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THE MAELOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 5. OCTOBER 2007



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am once again delighted to be able to report another outstanding set of examination results. Our students and staff have worked hard to build upon the high standards we set ourselves and are to be congratulated on their achievements.

At the beginning of the school year a number of new staff joined us and we wish them well and look forward to the contribution they will make to the school.

On the 6th November 2007 school celebrates its 50th Anniversary. As part of the celebration the school will be holding an Open Evening on Friday the 9th November and an Open Day on Saturday the 10th November.

I would like to thank those parents who have generously sent in their contribution to the school fund. Without your assistance many trips/activities could not be arranged.

Yours sincerely,

Eiddwyn Hall

Examination Success

Outstanding G.C.S.E. Results

The class of 2007 set a new record with 81% of pupils attaining 5 or more A*- C grades and nearly two-thirds of the year group achieving 8 or more higher grades.

"Results this year are outstanding. I am particularly pleased that all pupils from across the ability range attained 5 or more GCSEs with 99% of them achieving 8 or more passes at A*/A grades.

The pupils and staff of The Maelor School are to be congratulated on their hard work which has resulted in this tremendous achievement."

A level Results

We are delighted with the 'A' level results attained by this year's Sixth Form with 98% of the students gaining two or more 'A' level passes with 73% of the students achieving 4 or more passes.

One student attained 4 grade A's at 'A' level and 2 grade A's at AS level with another achieving 3 grade A's and 1 grade C at 'A' level along with a grade 'A' at AS level.

Our congratulations go to all students who worked hard over the past two years to attain these results.

Important News

Parent Governor

The term of office of one of our Parent governors has come to an end. Mr. Nigel Griffiths has, however, indicated that he is willing to stand again for re-election.

We will be contacting you shortly with information regarding the election of a Parent Governor.

School Inspection

We have been informed that the school will be inspected during the Spring Term. The date for the Estyn Inspection will be confirmed in due course. Once we have all the information to hand we will advise you of the arrangements for the inspection.

Staff Changes.

At the end of the summer term we said farewell to Mr. Graham Edwards, Head of the Welsh Department, Mrs. G. Edge, Laboratory Technician who has retired after working for the school for 9 years and Mrs. Belinda Owen, Examinations Officer and Community Development Manager, who has relocated with her family to Tenby, South Wales. We wish them all well.

Other new staff joining us this term are: -

Mrs. Sian Jones (Returned to us as Acting Head of Welsh)
Mr. Christopher Gozzard (Science teacher)
Mrs. Jane Kirk (Part-time Laboratory Technician)
Mrs. Leslie Aspey (Full-time Laboratory Technician)
Mrs. Valerie Knowles (Examination Officer & Assessment Data Manager)
Mrs. Debby McCarthy (Community Liaison Officer & Press Officer)

Pastoral Support

Mr. Dave Lewis and Mrs. Binley-Jones have taken on the roles of Associate Assistant Headteachers for this academic year. As part of their responsibilities Mr. Lewis will be supporting KS3 and Mrs. Binley-Jones will be supporting KS4.

Sixth Form

We are very pleased that the majority of last year's year 11 students wishing to study 'A'levels have returned to The Maelor School. With a record number of students electing to stay at school both last year and this year we now have a healthy number in the sixth form.

The total number of Year 12 and Year 13 students now stands at 138.

School Website

www.maelorschool.org.uk

A new team of Sixth Form enthusiasts have taken over the running of our website. The new look website is now up and running. We will continue to use the site to communicate important information to parents. This will include newsletters, forthcoming events etc.

Printed copies of these will still continue to be sent home with your child. We are, however, aware that many of them are lost en-route and would advise you to check our website on a regular basis.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

In July all the sixth form students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award spent a week in the Lake District. We are pleased to report that they all successfully completed their final expedition.

Watersports Trips to France, July 2007

Written by: Catrin Evans; Daniel Gallanders; Zac Bebbington; Caitlin Griffiths; Holly Jones & Luke Davies.

"After a year of exams and stress, a relaxing and fun-filled holiday was what the class of 2007 needed! From the second we arrived at Les Tamaris, in the South of France, we were thrown into a variety of exciting activities by the PGL staff. From Kayaking to scary gorge jumping; snorkelling to sailing; windsurfing to a fun day at Aqualand everyone enjoyed the wide range of activities on offer by day. The fun carried on into the evenings with midnight barbecues and beach parties; nights at the local pizzeria which brought everyone together and made the holiday complete.

The PGL staff were great fun and so were the teachers which made the holiday the success that it was. So thanks to Miss Royston for making it happen! You will always remember your best school trip and this was it!"

Information regarding the Year 9 Watersports trip can be found on the school website

New Sports Hall

Several meetings have taken place with the architects and the scheme is moving forward with outline drawings now available for everyone to see. The building of the Sports Hall will help us to further enhance the facilities at the school with the library being relocated into the existing Gym. This will enable us to convert the library into classrooms and remove some of the temporary classrooms from site. We will keep you fully informed of the development as it progresses.

Uniform

As you are aware from the letter sent to you before the summer break we have changed the colour of the jumper and girls' trousers from navy to black. I would like to thank all parents for the support given to this change and in ensuring your child is wearing the correct uniform. As stated in a previous newsletter, pupils who have serviceable navy uniform may continue to wear these until they need replacing until the end of this academic year. From September 2008 all pupils will be expected to wear the new school colours.

Many of the girls have been asking if they are allowed to wear blazers and I would like to clarify the rule. Our uniform policy, has for a number of years, stated that girls may wear blazers if they wish. Indeed some already do and find that having pockets to keep small items in is a distinct advantage. The unisex black jumpers and blazers are available for sale from the school [order form and price list are available on request]. Please note that items of uniform purchased from the school cannot be exchanged if they have been worn. Items deemed to be faulty have to be returned to our manufacturers for inspection before refunds can be issued.

This term we have been clamping down on the incorrect wearing of the school uniform. Any pupil not wearing the uniform correctly i.e. shirt not tucked in, collars loose, ties too short or not visible will be given a lunchtime detention. Persistent offenders may be given after school detentions. We hope that this will remind pupils of the importance of appearance both in school and in the world of work.

Lesotho Visit

Following our successful bid for funding we are able to move the link with our partner school in Lesotho even further. Mrs. Victoria Kente, Head of Science at the school will be visiting The Maelor School during the week beginning the 15th October 2007.

This will be followed by a reciprocal visit by Mr. Timms to St. Saviours school in Lesotho.

More information about the visit can be found on our website.

School Production

Many of our students are currently preparing for our school production "Oliver" which will be performed on the evenings of the 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd November 2007. Those of you who had the pleasure of attending school productions in the past will know that the performances are not to be missed.

Tickets will be on sale from reception at the beginning of November. We look forward to seeing you at one of the performances.

Work Experience

Our current Year 11 pupils spent 2 weeks at the end of last term on work experience placements. This is a valuable experience for pupils as it gives them an insight into the world of work.

It has given me, as Headteacher, great pleasure in reading the comments made by employers involved. They are very complimentary about our pupils and many make reference to the fact that they were very impressed with the maturity, politeness and the willingness to learn that was shown.

The employers' reports invariably refer to the fact that the pupils were a joy to work with and a credit to themselves and the school.

I would like to express my thanks to Mrs. Cross, Co-ordinator, and Mrs. Murphy, her assistant for organising this important experience and to the pupils for their hard work they put in.



P.T.A. News

The AGM of the PTA was held earlier this term and the next PTA meeting will be held on October 16th at 7.00pm in the school library.

A number of new parents have joined the PTA this year and we look forward to working with them.

Our next event is another Fashion Show which will take place on Friday, 19th October at 7.00pm, in the School Hall. Following last year's successful show many parents asked if we could hold a similar event sometime in the Autumn term. We hope that many of you will be able to join us on October 19th.

Homework Planners

A reminder to all parents,

Could you please ensure that you check and sign your child's planner each week.

The planners are a valuable aid in communication between the school and parents.

Thank you



Lunchtime Passes

Pupils are not allowed off school site at lunchtimes unless the school has received a signed agreement from parents.

Lunchtime passes will only be issued to those children who live in Penley and who have been given permission to go **home for lunch**. Please ensure that your child collects a renewal letter for this year's pass.

Diary Dates Autumn 2007

October

Tuesday 2nd	Year 12 motivational training day
Tuesday 9th	Open Evening for Years 5 & 6 (7.00 p.m.)
Thursday 11th	Open Day for Years 5 & 6 (9.30 a.m. – 3.15 p.m. excluding the lunchtime break)
Monday 15th	Mrs. V. Kentre from Lesotho to visit the school
Wednesday 17th	Maelor Music Society Concert (7.00p.m.)
Thursday 18th	Lesotho Welcome Evening at Acton Junior School
Friday 19th	Year 11 Health Day
Friday 19th	PTA Fashion Show (7.00p.m.)
Tuesday 23rd	Year 12 Tutors & Year 13 Subject Parents' evening
Friday 26th	School closes for half-term break

November

Monday 5th	School re-opens
Monday 5th	Science trip to Geneva
Tuesday 6th	Maths GCSE examination – Module 5 section 1
Wednesday 8th	Year 7 Pastoral Parents' Evening (4.30- 6.30 p.m.)
Friday 9th	Maths GCSE examination—Module 5 section 2
Friday 9th	50th Anniversary Celebration Evening
Saturday 10th	School open to view tapestry, presented to us to celebrate the 50th anniversary
Monday 12th	Maths GCSE examination – Modules 1 & 3
Wednesday 14th	Maelor Music Society Concert (7.00 p.m.)
Monday 19th	School production "Oliver"
Thursday 22nd	
Friday 23rd	Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils
Monday 26th	Year 11 mock GCSE examinations begin
Wednesday 28th	Year 10 Health Day
Thursday 29th	Year 10 Parents' Evening

December

Monday 3rd- Friday 7th	Book Fair in the school hall during lunchtime
Tuesday 11th	School Concert
Wednesday 19th	Carol Service for Years 7 & 8
Thursday 20th	Carol Service for Years 11-13
Friday 21st	Carol Service for Years 9 & 10
Friday 21st	Year 7 Christmas Party (P.M. only)
– Friday 21st	End of Term

