

## Garth Olwg 3-19 School Opens!

## A word from the Headteacher

After a year of preparation, Garth Olwg 3-19 school is open. The school was officially opened on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September in a formal ceremony. The audience included pupils, staff and representatives from Rhondda Cynon Taf county council. The Lower School and the Middle and Upper School choirs performed and Elen Griffiths, Year 10, entertained the audience with a performance on the harp. A plaque was also unveiled to commemorate the opening of the school.

The school is already reaping the benefits of a 3-19 school and it's great to see pupils of all ages interacting in a variety of activities. We are looking forward for the exciting year ahead and are inviting you as parents and carers to join us on this exciting journey. We are ready for the challenge and will work tirelessly to fulfil our ambition of ensuring that Garth Olwg School is admired across the County, Consortium, Wales and beyond.



It was an honour and a privilege to be present during the opening concert of the 3-19 school. A wealth of entertainment was on offer including singing, dancing and recitation and all of the performances were of a very high standard. The school would like to thank pupils, staff and parents for their support and commitment to ensure the evening was a success.

Half Term Dates	Start	Finish
1 (Autumn 2019)	4/09/2019	25/10/2019
<b>2 (Autumn 2019)</b>	<b>4/11/2019</b>	<b>20/12/2019</b>
3 (Spring 2020)	6/01/2020	14/02/2020
4 (Spring 2020)	24/02/2020	03/04/2020
5 (Summer 2020)	20/04/2020	22/05/2020
6 (Summer 2020)	01/06/2020	17/07/2020



## School celebrates A level Results

Pupils at the former secondary school celebrated their A Level achievements with some outstanding results. This year's results show successes in Advanced Level and Level 3 Vocational Qualifications with 95% gaining two qualifications or more, with 70% of the grades achieved at A\*- C. Among the school's high achievers this year are: Bethan Horscroft-Prest: 2A\*, 1A, 1C. Jake Spencer: 4A. Seren Lloyd-Ellis: 4A. Siân Jones: 2A, 2B. Laura Neak: 2A, 2B. Seren Fowler: 2A, 2B. Elin Griffiths-Warner: 2A, 1B, 2C. Morgan Evans: 2A, 1B, 1C.



Pupils have headed to many different universities such as Exeter, Cardiff, Manchester and Southampton to study a range of subjects. Other universities chosen by our pupils this year include Aberystwyth, Swansea and Reading. Mr Edwards, said: "We are very proud of our students and it has been a great privilege to work with them to help them achieve their superb results this summer. So many of them have worked so hard that they deserve every success. I would also like to thank the students' parents, guardians and families, along with our dedicated staff, for their support and dedication. We look forward to following our students' journeys through university, work or further education, and their future careers." Rhuanedd Richards, Chair of the Governing Body, said: "On behalf of the Governing Body,

many congratulations to our students on their A level and Level 3 Vocational results. We are very proud of your achievements. I also take this opportunity to sincerely thank the staff too for their hard work in supporting our young people".

## Pupils praised for GCSE performance

Pupils have once again achieved GCSE results that will set them on the path for a lifetime of success. We are pleased to announce that the pupils have performed well in this year's GCSE examinations. The pupils have fulfilled their potential and these are a very satisfying set of results. The high attainment among a significant number of pupils in the cohort reflects the hard work and dedication of the pupils, staff, parents and guardians. Some of our high achievers include: Anwen Davies – 13A\*. Brianne Jones – 10A\*, 3A. Huw Griffiths – 9A\*, 4A. Gruff Roberts – 9A\*, 4A. Efan Fairclough – 9A\*, 3A, 1B. Steffan West – 8A\*, 5A. The school is very pleased that many of its pupils with Additional Learning Needs as well as pupils who sat examinations under very challenging circumstances, also achieved good results.



"I send my warmest congratulations to our Year 11 pupils on their results. They have worked very hard, and their success is testament to the hard work of the staff at Garth Olwg, and the continuous support from our parents and guardians. We have succeeded in providing our pupils with the bilingual skills they need for the future. I look forward to welcoming many of them back into the Upper School and I am delighted that we're able to offer them such a rich and varied curriculum for the next step in their learning pathway." Mr Edwards



## Art Department Trip to Oxford

Year 11 Art and Photography students had the opportunity to go on a trip to Oxford to visit the Pitt Rivers Museum. The museum has been named after Augustus Pitt Rivers, the archaeologist. We toured the museum in order to collect information and draw the artefacts to build up our portfolio for our GCSE qualification. There are approximately 500,000 treasures in the museum and all of them have been collected by Pitt Rivers himself. Some of the items are over 2000 years old! There were items such as masks, armour, musical instruments, outfits, jewellery and 'shrunken heads' in the museum. We also had a walking tour of the city for photography students. We visited places of interest, which were the castle, the old prison, and the Camera Radcliffe Building that was designed by James Gibbs. Everyone had a great time.



## Llangrannog



Happy, fearful, nervous, excited: just some adjectives to describe our great time on the trip. After leaving school we arrived in Llangrannog ready for a huge delicious lunch. Our first activity was skiing with a large number of the class reaching the summit of the slope. The go-karting was very fast and very wet but we really enjoyed it. Most of us managed to get down the wall when abseiling. The first night we went for a stroll down Llangrannog beach to watch the sun set. After

walking we had the opportunity to play with our friends on the beach. We discovered jellyfish on the beach! On our return, we were entertained by the Upper School pupils whilst folk dancing; everyone was sweaty after dancing.

In the morning after breakfast, we hurdled down the zip line. It was very high! We then got soaked on the adventure course whilst crawling through mud and water across the course. There were a few people with accurate archery skills. We had a fun afternoon climbing on the high ropes course and making use of the climbing wall before swimming to finish the day. We walked down to the beach again and made sand castles this time. We danced until we were really tired at the disco whilst listening to Welsh music. Then the last day came and everyone was sad that we were going home, but before that we dared to jump from the tower into the bag. By 7 Clydach 1.



## Garth Olwg's First Head Pupils



Congratulations to Ffion Thomas and Llew Jones for being elected as Garth Olwg's first Head Pupils.

Four deputies were chosen as well: Carys Davies, Osian Evans, Iestyn Davies and Shauna Langford-Hopkins.

## Eisteddfod y Cymoedd



On the 18th of October, the Year 7 dance group took part in Eisteddfod y Cymoedd that was held in Caerphilly. The girls looked very professional with their dance costumes and creative make-up. They had been rehearsing since the start of term and performed to a very high standard in the competition. This was their first



competition and they came second! Congratulations!

Representing the Upper School, Ffion Fairclough from year 10 performed a solo from a musical. This was Ffion's first time competing as an individual in the musical solo. She was fortunate enough to have Rachel Stephens to help warm up her voice prior to performing and she gave an outstanding performance in the competition. Well done Ffion!



## The Middle School's Poetry Day

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October Garth Olwg's Middle School celebrated poetry through a series of fun activities.

After some drama games with members of the Senior School, the pupils wrote poems inspired by chocolate tasting. It was wonderful to see the pupils experimenting with adjectives and similes. Next, the pupils mapped out ideas about things they really want to shout about for example: bullies, plastic in the ocean and eating vegetables! Together they wrote a rap about these things. It was lovely to see 50 pupils contributing and performing enthusiastically. Thank you to everyone for taking part.



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## Lower School Activities



The Reception classes went to visit "Role Play Lane" where they learnt about different jobs whilst having fun.



Thank you to Mr Gould who came in to talk about the coal mines with year 3 and 4 pupils. The talk was very interesting and the pupils learnt a lot.



Years 3 and 4 had a lot of fun in the Big Pit Museum learning about the history of the coal mines at the end of a very busy half term!



During our assemblies we have discussed the challenges of being dyslexic, famous people who are dyslexic and how to help others who find school work difficult. Matthew Boole, an actor who is dyslexic, came in to discuss his experiences with the children.



The pupils from the whole school enjoyed seeing the Triple Crown and the 6 Nations Trophy when it visited the school.

INSET Days
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Languages Week

This year, we decided that as a school we wanted to have a celebration of all languages including Welsh. So, the languages faculty organised a languages week. The aim of the week was to offer an array of fun activities to celebrate languages and culture from different countries.



### Monday

On Monday, we held our first ever Bake Off at Ysgol Garth Olwg. Pupils of every age in the school baked many different cakes. Some baked traditional cakes such as the *Bundt* cake from Germany. Other pupils focused on decoration and we had banners, traditional foods and even globes. The teachers joined in on the fun with Miss Barrar baking a sphinx and Miss Higgins baking a pyramid.



### Tuesday

On Tuesday, we had an opportunity to celebrate the Welsh language as it was *Shwmae Sumae* day. All teachers wore badges with interesting questions on them such as "If you won the lottery, would you continue coming to school?". The questions led to many interesting conversations, in Welsh of course! Some pupils from the Middle School also took part in a *twmpath* led by members of the Senior School.



### Wednesday

On Wednesday, we had an international fancy dress day. It was fantastic to see pupils from 3 to 18 years old dressed up. In the Lower School, many pupils drew inspiration from famous Disney characters from across the world. In the Middle School, some pupils were dressed in traditional outfits from China and Japan. We even had a flamingo roaming the corridors!





## Thursday

On Thursday, we celebrated Spanish and Latin American culture. The main activity of the day was a *Zumba* dance club during lunchtime for pupils from the Middle School. Many pupils took part in the dancing led by Miss Jones from the Expressive Arts faculty.



## Friday

On Friday, we were very fortunate to welcome three Mandarin teachers to the school. In the morning they worked with year 8 before working with pupils from years 5 and 6 in the afternoon. Pupils took part in taster sessions of cultural Chinese activities such as *Tai Chi*, paper cutting and calligraphy.



It is safe to say that the first ever Languages Week at Ysgol Garth Olwg was a resounding success and it was a pleasure to see the pupils enjoying different languages and cultures. The Languages faculty would like to thank pupils, staff and parents for their participation and support. We are already looking forward to languages week in 2020!

## Harvest Service



We held a wonderful Harvest Service in order to give thanks for the food that we have. Pupils from the Lower School sang beautifully and appropriate texts were read by pupils from the Middle and Upper Schools. We would like to thank everybody for their kind donations to the local food bank and we would also like to thank Reverend Rosa Hunt for the welcome.



## Sporting Success

The school would like to congratulate Callum Nicholls, Year 11 on his extensive cricketing success! During the summer, Callum gained his South and West of England cap at Bunbury. This is certainly not the first success experienced by Callum. At the start of the season Callum travelled to India with the Glamorgan Cricket Academy. He was also awarded "Wales Cricket Player of the Year" for the third year running.



Congratulations to Ben Burnell and Daniel John who played for Wales under 18 in South Africa.



Congratulations to Rhys Morgan, Year 13 for conquering Kilimanjaro in Tanzania over the summer to raise money for people with cystic fibrosis.



Congratulations to Ffion Biggs, Year 9 for winning her black belt in karate.



Well done to the Year 8 and 9 girls tennis team who came 3rd in the Welsh Tennis Competition.



The three Year 7 netball teams and the two Year 8 teams have had a fantastic start to the season. It is great to see so many of you representing the school. Keep it up!



Congratulations to the Year 9 and 10 girls 5-a-side football team for becoming South Wales schools champions.



Well done to Lara Watts Year 11 who has been chosen to play for the Under 17 Celtic Dragons Netball Team.



Well done to the year 5 and 6 girls netball team for coming 3rd in their group in the regional netball Urdd tournament.



Congratulations to Megan Bowen, Year 10 who has been chosen to represent the Wales under 15 football team. They managed to defeat Scotland 2-1! Well done Megan!



Congratulations to the Year 8 girls who won the 7-a-side South Wales football competition. They won their 8 games and managed to keep a clean sheet in every game! This is the second consecutive victory for the team.



A big Congratulations to Summer Williams-Richards who won 3 medals in a Karate competition in California, 2 silvers and a bronze! Amazing effort Summer! Dal ati!



Well done to the boys for reaching the semi-final of the South Wales football competition. A very strong performance by all.

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys who formed the winning team in a new 10-a-side rugby competition held at the school. The boys managed to win every game! Thank you very much to the Physical Education department for arranging a very successful competition for schools in South Wales. We look forward to

A massive well done to these boys for a fantastic effort in the cross country competition. It was great to see so many of you representing the school.

