

Alun School News

Date: June 2003

ENTERPRISING STUDENTS

Since the Spring issue of the Alun News in which we featured our Young Enterprise group, PATO Inc., the team have stormed to victory in a number of competitions held over the past few weeks.

Firstly they took on their local rivals from across Flintshire, and decisively won six of the nine categories that were being judged.

Then, last month, they competed in the North Wales finals, winning awards for the best display and the best company accounts. As well as group successes, team member Becky

Hayes also won the award for individual young achiever in both competitions.

However, the best news is that their overall excellence means that they have now gone through to the Welsh Finals that will be held over 22-23 June in Llandudno.

The team are pictured with some of their trophies and their winning display. Top picture (L-R): Catherine Kirkham, Amy Jones, Dean Evans, David Marsden, Rachael Parker, Becky Hayes.



On-line at www.alunschool.co.uk Updated daily

Salters' Festival of Chemistry

Four pupils recently went to a Science Festival after winning their places with the poem on the right. Here's the report written by Rebecca Hoare, Amy Aukland, David Williams and Liam Newman.

We arrived at Liverpool via the tunnel at about 9.30am and were taken up to the laboratories to begin the day's activities. After a quick briefing we embarked upon 'The Mystery of Inkworth Manor', an experiment using forensic science.

We were told that a necklace had been stolen from the manor and we had to identify the culprit from three suspects. To do this we used chromatography and an experiment using dust samples.

Firstly we analysed a sample of ink from the suspects pens using chromatography. From the pattern of the colours on the paper we were able to eliminate one suspect. We then moved on to examine dust samples from their shoes. We put the samples in acid and if it fizzed it contained carbonate (CO_3). If it didn't we repeated the experiment adding silver nitrate (AgNO_3) instead. If the mixture went cloudy it contained chloride, if it didn't it contained sulphate. Again, there was more than one that matched the scene of the crime but by taking both results together we found the culprit—the gardener!

After refreshments it was back to the lab to write up our experiment and then after lunch we had our second briefing concerning the afternoon's activity 'The Chemical Egg Race'. This involved adding two chemicals together which, after a few seconds, would turn black. We had to find a way of turning the mixture black in exactly thirty seconds by either diluting the mixture, putting in different quantities, or heating the mixture up. Although we managed to get almost exactly 30 seconds in trials, we only managed 28 seconds in the actual test.

At the end of the day there were presentations and we all got a pencil, key ring, and a blue fuzzy thing with feet! We all had a wonderful day and would like to thank Ms. Weston for taking us on such a great trip, and also the organisers who planned such brilliant activities.

To the Science Festival we hope to go
To see some reactions, fast and slow
Some like fireworks, loud and bright
Others that work silently throughout the night

To the Science Festival we hope to travel
To see blue hydrangeas from pink unravel
To use the litmus paper to test
For acids and alkalis, it is the best

To the Science Festival we hope to be sent
To see lots of different elements
Calcium, iron, oxygen and more
And learn exactly what they're for

To the Science Festival we hope to go
To see solids, liquids and gases on show
Three states of matter is all there is
Deciding which is which is a difficult quiz

To the Science Festival we would like to go
To see the wonders of Chemistry on show
A fantastic experience no doubt it will be
And help us get good SATs levels
At Key Stage Three!

100% Attendance

Congratulations to Harriet Brewster and Robert Smith (pictured on the right) who, at the end of Year 11, received certificates recognising a full record of attendance throughout the previous five years.



A team of five Sixth Formers under the guidance of an engineer from Power-Systems recently won the award for best presentation at the North Wales finals of the Engineering Education Scheme. They won £50 each and a prize of £250 for the school, as well as being invited to display their work in South Wales.

The team members were Robert Muckle-Jones, Simon Humphreys, Darren Court, Marco Davies and David Brown.

On 4th July the fourth annual Art Department visit will set off to go to Provence for a week of artistic experiences. They will be staying in Saint Raphael, a pretty Mediterranean town with the stunning backdrop of the Esterel Peaks, and just across the bay from St. Tropez.

The trip will allow students to explore and develop their own particular artistic expression, and thus help with their

A Level and GCSE studies. They will also have the opportunity to see works by some of the major figures of 20th century art who lived in the region as trips will include a visit to the Picasso Museum, where over 300 of his pieces are displayed, as well as a tour of the Matisse Museum.

On their return a display of work will be organised, and Alun artists will also be involved in an art exhibition at Clwyd Theatr Cymru in October as part of the Flintshire festival.

Pictured above are Mr. Morgan, Head of Art, and some of the students who went on last year's visit.

A Week in Provence



On the evening of the 22nd of March 2003, writes Nicola Phillips of Year 10, 27 anxious French students stepped off a coach onto the tarmac of the Alun school car park. Three weeks of cross-cultural interaction and mixed verb tenses ensued. Vive l'échange français.

The itinerary of the students during their stay included a day in school complete with Welsh lesson; a tour of Chester; a visit to Liverpool's cathedrals and The Beatles experience; a trip to Llechwedd slate mines; a morning at Mold market and a tour of Old Trafford. Added to these were numerous activities organised by the Welsh students including shopping trips, bowling and ice-skating.



The return exchange in France included a guided tour of the ancient fortress settlement of Carcassonne; browsing the vast market in Toulouse; a trip to the Toulouse-Lautrec art museum; an afternoon in the small mountain side town of Corde sur Ciel, and a day in their school. Evenings were spent either with host families or friends experiencing the traditional home and social life of a French teenager. Many enjoyed the varied French meals, shopping trips and parties on offer to occupy free hours.

The exchange not only offers the obvious benefit of improving spoken French but also gives students a chance to taste freedom and independence away from home. All who braved the language difficulties and interesting French cuisine came away from the experience having either having made new friendships or consolidating existing ones.

As well as the exchange, seventy-six Year 8 pupils and nine staff visited France over half-term. Below are pictures and on page 6 there is a report.





Over half-term, fifty-one pupils from Year 8 and six staff (pictured above) visited Germany. Full story on page 6.

In April, nineteen students from Year 12 and Year 10 visited the Hanns-Seidel Gymnasium School in Hösbach, Germany. This report was written by Kate Norris of Year 10.

We spent ten days enjoying the German life with our exchange partners, speaking German, eating German food and experiencing the culture and ways of a foreign country. To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the exchange visits we took part in a television interview for a local news programme. There were many budding television stars amongst us!

An interesting, varied and informative itinerary had been arranged for us. We visited the imposing castle in Würzburg and the picturesque town of Rothenburg. The visit to the Rhine was also a great success. We toured Marksburg castle, which is the only hill castle on the Rhine that has never been destroyed. The day in Europa-Park Germany's biggest theme park was superb.

All the German people we met were very friendly and helpful and the families we stayed with made us feel really welcome. Our partners arranged many fun activities – cinema, shopping, ice-skating, swimming – we were rarely left to our own devices.

We practised our language skills and became more confident as time went by. Most of the German people we became acquainted with could speak English and were willing to translate if we met any linguistic problems.

We all had a great time; it was a most rewarding experience. We all look forward to meeting our partners again in June and hope we will remain in contact long after the exchange is over.



Year 8 visits to France and Germany

Katy Barley and Leah Jeffcott of Year 8, reporting on their recent French visit, write: At 11.30pm on Sunday 25th May we left Mold for the ten-hour journey to the walled city of Boulogne. We stopped at a crêperie for ham and cheese crêpes and then we continued to Nausicca, the largest sea-life centre in Europe.

On Tuesday our first visit was to a boulangerie to make croissants! After a picnic on the beach we went to a chocolate factory – très délicieux! We spent Wednesday at Bagatelle, an exciting theme park. Everyone (including teachers!) enjoyed this visit.

On Thursday we set off early on our journey to Paris. Firstly we had a taster of the main sights by coach. We then thoroughly enjoyed a ride on a Bateau Mouche on the River Seine. The best experience of all was the climb up the Eiffel Tower. The panoramic views were magnificent.

This was an enjoyable visit finished with a meal in a restaurant. On Friday morning we did last minute shopping at the Cité d'Europe. We had a great week.

At some unearthly hour on Sunday 25th May, fifty-one pupils left Mold campus on an executive coach (what luxury!). We arrived, Monday evening, at Hotel Moselblick on the River Moselle, tired but still excited. After a good nights sleep, three hectic days of sightseeing followed.

We enjoyed a cruise on the Moselle from Treis to Cochem, a very picturesque medieval town and experienced a ride on a chair lift, with breathtaking views of the Moselle valley.

On Tuesday we moved on to the Rhine valley, where we visited Königswinter, a well-known tourist centre on the Rhine. We enjoyed a journey on Germany's oldest track railway to a typical German castle at the top of the mountain. We spent Tuesday afternoon in Cologne the capital of the Rhineland, where we visited a mouth-watering chocolate factory.

A day at Phantasialand, Germany's largest theme park was excellent! Evenings, too, were fun-packed with swimming, quizzes and games.

We began our long journey home on Thursday and arrived back at Mold, tired but happy and looking forward to more visits to Germany!

Warm congratulations are extended to Christie McCrae and David Marsden of Year 12 who took part in the ProShare UK Challenge. Their task was to form a school portfolio of shares worth £100,000 and hopefully see their investments increase in value. At one stage they had made a £30,000 profit (on paper!), but due to the volatile nature of the stock market they, along with the other competitors, saw their profits take a tumble. However, they did make it through to the quarter-final stages of this national competition and ended up coming a very creditable 65th out of 1047 schools who entered.

Back to the 80s

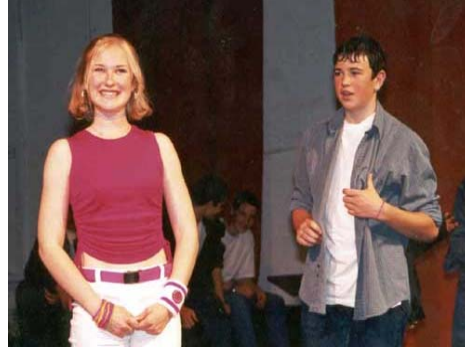
If you weren't one of the lucky ones to get tickets to this great sell-out musical, you missed a treat.

The show featured over 80 performers on stage directed by Mrs. Lesley Jones, and a further 20 helpers back-stage managed by Katie Lewis and Ted

Roberts. Choreography was devised by Chris Stanford, Faye Meakin-Evans and Sade Nadour.

Based on a character (Corey) looking back to the time he left high school, it included hit songs from the era performed by the cast with accompaniment from the music department led by Miss Price.

The next issue will feature a full-colour picture special on the show but, in the meantime, pictured are two of the main characters - Jodie Biddle (Tiffany) and Tom Jones (Corey Junior).



PTA Coffee Morning - Wednesday 27th August, Daniel Owen Centre, Mold . . .
In town that morning? - Why not stop off for a coffee and support the school

Sport Headlines . . . George Finch of Year 10 won nine Golds swimming in the North Wales Championships, including breaking the 50m butterfly record . . . Alun Athletics Teams won all the year group titles in both girls and boys competitions at the Flintshire championships . . . Damian Hopkins of Year 9 has been selected to play football for Welsh Schools versus Northern Ireland . . . Paul Cochran of Year 13 will be playing for the Wales U18 Hockey team at the European Championships being held in Poland in July . . . NE Wales Athletics Championships individual winners - Eleanor Blount 300m, Geraint Lewis 200m, Daniel Johnson 400m & 400m hurdles, Sarah Hetherington 100m, Kate Edmondson 400m . . . Flintshire Netball squads - Alicia Buckland, Stephanie Powell, Amy Forrester, Kathryn Evernden, Carly Royle, Jenny Williams, Alexandra Litter . . . Flintshire Hockey squads - Hannah Baron, Leanne Platt . . .

Five Year 12 geography students have competed in 'Greenfields 2050', a competition run by CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) and held at NEWI, Wrexham.

The team were engaged in a full day of activities including a site visit and a presentation of their final proposals. They looked at environmental, sociological and climate issues, as well as various design aspects of any new development.

The members of the team, who won the presentation, were: Dominic Thomas, Kate Sturdy, Karin Vickery, Caroline Hoppe and Nick Martin.

Easter in Iceland

As previewed in our last issue, over Easter Tom Bellis and Will Roberts went with Mr. Humphreys, Head of Geology, to Iceland as part of a geological visit.

They joined students from Greenhead College in Huddersfield and spent a week studying marine and glacial surface processes as well as plate tectonics and volcanic activity.

Iceland is a geologists paradise and the department is presently engaged in planning another visit next year.



Alun School art pupils sketching in Liverpool, European Capital of Culture for 2008

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