



WELCOME FROM HEADTEACHER

As the autumn term gathers pace, I am continually reminded of the remarkable energy, creativity and community spirit that make our school such a special place.

This was nowhere more evident than at our Autumn Eisteddfod, where an extraordinary array of creative talent was on display. From poetry and painting to music and movement, every performance and exhibit reflected the imagination and dedication of our pupils. My heartfelt congratulations go to all who took part — you did yourselves and our school proud.

Beyond the classroom, I am deeply grateful to our staff, whose commitment ensures that learning extends far beyond the timetable. From the Duke of Edinburgh Award to dance classes, football to French, swimming to song writing, coding to creative writing, art to acting, textiles to trumpet playing, choir to cooking, and much more besides, the range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer is truly outstanding. These experiences help our young people discover their passions, build confidence and develop invaluable life skills.

Rehearsals are also in full swing for our forthcoming drama production, which is shaping up to be one of our most ambitious performances yet. The excitement is building day by day, and I know the final production will be a real highlight of the year.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the Y6 and sixth form open evenings. It was a joy to welcome so many families exploring the next stage of their child's journey. In fact, the turnout for the sixth form evening was so strong that it was standing room only — a wonderful testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of our pupils and staff.

This term has also seen the introduction of some exciting new reward initiatives. Excellent attendance is now celebrated with a free reward brunch, and it was fantastic to see so many pupils meeting the threshold to join in. Alongside this, our new rewards system allows pupils to 'cash in' their positive behaviour points for a wide range of prizes. If any parents or carers would like to contribute small gifts or vouchers for future winners, these would be most warmly received.



Looking ahead, we are delighted to be hosting a cluster training event for staff from across our local schools, focusing on the effective use of Artificial Intelligence to secure strong and innovative learning. This is an exciting step forward as we explore how technology can support both teaching and creativity. Where appropriate, we want our pupils to be confident, ethical and imaginative users of AI — not simply consumers of technology, but creators who can use it to solve problems, extend ideas and enrich their learning.

It's easy to picture what this might look like in the not-too-distant future: a school day where pupils collaborate with AI tools to design sustainable cities, compose music inspired by world cultures, simulate historical debates, or receive instant, personalised feedback on their writing. Teachers, meanwhile, will use AI insights to identify where students need extra challenge or support — freeing up more time for the kind of human connection and inspiration that no machine can replicate. The future of learning is bright, and our school intends to be right at the forefront.

Finally, I want to remind all parents and carers that my door is always open. If there is ever anything you would like to discuss — whether a question, concern, or simply to share a success — please don't hesitate to drop in. It's always a pleasure to work together in support of our pupils' growth and happiness.

With warmest regards,

Daniel Owen

Upcoming dates

Friday 24th October – School breaks up

27-31st October – Half term holiday

3rd October – Pupils start back

7th November – Y8 interim reports home

14st November – Non uniform day for Children in Need ***REVISED DATE***. Suggested £1 donation.

20th November – Y9 parents' evening

21st November – Y7 interim reports home

24th November – Y12/13 exams week

1st December – Y6 transition day

3rd December - Y11 parents' evening

11th December – Christmas concert

11th December – Fish & chips lunch in the canteen (to allow for Christmas lunch the following day)

12th December – Non-uniform (Christmas jumper day) & Christmas lunch

15th December – Award ceremony

17th December – Christmas carol service

18th December – Y12/13 interim reports

19th December – Inset day (no school for pupils)

22nd December – 2nd January – Christmas holidays

5th January – Inset day (no school for pupils)

6th January – Pupils start back

Extra-curricular activities

We have a wider range of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school, with break, lunchtime and after-school clubs.

Check out the full list on our school website – select "Life at Llanidloes" and then "Clubs".

EVERYDAY	NAME OF CLUB	TIME	WHERE	WITH WHO
MONDAY	Football Club	3.30 - 5.00pm	Field	A. Jones
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	B. Smith
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	C. Evans
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	D. Williams
TUESDAY	Football Club	3.30 - 5.00pm	Field	A. Jones
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	B. Smith
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	C. Evans
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	D. Williams
WEDNESDAY	Football Club	3.30 - 5.00pm	Field	A. Jones
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	B. Smith
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	C. Evans
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	D. Williams
THURSDAY	Football Club	3.30 - 5.00pm	Field	A. Jones
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	B. Smith
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	C. Evans
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	D. Williams
FRIDAY	Football Club	3.30 - 5.00pm	Field	A. Jones
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	B. Smith
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	C. Evans
	Chess after school	4.00 - 5.00pm	Library	D. Williams

School opening hours



A reminder that our school site is not open to pupils until **8.30am each morning**. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

CONTACT DETAILS

Should you need to contact the school, including notifying us that your child is absent during term-time, please contact us on:

- 01686 412289
- office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sc.uk

We look forward to sharing with you our Welsh version of our new school newsletter – this will be made available on our website.

Attendance

Please inform us of medical appointments on the morning of the appointment, if not before, and provide proof of the appointment (eg. an email or text message confirming the appointment).

	Learning Missed in ONE school year	
95-100% attendance	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity
90-95% attendance	At least 2 weeks of learning missed	Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work
85-90% attendance	At least 4 weeks of learning missed	Your child may be at risk of underachieving and may need extra support from you to catch up with work
80-85% attendance	At least 5 ½ weeks of learning missed	Your child's poor attendance has a significant impact on learning
Below 80% attendance	At least 7½ weeks of learning missed	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education. You are at risk of prosecution

Thank you for your continued support in helping us raise the profile of attendance. Every Opportunity Counts.

Holidays

Holiday forms can be emailed to parents or collected from the office by pupils. Please give as much notice as possible for any holiday requests and at least 28 days before the absence. Attendance must be above 90% to be considered for authorisation and behaviour will be taken into account as well as impact on key periods of learning such as assessments.

Holidays for pupils in Y10, Y11 and 6th form will be automatically unauthorised due to the importance of pupils in these year groups being in attendance at all times during term time so as not to miss important learning and preparation for exams/assessments.

Head boy and girl

Elections recently took place to elect the new Head Girl and Boy and their deputies.

The prospective candidates made speeches to staff and sixth form pupils who then voted. The results are:

- Rebekah Lewis Head Girl
- Arthur Whitworth Head Boy
- Ama Granero Mackay Deputy Head Girl
- Harrison Jones Deputy Head Boy

Pictured front (left to right) - Arthur Whitworth Head Boy, Rebekah Lewis Head Girl. Back (left to right) - Harrison Jones Deputy Head Boy, Ama Granero Mackay Deputy Head Girl.



Charity sale

We will be holding a table top sale for second-hand Llanidloes High School uniform in the near future, with proceeds going to charity.

If you have any used but clean school uniform items you would like to donate, these would be gratefully received at the school office. Thank you for your support.



ParentPay

Please could all ParentPay accounts be kept **in credit** in order for your child to be able to use the school canteen. Powys Catering require your accounts to be **in credit at all times** so please add money **before** they spend it in the canteen.

A few helpful tips:

- You can set up alerts on the ParentPay website to avoid your child's account going into debt.
- A daily spending limit is set at £6 so pupils will not be able to go over this limit.
- If your child has free school meals – their account does always need to be credit in for any spend over the daily limit. Thank you.



Clothing reminder

We kindly ask that all school uniforms and clothing are clearly labelled with pupil names.

We currently have a large number of unclaimed items in lost property. If we know who they belong to, it helps us get these back to pupils.

Thank you.

NEWS & INFORMATION

You can access a wide range of useful information on our **website** such as key dates, uniform, list of extra-curricular clubs and more. Visit

www.llanidloeshighschool.co.uk

We also publish news and updates on our **Facebook** page:

**Ysgol Uwchradd Llanidloes
High School**

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Well done to our Bronze DofE pupils who completed their award successfully this half-term.

A very wet day on Saturday but they 'toughed it out' and finished strong. Great effort everyone!





Hefin Bennet debate

Our annual Hefin Bennet debate competition was, once again, a fantastic demonstration of the confidence, resilience and speaking skills of some of our Year 9 students. In total, twenty-seven students participated and debated a range of topical and controversial motions, including AI in schools, women's rights, social media and a range of other thought-provoking topics. The Year 9 audience participated fantastically, voting after the each of debates, and applauding those who presented their speeches.



The prize for best team went to Bethan Morgan (Chairperson), Helen Saji (Proposer), and Jenna Prior (Opposer), who eloquently and skilfully debated the topic of women's rights. Helen Saji also won the award for best overall Proposer. Gethin Evans won the award for the best Opposer in his intriguing debate about using AI in schools, and, finally, Fabian Austin Love received the award for the best Chairperson in a debate about smoking.

Our adjudicator, Miss Saunders, commented that this was one of the best Hefin Bennet debate competitions she had seen in her years as a teacher, and was impressed by both the performers and the audience for their maturity and attentiveness.

Well done, Year 9!





Lights, lunchtimes, action! 🎵 🎭

Get ready to be dazzled! The Drama and Music departments are cooking up something spectacular, and rehearsals are already bursting with energy, creativity, and a whole lot of sparkle.

From show-stopping ABBA group numbers and jaw-dropping gymnastic routines to heartfelt Shakespeare monologues and dynamic dance duets—this showcase has it **all**.

The cast has been giving it their all—sacrificing lunchtimes, smashing Monday night rehearsals, and even practicing in their own time (talk about dedication!). Under the brilliant direction of Mrs Howells and Mrs Powell, every scene, song, and step is coming to life.

The vibe? Electric. The talent? Off the charts. The countdown? Officially on.

💎 Stay tuned and grab your seat—this is one show you do not want to miss! 💎



Folk music comes alive at school

On Tuesday 7 October, 35 talented musicians from Years 8–10 took part in a vibrant Folk Music Workshop led by professional musicians Patrick Rimes and Carys Gittins.

Working entirely by ear — no sheet music in sight — pupils learned a traditional Welsh folk song and created their own unique arrangement in just two hours.



A huge thank you to Trac Cymru and the National Plan for Music in Wales Powys for making this inspiring musical experience possible.

Next stop Royal Albert Hall!

On Tuesday 11 November, several of our young musicians will be heading to London to take the stage at the world-famous Royal Albert Hall (pictured) as part of the Music for Youth Prom.

This is a truly extraordinary opportunity to perform on one of the most iconic stages in the world.

Mrs Powell would like to thank Music for Youth and the National Plan for Music in Powys for their support in helping to make this unforgettable experience a reality.



Attendance brunch 🎉

What a brilliant 100% Attendance Rewards Brunch for Years 7–11!

On 23rd October, we celebrated over 140 pupils who achieved perfect attendance this term — a fantastic achievement and a real credit to their dedication.

Huge thanks to all staff and our amazing sixth formers for helping make it happen.





Jesse rides to success

Year 9 pupil Jesse James is accelerating to new heights in the sport of motocross.

Inspired by his dad's road bike, Jesse began riding young and quickly found his passion. By age 9, he was racing in the 65cc class—winning over 20 races and clinching the Club Championship.

Now part of the NORA CRS Development Race Team, Jesse is on a professional pathway programme and trains with expert support. He competes in top-tier events across the UK including the British Cup and NPC Pro Championship. This year, he'll take on the challenging Weston Beach Race.



Off the track, Jesse's YouTube channel has over 140,000 subscribers, with one video reaching 58 million views. His growing social media presence and racing success point to a bright future—possibly even racing in the USA by 2026.

Well done Jesse and keep an eye on this rising star! 🌟

🌟 Young ambassador update

This half term, we were thrilled to see such an incredible level of interest in the Sport Powys **Young Ambassador Programme** — with **over 50 applications** received! The enthusiasm and commitment shown by our pupils have been truly inspiring.

With so many fantastic candidates, it was a challenge to narrow down the list, but after a series of interviews led by our current gold and platinum ambassadors, Caitlin Turner, Carys and Ffion Davies – Williams (pictured), we are delighted to announce and congratulate our **new Young Ambassadors**. We are so excited to have you join the team and look forward to seeing the amazing contributions you'll make to school life and the wider community.

As we move into the next half term, we will be responding to pupil demand by **running clubs and activities** to give even more opportunities for leadership, teamwork, and fun. Watch this space for updates!
-Gemma Owen, Sport Powys



Poburdd and Cogurdd 2025 🍰 👩🍳 ☀️

We have had an exciting half term competing in the Urdd poburdd and cogurdd competitions.

For Year 7-9 Cogurdd we had a number a creative and highly skilled entries for 'A dish that celebrates an annual event'. The Year 7-13 Poburdd competition, 'a dessert that includes Welsh produce', was also well contested. It was amazing to see such a wide range of entries that showed creativity and wowed the judges! A huge well done to all competitors!

Results:

Poburdd

1st - Esme Francis-Jones Y7
2nd - Zane Cubbins Y11
3rd Enlli Roberts Y8

Cogurdd

1st Ella Foskett Y8
2nd Esme Francis-Jones
=3rd Ffion Ruggeri Y7, Gethin Evans Y9, Jake Davies Y9.

Pob Luc to Esme and Ella who represent our school in the next round in the Y7-9 competition. We also wish our Year 10 and 11 pupils luck in their round on the 13th November!



Fixture results

Congratulations to our sports teams on their recent results.

BOYS FOOTBALL

Year 11 won 4-0 Penglais
Year 11 won 2-1 Aberaeron
Year 10 lost 2-1 Caereinion
Year 9 lost 5-1 Newtown
Year 8 lost 6-0 Caereinion

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Under 18 lost 2-1 Welshpool
Year 10 won 1-0 Calon Cymru
Year 10 won 10-0 Caereinion
Year 9 lost 9-1 Caereinion
Year 9 won 4-0 Calon Cymru

GIRLS HOCKEY

Under 16 Hockey North Powys champions





Celebrating the Annual European Day of Languages

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 took part in a range of different activities this year, in order to celebrate the languages and culture of the UK, Europe and the world.

Year 7 were given a 'Guess Who' quiz where they had to find which member of staff had said which languages they were learning or could speak fluently.

Year 8 took part in a languages treasure hunt where they had to locate the Welsh/ French/ Italian/ Portuguese/ Spanish phrases and they work out what they meant.

The whole of KS3 also attended an assembly on the importance of learning languages and the opportunities that being culturally open minded can bring.

Change of names!

As part of the New Curriculum, some of the subjects offered in the Languages Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience have now changed their names! '

Modern Foreign Languages' ('MFL') are now known as 'International Languages' and 'Welsh Second Language' is now known as 'Core Cymraeg'.

Cymraeg yr Wythnos

Every week we look at a phrase in Welsh that is to be used around school. Cymraeg yr Wythnos is introduced every Monday with a powerpoint sent to staff which include the phrase and a short activity to do during tutor. Pupils will be encouraged to use it during lessons and around school with each other and with staff. The Criw Cymraeg will play an important role encouraging and supporting everyone to use Cymraeg yr Wythnos. So far our Cymraeg yr Wythnos have been *bore da/prynhawn da, dewch i mewn, sut dych chi?, pawb yn barod?, and ga...?*

Bob wythnos rydyn yn edrych ar ymadrodd yn y Gymraeg sydd i'w ddefnyddio o gwmpas yr ysgol. Cyflwynir Cymraeg yr Wythnos bob dydd Llun gyda chyflwyniad PowerPoint yn cael ei anfon at y staff sy'n cynnwys yr ymadrodd a gweithgaredd byr i'w wneud yn ystod y sesiwn tiwtor. Bydd disgyblion yn cael eu hannog i'w ddefnyddio yn ystod gwersi ac o gwmpas yr ysgol gyda staff a gyda'i gilydd. Bydd y Criw Cymraeg yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn annog a chefnogi pawb i ddefnyddio Cymraeg yr Wythnos. Hyd yn hyn rydyn wedi cael *bore da/prynhawn da, dewch i mewn, sut dych chi?, pawb yn barod?, and ga...?*