



THE GRAIG GAZETTE



THE GRAIG COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, PWLL, LLANELLI, DYFED
FEBRUARY 1991



Harvest Home

Another successful Harvest Celebration was held at the School on 17 October 1990. Inspiring addresses at both services were delivered by Rev. Dorrien Davies, Curate of the Parish of Llanelli, and the generosity of the pupils, parents and staff was evident in the vast array of food items on display. At the conclusion of the services, Sixth Form students prepared and then delivered parcels to senior citizens in the community. It is always an encouragement to the students involved in such good work and the school is always delighted to receive notes of appreciation. A letter from the East Dyfed Health Authority at Bryntirion Hospital said: "Please convey to the pupils and staff of the school our gratitude for the kind donation of harvest gifts. The donation will be used to give our patients greater variety, and is greatly appreciated by all concerned" Many other letters from individuals and other old people's homes were also received.

Parents' Association

Friday, February 22 -- Annual Dinner
Thursday, March 21 -- Easter Raffle Draw
And looking ahead to next term, the Parents' Association will be holding a Barn Dance and a Summer Fayre

The "GRAIG GAZETTE" gratefully acknowledges the financial support given by the Parents' Association in assisting with meeting the costs of producing this free newspaper



Behind the Staffroom Door

Graig welcomes the following new members of staff: Miss Jane White (Welsh); Miss Moira Evans (History); Mr John Croot (Science); and Mrs Nicola Davies (Music) and Mr Oliver Taviot (French).

Miss Jane White lives in Mumbles, Swansea, which she considers to be the coolest place on earth. Looking much younger than her actual mid-twenties, Miss White attended Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera (a Welsh comprehensive school) and graduated at Swansea University gaining a Joint Honours Degree in Welsh and English (a bilingual degree!) Before entering teaching Miss White worked as a management trainee in Harrods (London) - the top people's store. But the lure of Welsh Wales brought her back to Swansea to a Post-Graduate Course in Education. She has little time for hobbies except aerobics and her Marks and Spencers' Chargecard!

Miss Moira Evans taught History at Cefn Hengoed School in Swansea before joining the Graig Staff. A keen researcher of local History, she is magazine editor of the Amman Valley History Society and she enjoys arranging exhibitions for the society on all aspects of local History. Her interests include painting in water-colours and oils and also drawing. One of her annual pleasures is the design of Christmas Cards and notelets for the Amman Valley History Society. She has been researching her Family Tree for a number of years and is a past secretary of the Dyfed Family History Society. She has traced her own family tree back to the 1400s.

Mr John Croot from Swansea teaches Science from year 7-11 but in previous posts he has held positions in Psychology (the study of the human mind); Physics (the study of the human world); Information Technology (the study of everything else) and, of course Teaching (the study of studying). One may well ask how did he get so varied a life? His answer is simple: work hard and listen in class and leave the rest to the teachers! He claims that in twenty years' time, Graig pupils could be masters of Quantum Mechanics and hey could hold the key to the Universe with Schrodinger's Harmonic Theory of Reality!

Mrs Nicola Davies is a lady of many parts. When she is not teaching Music at the Graig she is most likely to be pounding away at a typewriter or attending play rehearsals in draughty Church Halls. Mrs Davies is known in Wales as a playwright and last term had two of her plays touring the Principality in a professional production. Mrs Davies lives in the Swansea Valley and travels from there to be with us two days a week.

We welcome Mr Oliver Taviot to the school as this year's French Assistant. Mr Taviot comes from St Briec in Brittany and most of his time at our school is spent in French Conversation with forms 11, 12 and 13. He also spends part of his week in Glan-Y-Mor School, Burry Port. We trust he is enjoying his stay in Wales.

Editorial

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy and Successful New Year and to introduce the "Graig Gazette" to you.

The past term has been a very busy one and, despite having the shadow of the impending Tertiary Reorganisation hovering over us, it has been very much a case of "business as usual".

It is for this reason that I felt that parents should be made aware by means of a newsletter of the multitude of activities that have taken place during this Academic Year.

The "Graig Gazette" will also serve to inform you of some of the radical changes which the educational system is undergoing at this time. To this end, accounts of Balanced Science and Records of Achievement have been included in this edition.

I trust that you will find the "Graig Gazette" interesting and informative, and that it will leave you with an impression of the Graig as your lively community.

D R L SMITH, Headteacher

Smacks of Talk

Tuesday January 29 was the occasion of the annual Public Speaking Competition for the schools of Llanelli, sponsored by the Llanelli Rotary Club. As usual, the Graig entered a team and, as usual, they performed very well. This year our team was Michelle Matthews and Vivienne Jones, both of Year 12, chaired by Robert Stroud.

The topic the team had decided to debate was Corporal Punishment - "To smack, or not to smack?". Vivienne, introduced by Robert as the Pacifist of the school, claimed that smacking was wrong, even for parents trying to discipline their children; there were better alternatives than violence. Michelle, introduced as the Sadist of the Graig, argued equally forcefully that a sudden, painful shock would do more good than harm to the youthful offender. The audience, equally divided between young and old, clearly agreed with Michelle; the vote was overwhelmingly in favour of "The Smack".

The standard of debate was high throughout the evening, and was enjoyed by speakers and listeners alike. It is to be hoped that the Sixth Form Debating Society will be meeting again soon in their HQ in Room A5 - watch the noticeboards for details.

Congratulations

Mrs Rosemary Williams was appointed to the post of Head of Upper School by the Governing Body in December. We congratulate her and wish her well in her new post.

Science in Stages

All pupils in Years 10 and 11 study the WJEC modular Science syllabus, a course which is designed to give pupils a balanced view of Science.

The work is taught in a series of units called modules. There are three Biology, three Chemistry and three Physics modules making up the 'core' of the syllabus - these contain work similar to that in the GCSE courses of the separate sciences. There are also a number of option modules - these are a departure from traditional science syllabi and concentrate more on the applications of Science eg Electronics, Forensic Science, Sport Science etc.

Each module has been designed to be covered in 18 hours, ie 18 double lessons. Pupils will have eight lessons of Science per week and during this time they will study two modules. This means that two modules will be completed every ten teaching weeks. After each module there will be an End of Module Test set by the WJEC. During the course of the module, pupils will be assessed on practical skills.

Most pupils will study twelve modules during Years 10 and 11 leading to a dual award at GCSE. Depending on their performance in the End of Module Tests and practical assessment, pupils will be awarded two grades, on a scale of C - G at GCSE. In order to obtain the grades A and B pupils will have to sit an End of Course examination in June of Year 11

Things to Come

The die now appears to be cast and the Education Authority's proposal to establish a Tertiary College on the site of Graig Comprehensive School seems set to go ahead. Consultative meetings have been held in which the Authority's proposals have been explained to parents, teachers and parents of the feeder Primary Schools. These proposals give two important assurances to parents of the pupils of Graig School.

Firstly there is the promise that the education of pupils already enrolled at Graig School before the introduction of tertiary education will not be disrupted. These pupils will not be expected to transfer out of the school and will continue their education at the Graig.

Secondly, we have the promise that sufficient resources will be made available to ensure that the pupils of the Graig enjoy at least the same facilities and level of academic and pastoral support experienced by their predecessors.

As a consequence of these promises, it is clear that there will still be pupils in the Graig until July 1996 and that it will be necessary to provide them with the same educational and social opportunities as the pupils of the school enjoy at present. This can only be achieved by the closest possible co-operation with the Tertiary College and there is considerable scope for Graig pupils to benefit from the resources and staffing provided for the College.

However, it is also important to ensure that the Graig retains its own identity, traditions and ethos. To achieve this end, it is vital for us to react positively to the situation in which we find ourselves.

Looking back over the past term, and ahead to the rest of this term, I am reassured by the way in which the life of the school has continued unaffected by all the uncertainties associated with its future. Despite their natural concerns about their futures, the staff remain committed to the success of the school; parents continue to give us their support in trying to maintain standards; and our pupils enthusiastically participate in school activities.

For the sake of our pupils, we must ensure that the Graig does not suffer from planning blight and that the last chapter of the school's story is every bit as distinguished as those chapters already written.

D R L SMITH, Headteacher

Heads Together

The last year has presented that both of us have faced careers, when we were appointed Girl of Graig School.

The obstacles encountered however, have been overcome with operative and enthusiastic effort. The last year has been a life. Some of the activities and helped with including Christmas Fayre, Concert general school life. Organised, the discos have with a substantial amount for the school and various and national.

The efforts of the Sixth by the Headmaster this arranged the provision of Sixth Form who can now occasional free periods. Thank everyone who has eight months and we both the new prefects who are

CLARE C.

Off to Work We

During the second week in Year 11 undertook a This was one of six Llanelli Consortium and local pupils were four industries. This was no illustrates the ways that willing to play their part pupils.

With very few exceptions thoroughly enjoyed their 'world of work' and obtained the various aspects of job and, no doubt, help transition from school commented: "Hayley Swansea Maritime Museum would have found it a current drama project unobtrusive and reliable very short time, but confidence was growing. to come here they will attitude".

Adran y Gymr

Yn ogystal a pharato arholiadau allanol a cenedlaethol newydd i'r wedi bod yn brysyr academaidd y tymor hwn. Sefydlwyd clwb Cymraeg White i baratoi disg cystadleuaeth Gymraeg y disgylion yn cystadlu yng Nghaerfyrddin. Mae yn ymweld a dramau Cymraeg ogystal a mynychu darlenorion. Hefyd mae 'Heno' yn Abertawe i paratoir ar gyfer darllen I goroni'r cwbl, aethpwyd gwrs wythnos yng ngwern bythefnos cyn diwedd y cyd ag Ysgol Glan-Y-Mw Mwynheuodd y plant yn Gymraeg yn y gwersi gweithgareddau amrywiol y dyddiau hyn - sgio nofio, sglerfrolio i eni Y gobaith yw i wneud y flwyddyn i flwyddyn. gweddill y flwyddyn aca a llawn.

Star Musician

The best came last in the 1990 "Llanelli Star" Young Musician of the Year Competition. Graig Sixth Former Peter Mainwaring was the final solo competitor of the evening at Theatre Elli, but his cornet performance of "Facilita" left the adjudicators in no doubt about his overall victory to take the coveted trophy. This year's competition attracted almost 80 young musicians.

We also congratulate John Hooper of year 12 who was the winner of the string section playing the violin. John was also a finalist in the overall competition and our congratulations go to them both.

On the Record

Work related to producing "Records of Achievement" is progressing well and it is expected that pupils in Year 11 will receive their final documents in April/May 1991. These documents will contain subject-related comments; comments on pupil's personal qualities and skills; and a statement prepared by pupils themselves. In addition, pupils will be able to include evidence of achievement which enhances their individual records.

Further progress is being made in years 7 and 8 on reporting National Curriculum achievements, and in year 12, work is in hand for records of achievement for students in the 16 - 19 age range. It is hoped that, in addition to increasing pupil motivation, these records will provide parents and other users with more detailed information.

Quiz Squiz

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GRAIG SQUIZ, 1987-1991

In the autumn of 1987, it occurred to me that among the many extra-curricular competitions offered by Graig, the majority were physical challenges. The most brain-stretching competition available was the Chess Tournament so I thought that a school Quiz would probably be much-appreciated.

After consultation with Mrs Bell in the Spring of 1988, I unleashed the first School Quiz upon an unsuspecting school. The early format was simple, although it was somewhat restrained by the fact that I tried to make it fit in with a fledgling school "house teams" scheme and I also tried to get one team out of each registration group.

Disputes on who should answer the question first were settled by the Q12 - Quiz Indicator 2 - an unwieldy box with a couple of LEDs and switches, connected to an aluminium thumping pad for each team.

In the final, we had a three-cornered match between three pupil teams, followed by a battle between two staff teams. The winners played and, predictably, the staff won.

The following year, I tried to improve the image of the Squiz. Out went foil pads, the unreliable Q12 and rigid formats. In came the computer, the "Beat the Teacher" format, a new name (SQUIZ '89) and a rule that any four people could form a team and call it what they would (within the bounds of decency). This proved more popular but there was an upset in the final when a Form Five team, "The Four Tops", beat the Staff! I continued with the successful format in 1990, where the staff had their revenge on the defending champions.

Now SQUIZ '91 is upon us and more than a score of teams is again pitting their wits against one another. There have been further changes: whereas some teams were eliminated after one round on points in previous years, this year will be entirely by knockout. We hope to implement a "Skills Challenge" round in the semi-finals. This year I have been joined by a committee to help me run things and as apprentices to be the organisers of SQUIZ '92.

What will my fourth and final year as a quizmaster bring? Will we see the "Four Tops" gain the upper hand against the Staff or can the teachers make it a hat-trick? Time will tell. So to all who are in the running for SQUIZ '91 - may the second-best team come runners-up! And if you didn't enter - there's always next year.

GARETH LEYSHON

The Caring, Sharing Graig

FOR HUMANS.....

To complete the term's activities the C.P.V.E groups came up with the idea of a Christmas Appeal for the Elderly. With support from the parents, pupils and staff, they collected presents and on Monday 17 December distributed them to the residents of Caemaen Residential Home. This furthered the link with Caemaen which has been fostered since it was opened.

FOR ANIMALS.....

Graig School initiated "Christmas Gifts for Animals" last Christmas and pupils threw great enthusiasm into the Dog and Cat Food Appeal for the RSPCA.

School topped a total of 300 tins of pet food; 2 sacks of dried food for dogs; 2 bags of "Shapes" and a bag of "Winalot"

The appeal was organised by Miss Jane Rosser and Miss Sara Davies.

Mr Bill Deane and his assistants from the RSPCA came to school to collect the gifts. Mr Deane spoke to pupils about the work of the RSPCA and he has invited a number to visit the Swansea Dogs' Home at Singleton.

Kind Hearts

The school continues its charitable collections. So far this year over £600 has been collected. Those who have benefited include MENCAP, NSPCC, THE BRITISH LEGION POPPY DAY APPEAL, the BBC "CHILDREN IN NEED" Appeal and the MAYOR of LLANELLI'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

First Class Appeal

The Children's Liver Disease Foundation (or CHILD for short) looks after children whose livers do not function properly. The liver is one of the most important organs in the body, removing waste materials, breaking down poisons, producing heat and storing energy. CHILD funds research into both finding cures for liver diseases and transplants.

Year 8 has been collecting used postage stamps both British and Foreign, Foreign coinage and old half pennies to help this needy charity. The response has been "first class" and both stamps and coins have been rolling in. Any pupils wishing to contribute should send their donations throughout the school year to Mr Wynne Owen.

THEATR ELLI
Llanelli Entertainment Centre
WEDNESDAY to SATURDAY
MARCH 13th to 16th
at 7 p.m.

THE
GRAIG COMPREHENSIVE
SCHOOL

by arrangement with MusicScope Ltd. and Stage Musicals of New York

HELLO, DOLLY!

a Musical Comedy
Book by MICHAEL STEWART
Music and Lyrics by JERRY HERMAN

Based on the play 'The Matchmaker' by Thornton Wilder
Original Production directed and choreographed by Gower Champion
Produced for the Broadway Stage by David Merrick and Champion-Five-Inc

Tickets:
Wednesday and Thursday (Unreserved) £2.50
Friday and Saturday (Reserved) £3.50
from

Theatr Elli Box Office, Tel: 774057
Graig School, Llanelli, Tel: 773664

DON'T DELAY - BOOK TODAY!

This year's School Production - the smash-hit Broadway musical comedy "HELLO, DOLLY!" - is really getting into full-swing for its production in March. A star-studded cast will bring the story of everyone's favourite girl-friend DOLLY to the stage of Llanelli Entertainment Centre from Wednesday 13 March to Saturday 16 March. Performances start at 7 pm

Tickets are now available from Mrs Hopkins in the Physics Lab opposite the School Office. All seats for the Wednesday and Thursday performances are unreserved and are £2.50 each. Reserved seats at £3.50 are available for the Friday and Saturday Performances. Over 150 pupils are involved in the production and early booking is advised. The sooner you book, the better the seats.

In Conference

On Wednesday 7 November 1990, forty-five Sixth Formers and three members of staff visited Westminster Central Hall in London for a Sixth Form Conference entitled 'The World Tomorrow'. The general theme was the Environment and the six speakers were:
David Evans - Director General of the National Farmers Union; Dr John Gittus - Director General British Nuclear Forum; Ken Livingstone MP - Labour Party; Roger Opie - Fellow of the New College Oxford and Broadcaster; Jonathan Porritt - Former Director General of the Friends of the Earth; and Roger Freeman MP Minister of State for Transport. The day included a question and answer session, with many contributions from the delegates, resulting in lively and interesting discussions. Each delegate received a conference pack containing related material.

Pantomania

Graig School has never seen anything like it! Not in its history has the school ever presented a dramatic production so bold and daring. The Staff Christmas Pantomime managed to raise itself from the gutter to pavement level and Mr Meirion Rees and Mr Wynne Owen really proved that life's a drag. Thanks to all the staff who participated so willingly and with such gay abandon to this modern retelling of The Snow White Story which delighted an enthusiastic and appreciative end-of-term audience. Let's hope that a tradition is being established.

Christian Union

It is pleasing to report that the Graig's Christian Union recommenced meetings this Autumn. The initial meeting was addressed by Mr Alan Rees of the Christian Council for the Schools in Wales. Attendance at the weekly lunch-time meetings averages about 15 and several members of the Community have addressed the group which is ably led by two senior students - Lisa Christopher and Neil Corner. It is hoped that interest will be maintained and that members will grow.



For the
"GRAIG GAZETTE"
Co-ordinator:
MR. W. NOEL REES
Typist:
MRS. ALYSON GRIFFITHS
Titles:
MR. EDWARD SKINNER

First Impressions

Although my first few days at Graig School were frightening, I have settled in and made many new friends.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

I enjoy school meals because there is a large range of different foods to choose from

DANIEL COOK

I like playing Hockey and I also like Science because I like doing experiments.

LISA THOMAS

The gyms are really good, better than in our Primary School.

CARLY REES

I think Graig School is large but comforting

REBECCA ROSENTHAL

One of the best things about Graig are the large fields around the school which we play Rugby and Football on.

GARY REES

Having a lot of different subjects to study is a new experience, as is having so much homework.

SCOTT JONES

Rememberance Day

Following the sale of poppies at school, special services were held on Friday 9 November to remember all the Service people who were killed or injured protecting the freedom we enjoy today. The school orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Terry James, was prominent and worthy of special note was 'The Last Post' played by Peter Mainwaring and poetry read by Mr W. Noel Rees.

It was a special privilege to have, as a representative of the Royal British Legion, Lt. Col. W. Cledwyn Thomas, M.B.E. Kt. St. J., T.D. D.L. who delivered an informative address which was appreciated by all present.

Sports' Scene Shorts

THESE FEET WERE MADE FOR WALKING.....

There was a tremendous response to the P.E. Department's Sponsored Walk. To date over £1200 has been collected. This money will be put to good use in Departmental ways. One or two pupils still have money outstanding and Mr Goronwy Owen urges them to bring it in as soon as possible.

This year's Senior Rugby Captain is Paul Maguire.

The following boys have been selected for the Dyfed Under 14 Soccer Trials: Stephen Edwards, Richard Jenkins, Wayne Bowen, Gregory Newman, Craig Hugh, Paul Stallard and Darren Lewis.

The Under 15 Soccer Squad includes Nathan Davies and Stephen Williams.

The School's Hockey and Netball Teams have enjoyed quite a successful season to date and the Year 8 Netball Team has proved themselves undefeated.

Sharon Lloyd, Melissa Davies and Karen Maize have been selected for the Llanelli Schools' Hockey Team.

Janine White has been selected for the Dyfed Schools' Netball Team.

Through the Office Hatch

GOODBYE.....

Mr William Davies, the Reprographics Technician, who was also responsible for issuing Exercise Books, retired at the end of the Christmas Term. He gave 11 Years excellent service to the school and was a courteous gentleman and a good friend to the staff. We shall miss his helpful manner and the sound of his upright gait, fashioned by the Welsh Guards. We wish him a happy and lengthy retirement.

HELLO.....

Graig School welcomes to the School Office Mrs Alyson Griffiths (Secretary); Mrs Linda Corbett (School Clerk); and Mrs Kim Evans (TVEI Clerk) They have settled in well and their service and help are already much appreciated by both staff and pupils. We also welcome Mrs Linda Rees to the post of Reprographics Technician and trust she is settling into her post this term.

Student Loan

We have been particularly fortunate in receiving four very able students from Swansea University Department of Education at Hendrefoilan: Philip Hawley B.A (Physics); Catrin Jones B.A (English/Drama); Tanya Young B.Sc (Biology) and Sharon Roberts B.A. (History) are successfully completing their first teaching practice. They have been joined this term by three students from Aberystwyth University: Judith Rees B.A (English); Tracy Beadle B.Sc. (Geology); and Jeffrey Warren B.A (Drama).

We trust all students are enjoying their experiences at the Graig and that they are benefiting from their time with us for their future careers.

Other students have also visited the school for varying periods of observation during the past months.

Careers in Mind

A Careers Convention was organised by the Llanelli TVEI Consortium in the Selwyn Samuel Centre on Tuesday, 11 September 1990. A wide variety of occupations ranging from agriculture to youth and community work, and was represented.

All Year 11 pupils from the Graig attended the convention in the afternoon and pupils in Years 12 and 13 had the opportunity of visiting the convention in the evening.

Out and About

Since September there have been field trips and educational visits galore: The English A level group visited Bristol Old Vic; Year 11 Geography pupils discovered Pontantwn; Year 12 enjoyed an informative visit to Llanelli Town Library; The Welsh A level pupils attended a lecture at Swansea University; Year 11 Computer Study pupils visited the Carmarthenshire College of Technology and Art; the A level Geographers went on a field trip to Ogmere; Junior pupils enjoyed a week away at the Urdd Camp at Llangrannog; Maths and Physics A level students attended a lecture at Swansea University; a group of Technology pupils visited Cardiff University; and, most recently, 50 senior pupils attended Coedcae School's Production of "Showboat"