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Chinese Visitors

On Tuesday 2nd November the school was visited by a delegation from the People's Republic of China. Delegates included representatives from:

Educational Equipment Research Institute, Ministry of Education,

Guangdong Educational Equipment Center

Educational Equipment & Working-study Programme Administration Centre, Jiangsu

Educational Technology and Equipment Department Jinlin city Jilin province P.R. China

Ningbo Qinghua Science & Educational Equipment Co. Ltd.

Zhuozhou Dabin Art Products Co. Ltd.

Beijing Dongfang Zhongkeda Science & Technology Co. Ltd.

Beijing Qianbang Science & Technology Development Co.,Ltd

SHANGHAI DONGFANG TEACHING AID CO.,LTD

Shandong Educational Instrument & Equipment Association

Chaoyang Educational Technology and Equipment Unit, Beijing



The Chinese delegation had a tour of the Learning Plaza, Television Studio and Science Labs., before presenting the school with a traditional example of Chinese Embroidery.



Careers and the World of Work

On 17 September all Year 10 and Year 11 pupils headed off to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff to experience the Skillscymru event. This was Wales' largest ever careers and skills event, showcasing various career paths. Pupils had

opportunities to sample lots of different skills, ranging from designing an aircraft or building a robot to bricklaying, carpentry, plastering, plumbing and tiling. They were also able to let their creative skills blossom, trying anything from

floristry to creating architectural stained glass. The event offered something for everyone and the day proved to be very lively and enjoyable.

Photographs can be seen on page 11.

Business Mentor

Twenty pupils from Year 10 and Year 11 are taking part in the Business Mentors Scheme. Volunteers from industries and local businesses ranging from the Welsh Assembly

Government to Bron Afon come into school and offer pupils impartial, expert and relevant help, encompassing school work and their future plans. The scheme is

progressing well and both mentors and mentees are finding the scheme rewarding and worthwhile.

English News

Photostory Fun in English

Miss Rees' Year 7 English group have been studying 'Danny, the Champion of the World' by Roald Dahl.

Pupils used their ICT skills to produce Photostories about the novel and this famous children's author.

The pupils excelled themselves producing some outstanding work. They were then presented on the Interactive Smart Board to the class. All Photostories were very impressive. They really helped pupils understand who Roald Dahl was. We

found out lots of facts about him.

Well done Year 7 and keep up the good work!



Poetry Success

Pupils at Abersychan once again triumphed at The Poet of Pontypool Competition 2010. Pupils were inspired to write, during English lessons, on the subject "I have a Dream". Pupils from years 7 to 9

won prizes and commendations. Rachel Gauntlett, now in year 10, went on to win The Alan Brown Memorial Prize for Poetry. Congratulations all!

Poet of Pontypool Junior

Results

1st – George Wright

2nd – Georgia Jones

3rd – Josh Lilly

Highly Commended:

Rachel Gauntlett and Emma Addison.

Finalists:

Maddie Williams, Jordan Kinnersley, Georgina Fry, Lewys Betty, Laura-Cait Driscoll, Olivia De Sousa Costa and Ceri-Anne Boucher.



Black History Month

On Friday October 22nd, Mr Evans took the Year 9 MAT pupils to Blaenafon Workingmen's Hall for a presentation and workshop celebrating Black History Month. Rachel Kempton described her views on the event:

"When I walked into the room where our talk was being given I felt very welcomed. There were lots of posters in the room we were in. Most of them had pictures of angry people on; they were exciting to look at. Before me stood a man wearing African clothes. As we walked in and took a seat he started to sing, we didn't really know what to do so we listened to the lyrics. His songs were about how people's lives were and many of them were

made famous by the Black American singer and civil rights campaigner, Paul Robeson, who famously took part in the 1957 Miner's Eisteddfod in Porthcawl.

He explained to us that October was Black History Month and therefore he would be telling us a little bit about it. He told us that life for black people was tough in the olden days and people usually died fighting for their rights.

We learnt about people such as Rosa Parks who, as a civil rights activist, refused to give her seat up on the bus for a white person. We also learnt about the great grandfather of Barack Obama.

I think this was a great experience."



Friends of Abersychan

Friends of Abersychan is going from strength to strength and with further support of parents, friends and teachers of the school we will continue to raise vital funds to help benefit our pupils and further enrich their learning environment.

What do we do?

Friends of Abersychan support the school in a variety of ways such as holding raffles at school events, organising shopping trips, pupil 'sleep overs' and race and quiz nights for staff and parents or carers. All money raised directly benefits your children and helps to further improve their school experience.

What have we done so far?

All money raised directly benefits the pupils of Abersychan School. We have:

- Donated £2500 towards the purchase of the wet weather canopy in the yard;
- Donated £1000 to purchase 12 wooden benches for pupil use in the yard;

- Fulfilled staff 'wish lists' and previously bought:
 - o CD recorders
 - o Notice boards
 - o Additional Art materials
 - o Printer / Scanner for SNRB
 - o Set of English texts
- Recently agreed to donate £500 to support the refurbishment of the Leisure Centre area for pupil use as proposed as part of the new Welsh Baccalaureate introduced in Year 10;
- Agreed to purchase two digital cameras and a scanner for the Art Department;
- Agreed to purchase 70 dictionaries for the English Department;
- Agreed to purchase 24 microphones for the History Department;
- Agreed to purchase 3 digital voice recorders for MFL Department.

Up and coming events:

- Raffle & refreshments- School Christmas Production.
- Year Seven Sleep Over in February/March – date to be confirmed.

If you have any ideas for fund-raising events or wish to come along and support us, please email friendsofabercomp@tiscali.co.uk or contact the school directly and leave your contact details. All support is appreciated.



Learn how to protect your child online...

The online world is integral to how children stay in touch with their friends, and access to the internet is now available like never before. However, there are inherent risks associated with new technologies and it is essential for young people and their parents / carers to understand how to reduce these risks.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre is the UK's national child protection agency (visit www.ceop.police.uk for more information). At CEOP, we believe the start of the new school year is the perfect time to speak to your child about how they use the internet and how they can stay safe online.

Through the ClickCEOP advice and help centre, members of the public can access guidance on a broad range of topics to help protect their children, or alternatively report a concern directly to CEOP.

CEOP's Children and Young People's programme, Thinkuknow, is used in schools nationwide to educate young people about how to stay safe online. As parents, you can play a fundamental role in this aspect of their education. To stay up to date with further information and advice, please visit

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents to find information on:

- **What are the risks posed to your child online?**
- **What can you do to protect your child?**
- **Where can you go if you are concerned?**

We want to help you and your family stay safe online; there are some simple steps below that you can follow to achieve this.

CEOP has been working with social networking sites such as Facebook, BEBO, MSN and other major providers to put internet safety advice at the fingertips of your child, through the ClickCEOP application.

Facebook Users: Visit www.facebook.com/clickceop to add the 'ClickCEOP' app to your profile and ask your children to do the same. The app is free and easy to use, and gives you immediate access to internet safety advice as well as being able to report any suspicions to us. If you become a 'friend' of the page, we will invite you to our free online safety surgeries and send you updates. By clicking on

'Add the App' on the left hand side of our Facebook page you can add the 'ClickCEOP' button to your profile.

MSN & BEBO Users: Look for the ClickCEOP icon on the side of every profile page. It is a default setting and provides immediate access to internet safety advice and allows you to report any suspicions.

Web Browsers: If you use Firefox, Internet Explorer 8 or Google Chrome, you can customize your browser, enabling users to see the ClickCEOP button, regardless of which website you're on.

By following the guidance above, you can help protect your child to ensure they are enjoying the internet safely.



We salute the class of 2010 – best GCSE results ever!

The class of 2010 smashed all previous records in almost all categories as they delivered the best GCSE results ever recorded by the school. In many categories the results exceeded previous best performances by between 5-10% and provide further evidence that standards continue to rise at Abersychan. The Level 2 Threshold

was well in excess of 50% and the Level 1 threshold once again exceeded 90%. Aimee Ehrenzeller produced the best set of results which included 5 A*s and 7A grades and there were excellent performances from Jade Cox, Ashleigh Casati, Ethan Davies, Scott Lawrence, Curtis Lewis, Lauren Parfitt, Gemma Parry, Danielle

Preece, Keeley Quigley, Vikki Sawbridge, Luke Tew, Cerys Williams and Leona Williams.

These results were recognised and celebrated at our 2010 Prize Evening on 7th October. The superb guest speaker was Welsh TV and film star and former lead singer of the Flying Pickets, Brian Hibbard

Congratulations to all our pupils and staff for their commitment and hard work.



Welsh News - Llangranog Visit

Pupils visited Llangranog for a residential stay in the first week of November to develop their use of the Welsh language. They took part in a variety of activities including climbing, horse riding and skiing.



Performing Arts

Only Boys Aloud

As part of the Welsh Baccaulaureate five Year 10 pupils auditioned in Cwmbran County Hall for Only Boys Aloud and were successful. Only Boys Aloud is a choir based on the Only Men Aloud male voice choir who won the BBC choir competition.

As a result of this Zach Clee, Craig Lupo and Tim Carter (pictured) along with Sean Stundon and John Gwilym will be performing with

Only Men Aloud on Saturday 18th December in the Cardiff International Arena. They will also be performing that afternoon in John Lewis, Cardiff.

We wish them all the best in these performances and you never know we might have the next Tom Jones in the making.



Christmas Concert

This year's Christmas show is 'A Christmas Carol - Scrooge'. The show will be at 19.00 on Tuesday 14th December 2010 in the main hall. Tickets can be purchased from the main office for the cost of £3.00 per adult and £2.00 for students'loaps.

We wish everyone taking part in the production in whatever capacity the best of luck for the performance.



A Christmas Carol

Primary School Transition News

Abersychan's extensive Transition Programme has been busy again with our feeder primary pupils taking part in many different activities.

Sky's The Limit

Forty eight Year 6 pupils were treated to a fun afternoon of climbing at Boulder's Climbing Centre, Cardiff.

Miss Rees, Mrs Lawrence and Mr Barrowdale accompanied the pupils to show them how it's done, but the pupils were so brave the staff didn't need to climb with them!

Pupils worked in teams of eight with specially trained Boulders' instructors. Some pupils showed off their skills by climbing the most difficult walls. The groups also enjoyed some team-building activities before settling down to a packed lunch at the Climbing Centre.

Miss Rees would like to thank the pupils for such a fun day. Their behaviour was fantastic and the Boulders staff couldn't praise them highly enough.



European Culture Day

Year 4 pupils had a special treat at Abersychan on Monday 12th July 2010.

Our Modern Foreign Languages and Welsh departments organised a 'European Culture Day' for pupils to experience speaking different languages.



Year 4 pupils from our primary feeder schools were taught phrases in French, Welsh, German and Spanish. They were able to use our state-of-the-art Linguascope software on laptops. Pupils judged who was best in the Eurovision Song Contest and many enjoyed the food tasting at the European Cuisine Table.

Some foods were a lot tastier than others and it's a good job we had our 'spit bin' for those nasty olives and sauerkraut!



Year 4 pupils were amazing and everyone had a fantastic day.

Transition Autumn Term

Abersychan has been busy making Year 6 pupils feel welcome before transferring to Abersychan School anext September.

Pupils have enjoyed visits from some past pupils, our Open Evening, and a Year 5 and 6 Transition Day where pupils took part in lessons and got to meet our teachers and staff.

Year 6 have also been visiting our Art and Technology departments, where they have tested our CAD and CAM computers in Design and Technology, and some pupils have had fun making clay models in Art.

So far, Pontnewynydd, Penygarn and Cwnffrwdoer have been to Abersychan for their project. St Peter's, Garnteg, Victoria and Hillside are looking forward to theirs in the New Year.

The work produced so far has been outstanding. Mrs Coles (Art) and Mr Saunders (Design and Technology) have praised the wonderful behaviour of all pupils this term. Well done Year 6!



Geography Department

Year 11 Geography Field Trip

On the 11th October 2010 Year 11 Geography students had the opportunity to attend a two day fieldwork trip. The study took place at Mulberry House in Abergavenny and involved students looking at the current environmental issue of flooding in the UK. Our study was focused in Brecon town where we looked at the current flood defences in place that are protecting the local

homes and businesses from future flood risk. Students had a great time collecting river channel data and talking to the locals of Brecon. Mulberry House were very accommodating and provided students with excellent tuition, accommodation, food and the opportunity to interact with students from other schools.



Yr 8 Italy Projects

This term Year 8 students have been looking at the physical and human geography of Italy. As part of their learning experience they have been working in groups to complete an interactive 3D map of the country that highlights the key features being studied. The standard of work has been very high and a winning group has been selected from each class. These will now go forward to the final selection process where the overall year group winner will be judged and selected by Mr Conway.



Welsh BaccaLaureate

It has been an exciting time for Year 10 during the autumn term as they have been the first year group to start studying for the Welsh BaccaLaureate qualification. The course has seen the Year 10 pupils benefit from numerous workshops, presentations, and enterprise days in only the space of eight weeks. Visits from the Intellectual Property Office, the volunteer service and Able Radio's production team have provided the pupils with fantastic opportunities to develop lifelong skills. As a school we would like to congratulate Chloe Roche on

winning the cracking ideas competition. Also, Libby Holmes, Stephen Howe, Danielle Mallet, Adam Nicholls, Bethan Roach and Shannon Watkins for being accepted to work on the production team for Able Radio. Furthermore, the boys in Year 10 who have been accepted for "Only Boys Aloud" and IOSP for winning the £500 to improve an area of the school. Mrs Farmer would like to congratulate all of Year 10 on their attitude and commitment during the sessions with her. Finally, we would like to wish you all the best with your volunteering.

- Careers/skills event at the Millennium stadium
- The Cracking Ideas competition
- The Volunteering presentations
- A number of volunteers for buddies
- A good start to News At Ten
- Settling in to your new GCSE/BTEC courses both in school and at other education sites.

Over 90% attendance as a year group.



Year 10 News

Mr. White would like to thank all of Year 10 and the new team of tutors for all their support during the autumn term. It has been a busy term with plenty to celebrate. The attitude and maturity displayed by the year group during our visit to the Millennium Stadium for the skills event at the beginning of the term was pleasing. I have also been impressed by the way the pupils in Year 10 have settled into their new GCSE and BTEC courses both inside school and at the other education sites across the authority. A large majority of the pupils have also

demonstrated their willingness to help others by volunteering to be buddies to help younger children in the school with their reading. Finally, the competition is hotting up in this year's "News at Ten". Form groups have been busy trawling through the Sunday papers to write questions for our weekly assemblies.



At the time of writing IORR were out in front, being closely pursued by all the other forms.

MFL

Year 11 visit Cardiff University

On Friday 12th November, Year 11 pupils who are studying German attended Cardiff University for a 'GCSE Language Experience day'.

Pupils were immersed in the target language through a series of interactive activities to enhance their confidence, enabling them to practise their language skills whilst focusing on key contextual themes and vocabulary related to the curriculum. Cardiff University Student Ambassadors were responsible for running the event and worked alongside the visiting pupils. Both native speakers and undergraduate language students provided continual support, guidance and encouragement throughout the day

All schools attending on the day took part in a competition to design an informative poster on the topic of 'The Environment'. We were delighted when the prize was won by Abersychan students! Gut gemacht!!



MFL trip to the German Christmas Markets

The MFL department are looking forward to spending a weekend in Germany to visit the famous Christmas Markets. 43 Pupils will depart for Germany on Thursday 9th December. The itinerary includes visiting Aachen and Phantasialand theme park before returning to Abersychan on the 12th December. We are really looking forward to immersing ourselves in the language and culture of Germany as we experience Christmas the German way!!

