

@PrestatynHigh

PRESTATYN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2023 Edition 26

#phsinspire



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



THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



NEUADD MATHEW WILLIAMS

On Wednesday, 8th February, Prestatyn High School's hall was officially renamed as 'Neuadd Mathew Williams'. It was an emotional service for all, and a fitting tribute to a man who left a mark on so many people's lives. A number of Mat's family, close friends, and colleagues attended the service.

Mat joined Prestatyn High School in 2007. He was appointed as an English teacher and immediately adored by his colleagues and students. Mat directed amazing school productions during his time at Prestatyn High School. On Wednesday, Mia Jones, Year 10, delivered an incredible rendition of 'On My Own' from Les Miserables. During the service, tributes were paid to Mat, and they were both witty and sentimental. Mat had the ability to embrace the whole school community. Wednesday was our chance to pay tribute to his life and the impact he had on so many people.

In 2020, he returned to Prestatyn High School to lead the Drama department. Mat will always be remembered for his extraordinary ability to bring the best out in everyone. He always remained positive, even as he faced his own personal battles. He always thought of others. Mat may no longer be with us, but his legacy will remain in the heart of Prestatyn High School. The school hall will become an area to recognise Mat's dedication to our school. He was intelligent, sharp and witty. He achieved so much during his time here, and in his schools abroad, and we will never forget him. As the quotation outside Neuadd Mathew Williams states: 'THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DREAM TO CREATE THE FUTURE!' Mat's dreams will live on through generations of our young people forever.

“ THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DREAM TO CREATE THE FUTURE.
DOES DIM FEL BREUDDWTD I GREU'R DYFODOL. ”

Victor Marie Hugo (26 February 1802 – 22 May 1885)
French poet, playwright, novelist, statesman and human rights activist

TOP ATHLETE ACHIEVEMENT



Congratulations to Layla Young, Year 10, who has won gold in the British taekwondo under 16's championships. She achieved first place in sparring, patterns, and tag team. Layla is competing in the English open competition next week. This is an amazing achievement. Well done, Layla, and good luck for next week.

TURKEY/SYRIA APPEAL

After consultation with staff and pupils, we have decided to make Friday, the last day of this half term (17th February 2023), a non-uniform day. This is to raise some money for the relief work taking place in Turkey and Syria. We ask for a voluntary donation of a £1; donations can be paid in cash to group tutors during registration.

LIBRARY BIRTHDAY



The PHS Library turned 25 years old on Sunday 29th January. Pupils marked the occasion with a birthday cake. Mr Hugh Irving officially opened the Library back in 1998 and returned to celebrate the milestone with us.

CHILD OF WALES AWARDS NOMINEE

Congratulations to Ameera Ahmed, Year 12, who received a Certificate of Merit from the Child of Wales Awards. The judges were really impressed with her achievements and work and, although she was not the overall winner, her story should be celebrated for people to see how remarkable she is. In honour of Ameera's achievement, she has been invited with 4 guests to the Bluestone National Park Resort for the day. During the day, Ameera and her guests are welcome to explore the 500 acres of resort, as well as having access to the Blue Lagoon Water Park. Well done, Ameera.

SCIENCE LAB BUILD



"Great to see this investment in Prestatyn High and the final phase of the refurbishment of the science labs underway. Looking forward to seeing the next stage of work take shape now." - Gill German [@gillgerman_](#)

PHSPE

[@PrestatynPE](#) Jan 23 2023

Congratulations to Oliver Langridge in Year 9 [@PrestatynHigh](#) for a very successful swimming weekend representing [@HolywellASC](#) [@PondsForge](#) in Sheffield. He gained PB's in all 5 races including a silver & gold in the 50m Backstroke & Breaststroke. Well done!



A LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

@PRESTATYN HIGH - SOCIAL MEDIA ROUNDUP

To all Parents and Carers,

I do hope this newsletter finds you well and that you have all had a successful beginning to 2023.

There has been a lot going on at Prestatyn High School this year so far, from having Estyn inspectors in the building, to dealing with industrial action. The visit from Estyn went well, and the full report will be available for all to read from the 12th April 2023. We were delighted with their feedback and the guidance they gave us on how to improve the school further.

It is my hope that the industrial action by the NEU will be quickly resolved after both the union leaders and the Welsh Government have agreed to talks. During the pandemic, as you know, we didn't close the school unless directed to for the national lockdowns. The last thing any school or headteacher wants to do is close its doors to pupils, but just like many public sector workers, the strikes are being used as a way to get the attention of the government to how schools are funded and how staff are paid. Hopefully a resolution and a compromise can be found soon. The next scheduled day of industrial action is on the 2nd March during the first week back after half term.


The school, like most of the world have been traumatised and upset by the unfolding horrors after the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. As a school community, we want to help and try to do our bit for the survivors of this disaster. On Friday 17th February, we will be having a non-uniform day to raise money for the appeal. We have been collecting clothing and items that are essential for the relief and we will also be conducting several fund-raising events over the next few weeks. If you are able to, please donate.

I will be in touch soon with further information on any future industrial action that may impact the school.

I hope you all have a nice half term break.

Best wishes,

Neil Foley B.Sc. MA.



Headteacher



Geography

@PHS_Geography Dec 22 2022

Da iawn 51 pupils have conquered various summits at #Zauchensee and can now ski with confidence. All pupils and staff safely down now. Tired, aching legs but all have tried their best and challenged their skills.

#Austria #Austria2022



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Can we help?

If you would like to apply for **Free School Meals**, or need further information, please contact the school.
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