

# @PrestatynHigh

PRESTATYN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER  
July 2021 Edition 18

#phsinspire



# COVID19

special edition

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TEACHING & LEARNING



Teachers put huge amounts of effort into teaching skills which the pupils need to ensure they are ready for their next year's education in September.

Sterling Steeves Teacher of English

**This school year has been one of the most challenging on record. From opening in September, we had amended practices in place to safeguard and protect the young people in our care.**

Students were taught in one room for the vast majority of their subjects, and the timings of the day were amended. Then just before Christmas we were instructed to close to all but the pupils of essential workers and vulnerable learners. We returned to the hub provision which we had had in the summer term of last year. Each day we saw between 40 and 70 pupils enabling those key workers to attend their jobs and help with pandemic response. Each day a dedicated and selfless team of staff worked in the hub to provide this service.

For all other pupils learning moved online. Our teachers quickly adapted, and having taken on

board the feedback from the previous period of online learning, adopted a structured programme of blended learning. We combined live lessons available for all pupils with set online work to ensure that all pupils had access to learning opportunities. Over 80% of our pupils accessed TEAMS and completed work. 82% of parents told us they were pleased with our online learning provision, 85% thought there was plenty of work available, and parents rated the overall quality of the work as 4/5. The hard work of all the staff involved is to be congratulated.

Reopening in March we adapted a recovery curriculum to be able to accelerate the progress of all of our learners. Some students found the transition back to full time school to be challenging, and we are proud of the pastoral work done by our pastoral teams and year teams to address these challenges with students. Face to face learning resumed successfully, and despite the heavy pressure from Centre Determined Grades for years 11, 12 and 13 our teachers put huge amounts of effort into teaching skills which the pupils need to ensure they are ready for their next year's education in September. Face to face learning is back in full swing.

THE PHS COMMUNITY | HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PUPIL WELLBEING**

On Friday 5th February we held a well-being day where we suspended all online learning to allow pupils to focus on wellbeing. This was in support of Children's Mental Health Week. Well-being bingo was sent home and tips to support mental health were published to all pupils. Well-being activities were arranged for the pupils in the Hub.



Cycling fundraisers Ben Hoban and Charlie Sheppard.

**PUPIL CELEBRATIONS**

Ben Hoban and Charlie Sheppard, in year 8, have raised £600 including gift aid for Cancer research. These two incredible boys cycled 300 miles in March, their original target was to raise £200.

Leon Routledge completed 'Marathon in a Month'. He raised £140 for Bone Cancer Research from local donations.

Matteo Evans- Ford and Lewis Pryde, year 8, have gained places in the North Wales under 13's cricket squad and will be representing Wales this summer.

**PPE VISORS**

The Product Design team have been extremely busy over the last 18 months designing and making PPE visors for our local doctor's surgeries and hospitals. Over 1000 visors have been made and they have been distributed by our staff to Healthy Prestatyn, Park House, Prestatyn district nurses, local pharmacies and Glan Clwyd Hospital.



Layla Young - Silver medalist Welsh Taekwondo

Matteo has also been made Captain of the squad which is a huge undertaking.

Also, Layla Young, year 8, has won a silver medal in the Welsh championship taekwondo.

Sam and Nathan Jones, from year 11, were recognised during volunteer's week, for their contribution to the local community. They were featured in the local press for their volunteering at The Sense Charity shop.



Sam and Nathan Jones - Community volunteers



Gwyn Price and Dan Nuttall - Product Design Dept

We promise to..

be respectful

be kind

be positive

be the best we can

Beat online hate



As a school & community we are proud to share these promises



### PHS PROMISES

I am extremely pleased to announce that after collaborating with the local primary schools and their student councils we have been able to agree on a set of 'Promises' that will be in every classroom in the local area. As we move out of the global pandemic it is important that as a community we move on together and I hope that the promises we make to each other in September, will go some way to ensure a brighter future for us all. Please help to promote the 'Promises' and keep an eye out for a possible Community Promise in the future.

### WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

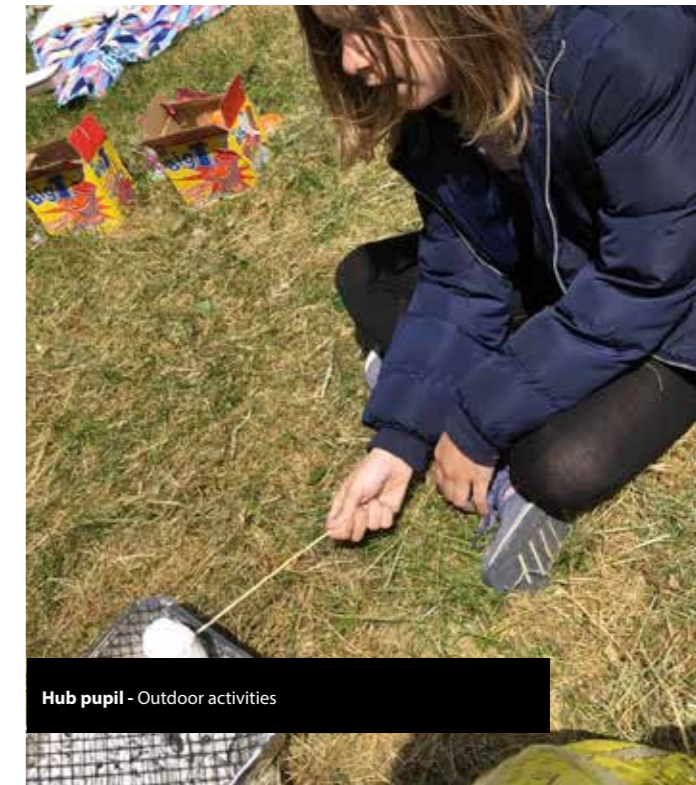
Mrs Trayza Williams has supported many of our local families, those self-employed and the elderly. She has generously helped them with much needed food from the local foods banks and shopping whilst they have been unable to visit the shops.

### FOOD BANK



PHS Donations - Food bank delivery

So far, we have received many generous donations, both online and in school, for the local Food Banks. In total we have raised **£2682.65**, which is amazing! We have continued to distribute this between King's Storehouse, Prestatyn and Meliden Food Banks. Thank you for your contributions.



Hub pupil - Outdoor activities

### COLLECTIONS

We have held many community events over the last 12 months. We have thought of creative ways to support charities such as 'Young Minds', 'Save The Children', 'Children in Need', 'Red Nose Day' and the Welsh Air Ambulance. We have raised over £300, thank you for your support.



Year 10 Team - Comic Relief fundraising

In total we have raised **£2682.65** for local Food Banks, which is amazing!

Mrs Trayza Williams Head of Year 11

## GCSE, AS and A-level qualifications for summer 2021

### Introduction

In November 2020, the then Education Minister Kirsty Williams, announced there would be no summer examination series for students taking GCSEs, AS levels or A levels in 2021. In January 2021, it was confirmed that these qualifications would be awarded using Centre Determined Grades. This meant schools would determine the actual grades awarded for each qualification based on the evidence provided by learners.

WJEC and Qualifications Wales provided schools with regular updates and GCSE, AS level and A level specifications were amended by the WJEC to take into account lost curriculum time. Each subject area was also informed of the skills and knowledge which they had to cover before the end of the qualification in order to ensure the learner could progress to their next stage of learning / employment.

### How were learners assessed for their CDGs?

Learners in Yrs. 11, 12 and 13 were the first to return to school on the 15th March to enable them to work with their teachers to generate the evidence needed for their CDGs.

During this period learners completed adapted exam papers. These adapted papers had already been externally quality assured and supported by validated mark schemes.

The assessments completed gave learners the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding of the key requirements and assessment objectives of each subject. Assessment plans for each subject was shared with learners prior to the Easter break.

Work completed during the qualification could be used to confirm a judgement but not used to determine a grade. WJEC and Qualifications Wales took this approach as school's were unable to guarantee work completed during the qualification was completed in a consistent and fair manner and because learners were not aware this piece(s) of work would be used to award a GCSE / AS / A-level grade.

### How Centre Determined Grade judgements were made?

Teachers were not to issue CDGs based on their professional predictions or the potential of a learner. Teachers applied their professional judgement and made a decision as to whether the learner had demonstrated the standard required to be awarded a specific grade. WJEC published guidance on the characteristics of an A, C, E and G pupil / student for each subject. Teachers were expected to use the evidence collated for each learner and make a best fit professional judgement.

Departments had to support awarded grade(s) with a clear and unambiguous rationale which had to be underpinned by evidence documented on an assessment recording sheet.

### How did we ensure the process was fair?

WJEC provided schools with online continuous professional development on unconscious bias and objectivity.

Our approach was very transparent and we communicated with learners and parents regularly and published our assessment plans.

Departments were required to implement internal quality assurance processes to promote consistency.

- Subject assessment plans were quality assured
- Marking within departments were standardised and moderated by HoDs
- Any data entered was quality assured on a departmental level and then a leadership level.

We also worked with our alliance school who quality assured our processes by checking the following out:

- Centre Policy
- Subject assessment plans
- Quality assuring data to check whether it's in line with our profile.

### Appeals

Schools had to share with pupils their provision CDGs by early June. This gave learners an opportunity to appeal their grade if they believed an error had been made.

Grounds for appeal:

- Learners could only appeal if they believe **an error** has been made in determining their overall grade.

- The appeals process was **not an opportunity** for learners to try and improve their grades that have been determined fairly in accordance with the school's Centre Assessment Policy.

Learners **could not** ask for a review of their grades for the purpose of:

- Requesting their assessments to be remarked.
- Re-sitting assessments or supplying additional evidence.
- Attempting to increase your grade without suitable evidence.

### The deadline for a Centre Appeal was the 9th of July.

At the time of writing we have received four requests for a Centre Review.

*It has been an immensely challenging time for learners who were expecting to sit their A-levels, AS and GCSEs. We are immensely proud of the resilience and tenacity shown by them and it was fantastic to see so many happy faces when they received their provisional grades.*

**We look forward to seeing them again in August for the official results day.**



**It was a really difficult time but the support, help and guidance I received off my teachers was excellent.**

**Shianne Mills** PHS Pupil



**We come to the end of what has been a very challenging 18 months for education, for our community and for the world.**

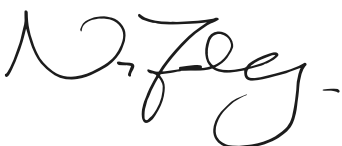
As a whole school community, we have done amazingly well to contain the virus, continue to educate our young people and stay safe. Whilst other schools have sent multiple year groups home multiple times, we have only lost a small amount of learning time. Indeed, it was only until two weeks ago that TTP instructed us for the first time to send an entire year group home to isolate due to a positive case in Year 10. We are exceptionally proud of what we have all achieved over the past 18 months and I would like to thank all staff, governors, parents and carers for their support over these difficult times. Our goal was to minimise the impact of the pandemic on our learners education and with your support we have done this exceptionally well.

We now turn our focus towards September and the new academic year. A year we hold lots of hope for, a year of normality, a year of normal systems in school, a year of school trips and school clubs restarting. We will try to return to normal as soon as possible in the new term including uniform standards, behavioural expectations, attendance and also what we expect in lessons through teaching and learning. We want to make a fast start next year so that any missing gaps in education due to COVID-19 over the last few months will be bridged immediately. We will have a single focus which is getting back to great education and preparing our examination classes for their GCSEs and A-levels.

All teachers and staff return back on the 1st September in order to carefully prepare for the term ahead. I look forward to seeing all of our pupils on Friday 3rd September so we can make a great start to what promises to be a great year.

I wish you a very pleasant summer break and I hope you have a restful and safe holiday ready for a new start in September.

Many Thanks



**Neil Foley B.Sc. MA.**  
Headteacher



**Can we help?**  
If you would like to apply for **Free School Meals** or need further information please contact the school.  
**01745 852312 | admin@prestatynhigh.co.uk**



**PHS\_Animalcare** @AnimalcarePHS

Apr 19, 2021

The rabbit hutch is being moved nearer to the pond so she can shelter nearby with her 17 ducklings

@AnimalcarePhs @AnimalcarePhs



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Get your PHS school related tweet published. Best term tweet wins a prize...  
**@PrestatynHigh #PHSinspire**

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