

Alun School would like to welcome all the new Yr7 and Yr12 students who started with us back in September and would also like to congratulate all our students who produced an excellent set of results in the summer examinations.

STEM Reaching Wider Day

Thursday 22nd June 2017

This event, at Glyndwr University, was aimed at highlighting the possibilities of careers in STEM subjects to able students who may not have thought about this career route.

Fourteen Yr10 students chose to take part in this visit.

The first task they completed was the I.C.E. Bridge Challenge.

They were split into two teams that had to build a suspension bridge with the help of civil engineers.

The second task was wall building with an architect using sugar cubes.

The third task was with Astrophysicists and Physicists, using equipment to look at heat, light and effects of electric charges.



ALUN SCHOOL		Outstanding Results
2017 Outstanding Results		
GCSE		
5 A*- C grades: 70%	<small>Including Maths and English</small>	
5 A*- A grades: 25%	<small>No. 1 in Flintshire</small>	
A Level		
A*- E grades: 99%		
A*- C grades: 78%		
A*- B grades: 53%		
 Working together to provide excellent learning experiences		

Sports Day

Friday 23rd June 2017

The day was overcast but the rain held off so the heats were held in the morning, with the finals taking place on the top field in the afternoon. Clwyd House was the overall winner, Gwent second, Dyfed third and Powys in fourth place.

Global Learning Conference

Sophie Hodby and Rebecca Spurdle delivered an excellent presentation about 'Girl Up' to a large audience. It was a big achievement for the girls who were superb ambassadors for the school.

Wednesday 28th June 2017

Tata Kids of Steel Triathlon Summer Serenade

Library Mascot Winner

The school library runs a yearly competition for Yr7/8 to design the new library mascot. The winner was 'Libro', designed by Cerys.



Activity Week

3rd - 7th July 2017

Students from Yrs 7,8,9, & 10 took part in a week of enrichment activities which included:

Yr7 staying at Camp and visiting Talacre and Rhuddlan Castle;

Yr8 taking part in Art, Welsh, Science and History activities;

Yr9 going to Glan Llyn or having the opportunity to visit the Battlefields in Belgium;

Yr10 visiting a university, taking part in Communication Day and Welsh Bacc Day.

Mrs Williams and Mrs Davies organised two 'World of Work' events for Yr10 pupils. Eighteen different volunteers came in on both days to give pupils information about different careers, ranging from primary teaching, engineering to animal care.



Working together
to provide excellent learning experiences.

CYDWITHIO | DDARPARU PROFIADAU DYSGU | ARDDERCHOG

School Charity of the Year July 2017



Members of the Alun School Council presented a cheque for £4,800 to the school's Charity of the Year for 2016/17 - 'Meningitis Now'. It was presented to Mrs Bailey, mother of our student Daniel who tragically died of Meningitis, Mr Damon of Meningitis Now and Mr Williams of the Mold Rotary Club.

'Young Minds' has been selected as the Charity of the Year for 2017/18



Welcome Week September 2017

The first week back after the summer break provided an excellent opportunity for Sixth Form staff to arrange a 'Welcome Week' to introduce new Yr12s to the Alun School Sixth Form. Activities included a quiz, a picnic, a bake sale, a game of rounders and a cinema night and culminated in an Enrichment Fair on Tuesday 12th September.



Importance of Breakfast

Year 12 Health and Social Care students introduced the school's 'Breakfast Club' to Year 7 students.

A carousel of activities was produced to help explain the importance of breakfast and to encourage the younger students to come to the 'Breakfast Club', open daily from 8.15 am – 8.50 am. The Year 7s discovered, through games and a quiz, what makes up a good breakfast and looked at how healthy some breakfast foods actually are. Samples of food and drink were also available for them to taste.

Young Engineers

September 2017

Sixth Form members of the Engineering Education Scheme Wales Team worked with Airbus to design a Venturi tube, a device for preventing blockages in concentric drills used in the manufacture of aeroplane wings. The team won the prize for 'Best Overall Report' at the EESW North Wales Finals day, and have been invited to represent North Wales at the Big Bang VK Young Scientists and Engineers Competition 2017/18 at the NEC in Birmingham.



October 2017



Students also created solutions to a problem set by Tata Steel. They were asked to design a contactless system to guide a steel sheet through rollers. The students presented their ideas to Tata engineers and earned CREST Gold Awards for their work.

Geology Field Trip

Tuesday 26th September 2017



The Geology Department's first trip of the year was to visit Trevor Quarry in Llangollen.

The afternoon was then spent observing 'urban geology' by completing a geological trail of Llangollen.

Activities included 3-D geology, identifying and testing rock types, making field sketches and measuring geology in the field, interpreting past environments and identifying fossils.





Yr13 chemists gained Copper certificates in the October Cambridge Chemistry Competition.

Remembrance

Sunday 12th November

The school held a Remembrance assembly on the Friday morning. Then on Sunday, two Alun School Council representatives lay a wreath during a Remembrance service at the Cenotaph in Mold on behalf of all staff and pupils .



Theatr Clwyd Visit

Saturday 18th November

Halloween Fun!

Monday 27th October



Sixth Form students organised a fright fest to celebrate Halloween. In teams they dressed up and tried to solve riddles and 'break out' of our haunted rooms.



Hanson Scholarship

November



Two Sixth Form students, who secured Hanson Cement Scholarships, celebrated their AS exam results with a cash bonus from the company. Hanson Cement works in partnership with Alun school in supporting the UK wide STEM programme, which aims to produce a strong supply of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians.

Students studying A Level Welsh visited Theatr Clwyd to see the Welsh play 'Mwgsi'. The play was fantastic and although the subject matter was dark, inspired by a young teenager's blog dealing with cancer, the acting was superb. At the end of the performance they were able to meet up with actors. An unforgettable evening—GWYCH!

What did you get up to over half term?



Mr Darlington, our ICT Manager, competed in the Rally Wales GB. The rally got under way with a ceremonial start under the Eastgate clock in the centre of Chester with 5,000 rally fans in attendance. The main action started on Saturday morning around the Cholmondeley Castle special stage. Unfortunately, whilst warming up the brakes and tyres, he managed to snap the top engine but was still able to post a respectable time. A temporary repair was carried out by the crew. The next stage was on gravel through Aberhirnant Forest near Bala and was completed in 11 minutes. A longer, more technical stage followed through Dyfnant Forest, plenty of sharp corners keeping the crew on their toes. The final two stages of the day were in the same forest complex. Despite a half spin the crew finished the first day 41st overall out of the 80 starters.

Sunday began with a long road section from Deeside to Gwydir Forest near Llanrwst. This hilly stage did not suit the 206 and the crew lost a lot of time to the more powerful four-wheel drive cars. The final two stages of the rally were next to the Alwen Reservoir and Llyn Brenig. The crew were back on track, which saw them set a personal best time on the Alwen stage. The finish ramp was in Llandudno with a respectable 39th place being celebrated.

Mr Darlington would like to thank the school and his sponsors 'idata' and 'Williams Racing' for all their support.



Ginger Pixie Photography

Raising the Bar

November

Three Yr13 students have been selected for 'Raising the Bar', an art and design programme established for talented students by Ruthin Craft Centre. Tegan Staniforth, Emelia Brooks and Sophie Hodby will attend workshops, visit exhibitions, take part in a Careers Study Day and have the opportunity to exhibit at the Craft Centre.



Sixth Form on-line application open for admission September 2018, via link on school website.

Children in Need



Ben Hughes, a Year 12 student, was selected to take part in The One Show's 'Rickshaw Challenge' in November. Ben cycled daily stages of the 600 mile journey from London to Glasgow to raise money for the BBC 'Children in Need' campaign.

Ben featured in the Flintshire Leader on Friday 13th October. The paper described his challenge and highlighted his support for his sister who has Cockayne Syndrome, a rare disorder that causes premature aging. Ben helps with her care and is part of the support group Amy and Friends, which helps to raise awareness of the condition. Six Sixth Formers helped with craft activities at a support group run by the charity in Rhyl.

The school attempted to match the miles that the riders covered by hosting their own exercise bike challenge. Sixth formers and staff were sponsored for cycling a share of the miles. During the week the school also hosted charity sports matches and a non-uniform day on Friday 17th November - a total of £1,259.73 was raised.

A big well done to everyone involved!

Inspirational Talk



Joanna Swash, Managing Director of 'Moneypenny', gave an inspirational talk to Year 11 students about employability skills. The students are currently working hard to achieve their GCSE Skills qualification.

Spotlight on Sport

Sport plays a major role in Alun School life with students taking part in many different sporting events throughout the year.

- Jac Holl Yr7: selected for N Wales Boys' Hockey.
- Caitlin Deffee Yr8: World medallist in Mixed Martial Arts.
- Owen Winston Yr7, Matthew Anthony Yr9: individual winners FSAA Cross Country.
- Morgan Cross Yr11: Youth Commonwealth Games- Bahamas Gold in Mixed Doubles. Chosen as one of Alun School's Sports Personality of the Year.
- Laura Sharp Yr11: multiple accolades and selected for Olympic Triathlon training camp. Chosen as one of Alun School's Sports Personality of the Year.

Outdoor Pursuits

Students from Year 11 attending Outdoor Pursuits Assessment Course at Llyn Rhys.



Rights Respecting Schools

The school has started work on its Unicef 'Rights Respecting Schools' journey. This involves embedding UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into our ethos and culture.

We have already developed our school rights and responsibilities. Assemblies have taken place, and House Councils have been involved in a workshop which looked at wants and needs, rights and responsibilities. This term was the 'Right to Respect' and during Anti-bullying and Safeguarding week we completed our mission by organising House Councils to run assemblies on positive relationships and developing safeguarding daily powerpoints.



School Council News

Australian Visitors

In October, Alun School hosted 5 Australian teachers touring schools in the UK on a visit funded by Rotary International.



The teachers visited our school to find out about our inclusive practices and our transition activities. The team said, "the school's passion for its students was clear and a highlight of the visit was hearing from the school council".

On October 17th, the School Council had a visit from the North Wales Education Officer for the National Assembly for Wales. The students took part in lots of interesting activities. They found out about the work of the Assembly and the importance of the role of those who have been elected to represent us.

