

The Maelor School

Magazine

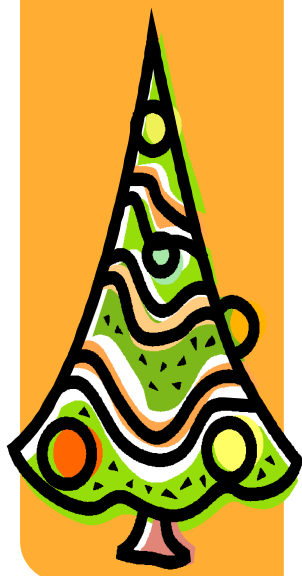


CHRISTMAS 2009

Christmas 09 Mag.pub

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Diary Dates
- Sporting Achievements
- Links with Lesotho
- Exam Details
- Sixth Form News
- Community Adult Learning
- Work Experience
- Quiz Success
- Budding Stars
- Penley's Got Talent
- Yr 7 Earliest Memories
- Vampirates Author Report



Dear Parent/Guardian,

This magazine has been put together in its new format to compliment our newsletters. We hope to cover items of interest and keep you informed of developments at the school. Many of the items included celebrate the success of our pupils/students.

I am delighted to be able to say that the preparatory work needed to start the Sports Hall project is now underway. Some of you may have noticed that part of the hedgerow opposite the industrial estate has been removed. This will eventually be the new entrance to our on-site bus bays but in the meantime this will be the site access for the builders of the new Sports Hall. We have had confirmation that the work on the Sports Hall itself will start in February of next year and should be completed sometime during the Autumn term of 2010. If you have not seen the plans for the Sports Hall, please have a look the next time you are in the school's foyer. The Sports Hall will comprise of a main hall and a dance/aerobics room. As this is a new building every attempt has been made to ensure that the Sports Hall is as energy efficient as possible. The work on the refurbishment of the school continues with on-going preparation of new doors to replace all old interior doors. Once they are ready a team will fit the new doors between now and the end of term.

Once the Sports Hall is built, work will start on the refurbishment of the existing gym to create a large learning resource area which will house the school's library and provide greater access to ICT equipment. In the meantime lessons continue as normal.

As part of their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification our sixth form have been involved in a variety of experiences including a mock United Nations Debate on issues such as clean water and nuclear disarmament. They have also been involved in a very successful Young Enterprise day recently where all Year 12 students prepared ideas for new adventures linked to the environment. One of the groups was chosen to represent the region at the final in Cardiff on Friday, 27th November where they beat off strong competition from schools and colleges throughout Wales. They are officially the 2009 winners and will now go on to represent Wales at the Make your Mark Challenge National Finals at Kings Place in London. Our congratulations go to all the team on their achievement.

For information on the participation and success of pupils and students please read the rest of this magazine.

Yours sincerely,

E Hall
Headteacher

TRAFFIC ANOUNCEMENT: the school has had a number of complaints regarding parents dropping off and collecting children right at the front of the school. We realise that it is a difficult spot and very busy at certain times of the day, but please remember that there is a roundabout at the school entrance and normal highway code rules apply when parking. Please take great care to avoid all accidents occurring.

Dragon's March Success for Year 10 Boys



Last year's Year 9 Boys won the obstacle course at the Dragon's March event which was staged by the British Army at Bodelwyddan.

A special presentation was made to the pupils, now in Year 10, in September 2009 and prizes awarded to the school.

Congratulations was passed onto the boys by Mr Hall, Headteacher.

Maelor Pupils Sing Their Hearts Out



Four acts from the Maelor School were selected to perform as special guests at one of the most important events on the National Eisteddfod calendar, The Welsh Learner of the Year Competition. The event took place on the amazing National Eisteddfod field in Bala on 5th August, one of the best ever sites for the annual event.

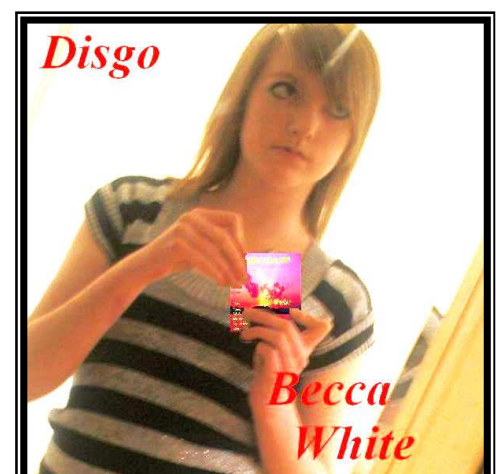
Destiny, a group of girls who sing and dance, performed three songs, all Welsh versions of chart hits by Britney Spears, Rihanna and Lady GaGa. The group consist of Year 9 students Hannah Storey, Ellen Gilliver, Lydia Jones, Emily Jones, Chloe Faulkner, Alex Campbell and Annalise Baker.

Girlband **Infinity**, consisting of now ex-pupils Ellie Parfitt and Jeni Hall went down a storm performing three songs, one of which is their latest single. They both recently passed their Welsh GCSE's with commendable grade B's.

Sammie Jayne, known to us as Samantha Conlon from Year 10, sang her latest single which is being played a fair amount on Welsh national radio at present.

The star of the show was definitely Year 9 pupil **Becca White**, whose single "Disgo" has been featured on BBC national radio programmes and independent local radio. She has been interviewed in Welsh on many radio programmes, including BBC C2, the national Welsh pop station. She has been featured on the front page of the BBC website in Wales and has even been mentioned by BB Aled from the Chris Moyles Radio One show! Becca was invited to perform at a roadshow in Cardiff in October arranged by Radio One DJ Huw Stephens:

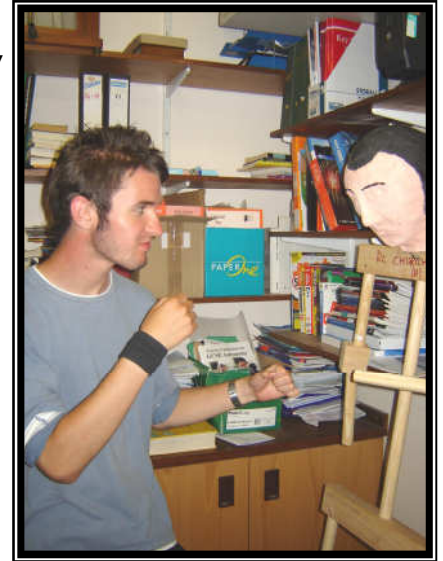
SwnFest is one of the largest musical events in the UK and took place over three days 22-24 Oct this year in Cardiff.



Penley Sixth Form News



charity fair for the whole school. Many took part and enjoyed a day full of fun and games. In the meantime many Year 12s had their work placement. A big thank you to Chlole Chilver, Thomas Cheesman, Peter Rogers, and Sam Eardley for supporting Mr Timms in crafting manlike figures for the Eisteddfod in Llangollen. Also a big thank you to Hanmer School for allowing five pupils to design and create a jungle mural for the children.



PREVIOUS EVENTS:

Towards the end of last year, the school held a



RECENT EVENTS:

On Wednesday 2nd September the Year 12s took part in a team building event where they had to create a raft to get an egg from one side of the pool to other.

Later on in the month there was the opportunity to take part in the Army 6th Form Military Challenge encouraging team building, leadership,

problem solving and working with others. Linked into the wider opportunities for 6th Form students, and for Year 12 contributing towards the Welsh Baccalaureate A-level qualification.

Thanks was given to Lc Sgt Craig Lloyd and his team for all their efforts to make the day enjoyable.

Year 12 took a trip to London as parts of their Welsh Bac course. Although the trip was very long, it gave a great insight into politics and the way our country is run. John Bercow, the new Speaker of the House of Commons, met the students and spoke to them about his role and the role of parliament.

By Rebecca Johnson, 6th Form



Community Adult Learning at The Maelor School, Penley



Community Adult Learning courses start back at the Maelor School on Thursday 14th January 2010. From January there will be 4 leisure courses on offer and if you are interested in joining these friendly and welcoming classes then enrol NOW!!

Course Title	Start Date	Course Duration	Cost	Day/Time
Sugar Craft	14 Jan'10	9 weeks	£55	Thurs, 7-9pm

This course is all about producing various wild flowers using petal paste which can be used to decorate all kinds of cakes from birthdays to weddings. Practical, hands-on course.

Yoga	14 Jan'10	9 weeks	£55	Thurs, 7-9pm
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Mixed ability group. This class will introduce you to 'Yoga-Flow' and include health and relaxation techniques.

Military History using I.T.	14 Jan'10	9 weeks	£55	Thurs, 7-9pm
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This course combines Military History and IT skills. The group will discuss and learn about a topic, research it using the internet and then take it forward using various computers programmes.

Flower Arranging	14 Jan'10	9 weeks	£55	Thurs, 7-9pm
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A hands-on practical course learning the art of arranging flowers. Ideal if you would like to be able to arrange flowers for your home, church, school, public venues/events or just for fun!

TO ENROL SIMPLY LOG ON TO www.yale-wrexham.ac.uk AND FOLLOW 'HOW TO APPLY/ENROL' OR PHONE AUDREY STEWART AT THE MAELOR SCHOOL 01948 830291.

PAY USING CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD or IF IN PERSON CHEQUE OR CASH



Penley's Got Talent — it's official!!

On Wednesday 21st October 2009 the Maelor School held the Grand Final of Penley's Got Talent. 23 pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 battled it out on stage with singing, dancing and playing musical instruments.

The school was delighted with the high number of pupils who had been practicing hard since the Prelim Rounds which were held the previous week. Credit must go to them all for their hard work. A special thanks must also go to the host for the evening, Mitchell Greenwood (Year 9).

The PTA would like to offer their thanks to all who supported the event in which the proceeds will go towards the refurbishment of our school swimming pool.

A fantastic £427 was raised!!!!



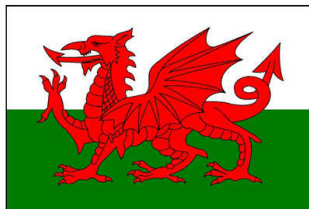
Judges once again were:

Mr J Grindell (Welsh),
Mrs N Lucas (Music) and
Mrs L Lloyd (Deputy Headteacher)



Proud winners: Richard Williams, Oliver Jones and Lucy Belk.

African Link



Many of you will be aware of our “Global Schools Partnership” with St Saviour’s High School, Leribe, Lesotho in Southern Africa. Pupils have exchanged letters, photographs and school work since 1997 and three teachers from each country spent a week in each other’s schools.

In October 2009 our link moved on to a new exciting phase - 4 pupils from Lesotho spent a week at The Maelor School, accompanied by 2 of their teachers and towards the end of the week all schools involved came together where we were host to a Cultural Evening. Pupils from all schools performed traditional Welsh Dances and sang various songs with the highlight of the evening being when our visitors joined in with our Full Choir in a traditional Lesotho song.

Our school is also supporting a chicken farm at St Saviour’s High School, to give the pupils there the experience of running a business project and to raise money to support their school. In just one day, Maelor pupils raised the funds needed to buy the chickens and equipment. We are happy to report that the chickens are now laying well and the business is making a steady profit!!

Our school has recently been awarded the International School Award from the British Council at the highest level - Gold. This was for our work on international issues and we should be very proud of our achievement.

The award was presented to Mr Timms, Head of Science, By George Alagiah at a ceremony in London.



Student Report: by Alice Dunbabin

In October, the Maelor School had an exciting visit from 4 students and 2 teachers from our partner school. The Basotho enjoyed their time in school and attended various subjects such as sciences, Welsh, IT, swimming and food technology, where we were shown how to make their staple food ‘Pap’. We then sold samples of Pap to students in the canteen—with mixed responses!!

We accompanied the Basotho to the Mayor’s Parlour in Wrexham, which was great for all of us and the school organised a cultural evening to celebrate their visit which was a great success and greatly received.

One of the highlights of the week was a trip to London where we went sightseeing around the Tower of London, the London Eye and Parliament.

The week ended with a Barn Dance to raise funds for us to go to Lesotho in February. It was a great fun way to end their visit and felt that we had all bonded really well.

Earliest Memories

by Year 7

When I started Eyton School, Mrs Tynan always used to say she had eyes at the back of her head and at the end of the day she read us a story or sang nursery rhymes to us.

In Miss Jessons' class, I made about twenty blue hearts out of play dough. I didn't let anyone else use the heart shape cutter and then Miss Jesson took a picture of me. Later I stuck the picture on a Mothers Day card!

By Emma Probin, 7GD

Probably the most funniest and oldest memory I have is when I was in play group and I had a little girl friend. We were asked/ ordered if you like to stand in twos but this boy went over to my little girl friend and held hands with her. As you would think I was not a 'happy chappy' at all so I ran towards him and pushed him into a small toy microwave!!

By Owen Jones, 7DD



I remember one Christmas I walked into the living room and saw an enormous present wrapped in white Christmas paper. I unwrapped it as fast as I could and I couldn't believe my eyes, it was a toy kitchen. I also had some plastic food and plates etc. That lunch time I pretended I had cooked a Christmas dinner for the family.

By Amy Carline, 7DD

I remember - when I was four and it was my very first day at school - hiding in the corner of the classroom so nobody could see me; starting to make friends; my mum told girls to look after me; going back home I could see my brother waiting for me outside waving his hands; stealing chalk; drawing on the blackboard stick men and shapes. Once it was maths and I fell asleep in the classroom and one of my friends thought I had died!!!!

By Zaafir Jamal, 7GD

I was in Reception and my Headteacher (Mrs Edge) was class teacher and she was lovely. She sang songs and made rhymes, she did all sorts of things. There was one thing that everyone asked just before we sang one of her songs (Hywl faw) and that was - "Can I sit on your knee?".

By Molly Moore, 7DD



Year 11 have been studying Love Poems and had the chance to create their own. This one was chosen by Mrs S Hatton-Jones, Head of English, to be published in the very first school magazine..

To His Coy Mistress

*Life is but a heartbeat,
Lost in vast deserts of eternity,
Were it not in time's essence to fleet,
Your sweet refrain could be met with alacrity.*

*Endless days spent by your side,
Love's raging torrent, but gentle tide;
Your beauty, so outspoken, mine to admire,
Your purity not pressed to bemire,
But the innocence of our love,*

*Alas, life is but an oasis, our welcome to be outstayed,
To ashes will turn, and be taken to grave,
Your beauty, my love, all else we share,
Love's labour's lost, unable to declare,
The passion I see in you,
Your virginity slew,
By time's heartless march,
So bid Adieu.*

*Our moment of death cannot be held,
The reaper himself, not to be felled,
Our time together if spent in vain,
Left for all of time to wane,
In lieu of such intense passion,
That merely your coyness fails to fashion.*



Josh Hughes

Football News



INTERFORM FOOTBALL RESULTS

Congratulations to the winners - 7GT and 8CD

INTERSCHOOLS FOOTBALL RESULTS

Year 7

Maelor v Ruabon	Won 10:2
Maelor v Rhosnesni	Lost 4:6
Maelor v St Joseph's	Lost 3:0

Year 8

Maelor v Darland	Won 8:1
Maelor v Ruabon	Lost 4:3
Maelor v Rhosnesni	Lost 2:1
Maelor v St Joseph's	Won 6:1

Year 9

Maelor v Ruabon	Won 13:0
Maelor v Rhosnesni	Won 6:1
Maelor v St Joseph's	Won 10:0
Maelor v St Joseph's	Won 6:2

Year 10

Maelor v Darland	Lost 0:1
Maelor v Ruabon	Lost 2:3
Maelor v Rhosnesni	Lost 1:6

Christmas Performance - Fiddler on the Roof

**Tickets NOW on sale for this year's Christmas Performance
- Fiddler on the Roof**

Running for 5 nights - Mon 14th Dec to Fri 18th Dec (inclusive)

Available from Reception during morning break and lunch-time

**Group Ticket: £25.00 (for up to 4 people, children & adults)
Single Ticket: £7.50**



Wrexham County Borough - Sports Awards 2009

We are pleased to announce that on Friday 20th November 2009 our school was nominated and won the Secondary School Achievement Award, sponsored by Lakeside Coaches, at the Wrexham County Borough Sports Awards 2009. It was won in celebration of our success in extra-curriculum activities and in particular success we have had in athletic competitions during 2009.

Two of our pupils were also nominated for awards but narrowly missed out, however, congratulations must go to both of them for the commendable work throughout the year. They were:

LOREN MITCHELL - short-listed for the Junior Volunteer of the Year award. Loren is in Yr 12 as is very much involved in voluntary work with 5 x 60 project in basketball.

MEGAN ROGERS - Megan is a sprinter and was short-listed for the Junior Sports Personality of the Year, nominated by Bob Frost.

Exam Information

September 2009 – July 2010

Maths Challenge

Thursday 4 February - Intermediate Maths Challenge for Years 9, 10 & 11

Thursday 29 April - Junior Maths Challenge for Year 7 & 8

Orals and Practicals - Years 10, 11, 12 & 13

These take place from January for Art and from Mid April - 15 May for PE, Music and Drama. Science ISA's take place throughout the year.

Wed 21 to Fri 23 April	-	Welsh Short Course orals GCSE Year 10
Mon 26 to Wed 28 Apr	-	Welsh Full Course orals GCSE Year 11
Wed 28 to Fri 30 Apr	-	French orals GCSE Year 11
Tue 4 to Thu 6 May	-	Spanish orals GCSE Year 11

MAIN EXAM PERIOD FOR GCSE/GCE—all pupils will be given an individual exam timetable START MON 17 MAY END WED 30 JUNE YRS 10,11,12 & 13

Year 10 GCSE Dates

Tue 18 May	-	Humanities Paper 1
Tue 25 May	-	Humanities Paper 2
Fri 18 June	-	Welsh Short Course Reading & Writing
Tue 22 June	-	Welsh Short Course Listening
Mon 21 June	-	Maths Module 1
Fri 25 June	-	Statistics
Wed 9 June	-	Science Biology
Wed 16 June	-	Science Chemistry
Thu 24 June	-	Science Physics

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE DATE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MRS V KNOWLES, EXAMS OFFICER, WILL INFORM TEACHERS AND PUPILS OF CHANGES IN ADVANCE

Please note that for holiday purposes of the Year 11s and Year 13s ALL exams will be finished by 30 June.

Preparation for Exams

We have just finished the Year 11 mock examinations and all went very well. Virtually everyone turned up on time and with the correct equipment. Well Done! It is very important that students arrive promptly and properly equipped for the exam. They should make sure that they know what they need to bring for each subject before the day - this will aid a calm state of mind!

- *They will ALWAYS need a pen with BLACK ink*
- *For Maths exams they will need mathematical equipment eg calculator, rulers*
- *For Design Technology exams they are allowed crayons*
- *All exam equipment needs to be in a CLEAR BAG OR PENCIL CASE*

Each pupil has been given a copy of the rules and regulations of sitting an exams and also the regulations applying to coursework or controlled assessments. Read them in good time before exams.

Please Note: *you should have all equipment ready the evening before. Too many pupils are still expecting the school to have an endless supply of pens, pencils etc to buy each morning. Some have been known to buy 10 pens in a week because they have not come prepared. AVA is not a shop and must only be used in emergencies.*

**BE PREPARED, GIVING YOURSELF THE BEST
POSSIBLE CHANCE TO DO WELL IN YOUR EXAMS - GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL!!**



Visit from Fang-tastic Vampirates Author!



In October, as part of our celebrations for Children's Book Week, we were extremely fortunate to secure a visit from the hugely successful children's author **Justin Somper**, whose latest books include the popular *Vampirates* series.

The event was attended by Yr 7 pupils, who were treated to an entertaining afternoon, when Justin gave a real insight into his writing process. He talked enthusiastically about how he came up with the idea for his *Vampirates* series, and how he decided on names for the characters in the stories.



Pupils were later given the opportunity to buy a signed copy of one of his books! (N.B. for those pupils who didn't buy their own book - we have several copies in the library, although you might need to reserve one, as they are still very much in demand!).

The feedback from Yr 7 was very positive. Everybody seemed to have had a very enjoyable afternoon, and were genuinely excited about Justin's book!

What the pupils thought :-

I think Justin Somper is an extremely imaginative and very talented writer. He seems to put a lot of care and detail into his books, especially with the names of the characters. I think he has a great way of putting his stories together. I love the way his stories are full of adventure, cliff hangers and a couple of mysteries. He has inspired me to maybe write a book of my own in the future.

Emma

The author was very interesting. I have heard authors talking about their books before but have not found them very interesting. Justin Somper was not like this. He was very energetic, interactive and made it fun. His books sound very interesting and exiting to read.

Georgia



Remember, the school library is open from 8.30am to 8.55am each morning, break time, lunch time and after school until 4.00pm. If you need to have access to a computer to do homework or coursework then please book your slot with Mrs Edwards, our librarian.

Work Experience

GET SOME EXPERIENCE!!



You can find many work opportunities if you look in the right places!

69% of employers are more likely to hire you if you have relevant experience

At the end of Yr 10 you will be expected to take part in Work Experience for 2 weeks. The dates are week commencing 5 July and the 12 July 2010.

Why not get started? What magazines do you read, what websites do you visit, what brands are you into? Make some calls and find out whether they offer work experience. Chances are they do. Positions can be quite competitive so you've got to be determined. You might have to chase people around to prove that you won't give up as well—a simple phone call here and there won't hurt anyone.

Careers section Did you know that school has a careers department? They give you information of specific job roles, help you smooth out your CV and get you in touch with local employers. It's worth paying them a visit.

Contacts A lot of the time, knowing the 'right' people can help you get a job. If you know someone who works in the field you are interested in, see if they can pass your details on to the relevant people.

Work placements Did you know that school has a 'job vacancies' board outside the work experience office next to AVA on 'B' corridor, why not take a look? More information is available from Mrs Binley-Jones/Mrs Murphy about companies who have previously taken pupils from The Maelor School and are willing to accommodate more pupils this year. Talk to your parents and family members, discuss your ideas. Make an appointment with the work experience co-ordinator, Mrs Binley-Jones, who can help you decide the opportunities available to you.

Keep in touch Tell us how you are doing in your search for your placement; let us know if you have any problems, we are here to help!

Most important please tell us if there has been any changes that will affect the placements you have already organised and keep us up to date with all your forms and arrangements.



Comments from employers:

Very likeable girl who got on well with colleagues, staff and clients alike. She has an inquisitive mind and initiative to look for something to do or be involved in. She is welcome back anytime.

Very pleasant and a joy to have in the salon. She can work on her own initiative and is very professional and I think she would do very well in this industry. Well done and thank you.

Was an asset to the school. From the outset he conducted himself in a very professional manner and fully participated in school life. He stayed regularly after school to help with extra curricular activities. He related well to staff and pupils. I would not hesitate to have him back at the school.

General Knowledge - Quiz Winners

On the 19th October 2009, a team of Yr 9 pupils took part in an Inter-schools General Knowledge Quiz hosted by Ysgol Rhiwabon.

After a very close contest the Maelor School won the competition and congratulations must go to them all.

The team members were: Joe McCulloch, Sean Lea, Rebecca Slater, Isabel Foster, Ellie Chapman, Blake Kesic, Ceri Morgan and Tom Pengelly.



Police Liaison Inter-Schools Quiz



On the 23 November 2009 five of our Yr 8 pupils took part in the Police Liaison Inter-Schools Quiz.

They came second to Bryn Alyn School with only half a point in it!!

The team member were: Laura Bentley (C), Jake Shorley, Alex Cooper, David Martin and Hannah Clarke (R).

Examination Certificates

The examination certificates from June 2009 examinations have now arrived in school.



Over the next few weeks the GCSE Certificates for the present Yr 12 and the AS Certificates for the present Yr 13 will be given out during registrations.

Please could you let anyone you know who has left school that the certificates are available for collection.
PLEASE CAN THEY MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FIRST.

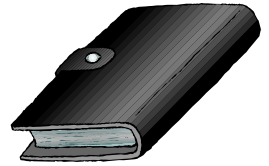
Present Yr 11 certificates will be given out in your Record of Achievement folders before you leave. If anyone moves school before the end of the school year, please collect them before you go.

The Certificates are very important documents and you may have to present them for different reasons throughout your life eg for university, for employment, if you emigrate. They are expensive to replace and often the exam boards do not, they give you a result statement. They cost (for each statement/certificate) £33 and this is for each Examination Board. Please take great care with them!

Diary Dates

Friday 18th

Christmas Carol Service for Yrs 7 & 8
Year 7 Christmas Party 1.30 - 3.30pm
School Closes for the Christmas break
School Production 7pm



JANUARY 2010

Monday 4th

Staff Training Day School closed to pupils

Tuesday 5th

School re-opens to all

Monday 11th

A' level exams begin

Wednesday 13th

Yr 7 Parents' Evening 4.30-6.30pm

Thursday 14th

Yr 11 single Science - GCSE Biology exam

Friday 15th

Yr 11 school reports issued to parents

Monday 18th

Yr 11 single Science—GCSE Chemistry exam

Wednesday 20th

Yr 11 single Science—GCSE Physics exam

Wednesday 27th

Yr 11 Parents' Evening 4.30-6.30pm

Thursday 28th

PG Day



FEBRUARY 2010

Wednesday 3rd

A'level exams finish

Thursday 4th

Intermediate Maths Challenge Yrs 9-11 (top 2 sets)

Tuesday 9th

Yr 9 Parents Evening 4.30pm - 6.30pm

Friday 12th

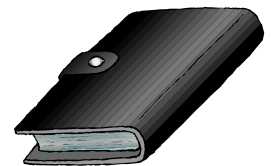
Yr 12 Options' Evening 7.00pm

Yr 8 Reports to Parents

School Closes 3.30pm for Half Term

Monday 22nd

School re-opens after half term 8.55am



MARCH 2010

Monday 1st

St David's Day

Tuesday 2nd

Maths Module 1 & 3 Exam Re-sits Yr 10 & 11

Wednesday 3rd

Yr 10 Exams Start

Thursday 4th

Options' Evening 6.30pm

Tuesday 9th

Yr 10 Exams Finish

Tuesday 16th

Spring Concert 7pm

Tuesday 23rd

Yr 12 Parents' Evening

Thursday 25th

Yr 7 & Yr 13 Reports to Parents

School Closes for Easter Holidays

Friday 26th

Staff Training Day (school CLOSED to pupils)



APRIL 2010

Monday 12th

Staff Training Day (school CLOSED to pupils)

Tuesday 13th

School re-opens to all

