



# Y Ffynnon

The newsletter of Holywell High School  
Cylchlythyr Ysgol Uwchradd Treffynnon

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You can also visit our newsletter on the school web site:  
[www.holywellhighschool.co.uk](http://www.holywellhighschool.co.uk)

## Hwyl yn Aberystwyth! Fun in Aberystwyth Residential Course

HAVING never been Head of Year 7 before I was really pleased that so many of our future pupils came to Aberystwyth with us. Everyone seemed to have a really good time, the food was excellent and there were so many activities, it felt like we never stopped! My favourite part was the water polo games or watching Mr Weir in the climbing room, he could nearly reach the top without climbing!

It was a really busy trip and by the end of it I think everyone was really tired. It was a great



opportunity to meet each other, have fun and make friends, staff included! Pupils' behaviour was excellent and everyone really got stuck in, it was great to be a part of this event.

I would urge any current year 6 parents to make the residential in 2009 a priority. If you're not sure

your children will like it just ask anyone in year 7, we had a great time!

May I sincerely thank all the primary teachers and parents who supported this event and in particular to Mr Weir for organising it.

**Mr Iain Smith**



*'Y Ffynnon is the newsletter of Holywell High School, keeping pupils, parents and other members of the community informed about the life and work of the school.*

*Y Ffynnon ydy cylchlythyr Ysgol Uwchradd Treffynnon, sydd yn rhoi gwybodaeth i ddisgyblion, rhieni ac aelodau eraill o'r gymuned am waith a bywyd yn yr ysgol.*



## Croeso - Mr Tom Chamberlain

My name is Tom Chamberlain, I am 23 years old and I teach history and Politics.

My passion for History and Politics began as a student at Elfed High School in Buckley. Following this I went onto complete a degree in Politics at the University of Liverpool. At this point I felt I needed a break from education and I spent a year working at MBNA Bank in Chester. I quickly realised that my career lay in teaching. Last year I completed my PGCE teacher training qualification at Aberystwyth University, this confirmed I had made the right career move.

As a Flintshire lad I hope that I can inspire the pupils at Holywell High to achieve success in their lives.

In my spare time I enjoy playing and watching football (although as an Everton fan this is not always enjoyable). I also enjoy fishing and the odd music festival.

## Diwrnod Cyfiawnder Justice Day

Three of us were invited to attend a Justice Day in the Crown Court in Mold.

It was very a enjoyable day and we learnt a great deal. We toured the Courts, took part in mock trial, listened to ex-offenders talking about their crimes and rehabilitation and some of us were even electronically tagged.

All the activities were really educational and made us think.

**Magdalena Brezegowy/  
Amy Moor/Kirsten Brooks Year 11**

## Tim Dadlau Debating Team

As the new season gets underway, the team is hoping to be even more successful than last year when they reached two regional finals and an All Wales final.

The team will be entering competitions organised by the Institute of Ideas, the Council for education in World Citizenship Rotary International and the English-Speaking Union.

Any pupil interested in joining the team should see a member of the History and Politics Department.



## Dear Parents and Carers

It is customary at the start of the new school year to congratulate all those students who have done so well in the examinations in the summer and that it how I would like to open my first newsletter of 2008-2009.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the staff and all the parents who have supported students through the examination period. There have been many individual successes by many students which were highlighted in the local press. I do feel that it is really a team effort and we should all recognise that. In terms of the overall positives for the school our A level pass rate improved and our GCSE results were an improvement on last year. Those students in Year 12 have also done well in their AS examinations and these auger well for A level results in 2009. I would like to wish all our students the very best and to encourage them to always strive to their own personal best throughout the year and also to ensure that they ask for all the help they need from their teachers and from home. For those students leaving us at this time I wish them every success in their future learning and careers.

I was inspired by the performance of Team GB in the recent Olympics and Paralympics in Beijing and I am hopeful that students from Holywell will feature in future Olympics with the prospect of being champions. This was the theme of my assemblies at the start of the year. I hope that all our students are able to take some inspiration from the performance of Team GB - with a very healthy Welsh representation - and whilst I do recognise that not everyone can win a gold medal at the Olympics, individuals can be champions in their own right by their dedication and application either in school or in a sport or pastime. My message to students: "Believe in yourselves, you can do it!"

The summer holidays are also tinged with sadness for the school community as one of my colleagues, Mrs Ffion Ellis, died following a battle with cancer. Mrs Ellis had been Head of Welsh at Holywell for 18 years and she taught and inspired many students during this period as well as leading and managing a successful department. Mrs Ellis was a great enthusiast for Welsh and all things Welsh. She was involved in the Urdd and I know that she encouraged many students to participate in Urdd events whether eisteddfodau or otherwise. Mrs Ellis was a pianist and she helped out with musical events at the school. I extend the sympathies of the school community to Mrs Ellis' family.

In the summer Mrs Ellis - despite her illness - also became a champion. She entered a competition in the National Eisteddfod. This was the competition that involved translating a play from English into Welsh. The play that Mrs Ellis translated was "Danny: Champion of the World". Supported and encouraged by her family Mrs Ellis applied herself to this task and through her dogged determination and commitment she translated the play and won the prize. I believe that all of us should take inspiration from Mrs Ellis' achievement and also from her time at Holywell, her commitment to the learning of Welsh and all things Welsh. Some of my

colleagues have written an extended tribute to Mrs Ellis in this newsletter. We will be organising a fundraising event in order to make a donation to the North East Wales Macmillan Nurses in memory of Mrs Ellis. If anybody wished to make a donation please send it to the school marked for my attention.

It is apt at this time of the school year to welcome new students and colleagues to the school. I would like to extend a very warm welcome - croeso cynnes - to all Year 7 students and to any other students joining us in other year groups. Almost half of last year's Year 11 students have returned to the sixth form and I welcome them back and wish them well for the future. We welcome several new members of support and teaching staff. I will list them here and ask that you read the short articles that they have written to introduce themselves: Mr Tom Chamberlain (History), Miss Rebecca Davies (Welsh), Miss Rhian Roberts (Welsh), Mr Guto Jones (Business), Mrs Liz Threadgold (Modern Languages), Miss Amy Jones (Learning Support Assistant), Mr Trevor Marsh (Caretaker), Mr David Roberts (Cover Supervisor) and Mr Lawrence Gallagher (Cover Supervisor).

I would also like to update you on an exciting project that we are starting this year. Students in Year 8 will be using individual mini-laptops in their learning across all subjects. This will not necessarily see students using laptops all of the time but in them using the computers and information and communications technology to enrich the learning experience. This will also be a steep learning curve for our staff who will be learning as much as the students. We are working on this project with the support of the e-learning foundation, the Dixons Store Group and Manchester Metropolitan University. Indeed one of my colleagues - Mrs Pullinger - will be attending a conference at the Barbican in London to make a presentation. We will update you on developments with this project in future newsletters.

All students will have been issued with planners in order to record achievements, study tasks and to enable greater communication between home and school. I encourage you to discuss the planner with your son or daughter and to use it in order to communicate with staff at school. Please check the key dates section of this newsletter and watch out for any up and coming Parents' Evenings or other events at school. Parents are welcome in school at any time, however, it is desirable to telephone in advance in order to make an appointment with a member of staff.

Finally, I would like to wish all students and their families all the very best for this school year 2008-2009.

Yours sincerely,

**John Putt - Headteacher**

# T.O.P.s (Talent Opportunities Programme)

TWO VISITS to Bangor University have been arranged so far: one in Year 9 for the day, and the other in Year 10 for a few days.

Teachers and pupils were accommodated in student rooms and experienced first hand what it is like to share a kitchen! Bangor University students were on hand to provide activities and to answer questions. A good time was had by all, and Year 9 pupils have a lot to look forward to.

I should like to thank all the staff for arranging and supporting this event.

The following pupils had this to say:

*I really enjoyed the visit to Bangor University because we had fun. We had our own rooms which was good and we all enjoyed the experience.*

**Joe Travers**

*I loved it because it showed what Uni was like and I want to go to Bangor when I'm older. We all enjoyed the visit.*

**Marc Stamatiou**

## Cyfnewid Caer-Wynt Winchester Exchange

During this term we will again be exchanging pupils with Britain's oldest and one of its most successful public schools, Winchester College whose motto is "Manners Maketh Man".

This will be the third year in which we have exchanged with Winchester, enabling teachers and pupils from both institutions to teach and learn in very a different environment.

Everyone who has participated has thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt they have learnt a great deal from it.

## Mwyaf Galluog

- Siarad Cyhoeddus

Most Able

- Public-Speaking

Some of the most able pupils in Flintshire will soon be coming to Holywell High to learn about public-speaking and debating.

In a County-wide initiative, Holywell has been selected as a centre for a series of workshops led by Mr Collins.

## Mwyaf Galluog -

Barddoniaeth

Most Able - Poetry

Mr Tom Hopkins has been invited by the County to work with some of its most able pupils.

During this year these pupils will attend a series of poetry appreciation classes at Holywell High.

## Work Experience

*I went to Calcoed Kennels for my work experience last July and really enjoyed it. I got on well with the staff. The best part was walking the dogs and now I work at the kennels some weekend.*

**Kerry Jones 11ME**

## Galluog a Thalentog yn ymweld a Phrifysgol Rhydychen Visit to Oxford University

Some of the Most Able and Talented pupils in Flintshire will be visiting Oxford University next month.

The County has asked Mr J Collins to organise visits for Year 10 pupils from Flintshire's secondary schools. The day will include talks by staff and undergraduates at Jesus and St. John's College, workshops and a visit to Oxford's world famous Natural History museum.

## LLWYDDIANT CYN-DDISGYBL EX-PUPIL'S SUCCESS

CONGRATULATIONS to ex-pupil Clair Homard (Audley). Clair has been headteacher at Ysgol Gronant and now she has been promoted to Senior Primary Officer - Early Year/ Foundation Phase.

*All your former teachers are proud of your achievements.*

## Adran Hanes a Gwleidyddiaeth History and Politics Department

A programme of outside speakers has been arranged for those studying Politics this year.

Representatives of all the major parties and a number of pressure groups have been invited.

Every four years we organise an

American style Presidential election to raise awareness of the importance of this event and its relevance to us.

Once again, there will be cheer leaders, flags, posters, placards, loud music and political speakers as we take part in our own American election day.

## Llwyddiant mewn arholiadau i'r drymwyr Exam success for drummers

The following pupils have done really well in their ABRSM grade exams last July:

Tomas Seel Year 10 achieved a distinction in his Grade 2 drum exam.  
Anwen Edwards Year 10 achieved a merit in her Grade 2 drum exam.  
Rebecca Hall Year 10 achieved a distinction in her Grade 3 drum exam.  
John Sandham Davies Year 11 achieved a distinction in his Grade 3 drum exam.

Mr M Seale

## Sioe Ysgol School Show

After the terrific success of Grease last year everyone is eagerly awaiting news of this year's school show.

There have already been pre-production meetings and staff are considering a number of options.

One thing is for certain, it will be great fun and provide lots of opportunities for staff and pupils to work together.

## Prize Giving

A highly successful and enjoyable prize-giving evening was held at the end of last term.

Prizes were awarded by Councillor Chris Bithell to pupils for academic, community and sporting achievements in front of a very large audience of proud parents, who also enjoyed some wonderful musical performances.

We were also delighted to welcome back Sir Ronald Waterhouse, formerly an ex-pupil of our school, and one of Britain's most senior judges, who saw his particular prize awarded to Rachel Jenkinson for her academic achievements.

Rachel is going to the University of Bangor to read History.

## Tacluso'r ysgol Environment litter pick



AT THE end of last term we did a litter pick involving the year seven pupils. First off we had a talk from Flintshire Countryside Rangers about litter affecting animals and their habitats.

We went off in forms and picked a team leader for each class. Dr Clarke assigned us to different areas of the school grounds and we picked litter. All the litter that was picked had to be put into bags and sorted into the following categories:

- Cans
- Plastic bottles
- Paper and cardboard
- General waste
- Plastic bags

We collected litter for three hours. The team leaders filled in a survey about how many bags we collected and how many contained recyclable litter. Throughout the litter pick everyone had gloves and pickers to pick up the rubbish so health and safety came into account.

When we had finished our three hour litter pick each form gave

their survey in and the results were:-

- 1st place** - 7.6 with 15 bags
- 2nd place** - 7.1 with 14 bags
- 3rd place** - 7.3 with 13 bags

The weather was great and everyone enjoyed themselves the day was a great success. We would like to say thanks to the Staff and Rangers for organizing the day for us.

**Bethan Williams and Fern Davies**

## Croeso - Mr Trevor Marsh - Gofalwr/Caretaker

I come from Hawarden, where I live with my wife and two young children. I have worked at various schools in the Flintshire area, Holywell being the latest.

I spend some of my time working at Greenfield Primary School as Caretaker I

also work with Flintshire Youth & Community Department throughout Flintshire area working with teenagers in the community.

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome at Holywell High School.

# Clwb Paffio/Boxing Club

## Blwyddyn 11 a 10/Year 11 and 10

### AIMS

- You will develop commitment and dedication through regular training.
- Your confidence and self-esteem will improve.
- Stamina and endurance levels will be raised.
- Strength and speed will be increased.
- Hand and eye co-ordination will be improved.
- Footwork and balance will develop.
- You will be able to release any unwanted aggression in a controlled environment.
- You will gain a greater degree of self-control.

All the above can only be achieved through regular training.

There are 40 places available, 10 girls and 30 boys. If you are interested, the club will run from 3.30 to 4.30 in the boys' gym on a Tuesday and Thursday evening. There will be a cost of 50p per session to pay for equipment.

You must bring some sort of gym gear, trainers, non-fizzy drink and a towel. If you have your own skipping rope or bag mitts please bring them.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. You will need to see me to get on the list.

The usual school rules of good behaviour will apply.

Mr G M Roberts

# Anti-bullying efforts recognised

## Local young heroes honoured with Diana Anti-Bullying Award

HOLYWELL High School is delighted to announce that their Sixth Form Peer Listening group 2007-2008 have been honoured with the Diana Anti-Bullying Award. This Award recognises the work that young people of all ages do to combat the problem of bullying in schools and communities.

The Sixth Formers have been chosen for the Award because of their inspirational qualities that are demonstrated through their commitment and work in the field of making a difference to tackling bullying.

"We at Holywell High School are very proud of our Diana Award holders. We will continue to make nominations for this prestigious award. The value to our young people is immense".

Maggie Turner, Director of the Diana Award, says "Many young people across the UK are doing some amazing work to

tackle bullying and we are delighted to be able to recognise their achievements through the Diana Anti-Bullying Award.

We welcome nominations from organisations and schools across the country".

- Congratulations to the following:
- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Megan Edwards    | Reuben Allan     |
| Sophie Dawson    | Leanne Foulkes   |
| Kirstie Dolphin  | Deborah Kendrick |
| Charlotte Pierce | David McCully    |
| Katie Davies     | C Blomeley       |

## First Impressions

I have really settled in and I got to know many pupils on the Residential in Aberystwyth.

Darcy Owen-Jones

I'm settled in and all my friends are. We know what to do and where to go. We're also having lots of fun so I just hope we all can still have as much fun as we're having now for the rest of our years in Holywell High School.

Chloe Smith

Holywell High School is different from primary school, but I still like it. I know my way round and I like all the classes. I am sure that Holywell High will teach me a lot throughout the years.

Chloe Ball

## Da iawn wir Michael Well done Michael

We were all delighted to hear the news that Michael Fletcher, one of our ex-pupils has been very successful in his recent examinations.

Michael has just graduated in History from Chester University with a top class degree and he also won the History prize.

Michael returned to school to see us and to thank all the teaching and learning support staff for their help and encouragement.

### Great success at A Level

Advanced level results continue to improve at our school. Ninety-five percent of our students passed their A levels, with many achieving C and above.

All students who applied to University have secured places.

Well done to all/Daiawn wir.

## Croeso

### - Mrs Threadgold

My name is Mrs Liz Threadgold and I am a new teacher in the Modern Languages Department specialising in French.

I went to school in Wrexham and then studied for my A-levels at Yale. I went to University in Bangor where I completed my degree in French and Russian and then my PGCE in French. I had a brilliant time at university and made many life-long friends there. I used to work in Flint High School and I remember Miss Boulter being a pupil there, (I was a very young teacher then of course!) I am excited to be starting my new job at Holywell High and I have already enjoyed meeting my new pupils and new colleagues. On Wednesday 3rd September I suddenly remembered what it feels like to be a Year 7 pupil again!

I hope that I can make my students feel as enthusiastic about learning languages as I do. I believe that learning a new language really does open up new horizons for you; speaking from personal experience it has helped me a lot when travelling.

In my free time I love listening to all sorts of music—currently my favourite bands are The Feeling and Scouting for Girls but in fact I will listen to almost anything. I spend a lot of time with my family; I love baking cakes, reading and playing 'Tops Trumps' with my two little boys. I have been involved in girl guiding since I was seven years old and now I am an assistant guide leader in Hawarden. Last year I took my Guides to Switzerland where we enjoyed mountain walking, using a zip-wire and chocolate! Things I hate: rudeness, fibs and chewing in class; things I love: my family, chocolate, music and teaching.

## Ffion Lloyd Ellis

ON THE 13th of August 2008 Ffion Lloyd Ellis passed away after a brave fight against cancer. As I had taught in the Welsh department with Ffion since she arrived at Holywell High School 14 years ago. I felt that a major part of my life had also passed away on this day



Working with Ffion throughout this time had been a pleasure. In all those years, not once did we have a cross word. She was a wonderful mentor and personal friend. She set about her school tasks with diligence but always with an air of calm. Amongst the mound of paper that always engulfed her as Head of Department, she could always find 'that list' or 'bit of paper'!

In the classroom she was hard working, organised and proficient, but always down to earth. She knew her pupils well and always managed to get the best out

of them. Hour after hour was spent encouraging pupils to learn the language that was so close to her heart. It was always a delight to see her success when her pupils won various competitions in writing, recitation etc at local "Eisteddfodau".

As well as all the hard work at school, the chapel and community, Ffion took great care of her family. Her son Aled and daughter Rhiannon were very precious to her. She nurtured and encouraged them to develop their skills and talents. They have grown up to be very special people.

When I visited Ffion two days before she passed away I was so overwhelmed when Rhiannon informed me that despite her illness, Ffion had been quietly working on a competition translating an English drama into Welsh. Not only that, she had actually won the competition at the National Eisteddfod at Cardiff. I felt so proud of her.

I feel that I have been very privileged to work for so many years with such a wonderful colleague, I shall never forget her commitment and friendship. Holywell High School has gained so much through her sheer hardwork and dedication.

**Mrs. Rose Jones**  
**Representing the Welsh Department**

### Mr Guto Jones

Holywell High School represents Mr G Jones' first teaching post. He joins the school as its new teacher of Business Studies. North Wales born and bred: Mr G Jones presently lives near Caernarfon in the County of Gwynedd.

Mr G Jones was educated at: Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen, Caernarfon; Coleg Menai, Bangor; Bangor University; Glamorgan University; and, latterly, Swansea Metropolitan University. Indeed, whilst at Bangor University and Glamorgan University he read Management and Business.

Moreover, Mr G Jones held a variety of jobs, both in the private and public sector, prior to deciding to enter the teaching profession. Employment highlights include stints at Careers Wales North West and Gwynedd Council.

On the odd occasions Mr G Jones gets any spare time, he is inclined to spend it travelling, reading, walking and, like all teachers of Business Studies, keeping abreast of current affairs.

# Fond memories of Mrs Ffion Ellis

I have many fantastic memories of Mrs Ffion Ellis as a colleague during my teaching time at Holywell High School. When I first started teaching, I knew that I could turn to her for advice or support, but it is as my teacher at Holywell High that I have the fondest memories.

When picking our subjects for GCSE at the end of third year (Year 9), a number of us were really disappointed that we couldn't do GCSE's in all of the languages. Mrs Ellis and Mrs Carys Lewis-Jones offered to teach us the Welsh GCSE work at lunchtimes and after school which meant that we could take French and German GCSE in our timetables. We achieved so much in these lessons that we were able to take the GCSE exams at the end of Year 10, we all did really well and I was delighted to get an A\*. Mrs Ellis and Mrs Jones also gave up many of their weekends and evenings helping us rehearse and taking us to Urdd Eisteddfod competitions in which we used to enter recitation and music classes.

As a team, Mrs Ellis and Mrs Jones were dedicated to their pupils and devoted much of their own time to helping them achieve their goals and develop a love for Welsh culture.

Diolch yn fawr iawn am bopeth.

**Dr N Clarke**

## Mrs Heather Jones (English Department)

### Remembers her time at Holywell High

I STARTED at Holywell High School in 1992, when the school was on two sites. I seem to remember that my year group were the first to begin high school as Year 7, and not as a first year.

My time as a Year 7 was spent in the building at the top of the school field the place now occupied by houses. It was a lovely red brick building and wasn't as big as the Upper School, which, ironically, was at the bottom of the field!

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at that school.

Going to the Lower School was quite a daunting experience: it was huge! I settled in though. My fondest memory of high school is of my GCSE English class with Mr Stuart Sage, who later became my first Head of Department when I

became a teacher. It is a cliché perhaps to say that you're inspired to become a teacher because of someone who taught you, but he was a brilliant teacher and made me see novels and poetry in a new way.

The sixth form offered lots of opportunities. I won the Ann Clwyd Cup for Public Speaking. I was also deputy head girl and I enjoyed working within the Additional Needs Department with pupils in Years 7,8 and 9.

I gained my English Literature degree from Bangor University in 2002 and began my PGCE in the same year. By 2003, just 4 years after finishing Year 13, I was back in Holywell High School to begin my teaching career. I'm enjoying my time here and I find the support of the staff really is fantastic.

***We all wish Mrs Jones well on her Maternity Leave***

## Croeso

### - Miss Rhian Roberts

MY NAME is Rhian Roberts and I was born and raised in Pen-y-Maes (where I still live). I attended Ysgol Gwenffrwd and the Ysgol Glan Clwyd in St. Asaph where I was educated through the medium of Welsh. When I reached the age of 17 I decided to attend sixth form at Holywell here I gained my A levels.

I then went on to study English at DeMontfort University in Bedford. Upon achieving my degree I returned to Holywell and a variety of jobs, which proved to me that I needed challenging. I went on to complete a secondary PGCE before accepting a terms supply here, at Holywell High, teaching Welsh.

At the moment I am in the process of obtaining my warrant as an Assistant Beaver Leader in Treffynnon Cyntaf Scout Group. This involved lots of camping, glue and scissors and games of dodgeball!

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## Croeso -

### Miss Rebecca Davies

BORN and raised in Prestatyn. I attended Ysgol Glan Clwyd in St. Asaph and went on to study English with Creative Writing at Bangor University, gaining my BA (Hons) in 2006.

After graduating, I realised I didn't want to work in an office, and went back to Bangor to train as an English teacher. I previously taught English at Ysgol Morgan Llwyd, a Welsh high school in Wrexham. Teaching Welsh in an English school has been a complete, reversal - but I'm glad I made the change!

Everybody at Holywell High has been so welcoming, and I look forward to the year ahead.



# DECHRAU NEWYDD! - NEW START!

Croeso'n ol - Welcome back

Dosbarth Gwahanol -  
Different Class

Tymor newydd - New term

Athrawon Gwahanol -  
Different Teachers

Disgyblion Newydd - New Pupils

Tymor yr hydref -  
Autumn term

Llyfrau a Ffolderi newydd -  
New books & Folders

Miss C.I.Jones

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 **CALL**  
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# I my gas bill

Help us raise money for

**Holywell High School  
Library Improvement Fund**

and save money for you!

We're part of a new fundraising scheme which means we can receive a donation of up to 5% of your household bills every month. And you'll save money for yourself at the same time!

Please join in! Call **0800 1313000** today, and give our appeal number: **838762**

Make your bill make a difference



Thank you to Mr T Hopkins for proof reading Y Ffynnon.

You can also visit our newsletter on the school website: [www.holywellhighschool.co.uk](http://www.holywellhighschool.co.uk)

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