PRIZE EVENING
This was lovely evening, focusing completely on the pupils and the wide range of prizes and awards they had won in all areas of curricular and extra curricular activities. Pupils and staff also listened to purposeful addresses by Mr David George, Headteacher, Mr Andy Rea, Chair of Governors and our guest speaker Mrs Ceri Doyle, Chief Executive of Newport City Homes. Cllr. R Jenkins, Deputy Mayor of Bridgend, Cllr R J Hancock, Mayor of Pencoed and Melissa Clay, Wales International Rugby awarded prizes during the evening. Mrs Doyle’s address was highly inspirational keeping the whole audience entertained. Drawing on her own varied career path in both the public and private sector, she advised the young people present to make the best of their skills and talents in their future careers. All those who attended also enjoyed the musical items performed by Charlotte Jones, Hannah Smith and Megan Jenkins. The video clips of the pupils proved a big hit again this year – especially the out-takes! Thank you very much to Mrs Sam Evans, Deputy Headteacher for guiding us through the evening and to Mrs Jill Newman, supported by Mrs Sue Miles for the organisation of the event and Ms Meg Rule on the video presentation. A copy of the Prize Evening brochure, providing you with the complete list of prizewinners as well as updates from all our departments is available on our website, http://www.pencoedcs.bridgend.sch.uk.
SPRING CONCERT
This was another memorable concert, full of varied showcasing the wonderful talents of our pupils as well as those of the primary school pupils who joined us again this year. The first part of the programme focused mainly on instrumental items. The programme started with two items by the school orchestra, with many of those talented pupils being from key stage 3. The orchestra was followed by a variety of performances by different pupils which included a Woodwind Group, Strings Group, Combined Strings, Cello Quintet, Guitar Group, and a Drum Expo. There was also a combined orchestra performance with the primary pupils as well a primary school Bass Group performance of ‘All Through the Night’. Before the interval we enjoyed a wonderfully vibrant showcase from ‘Back to the 80s’ performed by primary school pupils and our Drama Club pupils. This showcase was the end result of workshops held by our staff and pupils in the primary school as part of the ‘Moving on Up’ transition programme.
The second part of the concert started with the choir performing sections from Shrek the Musical. Members of the choir took on the persona of a variety of characters, delighting the audience with their dramatic presentation. This was followed by individual instrumental items by Neve Bartle, Emma Powson and Jenna Dyckhoff and solo vocal items by Hannah Smith, Megan Jenkins (who accompanied herself on her ukulele), Lauren Woodward and Charlotte Jones. All of these were superb performances, followed by a wonderful finale by the choir. The finale was a medley from ‘Beauty and the Beast’ effortlessly combining music, dance and narration. The range of amazing talent displayed by pupils of all ages was a delight to experience.
Thank you to all those who took part in the concert and the teaching staff from primary schools and the technical team. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Rhian Jenkins, Head of Music for producing the event so professionally and to Mrs Kay Smith, Mrs Alex Hewitt, and the peripatetic music teachers for the time spent working with the pupils in readiness for the concert. What was apparent this year again was that the high standard of performing talent at Pencoed Comprehensive is here to stay for many years to come.
**EISTEDDFOD**

The Lower and Upper School Eisteddfodau were held on two consecutive days in early March, with over 200 pupils from local primary schools also joining us. What an energetic, noisy and enjoyable two days, led wonderfully by Mr David Owen. As ever, each Head of House led their Houses with great enthusiasm, with Owain being the overall winners. The Eisteddfod Chair competition was won this year by Cameron L Williams. Extra special congratulations also go to Emma Powson who entered an incredible 24 competitions – it’s the third year running that Emma has entered more competitions than anyone else!

DIOLCH YN FAWR IAWN to everyone who took part.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The RE Department organised various visits over the term. As part of their Buddhism module, year 12 Religious Studies students and Mrs C Rees visited the Cardiff Buddhist Centre. There, they participated in a question and answer session with an ordained Buddhist, visited the shrine room, learnt how Buddhists worship and participated in a meditation activity. They all thoroughly enjoyed the trip and benefited from these activities.

Rhiannon Evans and Emily Morgan, year 12 pupils, along with Miss S Williams recently went on a one day visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. This was part of a scheme with the Holocaust Educational Trust called Lessons from...
Auschwitz. From the seminars attended they developed an understanding of pre-war Jewish life and commemorated the lives of the people lost, along with the loss of culture and customs. They were also privileged to meet Eva Clarke, a Jewish Holocaust survivor who born in Auschwitz-Birkenau, a week before the camp was liberated by the allies. The pupils said 'No matter what pictures or videos you see of Auschwitz-Birkenau, unless you visit you will never truly understand the extent of what happened. We found the programme eye opening and put life into perspective. We are planning on inviting a survivor in to talk to year 12 and will also be holding a series of activities with pupils from years 7-10 to increase their knowledge of the Holocaust as part of the summer programme'.

In February, pupils in 7.1 RE celebrated the Chinese New Year with Miss S Williams. By making greetings cards, lucky red lanterns and masks. Having researched the birth years of friends and family to find out their Chinese zodiac sign – 7.1 were deemed to be Monkeys and Goats! The week of celebrations culminated with pupils creating decorative dragons and performing the famous Lion dance. Great fun was had by all!
DRAMA

Get your roller skates and leg warmers ready - the cast of “BACK TO THE 80’s” are ready to rock! Over 100 pupils are busy rehearsing and raising funds for the school show which takes place on July 14th, 15th, 16th. It is an energetic and fun show which includes songs such as Footloose, Dancing on the Ceiling and Time of My Life. 47 of the cast spent a weekend in Dan-y-Coed in Swansea in January blocking and choreographing Act One and on March 10th held a sponsored rehearsal to help pay for the hire of the orchestra and lighting rig. Other fundraising events include the ‘Smartie Challenge’ and raffle. The Drama department and pupil committee are very grateful to all parents and local businesses that have donated prizes and sponsored the show so far.

The Lower School Drama Club have also been ‘Rocking the Boat’ with their new production “Guys and Dolls” which will be performed in the Drama Studio in June. Mrs Smith and Mrs Hewitt are blown away by the talent of all the pupils in Drama but there is a particularly strong cast this year in the lower school production and lots of up and coming stars!

Tickets for both shows will be on sale after Easter so be quick! They sell out fast!

All exam classes have been under the spotlight recently and Year 13 gave their final exam performance in March. The standard was extremely high and Mrs Smith was very proud of how they conducted themselves in front of the external examiner. This
The time of year is very busy for the Drama Department with four practical exams in just over a month! Good Luck all!

The “MOVING ON UP” team have been on the road once again and visiting local Primary Schools with the transition Drama workshop. The younger pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning a song and routine from “Back to the 80’s” and performed brilliantly in the showcase that was as part of the Spring Concert. Thank you to all pupils who represented Pencoed on the tour. They were outstanding ambassadors for the school.

ENGLISH
The English Department have also had a busy term. A number of Year 8 students took part in the Gothic Writing Competition hosted by Young Writers, with a number of them having been published in a book which can be ordered by parents. The English Department are really proud of those who entered the competition as it is a great achievement for our pupils. There will be lots of competitions coming up for pupils in KS3 from the English Department.

Organised by Miss Torpey, for World Book Day all of the English Department got involved and dressed up as their favourite fictional characters. Pupils from KS3 took part in enjoyable activities such as book mark making, a quiz and a guessing game based on the teachers’ costumes. Prizes were given to those who won the activities and put the best effort into their own costumes. The winners were Ewan Lent, Kane Yates, Demi-Less Butler, Morgan Griffiths and Amber O’Neill.
Students have continued to make fantastic progress in STAR reader, and since September have read 3,372 books, which equates to 51,685,906 words! Years 7, 8 and 9 have all been reading furiously, and we were pleased to award STAR Readers of the Month this term to Freya Arnot and Ewen Harris, and of year 7, Macey Jenkins and Dewi Svenson of year 8. Competition between Morgan Griffiths and William Davies of year 9 has been fierce all year, and so far they each have 3 STAR Reader of the Month awards to their names! We were also proud to induct Ellie Hancock into ‘Millionaires Row’, as she has read 1,096,139 words since September. Each of our STAR Readers of the Month and Word Millionaires have earned extra points for their houses, along with the points gained by all pupils who pass their quizzes. Though Branwen started the academic year as underdogs, they are swiftly gaining on the other houses. Could next term see them triumph over Gwenllian, who have dominated so far?
GEOGRAPHY

ECO TEAM
Pencoed Comprehensive’s Eco Team continue to take part in The Schools for Resilience Europe-wide project in partnership with the Field Studies Council. The project encourages schools to work in collaboration with their local community to improve an aspect of their environment. The Eco Team selected ‘Waste’ and planned and implemented a clean up of the River Ewenny that flows alongside the school grounds. Local MP Huw Irranca Davies showed his support for the project along with the Deputy Manager of Pencoed Cooperative and a colleague. Parents and grandparents of the students and other interested locals turned up to muck in. The Team removed 15 Green bags of waste over the 3 hour period. Mr Pownall has expressed his delight in how enthusiastic both students and locals were in getting the job done. He hopes that this will trigger future joint ventures.

Over February half term the Geography Department took off on their second tour of Iceland in February. Twenty nine students in year groups 9 to 13 travelled with Mr Pownall, Mrs Davies and Mrs Jones in search of whales, glaciers and the Northern Lights – unfortunately, they didn’t see any of these! Snow storms and high winds saw to that! However, they did visit the frozen Gulfoss Falls, Geyser, geothermal power stations, explosion craters and the Blue Lagoon! They ascended the Perlan restaurant in Reykjavik for 360 degree views and experienced some ‘cold’ yet ‘warm’ Icelandic hospitality. The Department is already planning the next excursion!
INSPIRATIONAL EVENTS

International Women's Day
Cerys Johnson and Neve Bartle (years 10 and 11 respectively) recently spent a day with Mrs Pope at the National Assembly for Wales celebrating International Women’s Day. As well as attending workshops they enjoyed highly inspiring presentations from women role models, including Dame Rosemary Butler (National Assembly) and Lydia Lewis (United Nations, Oxford University).

University Inspiration Day
A number of pupils in key stages 4 and 5 have visited various universities recently. One of the highlights was a year 11 visit to Cardiff Metropolitan University as part of the higher education roadshow. Pupils took part in workshops from both Cardiff University and Cardiff Met in areas such as Medicine, Dentistry, Performing Arts, Journalism, Healthcare, Law…. to name but a few!! They had a look at what university life is like and what happens in lectures. Congratulations to Caitlin Sweet who won first prize in the competition while there and also to Hannah Martin and Jenna Dyckhoff who were invited to lead the warm up!! We had a great day and many came back to Pencoed inspired to apply to University after Sixth Form.

Also, during the last term our ‘more able’ pupils have had a number of opportunities to attend different events and activities at school as well as outside. The workshops/masterclasses have included : Coding workshops for Years 7, 8 and 9 (provided by Fords); Modern Foreign Language Post Graduate students (links with Cardiff University); Engineering Challenge (provided by EESW); Formula 1 in Schools; Girls’ Engineering Project (provided by Fords); Neuroscience lectures (provided by Cardiff University); History and Archaeology Workshops (Cardiff University); English Department More Able Reading Club; Stars As Black Bodies Lecture (Cardiff University); Scales of the Universe and Cosmology (Cardiff University); STEM (Science Technology, Engineering & Maths) Club.
SPORTS NEWS

As part of the on-going Sky Sports Mentoring Programme, towards the end of last term members of the team worked with year 9 girls to try and motivate and encourage physical activity. The girls were outstanding over the two days and Christian Roberts (ex pro footballer) couldn't thank them enough as he thoroughly enjoyed it at Pencoed.

Rugby

Dean Ronan joined us as Rugby Development Officer around eighteen months ago with a remit to develop an interest in rugby amongst boys and girls, to develop senior rugby and generally to increase pupil participation in sport. Working closely with the PE Department Dean has proved very successful in this role. So far this year almost 80 games have been played in fixtures and festivals across the Ospreys region and national cup competitions, rugby sessions have been delivered in our cluster primary schools to over 300 boys and girls in Year 5 and 6, and we have hosted numerous festivals and tournaments with hundreds of pupils participating from all over the region. Developing closer links with local rugby clubs has been very successful; work with Pencoed Rugby Club has included running coaching sessions with younger players and developing girls rugby.

Joe Owen and Dan Morris holding the Ospreys East Winners Shield and the Ospreys Runner Up Shield

Thanks to the work carried out by PE Department staff, the weights gym has improved immensely. We have also been fortunate in having two intern members of the WRU help deliver the new physical competency curriculum the WRU are doing in the hub schools giving every pupil from Year 7-11 an opportunity to take part in workshops and sessions to help improve their strength, flexibility, cardio vascular, endurance and their BMI which in turn significantly improves their health and wellbeing.

Pencoed Comprehensive thanks the BCBC Active Young people Department and the support programmes they provide to encourage young people to take on a healthier lifestyle. Recently introduced is ‘Glow in The Dark Zumba’ – highly popular as you can imagine! Also, pupils and staff alike are really looking forward to using the new All Weather Pitch, facilitated through the excellent work of Andrew Thomas, Group Manager of BCBCs Sport, Play and Active Wellbeing department.

Congratulations to all those who represent the school and local clubs and a special mention to those pupils at regional as well as national level in a whole variety of sports, including, Joseph Owen and Sam Costelow (Ospreys under 16 squad), Megan Griffiths (Ospreys Girls under 18 squad), Josh Sands (East Wales Rugby League squad), Ben Salkeld (Swansea City Football Development U13s), Elliot Rees (Glamorgan Cricket Senior Training Squad), Jack Hayes (Mid Glamorgan Cricket squad), Ellie Rees (Welsh Netball Training Hub), Jevan & Nathan King (UKDC European Dance Championship winners), Isabelle Bushrod (British Canoe Slalom team). A full list of our pupils’ sporting achievements is included in our Prize Evening brochure.

With the summer term, of course, the exams season also comes along. We wish everyone the best of luck.