



Gareth Matthewson meets the pupils



Macassar sends its pupils to Wales



Ellen Heeny teaches Art as Gareth Matthewson observes

MACASSAR MAGIC

Over the last three years a friendship has grown between two schools from different hemispheres but with the same educational ideals and aspirations. Macassar High School in South Africa and Whitchurch High School have forged a link which is going from strength to strength and has led to a close bond between teachers and pupils from different backgrounds.

The initial contact took place in 2006 when Mr. Gareth Matthewson and Mr. Rob Davies, our international links coordinator, visited Macassar to ascertain the type of projects which could take place between the schools. This was followed by a return visit by Mr. Yusuf Abrahams (the head teacher of Macassar) with some of his teaching staff and the project was initiated. Funding from the British Council over three years has enabled the schools to make real progress in

understanding each others cultures and in helping to dispense misapprehensions about life in South Africa and in Britain.

In February of this year, four teachers from Whitchurch High travelled to Macassar during the half term and set up projects which have had a big impact on the pupils in the school. Miss Ellen Heeny, Head of Art, taught some of the Macassar pupils to paint landscapes and to do self portraits. Art was not originally on their curriculum but it is now! Mr. Nick John, Head of Geography did a sixth form project on 'Water' which was given serious consideration by the Macassar pupils. R.E. is another subject which was not on the curriculum and so Mrs Anthea Parker, Head of R.E., encouraged the Macassar students to take part in debates and to perform modern day versions of parables in their assemblies.

Continued with more pictures on page 3



Nick John teaches Geography



Pupils dance on Valentine's Day



The Drama Club

A MESSAGE FROM GARETH MATTHEWSON



It is with some sadness that I write this introduction to our school newsletter as this is my final edition as Headteacher of Whitchurch High School.

I have enjoyed every moment of my fourteen years as Headteacher here. It has been a privilege to work with our excellent teaching and non teaching staff, with our lively and friendly pupils, and with our very supportive Governing Body.

I have always been very proud of the achievements of our pupils, including our excellent examination results and our outstanding achievements in the areas of the sports and the arts. This newsletter gives a flavour of the many varied activities that take place in the school throughout the year. Our achievements are the result of the hard work and dedication of our teachers combined with the enthusiasm of our pupils.

During the past fourteen years I have been pleased to work with colleagues in introducing a number of important changes. In particular, new building projects, more teaching resources, and changes to our curriculum have enabled us to enhance the quality of education for all our pupils.

I am very pleased that Huw Jones-Williams is taking over from me as Headteacher. I know that under his strong leadership the school will continue to develop in all areas for the benefit of the pupils.

In conclusion I would like to wish all staff, governors and pupils of Whitchurch High School every success for the future. I shall miss you all very much indeed.

Gareth Matthewson OBE

GOLD FOR GERAINT



Former Whitchuch pupil Geraint Thomas (3rd from left) becomes Olympic Champion! See story on page 12

SAYING GOODBYE TO WHITCHURCH HIGH



Gareth Matthewson joined Whitchurch High School in September 1994. This was to be his third headship; prior to this, Mr Matthewson had taken up his first headship in London, before subsequently moving to Cantonian High School in Cardiff.

During his time at Whitchurch, Mr Matthewson's strong leadership has taken

the school from strength to strength across all spheres, with major improvements in pupil achievement and in the fabric of the school. His dream has been to develop Whitchurch as an international school, preparing pupils for a 21st century global society. The links with schools in Poland, South Africa, Italy, Norway, France and Germany are testament to Mr Matthewson's foresight and tenacity in trying to widen the social, cultural and educational opportunities for our pupils.

Mr Matthewson's immense contribution to education has been recognised in the Honours List, with the award of the OBE in 2006, and this year being awarded "Inspirational Headteacher of the Year." We wish him well in retirement and understand that he will be taking this opportunity to spend time travelling, particularly to South Africa, honing his golf skills and undertaking voluntary work with National Children's Homes.

Lyn Mills
Deputy Headteacher

NEW HEADTEACHER



It is a real privilege to become Head teacher of Whitchurch High School in September 2008, succeeding Gareth Matthewson on his retirement after his many years of distinguished service. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Headteacher of Fitzalan High

School the past three years, having previously been Deputy head teacher at Whitchurch for four years.

Whitchurch is therefore a school well known to me! One of its many strengths is that each individual pupil is provided with the very best opportunities to thrive both inside and outside of the classroom. The school deservedly enjoys an outstanding reputation extending well beyond Cardiff and Wales.

I very much look forward to working with governors, staff, pupils, parents and the wider community in ensuring that Whitchurch High School continues to go from strength to strength.

Huw Jones-Williams

MACASSAR MAGIC



Anthea Parker leads a debate



Trevor Sampson's recording studio

Continued from page 1

A Drama club has now been initiated as a result of this and the pupils are entering competitions! Mrs Lyn Mills spent some time with the Senior Management of the school looking at budgets and timetabling issues in order to gain an insight into the management of a different education system.

In July, teachers from Macassar and four of their pupils came to Wales to participate in lessons. Hosted by our staff and pupils they joined in a variety of activities and attended two musical concerts during their stay. They took part in assemblies and two of the boys, Leondray and Devan, sang and won the hearts of more than a few females in the school!

The Macassar teachers spoke movingly in lessons about the history of Apartheid and their experiences of

this regime, but spoke with optimism about Nelson Mandela and the changes which have come about since his time as President.

We all learnt a great deal from each other and Whitchurch pupils were humbled by the stories they were told in R.E. lessons by our South African colleagues.

The link between the schools has been a life changing experience for all involved and has developed into firm friendships, which we hope will last for years to come. Yusuf Abrahams now refers to Whitchurch as part of the "Macassar family", which is a tribute to the positive relationships forged. Next February representatives from the Music, P.E. and IT departments, together with the four Whitchurch pupils who hosted, will travel to Macassar for another experience of a life time. Let's hope that the friendship continues to flourish.



A Welsh love spoon is presented to the school



Ellen Heeny with the art work produced

Learning for life

HALCROW CONFIRMS WHITCHURCH PRODUCES FINE ART

The work of Applied Art & Design students at Whitchurch High was celebrated in February at a presentation evening hosted by Halcrow, one of the world's leading international companies.

In 2007 Halcrow partnered with the school's Art department to provide a real-life focus for students' coursework.

The students were asked to research Halcrow's work, culture and future aspirations to create pieces of artwork that then gained credits for A Level and Key Skills qualifications.

In their own international newsletter, Halcrow wrote: 'Halcrow has been honoured to work with such a high performing department.'

Welsh AM Jonathan Morgan added: 'It is fantastic that we are able to celebrate (this) partnership. The students have worked incredibly hard and the efforts of those at Halcrow demonstrate how business and our schools can work closely together.'



ENTER THE DRAGON!

Congratulations to the 'Dragons Tale' team from Halcrow in a joint venture with WHS Design and Technology department. The team managed to gain third place in the Red Bull Flutag competition. The competition involved designing and building a man powered plane. The 'Dragon' actually flew 11 metres above the Serpentine at Hyde Park in London in front of 85,000 people. The competition was judged on distance flown and level of creativity. Points were also awarded for the entertainment value of the pre-flight performance, which was a fancy dress re-enactment of the story of the Dragon, Knight and Angharad, a lonely maiden. The celebrity judging panel included Strictly Come Dancing's Craig Revel-Horwood, BBC Fame Academy's Carrie Grant and model Jodie Kidd.



The picture shows Angharad (Peter Halstead from Halcrow) being rescued by the 'Dragon'.

JOHN'S MAJOR POLITICAL PRIZE

A regional politics competition provided the perfect stage for Adam Johns to launch his campaign to become Wales' next great political interviewer.

Howells School was defeated at the Quality Inn, Cardiff, by the team of Tamar Williams, Sean Melody and Adam Johns. Adjudicator Betsan Powys, of BBC Wales, ruled in their favour, after interviewing Sue Essex, and ex Welsh Assembly member.

Adam then went on to defeat representatives of Caerleon Comprehensive School in the following round, pocketing a large cup and the title of Welsh Political Interviewer of the Year.



ABERYSTWYTH 2008



The Year 8 trip to Aberystwyth was once again a memorable experience for all involved. There was an obvious educational value of visiting nature reserves, endangered land areas, alternative energy centres and appreciating the beauty of the mid Wales countryside and coastline but it was also great fun! The pictures show our Year 8 students on the beach, jumping in the sand dunes and dressing up for the last night disco.

Thanks are extended to the teachers who assisted with all the activities. The pupils were once again congratulated on their impeccable behaviour by the Aberystwyth staff. Well done also to Mr. Workman for coordinating the whole event. Here's to next year!

9E GRAB A PIZZA THE ACTION



Having enthusiastically studied Italy for a term, the excited pupils of 9E were rewarded with a visit to local Italian restaurant - Pizzeria Villagio in Whitchurch village.

The pupils were given a guided tour of the restaurant, exploring the busy kitchen and nosing

around in the fridges! They put the Palladino family under pressure during an excellent question and answer session, with Matthew Reynolds testing his own Italian! They were shown to their table, where the hungry class - noses twitching, sat in anticipation. They were not to be disappointed and were duly served pizza, pasta, garlic bread and drinks. The superb food was fantastically received and rapidly dispatched by the grateful pupils - particularly Dyfri and Anthony!

To top off 9E's lunch in true Italian style, the pupils demolished a bowl of ice cream each!! A great experience and a good time was had by all and the class showed their appreciation to their obliging hosts. Massive thanks to Andreina and her friendly staff at Villagios for their continued support of the school and in particular generously hosting 9E, in what was a superb visit, thoroughly enjoyed by all!!

Grazie



HABITS OF MIND

As part of future pedagogy developments across Wales, Mr Eric Coombes was fortunate enough to be invited to take part in discussions and work shops run by an inspirational practitioner called Professor Art Costa. He has served as a classroom teacher, a curriculum consultant and the Director of Educational Programs for NASA. He has made presentations and conducted workshops in all fifty US states, as well as Mexico, Central and South America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Europe, Asia and the Islands of the South Pacific.



IT ALL ADDS UP FOR MATHEMATICS

In April 2008 the Mathematics Department took a team of four pupils from Years 8 and 9 to represent the school in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Team Challenge Regional Final, which was held in Howells School.

The competition had several different rounds, including a group competition, cross-number (a bit like a crossword with numbers but with a difference – each half of the team had either the across clues or the down clues but not both!), a head-to-head competition (when members of the team competed as individuals against another team) and a maths relay (yes - it did involve running!).

Although Whitchurch didn't take first place, everyone who went had a really good day, meeting new friends from other schools, and discovering lots of new things about maths!

MULTIPLE CHALLENGES FOR MATHEMATICIANS

The pace of life never seems to slow in the Maths department and we would like to thank all the pupils who have taken part in the activities held throughout the year. Their enthusiasm and commitment makes all the hard work worthwhile!

We have had the regular Number of the Month competition and there is also our weekly Maths Club to challenge the pupils. In addition, many Year 7 students have attended the Springboard maths sessions that are held throughout the week, or have taken the opportunity to enhance their mathematical thinking skills at the enrichment programme that runs regularly after school. Year 7 were also asked to design a mathematical T-shirt for the Eisteddfod competition.

The Maths department also takes part in many activities run by the University of Glamorgan, and in the Autumn term, two teams of Year 11 students and further teams from Year 12 and 13, powered up the A470 to pit their wits against lots of other schools. While we did not win a cup this year, all involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

In the Spring term a number of our students also took part in a very worthwhile revision conference while four of our Year 9 students participated in a series of Maths master classes held on a Saturday morning.

As the year closed Year 7 visited the 'Mathemagic Exhibition' at Techniquest in early July and there is also the annual Year 6 quiz, held in the final few weeks of the term. This was an exciting event which saw the year 6 pupils challenging themselves with a variety of puzzles, and the Year 12 students trying hard to help the Year 6 pupils to solve them!



WHAT A LOAD OF BRASS!

Featured in a recent BBC documentary, the Cory Band has won the British Open Championships and most recently the European Championships which took place in Norway. Is it all down to the Alun Horgan influence? Pictured is the man himself with both trophies.

RECIPE FOR BETTER HYGIENE

It was a real honour for Whitchurch High School to be chosen to host the Food Standards Agency trailer, which would be visited by our Year 7 and 8 pupils. The trailer also hosted the Year 6 pupils from our feeder primaries. Pupils were entertained at the start with a pantomime performance, based on 'Aladdin', to reinforce the importance of food hygiene and healthy eating. One group then attended a classroom-based session on hand washing (with the UV lightbox) and the other participated in an Ask-the-Audience style quiz with hand held remotes. Top scorers won a goody bag and all pupils were presented with a cool bag which could be used for their lunch or for Home Economics practical lessons. It was an excellent week, with pupils enjoying a different learning environment, and a great opportunity for us, as a department, to work with Cardiff Council and FSA Wales.

AWESOME AUSTRIAN ADVENTURES

Club Kitzsteinhorn, in Zell am See, Austria, was the destination for a selection of Year 8 students this year. A splashing start was made with a swimming trip, followed by a long walk to the Ice Caves, where fantastic natural ice sculptures greeted us. A snowball fight later in the week hardly cooled our enthusiasm for all of the memorable sights we were seeing.

Later, Salzburg's shops were hit hard, with 'Shop Till You Drop' very much the order of the day, but summer tobogganing proved the highlight of the trip, only narrowly ahead of a boat trip on Zell am See's lake on the final day. All involved had a both enjoyable and worthwhile time.



JONNY HILES

Two special trees have been planted to remember Jonny Hiles, a student at Whitchurch from 1999-2005.

An Acer and a Rowan tree now blossom in the memorial area on the Upper School site. Members of Jonny's family attended a short dedication in the summer term. Neil Potter spoke about Jonny's lively personality, competitive spirit and desire to succeed as a hockey player. Anthea Parker read a short poem as a tribute to Jonny and Gareth Matthewson conducted the proceedings.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Jonny's family over the last difficult year and as we look at the beautiful trees growing, we will think of him.





LAST GASP MILLENNIUM MISERY FOR UNDER SIXTEEN SUPERSTARS

A run to the final of the Welsh National Schools Competition so nearly ended with triumph for this year's U-16 Rugby side.

Syr Hugh Owen of North Wales was the first school brushed aside, after a successful local campaign. A pair of quick tries either side of half time sealed the win, and set up a quarter final tie with Ystralyfera.

That tie stayed close until the final minutes, when Whitchurch stole a deserved win, and prepared to face Y Berwyn at Bedwas RFC's ground. The opposition came to attack like men possessed, but a calm approach from Whitchurch allowed them to clinch the game with three tries scored before half time, and ultimately by a fifty point margin.

As a result, some players, including Rhys Fenton, Sam Pearce and Keith Muchunga, were destined to make their final appearances in a school jersey at the Millennium Stadium, where Brynteg awaited us. It was return to familiar turf for some players, who four years before had contested the Rugby League U-12s final.

The early lead fell our way, earned by a Paul Myers try after impressive build-up play by the back division. The Brynteg response was immediate, but so was the Whitchurch reaction, as Ryan Looker forced his way over from close range. The majority of possession was with us, but points would not come, and the score remained fixed at 10-5 in Whitchurch's favour as the final whistle approached. Twice, we had crossed the try line only to be denied a score, and a penalty kick had gone astray. That came back to haunt us when the Brynteg outside half produced a dazzling solo effort and converted his own try; determined though our fightback was, Brynteg held firm to clinch a 12-10 win.

In defeat came honour and pride, as players reached

the culmination of five years of effort. In that time, it has been a pleasure to watch them grow as players, friends and people, and we have thoroughly enjoyed coaching this outstanding side in their time at Whitchurch High School.

Ian McIntyre
Paul Hughes

FOOTBALLERS FALL AT FINAL HURDLE

Three star players, all of whom qualified for South Wales' Schools Trials, helped the school's senior soccer side to the final of the Cardiff & Vale Competition.

Hywel Dinnick and Matthew Franks narrowly missed final selection for the South Wales side, but skipper Dafydd Russell-Jones went on to play in the Home Nations Championship.

The run in the Cardiff & Vale Cup came at the expense of Bishop of Llandaff School in the quarter final, and Fitzalan School in the semi. The final was against Llanishen, but pressure could not be converted into goals, and the opposition squeezed home by a solitary first half goal.

It was another fine season for a team we can be proud of, and as many boys leave us, they go with heads held high, having set an exemplary example for others to follow.

Gwyn Morris



SET TO BE A JB STAR!

A student nicknamed 'The Human Tank' has been rewarded for his outstanding performances for the school's Year 10 rugby side through promotion to play at the Millennium Stadium.

JB Bruzulier, so-called by Barry Slack during his Sports Day commentary, joined the players from the year above to play in a crucial final at the home of Welsh rugby.

The Year 10 side has gone from strength to strength again this year, with a keen core of players attending training. Sevens tournaments have become something of a speciality, with runners up spots taken in both the Cardiff and Bishopston Sevens, meaning that we can look forward keenly to contesting next year's Rosslyn Park competition.

Tim Henson

HERE'S TO NEXT YEAR'S MATCHES!

Our Year 8 Boys' football side produced some excellent football this year, and were unlucky to be on the end of a string of results that did not prove to be as good as they might have expected.

The future looks bright; many of the boys have made excellent progress during the year, with special mentions going to Josh Beddis, Jack Hoskins, Jack Rees and Sam Robinson, whose performance was consistently high throughout the year.

Alex Collins

THINGS LOOK FINE FOR YEAR NINE

Heartbreak came at the end of the season for our Year 9 rugby side, squeezed out in the Cardiff Schools semi final against Radyr, following a draw at home.

This came after a fantastic last-gasp win over Bishop of Llandaff in the previous round. Other wins earlier in the season had seen our side establish dominance over Cwn Rhymini, Pencoed and Llanishen, and special mention goes to outstanding leader Rhys Woodman, and speed merchant Will Singer, both of whom secured places in the Cardiff & Vale squad.

At time of writing, the boys are in South Africa, testing themselves against a range of schools. Victory will be hard, but I'm sure they'll give it a try!

Gwyn Morris

SENIOR GIRLS NET MIXED RESULTS

The short journey to Bishop of Llandaff opened the season for the Seniors Netball side, and came at a cost. Sophie Davies proved to be the Player of the Match, but Ainsty Fox's broken wrist would keep her out of action for the year. Hopefully, she will return to play a more active role in the future.

Fixtures against County Champions St Teilo's, Radyr and Llanishen followed, with Year 11 players stepping into the breach and performing well at a higher age level. There was also a close defeat to Corpus Christi, and some good progress made in the President's Cup, until Radyr proved too strong.

Stars include Sarah Platt, Bea Morris, and Sophie Davies, all of whom play weekly for Pentwyn Jets, and Bea even earned the honour of selection for the Cardiff & District Under 21 side. It is therefore a shame she moves on, but leaves with our best wishes.

Well done to all players this year.

Jan Allen

SARAH NETS MORE SUCCESS

Year Ten student Sarah Thomas has again enjoyed a stellar year in her fledgling badminton career.

Sarah triumphed in both the Under 17 and Under 19 Singles events at the National Junior Championships, and served notice of her intentions by running Wales' leading senior player close in the Welsh Open. She now stands at number 305 in the World Rankings.

Pupils should wish Sarah well for her participation in European tournaments in September, with the aim of securing enough points to allow her to compete in the 2010 Commonwealth Games. In October, she will wear the Welsh vest at the 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games, in India.

By the time this report is published, Sarah may also have improved upon last year's silver medal from the UK School Games, as August will see her again compete against players who are still two years older than her.

The future looks bright for this outstanding sporting prospect.

SEVENS RUGBY

Under skipper Rory Harries, the Year 7 Boys' Rugby team has progressed greatly this year, and now looks set to end its search for silverware in the year or years ahead.

Victories over Glantaf, Pencoed and Cwn Rhymini, in addition to a final league position of third, were achieved through hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. Well done lads, and stay fit for September!

Tim Henson

SENIOR GIRLS HOCKEY

The senior girls hockey team has had a busy but successful season. However, with a reputation as the best hockey team in South Wales, it has been a challenge to find teams brave enough to face us. Either that or Miss Attwell felt we just didn't need the practice! Since Year 7, the team has developed and grown, not just physically but in our skills, confidence and strength. Whitchurch has always been the team to beat.

Having been County Champions every year 'bar one', and still licking our wounds over that one, the team has always made the Welsh Finals. This year was no exception, thrashing Llanishen in the County Final. Again the team trooped off to Swansea. Here, we lost our first two matches 1-0, which mean we didn't qualify for the final. With one more match to prove ourselves, every single girl on that pitch played her socks off. As the Captain, I couldn't have been prouder. Winning 4-1 we had showed just what the Whitchurch team was really about and many spectators and referees were shocked that we wouldn't feature in the final. Don't worry – we'll get it next year!

Having many players with County honours, South Wales honours and our 3 Internationals; Rachel John, Rhiannon Lavin and Charlotte Camilleri, it's no wonder we have such a strong squad. I also feel, and I'm sure

the other girls agree, that all of this comes down to the dedication and commitment of Miss Attwell. She must be sick of Rachel and I, having taught us from Year 7 through to Year 12. This year not only saw her being our A level PE teacher, but our School Coach, County Coach and South Wales Coach. However, I feel she is not just a coach, but a friend as well. Therefore, all the girls and I would like to say "thank you" for all your hard work and commitment. We would never have got this far without you!

Carys Tucker, team captain



5X60 5X60 5X60 5X60 5X60

5x60 is about getting active for at least 60 minutes, 5 x a week. The 5x60 Officers at Whitchurch High School have set up new and exciting activities for the pupils at Whitchurch High School at both Lower and Upper Schools. Please see the timetable below for further details of these activities.

If you would like to speak to the 5x60 Officers at any time please ring Lower School on 029 2062 9700 and ask for Miss Gee-Wing or Mr Clement, alternatively you can email us at geewingc@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk / clemente@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 5x60 activities!

Year 7, 8 and 9 Pupils

5X60 Activity	Day	Time	Location
Dodgeball	Monday	12.15pm – 1.00pm	Lower School Rec
Tennis	Monday	3.45pm – 4.45pm	Whitchurch Tennis Club
Basketball	Tuesday	12.15pm – 1.00pm	Lower School Rec
Girls Football	Tuesday	12.15pm – 1.00pm	Power League
Girls Football	Wednesday	12.15pm – 1.00pm	Power League
Golf	Wednesday	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Dutch Barn
Table Tennis/Badminton	Thursday	12.15pm – 1.00pm	Lower School Rec
Street Dance	Thursday	3.30PM – 4.30pm	Lower School Canteen
Water Polo	Thursday	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Pool

Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 Pupils

5X60 Activity	Day	Time	Location
Basketball (Year 10 & 11)	Monday	12.15pm – 1.00pm	Upper School Sports Hall
Girls Fitness	Monday	3.30pm – 4.30pm	The Fitness Suite
Self Defence	Monday	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Upper School Sports Hall
Badminton	Monday	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Upper School Sports Hall
Table Tennis	Tuesday	12.15pm – 1.00pm	Youth Club
Street Dance	Wednesday	12.05pm – 1.05pm	Youth Club
Basketball (Year 12 & 13)	Wednesday	12.15pm – 1.00pm	Upper School Sports Hall

(Some of the activities may change due to the usage of facilities)

POTTER MOULDS HOCKEY STARS OF THE FUTURE

When vice captain Jack Walford passed the buck, Joe Hare stepped in to document the latest season in the school's 'most successful sporting side'...

The same old routine had never let us down since Year 7, and resumed again this year. One other thing that didn't change was the ridiculously short notice at which we had to prepare for games, often at 7pm, ahead of a fixture in Swansea the following day. Mr Potter assures us it wasn't his fault! That, amazingly, was not the shortest notice we had received in our years of playing for Whitchurch.

The familiar bus trips, marked with banter from every direction, often directed to vice-captain and report-avoider Jack Walford, again featured this year, and again the majority of the banter came from coach, driver, mentor, and inspiration Neil Potter. By now, as seasoned players, we had our favourite dressing room, number 2, and would evict any team which dared to invade it with even more passion than a Friday night Big Brother audience.

Victories were never easy to come by. A combination of my poor shooting, a half-hearted warm-up, and Jack Walford's complete inability to know which goal he should aim for, often left us 2 or 3 goals down at half time. Step forward Mr Potter, with his legendary half time speeches. He reminded us of our talent and the

responsibility to use it, and, Rockiesque, we would turn a defeat into a comfortable win, bringing back the title of Welsh Champions again.

Over 7 years, six Welsh titles were secured, accompanied by the same number of South Wales victories, all earned through being a close-knit squad which gave us a cutting edge on the field. As we bid farewell, we will all miss the camaraderie dearly, and wish the younger members of the squad the best of luck in the future, as they aim to continue our fantastic run as Wales' best school hockey side. Members of the squad leaving include Chris Fido, Jack Walford, Gareth Welch, Dom Baber, Joe Hare and Simon Cannon.

Here's to our next generation of cocky hockey superstars!

Joe Hare



YEAR 9 HOCKEY

It was a fine season of development for the Year 9 Girls Hockey side, who participated well in an inaugural County League for their age group.

Whitchurch hosted round one of the County Tournament, where our side was only narrowly eliminated by a very strong side from Cowbridge.

Ten fixtures across the whole season were evenly split between wins and narrow defeats, and this promises much for next year, as the girls have shown a real desire to develop their skills.

Congratulations go to squad members Holly Rye, Alys Chapmen, Beth Keay, Lauren Butler, Louise Breen, Lauren Burley, Stacey Batchelor, Cerys Ballett, Rachel Horwood, Rachel Harrold, Steph Harris, Amy Holliday, Zoe John and Hannah Evans.

The Year 10 hockey squad benefited from new members keen to participate this year, but lost inspirational skipper Bronwyn Northcott, who headed Down Under with the team's best wishes and fond farewells. Improvement was clear in the girls' ten matches, so watch out for Laura Russell, Charlotte Platt, Katie Davies, Kerhys Clarke, Alex Sewter, Rachel Ware, Jess Leonard, Sam Lomasney, Ellie Jones and Caitlin O'Connor to bring success next year.

TOM PUTTS THE REST TO SHAME

The following pupils represented the school at the recent Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Schools Golf Championships held at the Glamorganshire Golf Club.

James Lane
Sam Downes
Laurie Reid
Will Burridge

Tom Waldock
Simon Cannon
Scott Curtis

Congratulations to all as for the first time the Team won the 'Tony Pateman' Team Championship.

Even better than that, Tom Waldock became the boys champion. He will now represent the School and County at the Welsh Schools Championships held at the Tenby G.C. later in the term.

Congratulations to Oliver Baker, who has represented Wales at under 16 level in the Home Nations Championship.

Well done to all. Keep chipping away at your handicaps!

Darryn Havard

SPORTS DINNER REPORT 2008

After another year of great success for sportsmen and women at Whitchurch High School, the annual senior sports dinner again marked and celebrated those triumphs.

PE staff, coaches and senior staff joined students and guest speaker Rob Howley, former Cardiff Blues, Wales and British Lions superstar, and coach of the current Grand Slam-winning side, for a question-and-answer session.

No questions, of course, were permitted without prior approval from Head of PE Gwyn Morris.



Excellent speeches were made by all senior captains:

- Netball** – Bea Morris
- Hockey** – Carys Tucker
- Rugby** – Tom Rowlands
- Football** – David Smith
- Boys' Hockey** – Chris Fido

And prizes for Players' Player of the Year were presented to Sarah Platt, Rachel John, David Smith, Hywel Dinnick and Chris Fido.

In the course of the year, international honours were won by Bea Morris and Alex Cook (Athletics), Rhiannon Lavin, Charlotte Camilleri and Rachel John (Hockey), Elliot Jones (Rugby), Patrick McDowell (Boys Hockey) and Dafydd Russell Jones (Football). The PE department thanks all students involved in sports this year, and staff who have contributed to the school's ongoing run of success on the sporting field. It also thanks senior staff, including retiring Headteacher Gareth Matthewson, for their continued support.

Gwyn Morris
Head of P.E.

WELSH NASUWT ATHLETICS FINAL 2008

This year was an outstanding athletics year for the school in the above competition. Three of the school teams qualify through the regional stages to represent Cardiff and the Vale in the Boys u16 main cup competition and the girl's u14 and u16 plate competition. Despite terrible weather the athletes performed superbly with the boys winning the main championship by 9 points from second place Mold Alun school North Wales, and also the girls under 14 girls team winning the plate by a massive 15 points from Porthcawl. The under 16 girls were 5th, only 9 points behind the winners in a very tight competition. The superb performances by the school on the day was recognised by the school being awarded the outstanding athletics schools award 'The Charlie Hughes Trophy'.



BOYS ATHLETICS BRECON 2008

Year 10	Year 9
Harry Wootten	Glen Evans
Ryan Hamlett	Gareth Woodman
Corey Ludvigsen	Adam Neville
Andrew Jenkins	Frazier Robinson
Ross Mcleish	Will Singer
Aneurin Campbell	Emyr Lewis
Rhys Wagstaff	
Jean Baptist Bruslier	Year 8
Sam Perkins	Will Thomas
Dan Jenkins	Arron Atkins
Ben Popeck	Luke Andrews
David Harry	Connor Bickford

GOLD FOR GERAINT

Former Whitchurch pupil Geraint Thomas was part of the Great Britain Men's Team Pursuit gold medal winning performance at the recent Olympic Games in Beijing. Along with fellow cyclists Bradley Wiggins, Paul Manning and Ed Clancy, he also broke the world record.

Rob Davies head of sixth form, said Geraint deserves his success for the dedication and commitment he had given to the sport.

"Geraint was always a very talented boy and someone who was very, very determined.

"As a school we are delighted with how well he has done. I've been at Whitchurch for 34 years and this is the first time we've ever had an Olympic champion."



SPANISH GROUP'S OUTING BRINGS A PAELLA LAUGHS

La Tasca Restaurant, in Cardiff's Brewery Quarter, hosted Spanish students from Whitchurch High School on April 15th.

22 students, from three year groups, made the trip and benefited from the insight provided into the Hispanic culture and way of life, and had a tortilla-rific time! Some of the activities included a cultural quiz, a guide to the different styles of Spanish cuisine, and an invitation to the kitchen from the Head Chef, who demonstrated how to cook a traditional paella from scratch. A lesson in flamenco dancing brought the proceedings to a close. Spanish goes from strength to strength at WHS, with numbers at GCSE doubling for the coming year. ¡Estupendo!

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

Nine students and four staff members late in May attempted the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge, a task which involved scaling Snowdon, Cader Idris and Pen-y-fan in a single day.

Snowdon at dawn was a beautiful but challenging sight, as our climb began at 4am. There was barely time for a picture at the peak before we hurriedly descended, and moved to peak number two.

That peak proved a bridge too far for two team members, whose exhaustion got the better of them, but four and a half painful hours later, we were heading for the Brecon Beacons, and Pen-y-fan. The setting sun welcomed us as our ascent began, and wonderful weather guided us up in spite of the low cloud around the summit.

By the time we reached the foot again, 27.5kms had been walked, and 2.5kms climbed in 17 hours, ideal preparation for the trip later in the year to Borneo. Tired but satisfied smiles were worn by all on the journey home.



GETTING PERSONAL

A new, exciting venture awaits Whitchurch High School in the Autumn. In September, the new Year 7 will be the first year group to experience personalised learning. Personalised learning will mean meeting more of the educational needs of more of the students more fully than in the past.

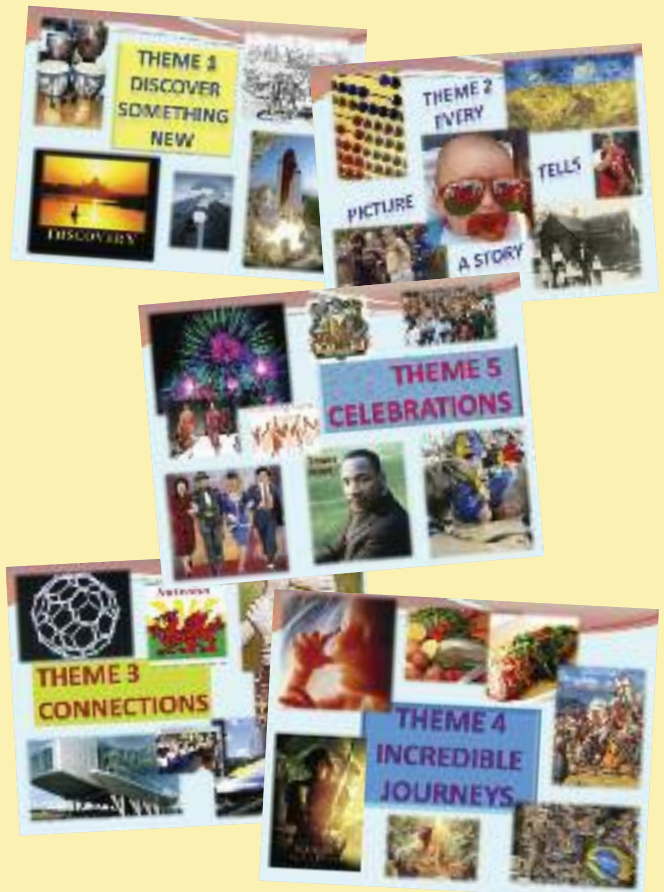
Learning will be based on skills, the skills that will make our pupils more independent, motivated learners and more able to deal with the challenges that await them as they progress through the school, onto higher education and ultimately into the workplace. The learning will be centred round the individual pupil rather than the teacher, with group work being very important. The skill areas will cover Thinking, Communication, ICT, Number and Subject Specific Skills.

We want our students to see the links between the subjects they study, so their learning will be covered under five themes. These themes are shown opposite.

Pupils will be assessed in terms of the skills they have mastered and will be awarded a Skills Passport at the end of the year.

The learning in school will be supported by the children's own learning, completed at home and spread more evenly throughout the year.

As everyone becomes more familiar with personalised learning, it should become an integral part of all lessons in Whitchurch High, benefitting every student.





WHITCHURCH PIE SCHOOL

A group of excellent cooks have stayed after school each week to practise and complete recipes that stretch their skills beyond what could be completed in an ordinary lesson.

Chelsea buns, vegetable tartlets, spicy sausage pasta, apple pizza and chocolate cakes are just some of the fine fare prepared.

The popularity of Cookery Club this year has been so great, it has been necessary to draw up a waiting list, and thanks are due to Mrs Chedzey and Mrs Preece for their invaluable help during after-school sessions.

WHITCHURCH LIBRARIES 'ECLIPSE' ALL OTHERS!

Whitchurch High School has new Library database software which is available to use in both the Lower and Upper School Libraries. The software is called Eclipse and students and teachers can use its 'Searchstar' facility to look up details of the books and information held in both libraries.

The homepage displays New Resources, Book of the Week and the Top Ten books borrowed from the Library. With this new system, you can reserve books located in the Library and also write reviews on any of the books that you have borrowed.

The librarians are always available to guide you through using the system.

School librarians can also assist with research and provide relevant training where needed.

Lower School Librarian – Miss Julie Edwards

**Upper School Librarian, Monday - Wednesday
– Mrs Carolyn Stephens**

**Upper School Librarian, Thursday & Friday
– Mrs Nicola Louden.**

Library Opening Hours are 8am - 4.15pm

BORNEO TRAINING EXPEDITION

During half term (14-16th February) the Borneo Expedition team spent 3 days in North Wales on their Training Expedition. The conditions were somewhat different to the hot and humid rainforest, with temperatures well below zero! Despite Mr Rooke almost suffering from malnutrition due to some poor cookery skills in his team, the whole group had a very enjoyable time and learnt a lot of useful skills for the summer expedition. And some not so useful, like how to cook with a liquid fuel stove on top of a hay bale! The expedition finished with a sponsored abseil off the Marquis Tower in Anglesey. Well done all.

The Borneo report will be in the next newsletter.



VARIETY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN MINI BUS



Actress Anita Dobson and entertainer Stan Stennett have helped special needs students on the road to independence.

The two stars were at the presentation of a 17 seater coach to youngsters in the Special Needs department at Whitchurch High School.

The £25,525 vehicle, organised by the Variety Club of Great Britain as part of its Sunshine Coaches scheme, was funded through contributions from the school and Thomas Cook travel agency.

The presentation was attended by Peggy Doidge MBE, Chairman of the Variety Club in South Wales, and the branch's Sunshine Coaches officer, Caryl Llewellyn.

Caryl said: "It was great. Anita was super with the children and Stan was fabulous too."

The children went to West Wales for a summer break so the coach took them down, which is fabulous. It's ideal for them.

ST DAVID'S DAY DISNEY-STYLE

Terrible weather didn't dampen the spirits of 37 pupils and 5 teachers on March 1st, as they made their way across land and sea to join Eurodisney's St David's Day Celebrations. Jake Onyett, Jack Clarke and Gareth Trotman take up the story ...

'After a three hour delay at Dover, we were finally able to board the ferry, and the rough crossing was one for us all to forget, but the excitement built as we reached Calais. Eurodisney holds an annual St David's Day celebration over the first weekend on March each year, and many Cardiff schools were attending.

Minnie Mouse, clad in traditional Welsh costume, was on hand to greet us. A pit stop for chocolate fudge ice cream and waffles provided the necessary energy, and then we started to explore. The Tower of Terror was our first port of call, where Jake was tricked into thinking the floor had disappeared from beneath him.

The trip was nothing if not multicultural; we sampled French food for both evening meal and breakfast, before returning to the park, where The Rocking Rollercoaster and Space Mountain were the rides we were keen to try. The St David's Day celebrations were visible all round the park, and some students took the chance to watch the

Gwalia Singers, from Swansea, in action. It was a proud moment when they sang 'Hen Wlad y Nhadau,' which brought the patriotic audience to its feet.

The park grew even more exciting by night, with shorter queues, and a chance to try to persuade one member of staff to buy a Welsh kilt. No luck, I'm afraid!

A calmer crossing on the way home, and a fine selection of DVDs to watch on the coach, saw us back safely in Wales. Everyone agreed it had been an enjoyable trip. Penwythnos bendigedig!



HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU!

Whitchurch High School's Television News Team managed to scoop an impromptu interview with Welsh First Minister Rhodri Morgan earlier this year at Riverside Farmers' Market.

The Year 10 group were filming footage for their documentary, 'How Green Is Your Valley?' when they spotted Wales' leading politician.

Charlotte Williams approached Mr Morgan, who was happy to answer questions about the possibility of Wales becoming the world's leading organic nation.

Tesni Street and Oliver Jackson, presenters of the short film, have filmed across Cardiff under the direction of Dave Heslop and Jon Williams for a Kid Witness News global competition, supported by electronics giant Panasonic.

The completed film, under the guidance of teachers Mrs Sylvester and Mrs Sanders, has earned some praise from BBC News Wales, who have expressed an interest in airing the students' work, which reached the national final of the KWN competition.



UNIVERSITY AT AN EARLY AGE

In the early part of the Summer Term forty of our students were credited with Bronze Awards from the Children's University. Cardiff Children's University awards credits to young people who attend learning activities out of school hours, broadening their learning out of choice. In High School, the Children's University operates across two age ranges; Years 7 and 8 come under the banner of the Children's University, while Years 9 to 13 are part of the Youth University.

In Whitchurch, 40 Bronze Award winners came from every year group, These students were involved in many different activities to gain such an award.

There are many more of our students involved in "out of hours learning" who did not gain an award, but have benefited greatly from participating. The wide range of activities includes music, sport, fishing, drama, textiles, languages, cooking and many, many more far too numerous to mention.

Why not get involved and see how much fun learning can be?

Whitchurch Pupils at the Children's University Awards Ceremony



TEXTBOOKS AND REALITY ARE POLES APART FOR OUR STUDENTS

Eleanor Hallam reports on a visit to Auschwitz by IB History Students.

'Sixth Form students from across England gathered in May to participate in a 'Lessons From Auschwitz' project recently, with the aim of learning about the effects of the Holocaust both in the past and upon our lives today.

Holocaust survivor Ziggi Shipper provided a first hand account of the terrible events at an orientation seminar that Hannah Stoate and I attended before the trip.

Via Krakow, in Poland, we travelled to Oswiecim, a pre-war Jewish town, to see the Town Hall and synagogue. Other groups visited the cemetery, where many grave are still vandalised with anti-semitic graffiti.

It was strange that our first view of Auschwitz itself featured a bar, hot dog stand and souvenir shop. It seems tourism has had an impact upon even the most sombre of locations.

The reality of the camp soon hit us, and its impact increased when we made the trip to Auschwitz 2, the most famous of the Death Camps. To consider that 1.5 million people had died there was an overwhelming experience. Standing on the site of the gas chambers, destroyed by the fleeing German forces, was the most emotional aspect of the trip.

After visiting the camp, we have learned that you cannot compare reading, and seeing pictures in a textbook, to experiencing at first hand the emotions of the place itself.'

Just to let everyone know, we have just reached the standard of:

BRONZE LEVEL ECO-SCHOOL

Well done to all those who have helped us achieve this award!

Simon Major



BRIGHT SPARKS SHINE IN GLOBAL QUIZ SHOWDOWN

Four literature lovers from Whitchurch High School earned the amazing accolade of third place in the World Kids Lit Quiz Final in July 2008.

Sherna Adenwalla, Eleanor Barton, Bethan Candlin and Eleanor Matthews travelled to Oxford on July 7th for a week of activities, including meeting famous authors, attending a celebration dinner, touring the sites of Oxford where the Harry Potter film series was produced, and meeting other keen readers from around the world. There was also time to take a punt out of the River Cherwell, an experience the pupils will not soon forget!

Accompanying them were English teacher Kevin Brown, who had acted as quizmaster in the heats to decide the team members, and librarian Julie Edwards.



The Final took place on July 10th, in the glamorous surroundings of the Oxford Playhouse theatre. After a nervous start, Bethan Candlin swooped to put Whitchurch on the scoreboard, and passed the baton to Sherna, who then produced the outstanding individual performance of the final in round two. With Bethan then identifying two novels from their opening sentences, and Eleanor Matthews recognising famous illustrators and comic animals, the team held the lead after rounds 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the ten-round final.

This was all the more remarkable, given that the competition consisted of schools from China, South Africa, England, Scotland, Ireland, and the UK Champions from Arnold House School, London.

Arnold House narrowly took the overall victory, and the penultimate question saw Whitchurch just miss out on second place. This achievement is all the more impressive given that Whitchurch was the only state school to reach the World Final.

Events reached a climax on Thursday night at the Gala Dinner at Oxford's Town Hall, where a poem in tribute to their favourite book, 'Journey To The River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson, performed by Sherna and Bethan, brought the house down, showing that Whitchurch had by far the hardest-working team in the event.

Quizmaster Wayne Mills, a Professor of Children's Literature, noted that they were by far 'the most improved team' in the Final.

Based on this showing, it might not be the only time that these immensely gifted students and book-lovers get to sample life in Oxford!

VISION 2008



The SEN Drama Festival, June 2008, was based around the theme of VISION and involved 8E, 10E and 11E. A new addition to the festival this year was 8V, resulting in a name change to 'EV' Festival.

8V performed the story of Tracy Beaker, a teenage girl, living in foster care. 8E's play, entitled 'Celebration', was a fast-paced drama celebrating their achievements at Whitchurch to date and their aspirations for the future. The lively and uplifting atmosphere was assisted further by Mr David O'Rourke's piano playing and Miss Gemma Francis' choreographed movements to the final song, 'Reach for the Stars.'

10E's 'Facing the Giants' explored a failing basketball team whose misfortunes are turned around by the arrival of a new coach. The coach was played by David Heslop. (Year 10 GCSE Drama student)

11E's 'Dead Dreams Can Live' was also written by Year 10 GCSE Drama students Vince Godfrey, David Heslop and Tom Skirrow. The play looked at a class of

students in 2020 that had lost the ability to dream. Tom Skirrow played an undercover M15 agent, sent by his boss Vince Godfrey, disguised as a Drama Teacher, to inspire them to dream again.

The festival provided a great opportunity for pupils of all abilities to work together and the atmosphere in the Drama Studio throughout the week was fantastic. The pupils worked extremely hard learning lines, rehearsing, painting the set and providing lighting, sound and slide projections for each piece.

The afternoon was a great success and the Drama Studio was packed with parents and pupils.

This was my fourth and final festival at Whitchurch High School and has been one of the most memorable experiences throughout my time here. Thank you so much to everyone who has been involved, in particular the SEN department.

Kelly Hardwick



THE SOUND OF MUNICH

October 2007 saw 24 enthusiastic Sixth Form students, and 2 even more enthusiastic teachers, head for Munich, with the aim of practising German, soaking up scenery, and sampling the local produce. One question all were keen to answer was whether all Bavarians yodel, drink vast quantities of beer, sing and belch loudly, and wear thigh-hugging lederhosen. To the disappointment of some students, that wasn't quite the case, but we saw some examples of the regional costume, sampled delicious Hofbrau (in moderation, of course!) and Tom Purchase even attracted a lady admirer from Mexico. A man-eater of a senorita, you might say!

Football fans amongst the group took in the sights of Bayern Munich's Allianz Arena, and then skated on thin ice in the Olympic Ice Rink. One highlight was the amazing rooftop tour of the 1972 Olympic Stadium, before rowing on the breathtaking lake near Neuschwanstein Castle in the Bavarian Alps.

The trip was a wonderful success. Neither Alice Rogers falling off her bike on our tour of Munich, nor Dan Walsh even failing to mount his bike, spoiled the trip. Alles klar! Wunderbar!



OKLAHOMA!

Whitchurch High's musical production in March was once again sensational with some outstanding performances from a talented cast. The wonderful musical score was done huge justice by El Filippo's band and the quality of the singing and acting hit new heights. Alex Griffin Griffiths was a marvellous "Curly" in the lead male role. He managed to strike a subtle balance between comedy and serious dramatic acting – particularly in his scenes with the menacing "Judd" played superbly by Dafydd Gape, who with his deep rich singing voice left the audience spellbound.

Hanna Brunt's characterization of the "playing hard to get" Laurie in the lead female role was also splendid as was her singing. There were some great ensemble moments where the team of chorus members sang and danced their hearts out to rousing "Rodgers and Hammerstein" numbers such as the title song and "Everything's up to date in Kansas City". Matthew Holmquist led the latter with some pretty neat dancing moves!



Great comedy moments were evident throughout the production, adding greatly to the enjoyment of the show. Lauren Morgan's rendition of "I Can't Say No!" was a particular highlight and her scenes with Tom Bishop as the flirtatious pedlar and Matthew as her disgruntled boy friend were really entertaining. Tom's sense of comic timing was impressive as was Lauren Jones' well practised annoying laugh!

Congratulations must go to all involved in this highly professional production which could have graced a West End stage easily. Thanks to Barry Slack, Eric Phillips, Julie Thorne, Kelly Hardwick and all other teachers and pupils who assisted with stage management, choreography and makeup. Another occasion not to be missed will be the 2009 production of 'Sweeney Todd'!

WHITCHURCH STUDENTS GAIN A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

Commonwealth Day celebrations at the Welsh Assembly featured four lucky students from Whitchurch High School in March 2008.

Marius Belmeguenai, and Emma Smith (Year 13), and Jodie Smith and Issy Maclean-Smith from Year 8, represented South Wales (Central) at a day revolving around the theme of 'The Environment – Our Future.' Display boards and Powerpoint presentations featured in their contribution, and they met with AMs, other school students and Commonwealth representatives.

After a light lunch, they watched First Minister's Questions from the Gallery, as the environment theme was addressed by the politicians. They proved a credit to the school throughout the day.



MIKE ON CLUE FOR HISTORY BURSARY

Sixth form student Michael Williams has won a prestigious scholarship to Aberystwyth University to study Military History and International Politics.

An unconditional offer, plus a bursary to help fund his studies, were the reward for Michael's interview and outstanding performance in the scholarship exam.

MEDIEVAL MAYHEM!

Year 7 students have taken learning into their own hands in recent History lessons. They have been exploring the gruesome, gory and shocking details of Medieval life. Staff gave pupils' creativity a free rein, with stunning results.

7H were entertained by a medieval version of lunchtime chat show 'Loose Women,' revealing the truth of lives of women in the Middle Ages. One highlight of the show was a fashion feature, with costumes produced in conjunction with Textiles Club. 7M went back in time and witnessed some gruesome medieval surgery, and learned about an interesting method of diagnosis – tasting urine. It's safe to say this was not a practical lesson!

There were Medieval version of 'Mastermind' and 'The Weakest Link,' and nuns even paid a special visit to 7M's classroom.

The skills and knowledge learned from the week then fed into a project to design and produce an educational board game, with the aim of teaching others about the Middle Ages.

THE KARATE KID

Nathan Williams of 9K (now 10K) achieved the remarkable accolade of becoming Individual World Karate Champion at Under 16 level in July at the event held in Berlin.

Whitchurch High's student, in possession of trophies almost as tall as Nathan himself, also played a crucial role in assisting the Great Britain team to win the overall event.

JENNY FACES PHYSIC-AL CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Jenny Jenkins in year 13 who was awarded second prize in an engineering and physics competition run by Science Made Simple. The whole class was invited to the presentation and we were fortunate to personally meet Adam Hart Davis (BBC Science Presenter) and Jon Tickle (Brainiac).

YEAR TEN SEE SITES OF D DAY

Suntans were purely incidental, as Year Ten History students had something else on their mind. The annual trip to see the D-Day landing beaches in Normandy took place, with the intention of enabling students to recognise the significance of what happened on June 6th, 1944.

Students have to write empathetically about D-Day as part of their GCSE coursework, and many of our students find it very moving and an emotional experience to be confronted by the sacrifices made by a previous generation.

Omaha Beach, where over 3,000 American soldiers lost their lives, proved an especially emotive location, but the sadness combined with trips to see the Bayeux Tapestry, and the beautiful scenery of Normandy, to improve our stay in France.

For those interested, make sure you join us for more historical travel adventures next year!

SIXTH FORM GERMAN PUPILS WIN CREATIVE MEDIA TRIP TO BERLIN!



An all-expenses-paid trip to Germany's vibrant capital, Berlin, was the reward for A2 German students Katie Harben and Georgina Young in November 2007.

They won the trip through featuring as one of 25 students across the country selected for the quality of their composition, after writing a piece about themselves in German. The UK-German Connection Creative Media Competition was open to all pupils at Key Stage 4 and 5 in both the UK and Germany, putting their achievement into perspective.

For five days, Katie and George worked with other young Brits and Germans, producing blogs, videos and podcasts, interviewing passers-by, and producing articles for new magazine 'Still And Sparkling'. As both girls plan to continue German studies at university, maybe we should watch this space for the next Natasha Kaplinskys of the future.

WE CAME WE SAW WE CONQUERED - THE ITALIAN JOB!



The Coliseum



Graffiti at Verona



Gardaland

30 GCSE and A level Whitchurch students descended on Italy in the Easter holidays led by a brave contingent of R.E. teachers – Mrs Anthea Parker, Miss Claire Hollings and Mr James Hopkins. The 10 day tour included 3 nights in Lake Garda with a visit to Gardaland the biggest theme park in Europe. At Verona our students visited the second largest amphitheatre in Italy and the famous Romeo and Juliet balcony where we were actually allowed to graffiti on the walls! (Only messages of love allowed!) Visitors were also invited to touch a bronze statue of 'Shakespeares' Juliet (which the boys were eagerly keen to do for reasons we are not able to give here!) James Kelly valiantly made his way up to Juliet's balcony to wave a Welsh flag just to show that we had been there!

When in Rome we sampled local cuisine (lots of pasta!) and Mrs Parker bought everyone an Italian icecream at the Fontana de Trevi where many of the pupils threw a coin into the fountain and made a wish to return. At the coliseum some of our teachers posed with roman soldiers who looked rather menacing! The Sistine Chapel in the Vatican was a moving experience with everyone in awe of Michael Angelo's amazing art work. Another interesting visit was the multi media feature

known as the "Time Elevator" which was a 3D virtual reality ride giving our students an insight into the history of Rome. One of the highlights however was definitely a visit to the Saint Castillos' Catacombs which run for miles underneath the city and where we were given an interesting talk about the survival of Christianity in its earliest days. We also visited the historic town of Tivoli with its outstanding gardens and fountains. Plenty of time for shopping was built into the schedule and Josh Thomas entertained us all with the bargains he managed to acquire everywhere! We also made it to the Olympic stadium for Josh to take a picture of Roma's ground! (He nagged enough before we went!)

There is much debate as to who actually won the race to the top of the Spanish steps on one particular evening but Mrs. Parker is bringing her trainers rather than her boots for the re-run! So Stewart Tomkinson look out!

As we journeyed home via Florence and Lake Garda, everyone was exhausted but exhilarated by the sights we had seen. Awards were given out to our particularly entertaining characters and this was truly a trip of a lifetime. Thanks to all R.E. staff involved in its organization. Next year it's New York! R.E. at Whitchurch definitely gives our students real learning for life.

Fontana de Trevi



Tivoli Gardens



SIXTH FORM CONFERENCE

In September 2007 as part of the year 12 Induction Programme, over 200 pupils gathered at U.W.I.C for an R.E. conference as part of their statutory key stage 5 curriculum. The event which was a "Question Time" format was chaired by Phil George of BBC Wales and the eminent speakers gathered were Rabbi Wollenburg of the Orthodox Synagogue in Cyncoed, Pramudita of the Cardiff Buddhist Centre based in Roath and Rev Trystan Harries of St Mary's Anglican Church in Whitchurch. The variety of topics under debate included "Does God Exist?" "What Happens When We Die?" and medical issues such as "Should Euthanasia Be Legalised?" All students were invited to participate in the challenging discussions.

Our pupils behaved in a polite and respectful manner but the debate did get rather heated at times when differences of opinion were evident! Rabbi Wollenburg had brought with him the Jewish shofar and he certainly got everyone's attention when it was blown! All students were given reading material to take away for their sixth form studies. This included articles on the topics discussed which could prove useful for essay work in other subjects and thus the event made valuable cross-curricular links.

Thanks to Mrs Parker and the R.E. team for organising the conference which was another successful event.



EQUALITY RULES O.K!



Over 1,000 pupils from Cardiff schools entered the "Schools Against Racism" poster competition last Autumn. This was organised by "Race Equality First" and it encouraged students to design an innovative poster with a thought provoking slogan which would persuade people to think about the issue of Racism in society today. The winners were presented with their awards by the Lady Mayoress at a reception at City Hall in November.

Their efforts were featured in a calendar and posters which were circulated to all schools and businesses in Cardiff and the Vale. Whitchurch students who had produced posters in Mrs Parker's R.E. lessons scooped three of the awards! This was an outstanding achievement considering so many entries were submitted. They won £150 for the R.E. department and £50 gift vouchers for themselves. Conor Uruski, Hannah Stephens (Year 9) and Emily Mears (Year 10) are pictured receiving their awards with the Lady Mayoress.

EXHIBITIONS GALORE!



Above: Year 6 pupils visit the A level Art and Textiles exhibition with Mrs Wlodarczyk.

This year the Upper School gym has been converted into a gallery space to exhibit the diverse and exciting art work of our talented pupils. 3 different exhibitions were on show during the summer: A level Art and Textiles, Applied Art and finally the GCSE show. All were well attended by pupils, family and friends. As well as this Year 12 had their work on show at Llanover Hall and 10E had their work exhibited at UWIC. Well done everyone!

Below: A level pupils have their work on show at Llanover Hall in February.



Left: A level Art and Textiles Exhibition in the new exhibition space in the Upper school gym.

THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SAYS GOODBYE, GOOD LUCK AND BON VOYAGE TO ADELE WILLIAMS AND SIMON MAJOR

Adele Williams and Simon Major are jetting off to teach in sunnier climes and saying goodbye to the Biology/Science department, to Whitchurch High School and to wet Wales. We are all sad to see them go, but know that they are following their dreams. Adele joined us in 2001, initially as a student teacher. Simon joined the clan in 2002 and, the two became a couple not very long after and they've built their lives together since. Both are going to be teaching at the Jerudong International School in Brunei. This is a large school, like Whitchurch High, teaching GCSE and A levels to Bruneian and ex-patriate families. The innovative teaching that Adele and Simon have brought to Whitchurch will be valued greatly, I'm sure, by the school. Certainly, I know from pupil comments here that Miss Williams and Mr Major ensure that learning Biology

can be fun. In the past year, Adele has taken on the responsibility of Biology KS5 co-ordinator and second in department and Simon has become known as 'Eco-man' introducing and promoting the education of sustainable development throughout the school and in the community beyond, both with great success. Simon has also worked extremely hard at organising the Borneo expedition that a select group of students are taking part in this year. The school is going to miss you both very much, but, from students, past and present and from all your colleagues in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and the rest of Whitchurch High School, we wish you bon voyage and hope you successfully fulfill your dreams by making it to New Zealand to live long and happy lives!

MUSICAL NOTES

The 2008 Richard Fice Memorial Award was presented to Tom McMahon, who has made a valuable contribution to school music in his time at Whitchurch High School.

Year 13 student James Smart also made a great contribution to our work this year, producing a striking painting of Llandaff Cathedral for the department to present to departing headmaster Gareth Matthewson. The school should also celebrate its success in providing many musicians for Wales' National Youth Orchestra, including violinists Lydia Marshall and Rebecca Cartlidge, Jack Welch (Year 9 flautist) and former pupils Geraldine Charles, Ceri Murphy, Laura McLoughlin, Tom Graff and Tom Oyston on the Orchestra's summer tour.

ANNALISE THE WINNER

Pupils in Mrs Wlodarczyk's art class recently entered a competition run by Barclaycard, entitled *One World, One Dream*.

Over 70 designs were entered from Whitchurch High School. Out of thousands entered from across Wales Annalise's design won the Welsh division of the regional entries!

Annalise (pictured right with her design) won £1,000 for WHS as well as £100 of art equipment for herself.

"I am so proud of Annalise, her design is beautiful and I think it would make a wonderful flag," said Mrs Wlodarczyk. "She is a very worthy winner!"

WHITCHURCH GOES INTO SPACE

Whitchurch High sent two representatives to Charterhouse School, Surrey, this year, to present Wales' contributions to space education in the UK.

Head of Science Eric Coombes, and David Spear, were given the opportunity to meet many influential people within the world of space exploration, including Colin Pillinger, the driving force behind the Beagle Lander recently sent to Mars.

BBC Science Presenter Reg Turnhill, UK Test Pilot Eric Brown, and George Abbey, the former Director of NASA, also attended, as part of an inspirational conference that proved a valuable experience for both members of staff.



ENGINEERING TEAM CHALLENGE A TOWERING SUCCESS!

A select group of Year 9 students joined Mr Mulford at this year's Engineering Team Challenge. They were challenged to design and construct a tower made up of plastic straws, rubber bands, and short wooden dowels that would reach at least 80cms in height and support as much weight as possible within a set budget.



The Whitchurch pupils had the upper hand with this challenge, as they had already studied structures, and the forces acting upon them, in Year 8. This paid dividends as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places were secured on the first day, and 1st and 3rd place on the second day.

Jane Hutt, the Welsh Assembly Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, was also impressed with the Whitchurch teams' achievements; she stopped for a chat and a quick picture (below). Great fun was had by all who participated in the challenge. You can check out all of the pictures of the event on the DT department intranet site.



COLIN MORGAN



After 39 years unbroken service to Whitchurch High, Colin Morgan retires as Head of Economics. All associated with him, whether as colleague or pupil, have witnessed a true professional – a mentor and advocate for staff and moreover a teacher in whom countless students have placed utmost and unquestioned trust. A man with sharp intellect Colin nevertheless had the ability to unravel for youngsters the most complex of issues and make Economics fun.

Beyond the classroom Colin contributed as Sportsman, chorister, raconteur and convivial conversationalist. True to the tradition of industrial South Wales, Colin is cast-iron solid, steely tempered and acutely polished.

In an age of bureaucratic multi-copy Colin is very much a "one-off" adding value to the lives and education of those whose privilege it has been to know him.

Rob Davies

SO LONG, FAREWELL, AUF WEIDERZEIN, GOODBYE

Good luck and thanks are extended to even more members of staff who left their posts at the end of the summer term for pastures new. Whitchurch is grateful for the huge contribution made to the school and the dedication of these staff who have worked with us.

Mrs Honor Oram moves on to a well earned retirement. An article will be dedicated to her in the next newsletter.

Mr Peter Spencer has moved after three years as Deputy Head to become Head of Coedcae, Llanelli. His friendly approachable personality will certainly be missed.

Kelly Hardwick of the Drama Department is moving to a well deserved Head of Department post at Porthcawl and Lucy Powell of the Welsh Department has moved to become Second in Department at Bassaleg.

Jane Khoury of the RE department has moved to Croesyceiliog in Cwmbran to take up a post with Matthew Ireland (ex RE teacher at Whitchurch).



Maureen James (left) who has worked for fourteen years as the headteacher's PA is retiring. Mo has served the staff and pupils with unswerving professionalism at all times. Known as the 'Mighty Mo' and 'Auntie Mo', she has been held with great affection and will be greatly missed.

NEW STAFF

Welcome back to Lee Thornton-Phillips, Drama Department.

New appointments include Rebecca Collins as deputy headteacher, Sian Woodman to the Biology department and Lucie Ozturk as Head of Business Studies.

Best wishes to all new members of staff at Whitchurch High School.

DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER

4-5 September	6th form Induction UWIC
16 September	Year 11 Information Evening
17 September	Year 12 Information Evening
18 September	Year 6 Open Evening 6.30-8.00pm
22 September	Year 10 Information Evening

HALF TERM 27th-31st October

DECEMBER

10/11 December	Young Playwrights' Festival 7.30pm
18 December	Carol Service, Llandaff Cathedral, 7.30pm

DON'T FORGET TO SEND ARTICLES TO:

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