



Pencoed Comprehensive School

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End of Summer Term 2010 News

The Geography Department at Pencoed Comprehensive School recently visited Sorrento in Italy. They had an action packed tour of the area that included a guided tour of the ruins of Herculaneum, an ascent of Mount Vesuvius, a trip along the stunning, rugged cliffs of the Amalfie Coast and a hydrofoil crossing to the idyllic Island of Capri that included a coastline boat tour. Pupils (and non – geography) teaching staff learnt lots about the restless nature of this European tectonic area. During their time abroad, they have begun to appreciate what it is like to live in Southern Italy in the shadow of the mighty Vesuvius. Of course, pupils and staff also had to put up with beautiful weather, clear seas and exotic beaches - but, it was all worth it in the name of Geography. Mr Pownall would like to thank all the staff and pupils who made the trip such a success.

(See attached photograph)

Another set of pupils have also just returned from a visit to Eurodisney in Paris. This visit was organised by Mr. Green, Leader of Learning - ICT. Pupils were given the opportunity of learning first hand about the practical applications of ICT within the Disney organisation – whilst enjoying some of the visitor attractions as well, of course!

Members of the school's senior rugby squad will be travelling to South Africa in August. During that time they will play in three rugby matches and will also see South Africa play Australia in the Tri Nations Championship. A wonderful rugby and cultural experience organised by Mr Poley from the school's PE Department.

During the first full week of July the school hosted a visit from Waldsassen. Over 20 pupils and staff enjoyed a variety of activities that had been co-ordinated by Mr. Trew of the Modern Foreign Languages Department. Activities included visits to the Big Pit and Rhondda Heritage Park, Oakwood, Swansea, a barbeque in school and a visit to the beach in Porthcawl. The latter proved a big hit as a visit to the seaside was a rare experience for a number of our guests. Thank you very much to everyone involved in making the visit such a success, especially those families who hosted pupils and staff from Waldsassen.

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On a local level, a number of our pupils went on Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions recently. Twenty-seven of our Year 12 Pupils took part in a three day Silver Expedition to the Gower and forty-three of our Year 10 pupils spent two days on a Bronze Expedition in the Vale of Glamorgan. Well done all of those who took part – including the staff who were just as tired as the pupils at the end of the expeditions. The expeditions were led by Mr T. Roberts, Non Formal Learning Co-ordinator at the school. Thankfully, the weather on the Gower wasn't as extreme as last year!

Congratulations to all of those pupils whose contributions to school life and attendance records were celebrated in the Years 7 & 8 Achievement Ceremonies.

Well done also to the Year 12 pupils who recently organised a number of activities in school (including the Strawberry Tea Party) and with the local primaries to raise money for Cancer Research. They raised an amazing total of over £2,000. Thank you to everyone for their support.

6th formers and Year 11 pupils also arranged successful prom evenings recently which were enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

Our ECO Champions were busy at the end of term delivering recycling bins throughout the school. These bins were purchased from the £5000 grant received in May. There's no excuse now for pupils or staff not to recycle from September.

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to all those who took part in the school's Sports Day. Owain House was the winner on that day. The overall House winner for the year is Gwenllian.

Since June, a number of our pupils have taken part in various sporting competitions, including the 5 x 60 Youth Games held at the Bridgend Recreation Centre. During the SONY Youth Games in July, our girls' football team won the gold medal, with the boys' rugby and football teams winning bronze. Year 7 pupils took part in the Colts Glamorgan Valleys Championships in Aberdare, with Lewis Butler coming first in the 100m. During the NAS/UWT Athletics Championships our Years 7 – 10 pupils achieved a number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd places with Lewis Butler setting a new school record for the 300m. Other record breakers were Daniel Heskith in the long jump and Jon Barnett in the 300m. Daniel was also recently awarded a Welsh cap in soccer through the Boys Club of Wales. During the Athletics Junior Championships in early June, Zak Morgan broke the school record in the Javelin event. Well done to everyone who competed at all these events and to the PE Department for their dedication.

STAFF NEWS

It's time to bid farewell to a number of staff leaving us at the end of this term. Best wishes to Jane Harding and Mary Jeffreys who'll be retiring after over twenty years service each to the school. Sadly missed also will be Nicola Smart who'll be joining Olchfa School in Swansea as Head of MFL, Chris Mitchell (History) who'll be joining Maesteg Comprehensive School and Laura Morgan (RE) who'll be going to Porthcawl Comprehensive. Best wishes also go to Jonathan Phillips (Geography) and Alexis Jones (ICT & Media) for their future employment.

In September we'll be welcoming Nicholas Brain who'll be joining us as Deputy Head following the appointment of David George as Headteacher earlier this year. Also joining us will be Kay Smith as the Director of Learning - Drama, Kay Jones, Director of Learning - Spanish, Bethan Pristavec as Deputy Director - Technology, and Sharon Davies, Teacher of Geography and History. Returning to the school's teaching staff after special leave and sabbaticals will be Kate Drakeford (ICT), Helen Gwynne-Kinsey (RE), and Beth Roberts (Media Studies). Recently appointed support staff are Christine Bowen as Receptionist and Karen Andrews as Administrative Assistant.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please note that there won't be a PTA Car Boot Sale in school in August. The next one will be held on Sunday morning, September 5th. Please come along to sell or to buy as the funds raised by the PTA are used to purchase resources for the pupils. Thank you to the PTA members for organising the Car Boot Sales and their other fund raising activities throughout the year.

The Senior Citizens Lunches start back on Tuesday, September 7th. Lunches are held in the school during term time at 12pm every Tuesday and Thursday. If you haven't attended these lunches before please just come along to reception. Our 6th formers and canteen staff will be ready to welcome you.

From mid-September, Pencoed Comprehensive School will be offering after school childcare activities for children aged between 9-14 years old. These activities, supported by the Welsh Assembly Government Community Focused School Childcare Grant, will be led by qualified leaders and tutors from the Llanharan Drop In centre. Provision will be provided initially for two evenings a week during term time, from 3.30pm-5.30pm but this could increase to five nights a week if there is sufficient demand. Further information will be distributed to pupils in the comprehensive and local primary schools during early September.

LOOKING AHEAD

We look forward to seeing pupils on the external examinations results days – A & AS level on Thursday, August 19th and GCSE level on Tuesday, August 24th.

A special welcome to new Year 7 pupils who'll be joining us in September. Pupils from the cluster school spent two days in the school recently familiarising themselves with the school site, staff and routines. Hopefully, any concerns they may have about going to the 'big school' will have been allayed by this visit and a special newsletter prepared for them by members of the English Department's Creative Writing Group.

Next term, staff return to school on Thursday, September 2nd. Pupils from Years 7, 10 and 12 return on Friday, September 3rd for induction, with all attending on Monday, September 6th.