

OLCHFA SCHOOL—YSGOL YR OLCHFA

www.olchfaschool.org.uk

GOWER ROAD, SKETTY, SWANSEA SA2 7AB.

SWITCHBOARD—01792 534300

FAX—01792 534307 / PE DEPT—534316 /

COMMUNITY EDUCATION - 534350

EMAIL : OLCHFA.SCHOOL@SWANSEA-EDUNET.GOV.UK



5TH  
MAY

## SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

Another summer term is upon us and several hundred pupils are busy making their final preparations for their external examinations at GCSE, AS and A2 level. I'm sure that you would want to join with me in wishing them every success this year. Let's hope that results overall maintain Olchfa's excellent progress over recent years.

I know that some of you will be aware of the sad news that my immediate predecessor as head-teacher at the school, Trevor Church, has died at the age of 55. Details are not entirely clear to us even now, two months later, but it appears that he resigned as Principal of the Sir James Henderson School in

Milan last June for health reasons. It appears that he must have deteriorated from that time onwards. Trevor made a lot of changes during the time he was at Olchfa, between 1996 and 2001. Most of these changes were designed to make the school more pupil-friendly and focused. Many things that the school has since achieved would not have been possible were it not to have been for the foundations that he laid.

By common consent, our Annual Presentation Evening, in March of this year, was one of the most successful ever. Many parents made a point of congratulating the school for organising such a professional, enjoyable evening. I'd like to add my thanks to the organisers of the event, and also to pay tribute to the many achievements of our pu-

pils across a range of academic, cultural, sporting and social pursuits. You, as parents, can feel justifiably proud of them.

This week, the school's Sixth Form organised a special 'Question Time' event at the school. The panellists, other than myself, were Lyn Jones, Welsh Rugby International and Coach, Superintendent Philip Davies, South Wales Police. Sue Griffith, Art Historian and Lecturer and Rt Reverend Bishop John Davies, Swansea and Brecon. The event was extremely successful and there are other events planned by the Sixth Form, specifically designed to link and engage more systematically with the wider community.

Hugh Davies

### HEAD PREFECT TEAM FOR 2009—2010

We are pleased to announce the Head Prefect Team for the next academic year:

Head Prefects:	Nick Askill and Cerys Llewelyn
Deputy Head Prefects:	Tim Axtmann, Ruby Maddock, Ceri Humphris, Catherine Thomas.
Senior Prefects:	Will Bennett, Matthew Crimp, Shaanjan Islam, Danny Kasto, Chelby Barnett, Nia Davies, Catherine James, Cerys Nutt.

We wish them well in their duties during the course of their term in office.

## LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS DURING SUMMER EXAM PERIOD

Exam time at Olchfa has always been exceptionally busy and, over recent years, increasingly difficult to organise without causing major disruption both to the 800 or so students who sit external exams each year and also to the other students who are inconvenienced by the loss of our key venues.

In the past couple of years we have used Parklands Evangelical Church as an exam venue. However, this year, we have been able to organise for the exams to be sat at school. The largest venue is the Main Hall which holds about 180 desks (almost double any other venue). It is also in a quiet part of the school, easily cordoned off.

The one major repercussion is school meals. Therefore, from the 11th May to the 12th June, we will offer our students cold lunches rather than hot in the Drama Hall. This will cut down on preparation noise and smell from the Main Hall kitchens. The lunches will be nutritious and will offer variety. We will also be able to continue to provide break time provision from the Drama Hall.

If you are the parent of a child not sitting exams who will lose out on hot pasta dishes or a traditional roast for three weeks or so during the hottest part of the year, then we merely ask you to see the wider picture. One day it will be your son/daughter's turn to face the exam cycle and he/she will then benefit from these arrangements. I trust that you will see the logic behind these arrangements.

### GCSE and AS/A Level Examination Timetables

These have been issued to Years 11, 12 and 13 students as appropriate, but can also be found on the school's website

#### **ECO-SCHOOLS AWARD**

This term Olchfa achieved the Bronze Eco-Schools award and this was presented by Gerry Taylor from Eco-Schools Wales, for setting up the eco-committee and starting the process of helping to improve the sustainability of the school.

The school is currently collecting green leaves for the Generation Green campaign run by British Gas – parents, friends and families can help us collect green leaves and reach our target by completing an energy savers report on the generation green website [www.generationgreen.co.uk](http://www.generationgreen.co.uk).

#### **Fair Trade Fortnight**

Pupils ran a "Fair Trade" shop over Fair Trade fortnight and made around £150 profit. Most of that money is going towards an Oxfam gift, although some was used to buy Fair Trade tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits for the staff room to try and encourage staff to buy Fair Trade.

If you'd like more Information about "Fair Trade", please visit [www.fair-trade.org.uk/](http://www.fair-trade.org.uk/).

#### **LOST PROPERTY**

Can we remind pupils and parents to make every effort to collect lost property items from the Pupil Welfare Officer. As usual this accumulates to a vast amount of clothing, trainers, shoes and jewellery which has to be disposed of at the end of every term due to lack of storage.

**All vacancies, teaching and non-teaching, are routinely advertised on [www.eteach.com](http://www.eteach.com) and via the City and County of Swansea website: [www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk)**

#### **Routine Vacancies**

If you are interested in becoming a Dining Room Assistant, please contact Mrs Baglow on 534304 for further details.

If you are interested in becoming an exam invigilator please contact Mrs Nicci Morris Exams Officer on 534309. Training will be provided.

#### **VOUCHERS**

A number of supermarkets are currently involved in "Vouchers for Schools" schemes.

Olchfa is collecting such vouchers and they can be left in the relevant boxes in reception.

## Fair Trade Cake Sale for Oxfam Unwrapped

Miss Chaudhry's Geography classes 9JG and 9PS decided to hold a Fair Trade Cake sale selling cakes and biscuits using Fair Trade ingredients. After a poster advertising campaign, lots of delicious banana muffins and chocolate cakes were sold raising £70.

Both classes discussed how best to spend this money and it was decided to use the profits to buy a number of items from Oxfam Unwrapped. Since students were aware that AIDS is a big killer in Africa, the following items were chosen in order to benefit and raise the quality of life over there: Safe water for 12 people, 5 bags of seeds, 10 buckets and condoms.

*Thanks to all pupils who purchased an item from them!*

## Red Nose Day 2009

A brilliant, staggering, huge sum of money was raised on the 13<sup>th</sup> March for "RED NOSE DAY". A big thank you to everyone who got shaved, waxed, remained silent, dressed up, supported Mr T hair styles, baked cakes and donated their cash.

**Olchfa made £3359 overall...superb!**

£115 could pay for school fees, uniform, books, meals and support worker care for a child in Africa.

£55 could pay for a health worker to visit more than 15 patients a month in their homes.

£50 could buy a sewing machine for a woman living in extreme poverty in Uganda and would also pay to teach her how to use it.

## Eisteddfod Success

Both the Year 7 and Year 8 Eisteddfodau were fantastic, with huge numbers of students showing what a talented bunch they are. For the first time this year the best performances were put together in an evening show in South Hall for parents, staff and friends. Thanks to the Welsh Department for all of their efforts in organising these very well received events.

**Da iawn! Gwych! Bendigedig!**

**Llongyfarchiadau i bawb a wnaeth gystadlu!**

Congratulations to all who completed!

**Enillodd Owain y Cystadleuthau Llwyfan**

Owain won the On-Stage Competitions

**Enillodd Llywelyn y Cystadleuthau Gwaith**

**Cartref**

Llewelyn won the Off-Stage / Homework Competitions

## Big Schools Birdwatch

Olchfa Eco-Committee were among a record breaking 83,000 young people around the UK who counted and recognised birds for the RSPB, by taking part in the Big Schools Birdwatch. The most common bird around the school grounds was the Blackheaded Gull, but they did record 14 different species of birds. They are now in the process of designing bird feeders to encourage more birds to the school grounds ready for next years Big Schools Birdwatch!

Collecting children from school—The manager at Olchfa House has asked that we notify parents who collect their children from school, not to park along Olchfa House driveway, which causes congestion and problems for their customers. Whilst they have no objection to parents using the car park to drop off and collect, they request that the back car park is used for such purposes.

## PERFORMANCE EVENING

A group of 40 Year 10 GCSE Drama pupils took part in a Performance Evening on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> April, to showcase a selection of their work this term to an audience of friends and family. They performed a variety of duologues, ranging in style from Blood Brothers to Blythe Spirit, and physical theatre pieces looking at "Knife Crime". This is the first time that Year 10 have had a Performance Evening and it was a great success. We look forward to offering the pupils further opportunities to present their work and show off their talents in the future.

**Keston Davies**

Keston Davies in 7SM is a member of Swansea City Schools of Excellence programme for his football skills.

**Year 8 Netball**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March the following pupils represented the school in the county netball tournament. They played very well indeed and were unlikely to lose to St. Joseph's, the eventual winners of the area pool. The Olchfa team were runners-up:

Emily Pickard, Jenny Shuttleworth, Lillie Rees,  
 Fiona Shuttleworth, Rachel Kemp  
 Emily Holding, Jemma Watts, Iona Evans,  
 Tanya Westwood, Bethany Lewis and  
 Rio Abraham-Jones.

Results from the competition:

Olchfa 9 – 5 Glanafan  
 Olchfa 9 – 12 St Joseph's  
 Olchfa 17 – 1 Pontardulais

**Intergenerational Bowls Match**

We recently saw the first ever Sketty Park young people v older people mat bowls competition. The Youth Workers have been working on trying to bring the younger and older generations together in Dunvant, Killay and Sketty by involving young people in all community meetings. In the last PACT (police and community together) meeting in Sketty Park, Joel Worgan as pupils representative was asked to attend. Joel listened to a lot of criticism regarding young people in the area, but he responded very well. From this meeting a very positive outcome was reached where the older generation understood, that they needed to give the youngsters more of a chance. It was agreed that arrangements would be made for a team of youngsters to play bowls against the elderly as part of intergenerational work.

**Year 10 Netball Victory**

The Year 10 Netball team were very successful and won the local pool. They are now through to the finals to compete in the top 3 places for the county schools. They were:

Natalie Beer, Amy Howarth, Annie Hancock, Rhiannon Thomas, Emma Thomas, Rhia Henwood, Robyn Linguard, Christiana Wilson, Sian Davies and Cassidy Hackett.

The results of the pool were as follows:

Olchfa 13 - 9 Ystalafera  
 Olchfa 12 - 1 Cefn Hengoed  
 Olchfa 7 - 6 Glanafan  
 Olchfa 15 - 3 Bishop Vaughan

**6<sup>th</sup> Form Netball Champions**

A group of Year 12 and 13 students flew to Glasgow on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of January in preparation for the 2009 County and Welsh Championships. They had an action packed programme of city tours and leisure activities, topped by a netball tournament on the Saturday. Strathclyde University, our hosts, were outstanding in the planning of the tour and in the welcome that students/staff received. Olchfa has offered a return visit to Swansea to extend the same welcome here.

The Netball was also a total success with all fourteen players playing in at least two of the games with an unbeaten record in all four matches. Our toughest opposition was Strathclyde themselves who we watched clinch the Scottish University top spot earlier that day against Edinburgh University. Olchfa 1<sup>st</sup> team beat Strathclyde 18 – 15. A combined Olchfa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team then achieved a convincing win against Caledonian University and Glasgow County B Under 17 teams. The scores were 11 – 8 and 18 – 4 respectively. For the final game to clinch the tournament, Olchfa A team took to the court to play Glasgow A team and they won the game 18 – 5.

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As coach and 6<sup>th</sup> form Director I was so proud of these girls. Most of their preparation had happened prior to Christmas as they were heavily involved in January exams. They have put a tremendous amount of time and heartache into playing Netball on a Monday night in the Swansea senior league. It is a fiercely competitive environment where they have had to suffer significant defeats. Their wisdom and strength of character to learn from these heavy defeats will have a tremendous influence on their ability to cope with pressure, not just on the netball court but in a whole variety of tough environments. Well done ladies you have done yourselves, your families and your school very proud.

Can I also extend a huge thank you to Glenda Dowdell who assisted me on the weekend. The time that she gave up and the good care offered to the whole party was really appreciated. Our next plans are for a Caribbean tour, probably a return visit to Jamaica.

Mrs Bev Ryan

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS			MidTerm Holidays		2009-2010	
Term	Term Begins	Term ends	Begins	Ends	Term begins	Term ends
<b>Autumn 2009</b>	Tuesday 1 September	Friday 23 October	Monday 26 October	Friday 30 October	Monday 2 November	Friday 18 December
<b>Spring 2010</b>	Monday 4 January	Friday 12 February	Monday 15 February	Friday 19 February	Monday 22 February	Thursday 1 April
<b>Summer 2010</b>	Monday 19 April	Friday 28 May	Monday 31 May	Friday 4 June	Monday 7 June	Wednesday 21 July
<b>BANK HOLIDAYS</b>	2nd April 2010 (Good Friday), 5th April (Easter Monday), 3rd May 2010 (May Day Holiday), 31st May 2010 (Spring Bank Holiday) and 30th August 2010 (Summer Bank Holiday)					
<b>INSET DAYS</b>	To be confirmed.					

**School / home communication** In an effort to improve communication between home and school and to reduce the quantity and cost of paper being used, we are researching the possibility of emailing all school documentation i.e. parental letters, newsletters, general information to parents/guardians. To this end we would be grateful if parents/guardians could supply us with up to date email address(s). This can be done via the front page of the school website – [www.olchfa.org.uk](http://www.olchfa.org.uk)

We would also welcome communication from parents/guardians by email via the following addresses:

#### Key Stage 3 office

Key Stage Manager (for reporting absences) – [ksm3@olchfa.org.uk](mailto:ksm3@olchfa.org.uk).

Pastoral Guidance Worker (for any pastoral concerns) – [pgw3@olchfa.org.uk](mailto:pgw3@olchfa.org.uk).

#### Key Stage 4 office

Key Stage Manager (for reporting absences) – [ksm4@olchfa.org.uk](mailto:ksm4@olchfa.org.uk).

Pastoral Guidance Worker (for any pastoral concerns) – [pgw4@olchfa.org.uk](mailto:pgw4@olchfa.org.uk).

#### Key Stage 5 office

Key Stage Manager (for reporting absences) – [ksm5@olchfa.org.uk](mailto:ksm5@olchfa.org.uk).

Pastoral Guidance Worker (for any pastoral concerns) – [pgw5@olchfa.org.uk](mailto:pgw5@olchfa.org.uk).

General enquiries can be sent via – [Olchfa@olchfa.org.uk](mailto:Olchfa@olchfa.org.uk)

## KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH EVENTS AT OLCHFA

Many of you will have noticed the developments on the school website at [olchfa.org.uk](http://olchfa.org.uk). A growing number of students are using our 'Virtual Learning Environment' to access materials outside the classroom, and submit work online rather than having to print it out. We have recently added a 'latest news' badge to the front to let parents and friends of the school stay up to date between newsletters and you can also now 'follow us' on Twitter at [twitter.com/olchfaschool](http://twitter.com/olchfaschool).

The next stage of our plan is to provide copies of letters to parents via email. If you haven't already provided the school with an up to date email address, you can do so via the school website.

## Governors Annual Report to Parents

Parents should have received the above report which was issued to pupils last week. There was an error in the Mathematics GCSE results in the report, and revised details are attached to the newsletter for your information.

The Music Department will be putting on a concert on 1st July. Further details in due course.

## Virtual Babies

We have once again been able to loan 6 virtual babies from Sure Start for four weeks. Pupils undertaking the Child Development course will be taking the babies home for one school night, and having to take responsibility for the care and well being of their 'baby'. It may also be possible for Health and Social Care and Life skills pupils to take them if time allows. Pupils find the experience rewarding and valuable and also challenging!

## School Uniform Shop

The shop will be open in the Summer holidays at the following times:

Wednesday August 26 <sup>th</sup>	11am – 5pm
Thursday August 27 <sup>th</sup>	2pm – 5pm
Friday August 28 <sup>th</sup>	11am – 5pm
Saturday August 29 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 11am

## Activities Week – Barcelona Trip

There are still a few places left on the proposed Barcelona trip during activities week in July. The cost is £460 and includes flights and 4 days half board accommodation. Day trips include a city tour, Port Aventura, Nou Camp and the Olympic stadium, plus time to shop and visit the beach. The trip is open to all pupils in Years 7-9 and will be a really fun trip. A £50 deposit is required to secure a place (refundable if trip doesn't run due to lack of numbers). Please see Miss Evans Design Technology for a letter.

We would ask you to come to the shop before the end of term during the usual opening times, to allow us time to order in any items that may be needed for the beginning of the new school year.

## SMART

Over the last two weeks Year 7 have been running 22 companies as part of the SMART Apprentice Project. From icepops to car cleaning all the groups have put in lots of effort to raise money for their chosen charities. Winners and the amounts raised will be announced in the next newsletter.

## Media 4 Schools

Massive congratulations are in order to Sarah Astley, Emily Hopkins and Rhianedd Adlam for their work on a project with 'Media 4 Schools'. The Year 11 girls spent 3 days at Swansea University making a documentary about careers in Aerospace and produced a truly outstanding piece. It is obvious that they have real talent and hopefully the documentary will be put on the website very soon for you all to watch.

## Boys Hockey Success

Olchfa's boys hockey under 12, 14, 16 and 18 teams are South Wales Champions. Many congratulations. The Senior Rugby team narrowly lost the Welsh Schools Under 18 Plate Final 11-5 to Bro Myrddin. The Year 9 Rugby Swansea Schools Finalists Lost 21-19 to Bishopston.

## London Mini Marathon

Congratulations to Iona Evans in Year 8 who was selected to run in the London Mini Marathon on Sunday April 26th. Iona ran the 3 mile race in 19 minutes 10 seconds and came 21st in her age group.  
Llongyfarchiadau Iona.

