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THE MAELOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 7. March 2008



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

This has been a relative short term with Easter being so early this year. It has, however, been a busy term particularly in view of the inspection.

I am pleased to say that this went well with the inspection team unsurprisingly finding many outstanding features in the school. The final report is currently being prepared by the registered inspector and will be published on the 9th April. As I am not allowed to comment further on the report until it is officially published I shall have to wait until the next newsletter to give the school's view of the inspection. Every parent will get a copy of the summary report. Should you want a copy of the full, this will appear of Estyn's website. We will ensure that there is a link put onto our website so that you can find Estyn's website easily. A hard copy may be requested from the school.

Since half-term we have been concentrating on making sure that Year 11/12 & 13 are focussed on their examinations. Many students have been involved in practical and oral examinations. In some cases coursework deadlines have already gone but for those subjects whose deadlines are next term please make sure that your son/daughter completes their work on time and to the necessary standard.

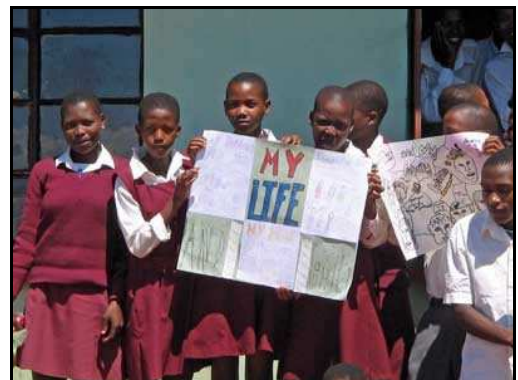
Yours sincerely,
Eiddwyn Hall



Partner School—St. Saviour's School, Lesotho



At the beginning of this half term, our head of Science travelled to Southern Africa to visit our partner school, St. Saviour's School in Leribe, Lesotho. He stayed with Mrs. Victoria Kente, their Head of Science, who visited our school in October last year. We are particularly enthusiastic to work together in many areas of the curriculum to be able to understand what it means to be global citizens. Students in many of our classes have studied life in the partner school and have exchanged letters and school work. Mr. Timms took some students work with him and was able to see for himself the enormous differences and the many similarities between our two schools. He will be talking to all the students in assemblies early next term to share his experiences with everyone and show some of the photographs and video film of his travels. We look forward to developing ever stronger links with our new friends, knowing that both schools will gain huge benefits by working together.



The link has been sponsored by the Global Partnership Programme of British Council. We are hoping that they will continue to support us for the next three years to develop a strong bond between the two schools. Wales is twinned with Lesotho because of the many similarities between the two countries. The population is similar and both counties having two official languages. They are both mountainous and are not short of rainfall in the mountains! Lesotho also supplies its neighbouring country with water from its reservoirs, like Wales. (for more photographs of Mr. Timms' visit, please go to our website and follow the links).

School Refurbishment Update

A steering group has been set up which consists of the three headteachers and Chairs of Governors of the schools due for refurbishment, along with officials of the local authority and councillors. This group has met three times so far and its remit is to ensure that the project is moved on.

I shall continue to keep you informed particularly when we have some concrete news about dates for the start of the refurbishment programme.

Vouchers for Schools

We are collecting vouchers from both Tesco and Sainsbury's. Collection boxes for these vouchers are situated in the reception area.

Last year with your help we were able to purchase using Tesco vouchers computer based data logging equipment for the Science department .

The sports department were very grateful for the Sainsbury's vouchers which purchased over £500 of sports equipment.

Please support this year's campaign

We also get vouchers from Tesco for your old ink cartridges and mobile phones.

Outstanding Sporting Achievements

Football

Our Year 7 Football team have won the Wrexham Schools Football League. They have beaten every other school in Wrexham and therefore gone the entire season undefeated.

Cross-Country

James Roberts in Year 9, David Blower in Year 8 and Harry Powell in Year 7 were all selected to run for North East Wales in the National Cross Country Championships.

Gymnastics

The team recently took part in the Welsh Schools Acrobatic and Floor & Vault competition and came home with silver medals.

In the mixed pairs Acrobatics competition, Robert Evans and Cassandra Evans missed the Gold position by just 0.2 of a point.

In the boys team, Robert Evans and Ben Williams again missed gold by 0.4 of a point.

In the floor and Vault competition the mixed team missed gold by just 0.5 of a point. The team members were **Danielle Jones Year 7, Robert Evans Yr 9, Ben Williams Yr 9, Cassandra Alderman Yr 9, Lauren Davies Yr 10 and Natalie Shaw Yr 10.**

Review of The Maelor School

Anti-Bullying Policy

It is time to review our Anti-bullying Policy which has been in place for some years. Parents are invited to comment on the existing policy and to make suggestions of ways it can be updated and improved.

Please send your comments and suggestions to the school for the attention of Mrs. Lynn Lloyd (Deputy Headteacher) or Mrs. Jan Binley-Jones (Pupil Support Co-ordinator).

Runners Race to Success



Three keen athletes from The Maelor School took part in the Welsh Athletics Championships at Uwic in Cardiff on January 25th 2008.

Chloe Jones, Year 9 came 1st in 200m and 2nd in 60m.

Megan Rogers, Year 10 came 1st in 200m, 2nd in the long jump and 3rd in hurdles.

Tom Cusworth, Year 10 came 2nd in both the 200m and the long jump.

All three pupils qualified to represent Wales in the Celtic Schools U16 Championships also held at Uwic in Cardiff on 3rd February 2008. The pupils competed against teams from Ireland and Scotland. Overall the team which was Captained by Tom came 2nd with all three students gaining individual medals in their events.

Congratulations to all our talented sports people.

Ysgol Maelor Urdd Activities

Four acts from The Maelor School entered the Urdd's "Talent Ffm" [Wales got Talent] competition back in December. Two of them were Pop Groups:

Passion are a girl-band singing original songs and translations of current hits from the charts;

Saving Sirens are a punk rock band, singing their own original compositions in Welsh and English. Both bands have signed publishing deals with Wales' largest recording company, Sain Records, and their single are played regularly on both local and national radio in Wales.

One of the other two acts was "Dibyniaeth Dawns", a group of 5 year 10 girls who dance exclusively to contemporary Welsh language music, produced by the Maelor's Welsh Teacher, John Grindell. The final act was "Joio Jyglo" - two Maelor sixth-formers who juggle to Welsh pop music! We're proud to say the "Joio Jyglo" won the competition, which was held at theatre Clwyd, Mold and Dibyniaeth Dawns came third. The event was shown on SC4.

Dibyniaeth Dawns have since gone on to represent The Maelor School in the Urdd Eisteddfod, easily winning the first round in the Stiwt in Rosllannerchrugog. Another dance group from The Maelor School, once again from Year 10, came third.

Only last Friday, Dibyniaeth Dawns represented The Maelor School again, this time in the North-East Wales round of the Urdd Eisteddfod, once again winning easily and thus putting themselves through to the National Eisteddfod, this year to be held in the Llandudno area in the May half-term holidays. They will perform to an estimated audience of six thousand people and a potential television audience of 120,000!

P.T.A. News



The P.T.A. has decided to support the drive by our governors to raise money to refurbish our swimming pool. Without this money we may have to take the difficult decision to close the pool on health and safety grounds. Please make an effort to support this project by turning up to the next event which is the frog race.

The Frog Race is to be held at the school on Friday, 25th April. Tickets will be on sale at reception after the Easter holidays.

We would be grateful to hear of any suggestions you may have to raise funds for this project. Please write in with your suggestions or phone the school on 01948 830291.



Rotary News



We are very pleased to share with you that two more of our students, Chelsea Dickinson & Vicky Glover have been successful in getting sponsorship to study at an American University. They will spend 12 months staying in Georgia as part of this scheme. We look forward to many more of our students applying and making the most of this wonderful opportunity to study in another country



Young Enterprise "Exclamation" Company Celebration Mugs

The 50th Celebration mugs will be in school and ready for distribution after the 8th April 2008. We apologise for the delay.



Examination Information

GCSEs and A'level examinations begin on Monday 12th May and continue until 25th June.

Examination results will be available to collect from 10.30 am on Thursday 14th August for A'levels and Thursday 21st August for GCSEs.

Examination certificate are not available to collect until January 2009.

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**



Uniform Reminder

Please remember that as from September 2008 all the girls need to be wearing the new black uniform (navy will no longer be acceptable).

If you need to buy any new items please make sure that you purchase black tailored trousers and the black school jumper which is available from the school with the logo embroidered on. A few of the girls have been wearing trousers which do not comply with our uniform rules.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that your child is wearing the regulation uniform.

Diary Dates Summer 2008

March

Tuesday 18th
Wednesday 19th
Wednesday 19th

Year 12 Parents' Evening (4.30—6.30)
Year 11 & 13 school photographs
School closes for Easter break

April

Monday 7th
Tuesday 8th
Friday 25th

Staff Training Day
School reopens for the summer term
Africa Expedition training weekend

May

Thursday 1st
Monday 5th
Tuesday 6th
Monday 12th
Friday 23rd

Junior Maths Challenge
May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed
Year 9 Examinations begin
GCSE and A'level Examinations begin
School closes for Half Term

June

Monday 2nd
Wednesday 18th
Wednesday 25th
Wednesday 25th

School reopens
Year 10 GCSE Mathematics Exam
Year 9 to Glan Llyn for Welsh Course
GCSE and A'level Examinations end

Friday 27th

Staff Training Day

July

Wednesday 2nd
Monday 7th
Tuesday 8th
Thursday 10th
Friday 11th
Friday 18th
Friday 18th

Year 8 Parents' Evening
Year 10 Work Experience begins
Year 6 Intake Evening (7p.m.)
Year 6 Common Transfer day for Year 6 pupils
Year 8 Health Day
Year 10 Work Experience ends
School Closes for the summer

