



MAESTEG SCHOOL

Newsletter

Summer 2019

Headteacher's Message

I cannot believe that another school year has almost ended, another group of year 11 and year 13 pupils has left us and we face another wonderful summer holiday expecting further downpours! Yet there is so much to be optimistic about as we plan for the new term. We have appointed our new *Senior Prefect Team* which will be led by the very talented and extremely able, **Isobel**

Hocking-Watts. The standard of candidates this year

was exceptional - the interviews displayed their confidence, passion and humility and I have every confidence that this senior team may prove to be the best yet!

Our efforts to complete the **Race for Life** this year may have been thwarted by the weather, but our fund-raising efforts have not! Our school community has once again overwhelmed me with their generosity. Worthy of special mention is a young lady in year 7, **Asher Antrobus** who single-handedly raised over £300 for cancer charities.



Reclaim, Revive, Re-Love, Repeat:

Re-Love, Repeat would be it! Pupils have been inspired by the notion that we can recycle and make the world a better place in the process. Whether it be **Pop-Up Prom Shops** (more on that later!) or creating artworks from general waste, our students have



passionately researched, gathered, re-purposed and created with a clear goal in mind: We have one planet, let's look after it! Textiles artist **Claire Cawte** has been very impressed with the pupils' response to the **Fabric of Life** project that's been run by **Mrs Fleming & Miss Thomas** since the spring. "I'm thrilled with the pupil's enthusiasm to the project," said **Claire**. "They recognised the reality of plastic waste and they've responded superbly."

As if having an artist on board wasn't exciting enough, pupils excitement doubled when **IKEA Cardiff** began to show an interest in what was being made at **Maesteg School**. "We were so chuffed when **IKEA** spoke to us about an exhibition of the work," said **Mrs Fleming**. "The idea was to collect in plastic waste materials and work with **Claire** in creating fashion pieces that could help spread the message around recycling. We've run with the motto that 'There is no Planet B' and for **IKEA** to invite our pupils to exhibit their work was a real reward for all of their hard work."

Our students have created bags, dresses, scarves, head-pieces, brooches and more in recent weeks, all of which are currently on display in Cardiff. Artist **Claire Cawte** didn't stop there, organising the **Fabric of Life** exhibition to transfer over to famous gallery **Craft in the Bay** for two more weeks! As we type, arrangements are being made for the work to be displayed in the entrance of the gallery, further celebrating our pupils' talents and spreading the important message of sustainability to a wider audience. **Mrs Fleming & Miss Thomas** would like to thank **Claire, IKEA** and **Craft in The Bay** for supporting our pupils in their mission to **Reclaim, Revive, Re-Love, Repeat!**

Pop-Up Prom Shop: Innovation & Inclusion!

When **Maesteg School** posted online about a **Pop-Up Prom Shop**, nobody was expecting a **Twitter** and **Facebook** 'shout-out' to become a national celebration of inclusivity & ingenuity in a matter of hours! The concept was celebrated across numerous media outlets within days of the project starting, after staff and pupils rallied together to collect over 300 dresses including shoes and accessories...

Headteacher's Message (cont...)

Our year 7 pupils impressed parents, teachers and judges with their efforts to compete for £1000 to donate to the charity of their choice. The winning class **7Y4**, was led by **Mrs Andrea Matthews** and their chosen charity was **Noah's Ark** – a children's hospice. I have never seen such commitment, energy and maturity displayed by pupils (you'll read more about them later.) You are a credit to the school.

Our teachers have provided their unstinting support to ensure our children are challenged to achieve their best and have definitely deserved their summer break. I look forward to seeing you all back in September!



Girl Power: CISCO Technology

Triumph >>> Briar Cannon, Tilia-May

Gajda & India Williams of year 8 visited **Cisco HQ** in **London** this term to take on **Computer Science** challenges alongside other schools from across the country.

Our fantastic year 8 girls were given a *microbot* with coding instructions and told to make the bot move! **Maesteg School's** team triumphed and won a trophy (which happened to be made of chocolate!)

"I gave it to my mum as a present," said **Briar**. "I would really love to work in this kind of environment in the future, the coding was intense but really rewarding when we got our *microbot* to move" added **India**. In the afternoon, pupils took part in the **Dragons Den** competition where they had 10 minutes to create a new app that would help people in their daily lives. **Group one** created an app called **Discover It** and **Group two** created **VRHomedesign**. **The Dragons** loved the app ideas, praising the groups for being very inventive. "It was cool to be able to show off our skills in what is usually a male-dominated industry," said **Tilia**. "We had a great day!"

Pop-Up Prom Shop



The **BBC**, **ITV** and **S4C** all sent cameras to interview the masterminds behind the movement which was even gaining attention 'across the pond' in the US.

Mrs Scudamore & Mrs Scarr answered questions for TV, radio and the published press, explaining that the vision was to make *Prom* "affordable for everyone." Pupil **Tegan McNamara** visited the **ITV** studios to represent the school and share the heart-warming story with viewers, whilst our **BBC School Report Team** reported from prom night. Here's what **Olivia Castle & Katie Pritchard** found out: 'On Thursday 27th of June our year 11's celebrated the end of their academic year. They had a beautiful prom that took place in **The Exchange Hotel** in **Cardiff**. The **Pop-Up Prom Shop** team had collected over 300 dresses to donate to year 11 pupils who either struggled finding a dress that suited them or were hampered by financial restraints. This year, 10 dresses were snapped up on the night but **Mrs Scudamore** has said "Next year and many years after, we will open the shop earlier so pupils can take time to choose a dress, we'll have a wider selection that will hopefully include suits too."

"The pupils and teachers who wore the donated dresses were extremely happy with their choice of outfit and looked absolutely incredible. The prom night as a whole was a huge success and the pupils and teachers quite literally had a ball! Our school was the 2nd school prom that **The Exchange Hotel** has hosted and staff there said that our pupils were exceptionally well behaved and were a pleasure to host...even the teachers were well behaved! We interviewed **Mrs Scarr** about the prom and she asserted "The prom was a fantastic event with the majority of year 11 pupils attending. It was a lovely atmosphere and I am so proud to see year 11 celebrate the end of their educational year."

After our **Pop-up Prom Shop** was aired on the **BBC**, child commissioners who are part of the **Welsh Government** came in and spoke to some pupils and teachers about our initiative. She hopes to influence other schools to adopt some of our ideas and has now decided that many more schools should endorse the **Pop-Up Prom Shop** vision. Our report has been shared in many schools as far as **New York City**, as a prom is a big celebration in **The States** that costs families huge amounts of money. Schools in the US have taken notice of **Maesteg School's** venture and would like to start prom shops in their schools as well – what an achievement and victory for encouraging inclusion and repurposing a perfectly wearable dress!

LLYNFI >>> TO >>> N.Y.C by Kate Campfield, *BBC School Reporter*.



On 21-25th of June some lucky *Business/ICT* GCSE & A Level students got to take a trip across the world to **New York City!** Chaperoned by *Mrs Clarke, Miss Hopkins* and *Mr Rees*. A lot was squeezed into the short trip; here are some of the highlights... On day one the group visited **Grand Central**, saw the beautiful views from the **Rockefeller Centre** and ate at the famous **Planet Hollywood** restaurant! The blinding capitalism and consumerist glamorisation was blinding to see by pupils first-hand. On the second day the group saw the **Brooklyn Bridge, Little Italy, Wall Street, the World Trade Centre** and the **9/11 memorial**, and enjoyed an evening meal at the **Heartland Brewery** at the bottom of the **Empire State Building**. On the third and final full day the group visited **Central Park**, watched the world famous **Yankees** play and ate at an Italian restaurant in **Time Square**. On the day of departure, the gang took a boat ride around the NY area and saw the **Statue of Liberty**. Finally everyone packed up and headed to the airport for the 7 hour plane ride home.

- Thank you Kate for a substantial report, they really did pack a lot in to a short space of time!

Cows on Tour was a huge success at **Maesteg School** this summer and we loved listening to the recent coverage of the event on **BBC Radio Wales**. *Mr James* who invited the tour to school thought the radio show really captured the spirit of the day: "I think our pupils took a lot from the event and it showed in their interviews for the radio. It was lovely that the press could see what a positive learning experience it was for our pupils and we're glad they could share that with a wider audience."



"The passion and knowledge from the

Cows on Tour team was infectious and the pupils really responded to that," added *Mr James*. "It was a great day for everyone involved and extra special that families could join us in the afternoon to share in the experience."

Our **BBC School Report Team** (who have put in a great shift this term!) were on hand yet again to report on the event. This report is brought to you by **Lowri Davies, Lucy Davies & Chloe Rees**:

Cows on Tour was all about participation and the day revolved around interesting activities connected to agriculture farming and livestock. We took particular interest in the livestock section, as it consisted of cows, goats, sheep, chickens and sheep dogs! "My favourite part was petting the goats! I found out that goats' milk can help people with allergies" asserted *Lily* from year 7. As part of the event, it was important that the year 7's got to learn where some of their everyday foods come from. This also included looking closely at the materials their clothes originate from and how they are manufactured into different garments. For example, during the day, a demonstration took place where the **Cows on Tour** team showed us how to shear a sheep and the importance of shearing a sheep in a specific way without harming them or yourself. The highly qualified workers showed the year 7's how to shear the sheep perfectly, as *Jack*, a year 7, told us that the sheep "Need to be sheared otherwise their thick amount of wool will attract bugs," which seemed to fascinate him as well as many others. After a demonstration with the sheep, it was time to watch a cow being milked. The team used a suction device to transport the milk from the udders into a jar. They told the children that if the cow has a disease, they need to be hand milked the natural way to stop any disturbances, to ease the process, and to ensure the milk is as fresh as possible. We gathered feedback from many pupils who participated in the day and they all have told us that their knowledge on livestock in the agricultural industry has expanded exceedingly!

- A huge thanks to our **BBC School Report team, Mr James & everyone from Cows on Tour**, what a brilliant day.

Our New Friends!



Our group were nervous to be in a different atmosphere to their usual school surroundings. Initially it was difficult to communicate with our new friends, but our allocated buddies from **Maesteg School** did a wonderful job of making them feel welcome. In total there was 14 **Taiwanese** exchange students, 5 boys, and 9 girls who came with us to our classes to experience our school day and learn more about **Welsh** culture, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Most of the pupils said their favorite subject is **PE**, so these children were eager to get involved in our sports day on the last day of their stay – they were brilliant competitors! It was very emotional to say goodbye at the end of their stay with us, with the pupils saying that they had learned so much about our country and “we’re sad to be leaving.” Everyone at **Maesteg School** wishes them all the best with their future travels and studies and hopefully we may see them with us again one day.’

Maesteg’s Got Talent!

Maesteg School staff and pupils were treated to a host of fine performances at our first ever **Maesteg’s Got Talent**. Our very own **Dianne Walters**, former pupil **Tomas Edmunds**, Police Constable **Sam Beaumont** & school governor **Tom Beedle** were our guest judges, who by their own admission were “blown away” by the talent on show. The crowd cheered on as we all enjoyed live magic, drama sketches, vocal and instrumental pieces. In the end, **Llynfi House** came out on top, as **Erin Smith** and **Brooke Johnson** of year 7 ‘wowed’ the judges with their version of **Jessie J’s** ‘Flashlight.’ Congratulations to them and all of the pupils who showcased an array of talents, what a memorable day we had.

Follow us: 
maestegschool.co.uk
[@MaestegSchool](https://www.instagram.com/MaestegSchool)
[#motivatedtostrive](https://www.facebook.com/MaestegSchool)

Our **BBC School Reporter Lowri Davies** brings us a report on the visit from **Taiwanese** pupils this July.

‘In the first week of July, we had a very special visit from some talented young people from **Taiwan** who were here on an exchange course. The



>>>First Give Fundraising<<<

During their Challenge lessons, year 7 have recently been taking part in the **First Give Programme**, in which they have been thinking about social issues in our area and learning about the charities that work to address them. Each class chose their own charity. The pupils met these charities, undertook social action for them and put together inspirational presentations in which they championed their charity and the work they do.

We held a **School Final**, where each class competed for £1,000 for their chosen charity. This was an opportunity for the pupils, school and wider community to celebrate all the hard work that the pupils had done over the last few weeks. It was a very special occasion, **Noah’s Ark** and **7Y4** won the competition and the £1000. They had designed and painted t-shirts, created a film about **Noah’s Ark** and completed a fundraising 100mile bike ride. Congratulations to all of year 7 for their wonderful efforts!

Sports Day 2019

Sports Day was a huge success again this year. We had competitors from year 7, 8 and 9 on the field competing in a range of **track and field** events including the **100m sprint**, **800m middle distance event**, the **long jump** and **shot put** to name a few. Staff and sixth form were responsible for each event and enjoyed a day filled with competitive spirit, talent, sportsmanship and thankfully glorious sunshine!

It was an honour and pleasure for staff to witness some pupils win their race and then run back to the competitors on the field to support and encourage them instead of celebrating their win!! Excellent sporting conduct was on display in abundance.

After a busy day of competition a celebration assembly was held where medals were presented and the overall

house winner was announced! It was **Cynwyd** who won overall and so congratulations to them, however it was agreed by all that ‘sport’ was the winner on this day!

