



# MAESTEG SCHOOL

# Newsletter

Summer 2018

## Headteacher's Message

As each year passes, I become increasingly proud of the staff and pupils of *Maesteg School*. Why? Because, quite simply, they give it their all. Our children are proud to be a part of our school community and have played a greater role in influencing decisions than ever before; we had more pupils participating in *Sports Day* than ever before and our school *Eisteddfod* was a wonderful event where the whole school came together to those who were brave enough to take to the stage. Our children are showing us that they aspire to become gold and platinum learners, demonstrating the qualities that we, as teachers and parents encourage them to display and year 11 pupils in particular have demonstrated a commitment to their learning that is inspiring. Our teachers have gone over and above to ensure that these pupils have every chance of success – there were more revision sessions held during the Easter and half term holidays than ever before, more lunch times sacrificed and more revision materials photocopied! The year 11 prom also saw a record turnout of staff to support our leavers. It truly has been a humbling experience to be the Headteacher of *Maesteg School* and I look forward to the academic year of 2018-2019 and all that that may bring!



## Newsflash!

Summer term has been busy in the M.A.C. base. Pupils have been tending to their crops of tomatoes, cucumber, radish, gooseberries & blueberries. The beautiful weather has meant exceptional growth, with pupils taking extra care to make sure the plants get plenty of water and are located correctly in the poly-tunnels. After a bumper crop of radish, our M.A.C. pupils created a delicious chutney under the guidance of Miss Way in *Food Technology*. Mrs Jones Headteacher was particularly impressed with the taste of the product and the way it was presented!

This term we were fortunate enough to work with KPC Youth Centre who delivered a series of workshops based

around making good decisions, the negative effects of drugs, social media and alcohol abuse. Pupils took a mature approach, discussing each theme in depth and all qualified for a certificate of recognition for completing the course.

A group of pupils from years 7 & 8 took part in *The Phoenix Project*, run by *South Wales Fire & Rescue Youth Service*. The project involved a physically intense week, testing pupils' endurance, leadership skills and endeavour. Pupils learnt formal yard drill, including how the fire pumps work and how to tackle a fire using the engine's hose. Pupils engaged in several team challenges that included a 'hose run,' problem solving activities, plus a search and rescue activity in the 'dark house.' The pupils acquitted themselves very well and enjoyed their taste of life in the fire service.



M.A.C received a nomination this term from Mrs Matthews for the *BCBC Inspired for Life 'Innovation' Award 2018*. The nomination was put forward for the opportunities and experiences that MAC provides our pupils. We are delighted to announce that M.A.C. won the award and were presented with their trophy at *Portbcawl Pavillion* on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

The experience provided to the children is something that they will never forget, with pupils learning skills that will serve them for life. Maesteg School would like to congratulate everyone involved with the M.A.C. Base for this fantastic achievement and for paving the way for a brighter future for our most vulnerable pupils. If anyone thinks, they can offer our pupils a positive learning experience, then please get in touch by email via: [rjames@maestegcs.bridgend.sch.uk](mailto:rjames@maestegcs.bridgend.sch.uk)



## Summer Festivities!

Summer term at *Maesteg School* sees our Houses (*Cadrawd, Cynnyd, Daren & Llynfi*) battle it out on the sports field and in the main hall for our annual *Sports Day* and *Eisteddfod*.



*Bridgend Rec* was the chosen arena for our sporting competitions and the weather did not let us down as pupils from every House battled hard to gain points on the podium.

Louisa Penny of *Cadrawd* shone on the track, as she became our *Victor Ludorum* for sporting excellence, entering the most number of events that day!

Our *Eisteddfod* was conducted in an equally excellent fashion, with pupils giving their all in both off-stage and on-stage completions. Emily Thomas in year 8 created the winning English entry for the *Eisteddfod* with her interpretation of *Kit Wright's, 'The Magic Box.'* She wrote her own poem, entitled *'The Magic Box of Wales'* and presented her poem as the tongue of the Welsh Dragon, sitting inside a decorated box. It was the most original and beautifully written piece of poetry. Emily was presented with *'The Chair'*, which is a prestigious award.





Our *Eisteddfod Victor Ludorum* for off-stage competitions was Dylan Griffiths of *Llynfi* house who impressed judges with all of his competition entries and impressive points tally. Harly Videan of *Cymnyd* house was our *Victor Ludorum* for his on-stage prowess, wowing pupils and staff with his acting skills and stage presence.

Congratulations to *Cymnyd* who not only won sport's day with 396 points but also went on to win this year's *Eisteddfod*, making them the overall winners of our 2018 competitions with 1321 points! Congratulations to *Cymnyd*, all the other houses and their pupils for their fantastic efforts yet again.

### All in a day's work...

Year 10 have just completed an extremely successful work experience week. They have worked all over the *Llynfi Valley* and have even secured placements as far as *Abergavenny* and *North Wales*.

Undertaking work experience really gives an excellent insight into the world of work. It is about working outside of the norm and comfort zone. The students are not necessarily going to pursue careers at establishments in which they worked but all fully appreciate how hard and tiring the working week can be.



We have been overwhelmed by the maturity shown by our year 10 students and in some cases moved to tears with the references sent back to school. It is not easy to make an excellent impression but our year 10 pupils certainly have. Many of our pupils have been offered paid employment when they become 16. This is a wonderful achievement. A huge well done to you all.

### Artist on Location

15 Year 9 students completed a 6-week 'master class' with Artist Becky Adams. Through the natural language of Becky's art practice combined with our pupils' work, each pupil has created an individual piece that has become an

embodiment of a story preserved within each careful stitch. Pupils have developed a plethora of creative skills and we are immensely proud of all who were involved. Pupils did themselves and *Maesteg School* proud and we are very much looking forward to our next Master Class with Becky, who we thank for her time and expertise.



### Transition Time

As part of our annual Transition programme, *Maesteg School* works in unison with primary schools throughout the *Llynfi Valley* to make the switch from primary to secondary education more comfortable for year 6 pupils. A variety of classes and activities were held, including a wonderful day spent with primary school pupils at the *Keeper of The Colliery*. Pupils and teachers were

dragon spotting under the watchful eye of the Keeper, whilst learning new Geography skills including; Measuring, field-sketching, justifying and analysing. The sun shone brightly as pupils engaged with the set challenges and the Keeper was grateful for the company as he gazed over our glorious valley. Our French department helped year 6 pupils and *Maesteg School* students to translate 'dragon talk' into French. Pupils also produced key rings in Technology and 'dragon breath' in Science. This

was a wonderful opportunity for year 6 pupils to meet new friends and gain a taste of things to come from our Challenge lessons next year.



### The Gandhi Project

Pupils in year 8 were given the challenge of representing the life of Gandhi without using their exercise books. The ideas throughout year 8 included board games, storyboards,



news reports and posters. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and imagination for learning. Pupils excelled themselves with their ability to work in organised groups and the results were beyond what we could imagine as teaching staff. The picture shows just one of the amazing pieces of work produced - Gandhi represented as a 3D work of art. Each area depicts key moments in his life, including the 'salt march', his many fasts and ultimately his dream of creating an India free from British rule. A very well done to all involved.



On Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 23 pupils from years 7-9 went to *Brynateg Lower School* to take part in a String Day organised by *Bridgend County Council Peripatetic Service*. For some pupils this was the first time they had performed in an orchestra situation outside of school. The pupils were impeccably behaved and represented the school in an excellent fashion. It was an exciting opportunity for such a large group of pupils to collaborate with other pupils from across the county. *Maesteg School* had the largest representation from any other school, which was very pleasing to see! All the pupils enjoyed themselves; Klaudia Frankowska a year 8 viola player said, "It was lots of fun playing with others, especially other viola players from the county. It was a fabulous new experience for me and I feel my playing has benefited from the opportunity. I am looking forward to the next one!"



BBC

SCHOOL  
REPORT

Newsletter

**Maesteg School's *BBC School Report* team have been venturing further afield this term. Miss Jenkins accompanied some of our reporters to London and the *House of Commons* as part of the on-going battle against *Fake News*...**



On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, two lucky pupils from *BBC School Report*, Isobel and Lucy, travelled up to Westminster to attend an event at the *House of Commons* to further explore the topic of Fake News. The pupils were invited to attend the report launch by the *National Literacy Trust* who have been conducting research surrounding this important topic. The published report outlines some of the ways in which Fake News is being talked about in schools and how we can help pupils identify this in their navigation of the internet. After receiving the invitation, Lucy said, "I was really excited at the thought of going to London and being part of such an important event."

At the *House of Commons*, Lucy and Isobel were part of a varied audience made up of school teachers, journalists and employees of online media outlets. The final report revealed that only 2% of children have the critical literacy skills they need to tell if a news story is real or fake. After hearing the results of the survey and a presentation from guest speaker Mariella Frostrup, Isobel and Lucy had the opportunity to interview a number of the guests attending the event and even caught up with Mariella to get her views on a topic that they have been learning so much about.

They quizzed Mariella about her career in journalism and managed to get some top

tips for our *BBC Report Team* in Maesteg School. When asked what advice Mariella would give young aspiring journalists, she said "have confidence in your own opinions and your own judgements. Sometimes it is quite hard. People try to put you down, people make you feel unsure about what you're thinking and you have to really build up your own confidence to support whatever it is that you think and you want to know about and you consider important."

Chris Elmore, Ogmores MP, was also at the event and was keen to discuss the topic with our reporters. Lucy asked what he thought we could do to help tackle this problem in our area. He replied, "I think we have to challenge it and we have to make sure that people understand that these things aren't true and that people will invent things." Whilst Chris Elmore was certain that he hadn't shared any Fake News stories, he asked Isobel and Lucy to check his Twitter to make sure that his stories were reliable.

After a busy day at parliament, the pupils returned home to feed back everything that they had learnt to the team back at *Maesteg School*. Isobel said, "it was a once in a life time experience and we not only got to interview the local MP but we were also given the chance to interview Mariella Frostrup, a famous journalist who gave brilliant advice for young writers like us."

### *Radio Times!*

After the success of our *BBC News at 6* feature with Sian Lloyd, our trail blazing *BBC School Report* team were asked to join Lynn Bowles on *Radio 2* to discuss the work they have been doing surrounding fake news. After several cancellations due to the 'Beast from the East', Lucy and Miss Jenkins finally went on air on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April at the BBC studios in Cardiff.

Lynn asked Lucy about the assembly that the *BBC School Report* team had done and asked Lucy's advice about how to spot a fake news story. Lynn was also keen to ask about the *BBC School Report* experience and how it was helping pupils in schools with their journalism skills.

Miss Jenkins said "although Lucy had never been on the radio before, she was confident and didn't let the microphones and recording equipment phase her. I am immensely proud of the *BBC School Report Team* and the work they have done this year and I know that they will continue to go from strength to strength as the team expands."

Another fantastic opportunity for our aspiring journalists!

### *Bake for Heroes*



This term, our *BBC Report Team* have been working hard to raise funds for *Help For Heroes* as this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the end of World War 1. The charity helps so many people who are serving or have served in the *British Armed Forces* and helps to rebuild the lives of people who have suffered an injury or illness.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> June, a large number of our *BBC Report Team* boldly took on the challenge of a sponsored silence. Pupils had white boards to communicate with teachers and friends but nonetheless this proved a difficult task for them. Impressively, 5 of the team even managed to make 200 cakes in silence ready for the bake sale the following day. Nerys, a year 8 pupil, said "it was really difficult to be quiet for the whole day especially when our friends were trying to make us laugh but I felt proud doing it for such a worthwhile cause."

The following day, we held a bake sale and pop-up shop to raise money for the charity. Most of the cakes sold out by break time but luckily we had back up batches ready for the lunch time rush! Throughout the day, the *BBC Report Team* were hired as helpers by staff to help them in the classroom.

A massive thank you to everyone who helped make the day a huge success. We raised over £500!





# SPORTS REPORT

# Newsletter

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*Welcomed by  
Warburton*



This term, Maesteg School's *Ospreys East Champions* experienced a once in a lifetime training session with a very well-known *Cardiff Blues, Welsh and British Lions* Captain. As a result of a successful competition entry by Year 8 pupil Jack Tozer (explaining how he balances school studies and rugby life) we were invited to the *Cardiff Arms Park* to take part in a training session with *Cardiff & Vale College* and none other than... Sam Warburton!

Pupils were afforded a bespoke training session on the hallowed turf in the glorious Cardiff sunshine. The team experienced invaluable advice, hints and tips from arguably one of the greatest Welsh players of our generation. It also allowed for an opportunity for some of our most talented pupils to showcase their skills and abilities in front of an incredibly impressed audience.

The day also consisted of a stadium tour, which included the home and away changing rooms and being cordially invited into the Trophy Room at *Cardiff Arms Park*, (a room where very few have entered) to see all the memorabilia from over 100 years ago. Jack Tozer was also asked to sign the guest book on behalf of Maesteg School! Sam Warburton kindly presented us with a signed *Cardiff Blues* jersey, which will sit proudly framed in our school to remember such a brilliant occasion!

The day was a fantastic opportunity and one that will live long in the memory of every pupil, Mr Davies and Mr James. It was also a much-deserved treat for our team, who have not only had a fantastic year on the pitch, but never fail to represent the school immaculately!

## *Dance Masters!*

36 Maesteg School pupils shook the world of dance this month by winning the *UDOIT! UK National School Championships*, making the National news

in the process!

Maesteg School entered both the Junior and Senior categories of the *Wales Street Dance* finals at *Sophia Gardens* in March 2018, where we gained the title of *Wales Schools Champions* for both Senior and Junior competitions. Pupils combined *Waacking, Street and Funkstyles* to create a winning formula, prompting praise from the judges and qualification for the national competition in *Stoke-On-Trent*.

Our dance troupes met with *Wales Commonwealth* athletes at *Sophia Gardens* during the competition, soaking up the incredible atmosphere whilst rubbing shoulders with the country's top performers.



In preparation for the finals in Stoke, pupils committed to a strict training regime, accumulating 20+ hours a week in order to perfect and refine their routines. All of our pupils played their part in the choreography of both Senior and Junior routines but special mention must go to Tomas Edmund (Yr.13) for his fantastic leadership skills in the build-up to the competition.

The Junior's dance troupe, performing as *Intensity* and the Seniors as *Overload* embraced the finals with the same character and determination as in *Sophia Gardens*, thoroughly enjoying the experience of the competition.

The celebrity judges, including *Big Chris* from *Flawless*, were running strength and technique workshops, a fantastic

opportunity for all pupils, which helped calm the nerves before their performances.

Ashton Goldsworthy (Yr.9) was confident that *Intensity* could do well in the finals. "I felt nervous as we arrived at the centre but we had prepared our routine well," said Ashton.

"The atmosphere inside the centre made us feel ready, pumped and excited; we couldn't wait to get started!"

The competition standard was extremely high, with the best dance troupes from across the U.K. in attendance. After all the performances, *Intensity* rose to the top of the pile, finishing in first place, with *Overload* finishing a very commendable 5th place.

"It felt overwhelming when we were announced winners, we all ran straight to the podium," said Shanel Mort (Yr.9)

"When Ashton lifted the trophy, the crowd went wild. Some of our parents were there alongside our coaches and Miss Scudamore. It was amazing to win in front of them!"

Special thanks to Natalie Davies, a former Maesteg pupil who runs *Funk Force Dance Crew* and who does so much to encourage the pupils to compete. Congratulations to *Intensity* and *Overload*, we are extremely proud of your achievements!



*Keep up to speed...*

Keep up to date with our latest news and look out for upcoming events at *Maesteg School* by checking our website and following our School Twitter community.

maestegschool.co.uk  
@maestegschool  
#maesteg18 #motivatedtostrive