, we are all proud of your accomplishments and the dedicated manner in which you give so freely of your time to help others.

