

**Dear Parents / Carers and members of the Community,**

The Spring and Summer terms this year have been remarkably busy. The re-introduction of years 7 to 9 internal exams were taken very seriously by all and have been excellent practice for our younger pupils for when they sit their GCSE's. It has also been an excellent external exam series and I look forward to seeing many happy faces on exam results days on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August, which this year will be held in Bro Dewi school hall.

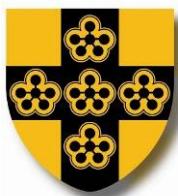
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your tolerance and support in what has been a challenging period in preparing for our temporary location to the Milward Building in Haverfordwest, whilst the re-build and refurbishment of our new school takes place. I have to remind myself sometimes that less than three years ago the school was forecast to close yet we have secured secondary education on the peninsula for generations to come; a remarkable achievement. I believe that we face an exciting year ahead with many hurdles to overcome, but I am convinced that it will make us stronger as a school community as we take 'YDS on tour'.

I am very proud of the outstanding school and individual pupil successes that we have celebrated and shared with you in my previous correspondence and almost daily on our Twitter account @ydsstdavids – please follow us! I am thrilled to have been appointed the first head teacher of the first 3-16 VA Church in Wales School in Pembrokeshire and I very much look forward to working with the peninsula community when our new school opens in September 2018.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

David Haynes

**May I take this opportunity to invite you all to attend our end of Year / farewell service at St. Davids Cathedral this Thursday morning at 9:30am.**



YSGOL DEWI SANT

**Heads of School**  
We are delighted to  
announce the new Head  
Boy and Girl, Oliver Jones  
and Megan Rees. Deputy  
Heads of School, Robyn  
Martyn-Smith and Harry  
Thomas with Sarah Jenkins  
and Lauren El Attar as  
Senior Prefects.



Four Year 8 students had an enjoyable day whilst attending the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at Aberystwyth University recently.



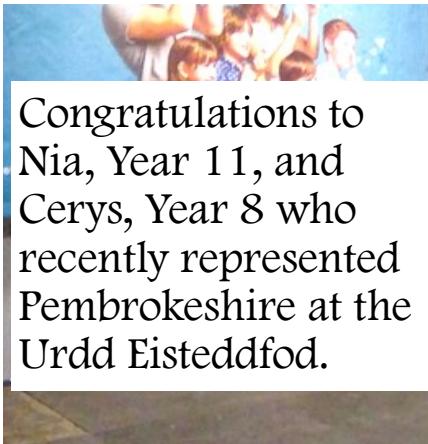


### Sustainable School Award

Ysgol Dewi Sant have been awarded their bronze Sustainable School Award.

The school had to cover three topics to achieve the award. The chosen topics were healthy schools, community citizenship and waste and litter minimisation.

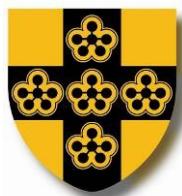
These topics have been covered across the curriculum and cover the ESDGC - Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.



Congratulations to Nia, Year 11, and Cerys, Year 8 who recently represented Pembrokeshire at the Urdd Eisteddfod.



Congratulations to Cerys, Rhydian, Chloe, Caitlin, Hannah and Isabel for winning several medals and certificates in this year's Urdd Eisteddfod Arts and Crafts category.



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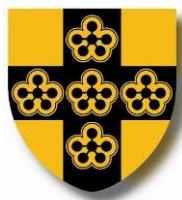
# HEALTH DAY



Our annual Health Day was held on 6<sup>th</sup> July and proved, once again, to be a great success.

Students visited a series of workshops throughout the day, to heighten their awareness and understanding of a range of issues connected to Wellbeing.





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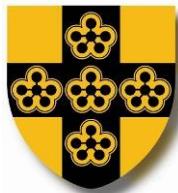
# 2017

Workshops included St. Davids Fire Fighting Team; inspirational speakers (Luke Harding and Rivka Ciappari; the Primary Mental Health Care team; Choices Substance Misuse team; a police workshop on Sexual Exploitation; and the Youth Service Team who targeted a number of issues which young people face, including Cyber bullying and alcohol misuse.



Our sincere thanks to all those visitors who made the day possible. As one student commented 'It was very informative and inspirational. We need more days like this.'





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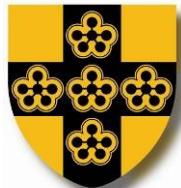


Well done to Chloe, Year 10 for taking part in the Six Counties Big Band and to Rhys, Year 11 for taking part in the 6 Counties Brass Band.

Last Friday students Chloe, Hannah Rhys and Rhian took part in the County Symphonic Wind band at the Festival of music for youth at Birmingham.



Several Ysgol Dewi Sant pupils recently took part in the Amethyst Dance show at the Torch theatre. It was a fabulous show and they all did brilliantly. Pictured (left to right): Helena, Jess, Kaia and Caitlin.



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## Year 7 Pilgrimage Trip

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, year 7 went on the school's annual pilgrimage trip.

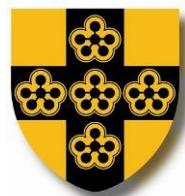
Year 7 set off from YDS and went along to St Nons Chapel and Well, Porthclais harbour and the Cathedral. Staff and pupils enjoyed the day and learnt a lot.



## Year 10 Geography River Solva field work



On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June, year 10 went on their annual field work trip. The pupils looked at the different parts of the River Solva - the source, middle course and the mouth, looking at how the river changed along its course. The pupils collected data on the width, velocity and the pebble size. Pupils worked well on the day and will now be working with the data they collected in class.

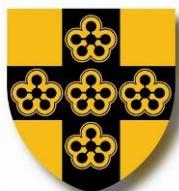


## Un Voyage en Normandie.

Thirty six students travelled to Normandy, France to spend the weekend experiencing French life. After an eventful journey to France, which saw a ferry journey turn into a Euro Tunnel experience, the group arrived at Château du Tertre late in the night to stay for the weekend.

On Saturday morning we met our PGL leaders, who showed us around the centre and helped settle us in. We then visited the historic town of Fougères, with the largest fortified castle in Europe, and the students spent time in the traditional French market conversing with stall holders and buying souvenirs and tasty crêpes. After a picnic lunch, we travelled 45minutes to the sea where we visited the stunning Mont St Michel, a rocky island off the French northern coast, which has been a place of worship and pilgrimage for centuries. A brisk wind followed the students as they walked along the new causeway to the Island, taking in the stunning view. Once inside the walled town, the group climbed up the many steps to the Abbey which overlooks the town. The students visited inside the Abbey and enjoyed seeing the modern art installations which complimented its ancient history. A steep descent provided the opportunity for the students to browse the numerous souvenir shops and enjoy a delicious ice cream. On our return to the Château, after a hearty meal in the Salle à Manger, the group sat around the campfire and sang songs, toasted marshmallows and bannock (a Scottish vegetarian sweet) and had a great time.





# YSGOL DEWI SANT

Sunday morning was an opportunity to visit a traditional French bakers, to talk to the baker in French, ask questions and even have a go at making croissants. Students marvelled at the Pâtisseries (beautiful French cakes) and not surprisingly sampled a few. It was a really enjoyable visit. Later that morning, students were challenged to complete the town trail which took them around the town of Ambrières with its unusual town hall and beautiful river setting.

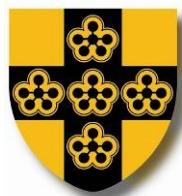
In the afternoon, back at the Château, students completed a variety of group activities including team building and abseiling which they embraced and bonded further as a group. In the evening students had a snail tasting session which produced many strange facial expressions, but thankfully, Anwen's birthday cake soon had everyone smiling again. Following that, a short drive took us to a local Crêperie where M et Mme Laval cooked traditional Normandie Crêpes with confiture maison, sauce au chocolat, au sucre ou au nature. Pupils had a choice of a variety of French drinks including Diablo and Orangina. On our return to the Château, students enjoyed playing basketball, sitting in the evening sun or packing ready for the return journey on Monday.

On Monday morning, after saying our goodbyes, we set off early towards Calais. The group stopped at the Supermarché where Mme Rowe bought her Confiture and Cornichons and the students spent the last of their euros.

Just before arriving in Calais for the ferry, the group made a poignant visit to Etaples WW1 Commonwealth Grave which allowed the students to consider the past and place a wreath, organised by Mr Reay, on behalf of Ysgol Dewi Sant.

The ferry crossing was calm and everyone enjoyed their last evening meal together. A fantastic visit, made even better by students who were a credit to the school and themselves. A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Thomas, Mr Reay, Miss Davies-Puddy for coming and looking after the students and in particular Mme Rowe for organising such a great opportunity. A Bientot!





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Students comments:

Best bit was Mont St Michel – it was nice:  
*Nia Year 8.*

The trip was class because we were with everyone., It was just amazing, I have always wanted to go to France. Everyone was really nice. We were together with our friends. I loved it all!  
*Kieran, Evie, Lottie, Nia, Jess Year 8.*

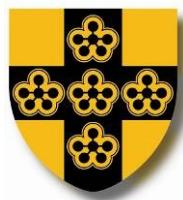


Best bit was team building-it was fun. Everyone got to work together. We showed how strong our friendship is. We got closer. Now we are talking to everyone. Doesn't matter

what year group. Making croissants could have been better if we cooked and ate them. Snails were alright- the smell put me off. Tom- my face said it all. I would definitely go again.

*Davis, Amy, Christina, Kira, Maisie, Meg, Tom. Year 9+10.*





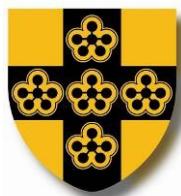
YSGOL DEWI SANT

### Students comments:

Mont St Michel – all the shops were good to visit. The view was amazing. The activities were great- I had only abseiled once before- I was proud myself. The Chateau had lovely grounds and trees. The food was different- nice to try it- the bread was tasty with lots of opportunities to do stuff. I used to not like trying new things or staying away from home- but I've realise that I can do it. I can put up with the girls snoring on the bus! Group work skills have improved- I can tolerate people more. I have learnt more about the French culture. The trip has helped me overcome my fear of heights. *Harry, Billy, Ben, Hannah, Erin.*

Miss Davies-Puddy enjoyed seeing the students grow and gel as a group and get to know them better. Mr Reay loved being away and getting to know the students better and grow into themselves in a small space of time. Mrs Rowe enjoyed returning to Mont St Michel and enjoyed seeing the students getting on regardless of age or school year. And of course- she loved buying her confiture!





# YSGOL DEWI SANT

## YDS Whole school visit to Milward Site

On Monday 10th July, in conjunction with PCC School Transport Department, Ysgol Dewi Sant conducted a hugely successful "dry run" in preparation for their temporary re-location to the Milward campus whilst the YDS site under goes a re-furbishment and new build in advance of the opening of the new 3-16 VA school in September 2018. Six buses transported the pupils to the Milward building where they were led in an assembly by Cannon Cannon Dorrien Davies and Headteacher Mr.

David Haynes. Mr. Haynes congratulated Cannon Dorrien on his new appointment as Arch deacon of Carmarthen. Cannon Cannon Dorrien, who is a governor at YDS, has been instrumental in working with the headteacher in recent years to forge strong links between the school and the cathedral and he has been a prominent contributor to school life and the school community. Pupils gave the cannon a tremendous applause at the end of his assembly and wished him every success in his future role. Cannon Dorrien will be greatly missed by the school and community alike.

On returning to school the pupils took part in a multi/sports event organised by the PE department with support from our sports development officers Dan Bellis and Steffan Davies along with the Year 13 Sports Ambassadors and Head Prefects. We would also like to thank the headteacher, staff and pupils from Tasker Milward for their warm welcome and support.

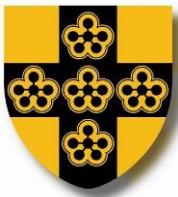


Year 7 student Seren was recently among students of the Welsh National Opera honoured to sing for Prince Charles at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay.



Congratulations to Mrs Mandy Phillips on gaining a BA 1st Class Honours in Inclusive Education. We are all very proud of you at Ysgol Dewi Sant.





## Attendance Matters!

Once again may I take this opportunity to thank you for your support promoting good attendance within the school. Ysgol Dewi Sant has once again achieved the best attendance to date. This year's attendance is 95.7%, the best in Pembrokeshire. The average attendance for Pembrokeshire was 93.8%. Well done everyone! This reflects very favourably on the culture and ethos of the school where all stakeholders, pupils, parents and staff value and understand the importance of attendance in underpinning all progress made by every child.

Year 7: 95.02%

Year 8: 95.66%

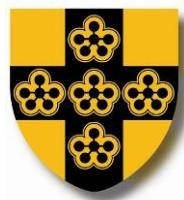
Year 9: 95.66%

Year 10: 96.16%

Year 11: 96.03%

Green	100%	Not missing any lessons
	99%	Missing about 10 lessons
	98%	Missing about 20 lessons
	97%	Missing about 30 lessons
Amber	96.90%	Missing about 8 days of school. It will be difficult to catch up on lost learning from 40 lessons.
	95%	Missing about 2 weeks of school. Time to 'Callio'.
Red	93%	Missing 14 days of school. This is almost 3 weeks which is a significant amount of education to lose.
	92.90%	Missing more than 3 weeks of education. A serious loss of learning which is likely to have a detrimental effect on achievement and life chances.

Please see the chart above which indicates the link between attendance and achievement in school. The rewards for good attendance are clear. Pupils are more likely to enjoy school, achieve better results and increase life opportunities. It is well researched that academic success is positively related to good attendance. Analysis of last year's year 11 cohort illustrates that 65% of pupils in the 95-100% attendance bracket achieved 5A\*- C's at GCSE compared to only 20% in the 90—95% attendance bracket. May I politely remind you that for safeguarding purposes that if your son/daughter is absent from school it is imperative that you email or telephone school to let us know prior to 9am.



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## INDUCTION DAY 2—Milward visit



On Monday 3rd July over sixty Year 6 pupils were accompanied by PE Staff and Year 13 prefects and sports ambassadors to the Milward campus.

Following an assembly delivered by Pembrokeshire County Council transport department, the pupils travelled by bus and completed a session on team building in the Astro-turf followed by lunch in the Milward canteen. Feedback from the pupils was generally very positive with all saying that they felt more confident about coming to Ysgol Dewi Sant and that they had found the visit helpful.





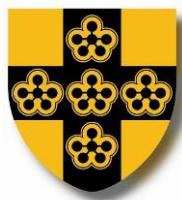
I had two fab transition days in YDS! I made new friends and got to know some of the teachers. We had some mini lessons to see what the lessons will be like in September, I even enjoyed the Maths class. Everybody was very friendly especially the 6<sup>th</sup> formers who were helping us to find our way around. Everyone liked the canteen and there was loads of choice.

On the second day we went to Taskers on the bus and we had a really fun P.E session on the astro turf! I'm really looking forward to all the different sports as P.E is one of my favourite subjects! After doing this and talking to the bus safety people I'm not as nervous about it all now.

Thank you to all the teachers, LSA's and 6<sup>th</sup> formers for two AMAZING transition days!

By Ffion Davies Ysgol Solfach

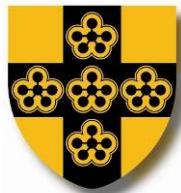




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On Thursday 13th and Friday 14th July years 7 and 8 and 9 and 10 pupils had two fantastic end of year rewards visits to Whitesands beach. Pupils enjoyed a brisk walk from Ysgol Dewi Sant along footpaths and the coast path to the beach where they were greeted by RNLI lifeguards for a talk on beach safety followed by activities including CPR, emergency aid and beach flags. With no mobile phone signal and no phones on the beach it was fantastic to see the pupils enjoy swimming, socialising and playing a multitude of sports and games. We would like to thank the RNLI for their support again this year and also the staff who gave freely of their time to accompany and supervise the pupils on the beach. What a successful and rewarding end to the academic year.





## Year 9 Geography- Pembrokeshire National Park and Tourism talk

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Ian Mepham visited Ysgol Dewi Sant to talk about Pembrokeshire National Park, its aims and purpose. Ian, the National Park Ranger also spoke to the pupils about tourism in the area. Pupils were actively involved in the discussion and found it very interesting and informative. The visit was also linked to the Schools ESDGC week and looking at St David's City of Culture Bid.

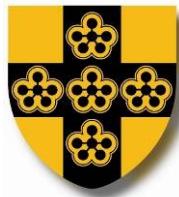


**JAPAN VISIT**  
Rory Steele from the Osaka foundation visited our lucky year 13 students who will be travelling to Japan in the October half term to be immersed in Japanese culture. The students were introduced to traditional customs and traditions as well as learning some basic phrases in preparation for staying with their host families. The students Presented Rory with a PowerPoint of the places that they were interested in visiting and why, plus they each gave a short presentation about their own background and reasons for wanting to visit Japan.

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## Year 9 Geography- Visit from Jane Powell- FACE and William Lawrence.

Last term, year 9 pupils at YDS were looking at the debate- “should we be buying and growing more of our food locally or globally?” Pupils were lucky enough to have a visit from Jane Powell who works for FACE and William Lawrence a local dairy farmer to talk to them about the arguments for and against. Both visitors gave pupils a useful insight into the topic before pupils came to their own reasoned decisions on the debate.



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## DofE

Four groups of students recently had a tough expedition, but completed and passed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award with flying colours. Well done to all students involved, and to Ms Blair and Ms Morton for their support.



## Football

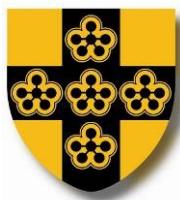
Congratulations to Saemus, Year 10, on winning Players Player of the Year, for U15s County Football Squad.



## Sailing

Well done to Jasmine, Year 8, receiving the Solva Sailing Club Dolphin Trophy recently.





## ROWING SUCCESS:

Efa Wilson in year 9 has been competing in sea cadets single time rowing. A month ago Efa won her first level in the race in Port Talbot, and last weekend she travelled to Bristol to compete at an area competition which is the next level up. Efa performed outstandingly and won this competition. She has subsequently qualified for the national final level in September which will be held in London. Efa is a silver sports ambassador at YDs who has also achieved regional success at football whilst representing YDS at netball, cricket, athletics, tennis and rugby. She is certainly a talent to look out for in the future.



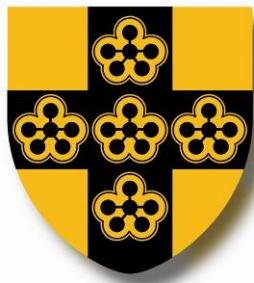
## Golfing Success Samuel Thomas in year 13 represented

Dyfed Schools in the Welsh Schools Golf Tournament held at Llandrindod Wells on Friday 7th July. Samuel contributed to the Dyfed team finishing 2nd in Silver medal position. Samuel has achieved outstanding sporting success during his time at YDS and we wish him and his brother Lewys, a Gold Sports

Ambassador, who has achieved similar accolades, the very best of luck in their future sporting ventures.

Did you know.....you can follow YDS on Twitter where alerts will be posted at relevant times. Find us at [@ydsstdavids](https://twitter.com/ydsstdavids)





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## Dates for your calendar:

- 20th July ~ End of Summer Term
  - 21st July ~ INSET DAY
- 17th August ~ AS/A2 Level Results Day
  - 24th August ~ GCSE Results Day
- 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th September ~ INSET Days
- Friday, 8th September ~ Beginning of Autumn Term

On behalf of the Staff at Ysgol Dewi Sant I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy summer holiday. I look forward to witnessing the many successes on GCSE, AS, and A2 Level results days in August at Ysgol Bro Dewi.  
**David Haynes, Headteacher**