



Hockey girls on road to final!

West Monmouth School is proud to congratulate the Under 14 Girls' Hockey Team. Following a series of matches in the last few months, they have been crowned South East Wales champions.

A combination of superb effort, teamwork and skill was needed in order to beat Monmouth, King Henry VII, Brynmawr, Abertillery and Newbridge schools on the way to the finals, which were held at Rougemont School at the beginning of February. In the finals they won 3 – 0 to Rougemont, and overcame Caerleon 4 – 0 to be named South East Wales Champions.

This is continued success for the school. Head of PE, Miss Ceri James,

led both the Under 14 and Under 16 teams to all Wales success last summer. The team will now travel to Wrexham to play in the all Wales finals.

The team, pictured here, are; Evelyn Bury; Gemma Davies; Emily James; Sarah Haynes; Amy Vaughan; Lauren Hemms; Nikita Patel; Fiona Dodge; Leah Kennett; Kate Ryan; Charlotte Kerr; Isobel Jones; Alana Edmunds, and captains, Samantha Quayle and Sophie Giles.



In the Spotlight - Ceri James



Where were you born? - Swansea.

Which school did you attend? - Bishopston Comprehensive.

How long have you been a teacher? - 10 years.

What do you most enjoy about teaching? - I really love to see pupils enjoying sport. I like to help pupils improve and see them develop.

What are your hobbies? - Skiing, playing sport of any kind and watching real life documentaries.

What is your favourite T.V Programme? - Friends.

What is your favourite food? - Roast dinner on Sunday.

What is your favourite book? - Anything about Hitler's Germany.

Where is your ideal holiday destination? - Cyprus.

What are your achievements? - I've played hockey, netball, badminton and tennis for Wales.

An interesting fact about you? - I went to stage school for 12 years. During that time I toured with the cast of Home and Away.

DIARY DATES

MARCH

26 END OF TERM

APRIL

12 START OF NEW TERM

MAY

3 MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
 10 - 21 Year 10 Work Experience
 12 Year 11 study leave begins
 13 Year 11 Prom
 14 INSET DAY
 17 External examinations begin
 18 & 20 Year 5 Science & Maths day
 28 END OF HALF TERM

JUNE

7 BACK TO SCHOOL
 21 - 28 Year 10 exams
 28 Year 5 5x60 Sports day

JULY

1 Year 7 Parents' Evening
 4 - 16 Canada Tour
 7 Year 6 'Move Up Day'
 Year 6 Parents' Evening
 12 - 16 Year 7 Camp
 16 END OF TERM

Pupils' skating reward

At the end of last term a group of West Mon pupils swapped a day of lessons for a trip to Winter Wonderland in Cardiff.

This reward trip was for 60 upper school pupils who achieved 100% attendance and a perfect record of effort and behaviour. On a cold sunny day with near alpine weather, the West Monmouth pupils had a morning to take in some of the festive Christmas spirit in Cardiff. By midday, they were booked onto the ice skating rink. Our pupils were a credit to the school with the staff at the ice rink commenting on how friendly and polite they were.



The level of skating varied greatly, with some youngsters and staff almost making the Vancouver 2010

Winter Olympics GB squad. Others, mostly staff were reminiscent of that famous deer on frozen water!

Anti smoking message...

This is a project run by the National Public Health Service in Wales which aims to try and prevent young people from taking up smoking.

A group of 30 pupils from Year 8 were chosen by their peers from a questionnaire based on popularity. They undertook two days training which involved learning about the effects of smoking and techniques to get the anti smoking message across to their peers. They then had to try and encourage other pupils to abstain from smoking, or, if they already smoke, to give up. The trainers from NPHS came back for four meetings to check progress.

Budding DJs at West Mon

Year 9 recently benefitted from a series of talks by entrepreneurs.

The Dynamo project, which is run by Careers Wales brings small businesses into schools to talk to pupils about starting their own business.

Two lucky pupils, Piers Smith and Natasha Sansom Hale got the opportunity to broadcast live on air on brfm which is a radio station based in Blaenau Gwent.

Gwent Dragons Course

In December, eight very deserving West Monmouth pupils spent five days at Rodney Parade with the Newport Gwent Dragons.

Ieuan Baldwin, Ethan Winstone, Matthew Bowles, Ryan Chere, Cameron Evans, Nathaniel Bury, Jack Carmock and Kieran Butcher enjoyed a week of activities which developed them academically and as rugby players. The highlight of the week was an interview with recently capped Welsh international, Dan Lydiate. All of the boys enjoyed the experience and gained a range of new skills in the process.



'YOUTH SPEAKS'

Samantha Strickland, Sonal Joshi and Thomas Beard, aided by John Godwin, formed a public speaking team and represented Pontypool Rotary Club at the regional finals of 'Youth Speaks'. The Rotary organised public speaking competition was held in the Drama Theatre of West Monmouth School.

The team debated the good and bad points of T.V advertising and narrowly missed out on a place in the Welsh finals. Samantha Strickland won 'Best Opposition Speaker'. Well done to the team!



Gymnastic Trio in Schools finals...

Three West Monmouth pupils have gained places in the South East Wales Gymnastics Team.

Ashley Brown, James Elliott and Bethany Poultney will now compete in the Welsh Schools finals at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. James Elliott, Year 10, trains with Barry Gymnastics Club five times a week. He has been a member of the Welsh Gymnastics Squad for the last five years. During that time he has competed in numerous championships, including, the London Open, UK Schools Games, the Celtic Cup and the British Championships. James and Bethany are pictured here.



Athletics Champion



Well done to Tyron Blake who is a member of the Wales Under 16 Athletics Team. Tyron is also a member of Cardiff ACC and is the current Celtic Champion in the 80m hurdles. Tyron will soon be competing in the British Championships in Birmingham. We wish him well.

Welsh squad place for Josh

Congratulations to Josh O'Connor who has gained a place in the Wales Under 16 Cricket Squad. Josh also plays for Panteg and Gwent. Josh is a member of the school cricket team, winners of the Gwent Cup last summer.



Roller Hockey Success

Gemma Davies, a Year 9 pupil has just been selected as the Welsh Ladies Super league Netminder in Roller Hockey. Gemma has already gained success in the Under 14



Welsh Team, and is the only girl in the team. Gemma is a member of the Pontypool Pirhanas U14, U16 and U18 teams. At the end of this season Gemma will be awarded with a Welsh Cap for both the Under 14's and the Welsh Ladies.



FOCUS ON: THE SCIENCE

Cambridge University Links



The Science Department has excellent links with Cambridge University. Video Conferencing sessions have been held. Here, pupils visit the university, and then link with one of our primary schools.



Welcome to the Science Department

The Science Department, led by Mr Robertson, is a dedicated team with a variety of experience. Members of the department are always available to give extra support to pupils. Science and Astronomy clubs are held weekly.

Science Note 1



A group of Year 11 pupils enjoy a visit to the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. During the day they had the opportunity to visit many of the departments in the hospital. Here, pupils are pictured in the Microbiology Department.

Science Note 2



In Years 7 and 8 pupils follow a themed course which contains five modules in each year, such as 'Forensic Science', 'Science around the World' and 'Olympics'. As part of the study of renewable energy resources for the future, pupils design and make model islands, to showcase their ideas.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT...

Chemistry Camp

Many congratulations to four Year 10 pupils who have gained places at Chemistry Camp. The camp is organised by The Salters' Institute in order to promote the appreciation of chemistry and related sciences among the young, and to encourage careers in Chemistry and in the UK Chemical Industries. The camps are residential events that are held at some of the top universities in the UK. Activities include practical chemistry in the labs and lecture demonstrations. Charlotte Davies and Casey Hale will attend Bath University whilst William Gunter and Ben Jones will go to Cambridge University.



WEST MON GETS A ROCKET!

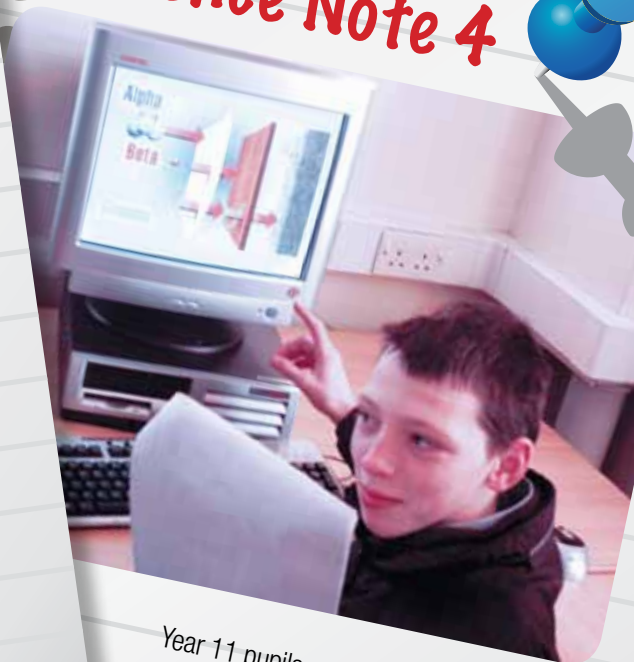


Science Note 3



Throughout Key Stage 3 pupils are levelled on their development of Science skills. They undertake regular practical skills assessments such as the 'Broccoli' assessment shown here. Pupils cook broccoli for different times and then test the food for vitamin content. They discover that cooking time affects vitamin content and research why this is happening at the cellular level.

Science Note 4



Year 11 pupils prepare short T.V documentaries on the subject of radioactivity dangers.

Good Luck!...

To Year 8 pupils, Lauren Jones, Keaton James, Adam Malson and Georgina Elias, who will be taking part in the 'Slaters' Chemistry Competition at Cardiff University on 24th March.



Fairy Tale Performances

Year 11 Performing Arts pupils recently completed a project entitled 'Dark Tales for Dark Times'.

Using the springboard of C20th practitioners Berkoff and Astaud, each group took a fairy tale as the basis for a modern adaptation. They were given the task of creating their own version using some of the techniques and approaches used by the C20th practitioners. This was a challenging task and they worked with great creativity and originality. The resulting performances were of a very high standard – not to mention rather surreal and colourful!



'Tapestry Teamwork'

As part of their 'Explore' lessons, 7L pupils have been learning about the history of the 'Bayeux Tapestry'. Pupils decided they would like to make their own tapestry and set off on the project which took almost six weeks to complete. Every member of the class contributed to the task which allowed the pupils to learn the importance of teamwork. Well done 7L!



Expressive Arts Winner

Congratulations to Year 9 pupil, Kate Davey, for being successful in a recent Art competition. The competition, run by ESPO, asked pupils to design a piece of expressive art for their 2010

calendar. Kate is pictured here with Mike Pope, of ESPO, being presented with vouchers for her and the school, together with a copy of the calendar. Well done Kate!

Fashion Designers in the making...



A group of Year 7 pupils are currently working on a fashion project, with the support and guidance of students from the University of Newport. The First Campus sponsored project will run for four weeks, and will involve the pupils designing a uniform for staff at a confectionery shop.

Artists in Residence

Three trainee Drama teachers are on residency at West Monmouth School to produce a Key Stage Three production. The chosen play is called 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations', by Alan Aychbourne.

Ernie appears to be your average teenage boy, with a wild imagination. The play is taken on a comic journey as his day dreams soon become reality. The play explores Ernie's 'Illucinations' and how they affect the life of the people around him. The play is a light hearted comedy that will appeal to the whole family. This play gives pupils the

opportunity to act, design set and costume, develop lighting and sound skills as well as gain backstage experience. The play is being produced as part of a transition project for our feeder primary schools. Schools have been invited to watch the performance and experience the outstanding drama facilities that West Monmouth School has to offer.

Excellence in Science



Congratulations to Mr Pendergast who has won The Royal Society Hauksbee Award for excellence in Science. To celebrate its 350th anniversary, the Royal Society recognises the unsung heroes of Science, technology, engineering and maths.

The award is named after Francis Hauksbee who was Isaac Newton's laboratory assistant. Well done to Mr Pendergast!

Technology Challenge

At the end of January a group of Year 8 pupils travelled to Llantarnam School to compete in the IET Faraday Challenge.

The challenge was based on flooding and the pupils' task was to design a pump to move the maximum amount of water in just one minute. The team firstly had to develop a range of ideas before developing and making a prototype of their best one.

The group, which was made up of Joel Clarke, Sam Appleby, Chelsie Harris and Emily Oliver, did really well and pumped an impressive 2.2 litres of water. This along with their design work resulted in the group being placed 2nd overall. A fantastic achievement and a fun and exciting day! Well done to the pupils involved!



WMS to work with Welsh National Opera

Following an excellent project in 2008, the Music Department has been invited back to collaborate with Welsh National Opera on a brand new work called 'The Journey', which will be performed next summer. There will also be a filmed performance for screening in Cardiff and in an opera festival in London.

WMS Pupils advise Welsh Assembly Government

Members of the School Council recently had the opportunity to voice their opinion at a Welsh Assembly Government consultation event.

The “Your Voice Your Choice” event, held at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea, was organised so that Welsh Assembly Government officials could consult with young people on issues which affect them.

During the day, pupils received interactive and fun training followed by the opportunity to attend a range of workshops, including, ‘Getting your voice heard in school’, ‘Anti Social behaviour’ and ‘Preventing Homelessness’. The event was hosted by TV personality Rhodri Meilir. Samantha Strickland, Head Girl, and John Godwin, Deputy Head Boy are pictured here with Children’s Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, and Huw Lewis, Deputy Minister for Children.



CHARITY UPDATE

Caring at Christmas



West Mon pupils have again shown how generous they are when just before Christmas we worked out the final total for our Christmas shoe box appeal. We were amazed to find that West Mon pupils had donated 200 shoe boxes full of Christmas presents for children in other countries who are less fortunate

than themselves. This year’s total is the most shoe boxes we have ever collected at West Mon & so we’d like to extend a big thank you to all the pupils & parents who took part in this appeal & made it such a success!

Before Christmas, Year 9 studied a book called Stone Cold which tells the tale of a young lad, who finds himself living on the streets of London. Several classes were asked to create an imaginary homeless charity as part of their work and 9S in particular thoroughly enjoyed this task and actually took it upon themselves to raise some money which was then sent to The Salvation Army. The class received a letter of thanks for their donation and were told “It was very thoughtful of you all to think of others at this time of year.” Well done 9S!

Haiti Appeal

Following distressing scenes of the situation in Haiti, members of the School Council suggested organising a collection for this appeal. Over £500 was collected from pupils and staff of West Mon. Thank you to everyone who donated money.

An Inspector Calls



In January a group of forty six pupils from Years 9 – 11 travelled to London to see the production of ‘An Inspector Calls’.

Pupils also participated in a workshop before the performance where they tested their knowledge of the play and joined some of the cast in some role play activities. Shining stars included Matthew Cleverly, Josh Horgan and Will

Gunter who performed enthusiastically in front of peers and cast members. The day was a huge success! Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and developed their knowledge of the play in preparation for their future exams.

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