



# Alun School News

September 2009

**This summer saw both of the main cohorts of external examination candidates smashing previous school records.**

## RESULTS SET NEW RECORDS

The A Level pass rate set a new record for the school, with a total of 27 students achieving at least three A grades. The overall A-C grade proportion was almost 80% and out of 555 entries there were only two fail grades. A list of top performers and their university destinations can be seen inside.

Meanwhile, another record was set when almost three-quarters of the Year 11 GCSE cohort achieved five or more higher A\*-C grades (the previous best was set in 2005 when just over 70% reached this standard), and 95% achieved at least five pass grades.

This has led to a very buoyant level of enrolment into our Sixth Form, the largest in Wales, and we look forward to those students maintaining their track record of academic excellence in the future.





Following a rigorous process of preparation and assessment, we have been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark run by the government's technology organisation BECTA. We are only the sixth secondary school in Wales to attain the high standards demanded for the teaching and use of ICT across the whole school.

The school has participated in Fairtrade activities for a number of years. For example, we were the first school in the region to sell Fairtrade items from the school shop. However, it was only last Spring that, following careful consideration of the commitment involved, students on the School Council voted for us to apply for Fairtrade status. After compiling and submitting a dossier of evidence we are very pleased to have been officially approved as a Fairtrade school, and will be increasing our support of those initiatives in the future.



At the end of last term we were delighted to be able to donate £5000 to Hope House Hospices, our 'Charity of the Year' for 2008-2009.

This year we will be aiming to raise at least the same amount for this year's charity, Save the Family, which works to help keep homeless families together. As part of the fundraising we have scheduled a Sponsored Walk for June 2010 that will maintain a tradition, begun in 1995, of the whole school walking up Moel Famau every three years.



## PTA Activities

The school has a thriving PTA who work hard on behalf on the school. For example, they have just donated over £6000 towards the recent refurbishment of the School Hall. We hope that you will continue to support their events this year, the first of which is the Quiz Night on Friday 2nd October. If you would like to become a member of the PTA then the first meeting of the year is the AGM on Monday 28th September, and all parents are invited. Meetings are very informal and inclusive, so any new parents who attend can be assured of a very warm welcome.

We were tremendously proud of the performance of our Year 13 at the very highest level this year. There were 142 A grades, over a quarter of the total, and a full breakdown of the grades subject by subject can be seen on the website and in the new prospectus.

## GRADE A STARS at A Level

Listed below are the names of those students who achieved at least three A grades along with their university destinations. Where four subjects are listed, students achieved Grade A in all four subjects. Students without a named destination will be taking a year away from study before going into Higher Education.

Emily Berry	Bi, Gg, Rs	Sheffield	Biology
Frances Berry	En, Hi, Rs	Cardiff	History and Philosophy
Hannah Brennen	Gg, Ge, Pe	Liverpool	Geology
Stacey Buckley	Pa, Pa, Pa	Salford	Contemporary Theatre
Elizabeth Davies	Pa, Pa, Pa	Reading	Theatre Studies
Laura Day	Bi, Ch, Ma	Edinburgh	Veterinary Science
Peter Dunning	Ch, Ph, Ma, Fm	Cambridge	Mathematics
Rosanna Gillespie	Fr, Hi, Ps,	Liverpool	History
Katie Gittins	Fr, Ma, Fm, Ph	Durham	Mathematics
Emily Greatbatch	Bi, Ch, Ma	Bristol	Veterinary Science
Laura Hannington	Bi, Ch, Ma	Glasgow	Medicine
Colin Henrys	Hi, Ma, Me	Newcastle	History
Isabel Hughes	En, Hi, Po	Cardiff	History
Matthew Lloyd	Bi, Ch, Pd	Brunel	Industrial Design
Sean Mackin	Bi, Ch, Ph	Liverpool	Medicine
Stephen Middle	Bi, Ch, It	Cardiff	Biochemistry
Jenny Middleton	Ar, En, Ma		
Alice Mountfort	Hi, Lw, Po	Sheffield	History
Rhys Peters	Bi, Ch, Ph	Bristol	Veterinary Science
Amie Roberts	Bi, Ch, Ma, We	Warwick	Chemistry
Andrew Roberts	Bi, Pd, Ph	Manchester	Physics
Nicola Smith	Bi, Ch, Ph	Liverpool	Medicine
Amy Tonks	Pa, Pa, Pa		
Lucy Wells	Ar, De, Mu	Cardiff	Music
Lucy Williams	En, Hi, Po	Sheffield	International Politics
Rebecca Williams	Bi, Ch, Ps	Warwick	Chemistry
Jack Wyatt	Bi, Ch, Ma	Durham	Chemistry



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*Top:* Year 13 and Year 11 Leavers' Balls

*Centre Left:* Presentation of £5000 to Hope House Hospice

*Centre Right:* Two members of the School Council with a gift from our Chinese link school

*Left:* Year 8 students on their visit to France



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