



**TES
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ANNUAL
REPORT
AWARD**

THE GRAIG GAZETTE



THE GRAIG COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, PWLL, LLANELLI, DYFED

OCTOBER, 1992

Notice of Meeting ...

The Annual Parents' Meeting, which is being called under the terms of the Education Act (No 2) 1986, will be held on Monday, 5th October at 7.00 pm in the school's Main Hall. The parents of all registered pupils at the school are cordially invited to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for discussion of:-

1. the Governors' Report, and
2. the discharge by the Governing Body, the Headteacher and the Local Education Authority of their functions in relation to the school.

Discussions and questions relating to the report or any other aspects of school life will be invited.

The full Governing Body met on four occasions during the Academic Year (18/10/91, 11/2/92, 5/5/92, and 2/6/92). In addition, the following Sub-Committee Meetings were held: Finance (three times), Curriculum and Staffing (four times), Building and Premises (twice), and Appointments (twice). Mr Phillip Wrentmore was appointed to the post of Associate Principal at C.C.T.A., with responsibility for the new Tertiary College, Coleg - Llanelli-College, to be established on the Graig site in September 1993. This appointment took effect on 1st September 1992 and Mr Walter G Dash has been appointed his successor as Headteacher.

GOVERNORS' REPORT 1991-92

Clerk to the Governors:- Chairman to the Governors:-
Mr Rhodri Fowler County Councillor S C James
Area Education Office 20, Derwent Street
17, Goring Road Llanelli
Llanelli
Tel No. 777300 Tel No. 776657

County Councillor Hugh S Peregrine	LEA 1988 - 93
County Councillor Grismond Williams	LEA 1988 - 93
County Councillor Stephen C James	LEA 1988 - 93
Councillor William Jones	LEA 1991 - 93
Mr Alistair Crawford	Parent 1988 - 93
Mr Peter Christopher	Parent 1988 - 93
Mr Mervyn Christopher	Parent 1991 - 95
Mrs Moira Keddie	Parent 1988 - 93
Mr Eric Lewis	Teacher 1988 - 93
Mr Meirion Rees	Teacher 1988 - 93
Mrs Diane Mansel-Thomas	Co-opted 1988 - 93
Mr George Parker	Co-opted 1988 - 93
Mr Tudor Price	Co-opted 1988 - 93
Mr Bernard Williams	Co-opted 1991 - 95
Mr Phillip Wrentmore	Headteacher 1991 - 92



Mr. Walter G. Dash

New Headteacher's Message ...

The transition of Graig School into Tertiary Education over the next few years will be an eventful journey which will require hard work and patience from all concerned.

I feel very honoured to have been asked by the Governors of Graig School to lead the school through these important times. My priority will be the interests of the pupils and staff of the Graig Comprehensive School and to ensure that the pupils of the school benefit from an education which is second to none.

For the past six years I have been Deputy Headteacher at Pembroke School. Previously I held positions at Comprehensive Schools in Lincolnshire and Oxfordshire. My main teaching subject is Mathematics and I have also taught Physical Education.

Originally from Gwent, I was educated in Pontypool and at the University of Hull. My wife Margaret is a Primary School Teacher and we have three children: James (18), Clare (15) and Jonathan (10). My interests are mainly sporting: I am a WRU referee and I still play village cricket.

Graig School has entered a period of considerable change. Tertiary re-organisation is upon us and the pressures on staff, pupils and parents will be unique over the next few years.

The pupils of the Graig School must not be disadvantaged educationally in any way. Rather, they should benefit from, and have access to, additional facilities which will become available on this site. I intend to keep disruption to a minimum and the safety of the pupils on this site will be a priority.

I expect Graig to continue its fine reputation for sporting and cultural successes and to proudly continue its name for the next five years. I am aware that the challenge is great but I hope that the support of all parents will see us through.

I am delighted to report that the pupil intake to the school this September is higher than anticipated, especially in Year 12. I am convinced that we can build on this confidence which parents are showing in Graig School.

I have set firm standards at the beginning of a new year for pupils and staff. I am particularly keen to monitor attendance and punctuality as well as maintaining high standards of uniform throughout the school.

I hope that parents will support me in these matters and that we can all work harmoniously together for the strength of Graig School.

WALTER G. DASH

Chairman's Letter ...

Sadly, I must begin my introduction to this Annual Report by paying tribute to two men who passed away this year. Mr Alun Lewis, the past Chairman of Governors, had a genuine concern for Education which was reflected in the way he generously devoted his time, energy and managerial expertise to the task of leading the Governing Body of Graig School. Alun was a first-class Chairman and a good friend to the School.

Mr Alun Williams was a gifted and highly-respected teacher. To comment on his teaching ability alone, however, would be to underestimate the contribution he made to the school. He was a vital part of the School Community which is much diminished by his death. Both are sorely missed and I extend the sympathy of the Governing Body to their families and friends.

The Governing Body is responsible for managing the budget and ensuring that the School functions efficiently. Individual Governors are from different backgrounds and have various skills and interests. They have, however, combined to form a team which is motivated by concern for the pupils and the desire to provide them with the best and most appropriate Education.

I am pleased that Graig School has risen to the challenge of change and that it has continued to provide high quality Education for its pupils. Examination results compare favourably with those of previous years. Pupils have participated in extra-curricular activities and there are strong links with the local community.

We congratulate Mr Phillip Wrentmore on his appointment to the post of Associate Principal of the new Coleg-Llanelli-College. The College's gain is our loss. On behalf of the Governing Body, Staff and pupils I thank him for his services and wish him well.

I would also like to welcome his successor, Mr Walter Dash, who has all the qualifications and qualities necessary to provide the high standard of leadership to which Graig School has become accustomed.

The success of Graig School is a result of the professionalism and dedication of the Teaching Staff and everybody else employed in the school. I thank them all.

No school, however, is an island and there are many other individuals and organisations who must be thanked for their services: Mr Rhodri Fowler and his staff have, again, efficiently provided assistance and advice; and the Parents' Association has continued to support the Graig. The Governing Body appreciates and much values its work and is grateful for its assistance.

This is a challenging time. The advent of the new Tertiary College is an exciting educational development from which our pupils may benefit by being able to share its facilities. Obviously there will be problems but, I know, they will be resolved. The Governing Body is determined that there will be no dilution of the quality of Education received by pupils attending Graig School.

Finally I hope you will attend the Annual Governors' Meeting in the School Hall at 7.00 pm on Monday 5th October. This is open to all parents and is the ideal opportunity to discuss School Policies with the Governing Body. Please make every effort to attend so that you can help the Governors in their policy-making.

STEPHEN JAMES

S. Burgess

+++ YOU'RE
BETTER OFF
TALKING TO
BARCLAYS

Results Count ...

'A' Level ...	GRADES							
	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	
ART AND DESIGN	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	
BIOLOGY	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	
CHEMISTRY	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	
ECONOMICS	3	1	2	2	1	1	0	
ENGLISH	5	1	2	2	5	0	0	
GEOGRAPHY	1	1	1	5	3	0	2	
GEOLOGY	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
HISTORY	0	0	2	4	3	1	2	
MATHEMATICS	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	
FRENCH	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	
MUSIC	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	
PHYSICS	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	
WELSH (SECOND LANGUAGE)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0	1	0	1	2	1	2	
SOCIOLOGY	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	
COMPUTING	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	

'A/S' Level ...	GRADES							
	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	
PURE MATHS	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
WELSH (2ND LANGUAGE)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
COMPUTING	1	1	3	1	2	0	0	

GCSE ...	GRADES							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
ART & DESIGN	0	2	5	7	3	2	1	3
ART & DESIGN-TEXTILES	0	0	7	5	3	2	0	0
BUSINESS STUDIES	3	1	5	7	8	5	1	2
COMPUTER STUDIES	0	6	8	3	1	1	0	1
CDT: DESIGN & REALISATI	0	0	1	2	3	2	0	0
CDT: DESIGN & REAL'N	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	1	7	9	20	10	7	12	5
DRAMA	1	4	0	7	1	0	0	0
ECONOMICS	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
ENGLISH	8	17	29	19	17	10	5	0
ENGLISH LITERATURE	8	8	28	23	11	3	2	6
FRENCH	6	6	5	5	6	3	2	0
GEOGRAPHY	5	4	15	9	6	4	1	2
SCIENCE: GEOLOGY	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
GERMAN	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0
HISTORY	1	2	9	2	4	3	1	1
HOME ECON'S-CHILD DEV.	1	7	4	3	1	0	0	0
HOME ECON'S-TEXTILES	0	0	1	1	5	0	2	0
MATHEMATICS	6	10	18	9	29	16	9	1
MUSIC	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	0	1	1	4	3	1	0	0
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
SCIENCE: MODULAR: SINGLE	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	1
SCIENCE: MODULAR: DOUBLE	8	10	22	11	19	14	2	1
SOCIOLOGY	3	6	1	2	1	1	1	0
WELSH (2ND)-FOUNDATION	10	8	15	8	17	10	4	0

C. of E. ...	GRADES		
	MERIT	PASS	FAIL
ENGLISH	12	8	1
HISTORY	10	5	4
FOOD SKILLS	0	5	0
CYMRAGS AIL IAITH	0	1	7
ART & DESIGN	4	6	2
GRAPHICAL STUDIES	1	7	5
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0	2	0
MATHEMATICS	30	5	8
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	0	11	0
SCIENCE	3	6	0

Assessment and Reporting ...

Assessment in Years 7, 8 and 9 is changing in response to the requirements of the National Curriculum and all statutory assessments are administered in English. Parents are provided with detailed information relating to National Curriculum levels of achievement (1-10) once a year. In addition, during Years 7, 8 and 9, pupils are being guided in the preparation of a Record of Achievement. During Years 10 and 11, there is a set of formal examinations in each Year (Year 10 - March/April, Year 11 - December) and parents receive an interim Record of Achievement in Year 10 and a separate report of examination results in Year 11. During Years 12 and 13, students' progress is monitored carefully and pupils are expected to work closely with staff in this process. An Individual Action Plan (IAP) is used by students to assist their development and to record important information. Information on student progress is made available to parents in the form of a termly report.

Pastoral Care ...

The Pastoral Care System of Graig School aims to:-
i) enhance the spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of pupils, and
ii) train them in preparation for adult life in the wider world. Graig Comprehensive School has a horizontal Pastoral Care structure. Each year has its own Head of Year who is responsible for all the pupils of that Year. Each Head of Year (except Head of Year 7) remains in charge of the same pupils as they progress through the School. On entry into Graig School, pupils are allocated to five mixed-ability forms. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, pupils remain with the same form and Form Teacher throughout their five years in school. Registration, social and cultural activities and the monitoring of academic and social progress of all boys and girls are undertaken by each Form Teacher. The Heads of Year are responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of the Form Teachers of their Year. They, in turn, are responsible to the Pastoral Deputy Headteacher. The Heads of Year keep records of all relevant information received about pupils and they disseminate information to Form teachers, Subject teachers, the Deputy Headteachers and the Headteacher. A full Pastoral Curriculum is in operation in Years 7 to 13. This involves one period per week with the Form Tutor, working through a carefully-designed scheme of guidance and counselling. This includes an induction programme in Year 7 and elements of study skills, health education, social relationships, time management, experiential and individual learning, Records of Achievement, Careers' Education, etc. It reinforces the work of the academic subject departments. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 also follow a modular Personal, Social and Health Education course. The topics dealt with include Crime, Law and Society, Industry Awareness and Appreciation and Health Education, including First Aid. Emphasis is placed on active learning with ample discussion, individual group and team work and decision-making.

The Curriculum ...

In Years 7, 8 and 9, all pupils study English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Welsh, French, Geography, History, Religious Studies, Art and Design, Music, Drama, Physical Education and a 'Link' Programme. Information Technology is studied currently in Years 7 and 8. In these first three years, pupils with Special Education needs are taught either in small groups or in integrated groups according to departmental policies. In September 1992, National Curriculum statutory arrangements apply to Mathematics, English and Science (Years 7, 8, 9 and 10); Technology and Welsh (Years 7, 8 and 9); History and Geography (Year 7 and 8) and French, Physical Education, Art & Design and Music (Year 7). In Years 10 and 11, all pupils study English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Personal and Social Education, and a 'Link' programme. In addition, four subjects are chosen from appropriate option groups. The subjects studied in Years 10 and 11 are taught mainly to GCSE level and some subjects are available for the WJEC Certificate of Education. Appropriate courses are available for students with Special Educational needs. Subject choices made for Year 10 are based on detailed guidance provided in Year 9, a Parents' Evening, interviews with the Careers' Service and interviews, where necessary, with Senior Members of Staff. Every effort is made to satisfy pupil choices, but this is not always possible where there is an excessive demand for a subject. For students wishing to enter Year 12, there is an 'open access' policy and students are guided carefully in their choice of an appropriate course which may include 'A' levels, 'AS' levels, a one year Further Qualifications Course, which includes the Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education (CPVE) and which may involve one day per week at CCTA (Llanelli), and GCSE subjects. In September 1992, the T.V.E.I.(E) applies to students in the 16-19 age range and some of its aims are to provide a broad curriculum relevant to the world of work and the community. Through a range of programmes, this encourages the development of personal and social qualities. The following subjects are available at 'A' level:- English, Mathematics (Pure, Mechanics and Statistics), Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computing, Geology, Geography, History, Economics, Business Studies, Religious Studies, Sociology, Psychology, French, Welsh, German, Art and Design, Music, Drama and Theatre Arts, Home Economics, Design Craft and Technology, Engineering Drawing. AS levels are available in a few of these subjects, but all students may study AS General Studies. Included in the 'Link' Programme of the school are cross-curricular issues such as Environmental Education, Study Skills, Careers Guidance, Economic and Industrial Understanding, Health Education and Citizenship.

Community Links ...

"The Community and Economic and Industrial Understanding" are cross-curricular themes identified within the National Curriculum. During the last year the Graig has focused on these areas of the curriculum seeking to extend its existing links with the community. The school has participated in a number of community-based projects and initiatives. Sociology students have examined local health issues as part of an initiative organised and funded by Prince Philip Hospital. Year 10 pupils sought to increase their business awareness and to develop their Enterprise skills by participating in a Business Game organised by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and BP. The event gave pupils a valuable insight into the problems of running a business. Students in the Sixth Form have also participated in an Education and Industry Conference aimed at addressing Community issues. Working with local advisers, the students are now undertaking research into various areas of study which include Enterprise, Environmental Issues, demographic trends and training. Graig School is committed to expanding its links with the Community and is one of only 128 schools and Colleges of Further Education in England and Wales to participate in the National Bar Association Mock Trials. The area final is due to take place at Cardiff Crown Court. It is hoped that the experience gained from activities involving the Community will enhance the learning experience of students so that they will become more aware of the role that they can play in the community.

School Finances

Employee Costs	1,039,902
Teachers	498
Foreign Language Assistant	13,145
Technicians	29,216
Administration	13,376
Carpetaker	896
Interview Expenses	
1,097,033	
Premises	
Repair and Maintenance	11,458
Energy	26,291
Rates and Water	61,450
Hygiene	409
Refuse Collection	679
100,287	
Pupil expenditure	
Capitation	21,950
Examination expenses	20,908
Visits & field trips	2,102
44,960	
Other expenses	
Postage & telephone	3,166
Governors	50
3,216	
Expenditure	1,245,496
TVEI Staffing	8,295
Science Support Staffing	6,862
GROSS EXPENDITURE 1,260,653	
INCOME: Formula Funding	1,225,017
Lettings Income	392
W.J.E.C. moderation	963
TVEI Staffing	8,295
Science Support Staffing	6,862
GROSS INCOME 1,241,529	
1991 - 92 DEFICIT	19,124 -
1991 - 92	45,000 +LEA
Staffing support	
1990-91	0
Balance C/F	
25,876 + Balance available for 1992-93	

Attendance Figures ...

Year	Average no on register for Year	Average attendance for Year	Percentage of attendance
7	148.0	143.8	97.2
8	95.2	91.8	96.4
9	104.9	96.6	92.1
10	129.8	118.9	91.6
11	131.0	115.5	88.2
12	44.9	37.8	84.2
13	44.7	39.4	88.1
Total	698.5	643.8	92.2

Vital Statistics...

In January 1992, there were 705 pupils on roll
YEAR 7 - 149 arranged in 6 groups
YEAR 8 - 95 arranged in 4 groups
YEAR 9 - 105 arranged in 5 groups
YEAR 10 - 130 arranged in 5 groups
YEAR 11 - 135 arranged in 5 groups
YEAR 12 - 46 arranged in 3 groups
YEAR 13 - 45 arranged in 3 groups

The School Day..

The starting and finishing times remain the same as for 1991 - 92. To accommodate the revised curriculum, based on a 51 period/10 day cycle, the following pattern operates:-

8.35 - 9.00	Registration/Assembly
9.00 - 9.55	Lesson 1
9.55 - 10.50	Lesson 2
10.50 - 11.10	Break
11.10 - 12.05	Lesson 3
12.05 - 1.00	Lesson 4
1.00 - 1.55	Lunch
1.55 - 2.05	Registration
2.05 - 3.00	Lesson 5
On Mondays only, the afternoon is as follows:	
1.55 - 2.35	Registration/Link lesson
2.35 - 3.30	Lesson 5
The total teaching time in this arrangement is 23 hrs 25 mins.	



In Memoriam ...



Mr Alun Wyn Williams ...

Mr Alun Williams, the dynamic, ever-popular and impressive Head of History resigned last term due to ill-health. We were much saddened to learn that Mr Williams passed away during the summer holiday on August 12th.

Mr Alun Williams was a charismatic figure who taught us all a great deal simply by being associated with him.

We all shared with him the warmest relationship of friendship and his pupils and colleagues have a keen sense of privilege of having known this gentleman.

He was a true professional: a man of high intellect, keen judgement and one who was beyond meanness of outlook. He was always ready to help with his extraordinary warm humanity, and with a tremendous sense of humour and fun.

He was tolerant and sincere; genuine and friendly; lively-minded, jovial and cheerful; very frank and open; loyal and dependable and so, so popular. Mr Williams joined the staff in 1969 as a teacher in the Boys' Grammar School and he became Head of History of the Graig Comprehensive School in 1977. He was always actively involved in Graig School Life: the Debating Society, the Tennis Tournament, Mock Elections, Staff games and, of course, the Drama Society for which he was the Business Manager for many years. Most recently Mr Williams was the teacher responsible for Records of Achievement at Graig School.

Mr Williams as a teacher had a wonderful rapport with his pupils for he loved listening as well as teaching. He treated all pupils sensitively and they all appreciated with gratitude the care, concern and consideration given to them by him.

His teaching room was Al and that term truly describes the man. Mr Alun Williams will be much missed by pupils and all his colleagues and friends for he has been an inspired teacher, a supportive counsellor and a trusted colleague. To Mrs Williams, Tracy and Gary we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr Alun D. Lewis ...

It is with great sadness that the school records the loss of Mr Alun D Lewis, Chairman of the Governors who passed away suddenly on May 16th. Mr Lewis was a pupil at the Llanelli Boys' Grammar School between 1960 and 1967 and achieved both academic and sporting successes. He was awarded a Welsh Secondary Schools' Cap in Cricket and his involvement in this sport continued after his school days.

At the time of his death, Mr Lewis was the Regional Director for Wales with Robin Marlair Limited, but he consistently and effectively maintained his involvement with Education. Mr Lewis served for many years on the Llanelli Education - Business Partnership and, for the past two years, was Chairman of the Governing Body of Graig School. During periods of considerable pressure and change in Education, Mr Lewis' leadership provided both the drive and stability necessary for progress.

Pupils at the school during the last two years were presented with their Records of Achievement by Mr Lewis and it was always his desire to see pupils achieving success. He will be greatly missed by the Governing Body, Staff and pupils of Graig School. We extend our sympathy to Mrs Lewis and his family.

Staff News ...

Mr Alun Wyn Williams, Head of History Department and Co-ordinator of Records of Achievement, passed away in August 1992.

Mr Chris Tubb was appointed to a post in Gorseinon Tertiary College.

Mrs Cecily Lloyd retired from her post as Head of the Languages Faculty in August 1992.

Mr Mark Blackman was appointed to a post in Bath. Mrs Helen Davies was appointed to teach French and Music (October 1991).

Mr Ian Etherington was appointed as Head of Economics/Business Studies (January 1992). Miss Sara Davies was appointed as Head of Year 8 (April 1992).

Mrs Christine Williams was appointed as Deputy Head of Languages/Head of French (September 1992).

Mrs I Rowlands was appointed as a temporary teacher of French to cover maternity leave.

Mr Muir Ball was appointed as teacher in the Science Faculty.

Mrs Frances Williams returns as a temporary teacher of Welsh and Mrs Melissa Roberts as temporary teacher of Girls' P.E. during Miss C Davies' illness.

Miss Moira Evans has been appointed Head of History as from September 1st 1992.

Mrs Caroline Burgess has been appointed to be teacher in charge of Records of Achievement.

Mr Jay Extence has been appointed as a teacher in the History Department.

Mrs Susan Palmer has returned from Maternity leave. In her absence Miss Pat Roberts taught in the Science Faculty.

Best wishes to Mr. Charles Hopper for a speedy and sound recovery after his hospitalization.

Heads Together ...

At Christmas time of the previous school year, Caroline and I were both very privileged to be chosen as Head Boy and Head Girl of Graig School. This is possibly the greatest challenge we have had to face in our academic careers and it has been made easier with the cooperation of a helpful Sixth Form.

During the last school year, the Sixth Form has had a very active role in school life. Certain members have taken part in such things as the Road Safety Quiz, the Crime Prevention Panel, Mock Elections and we have a number of Sixth Formers who are correspondents to the Graig column in the 'Llanelli Star' and 'The Graig Gazette'.

We have also helped with and organised activities which include discos, the Christmas Fayre, concerts and other aspects of school life. As a result of being previously involved in the "Understanding Industry" Conference in the Diplomat Hotel, we obtained a substantial amount of money which has been specifically set aside for us to spend on the Sixth Form area. This money will be spent wisely in the future on such things as furniture and refreshments. We would lastly like to thank everyone who has supported us and we send our best wishes to the new prefects who will be chosen this coming Christmas. The election of the new prefects will surely be a sad time for Graig School as these will be the last ones ever to serve at the school before it is transformed into a Tertiary College.

CONRAD REES and CAROLINE JOHNS

Faithful Servant ...

Mrs Cecily Lloyd, our longest-serving lady member of staff, took early retirement last term. Full of joie-de-vivre as Head of French and Modern Languages, she has been a popular and much-admired member of the staff. In addition to her teaching duties, her organisation of trips to all areas in France has been meticulous, enjoyable and educational. We thank her for her devotion to her pupils and we hope that she will take full advantage of her early retirement by enjoying further foreign travels. Au revoir, Madame, et Bonne Chance.

Hello ...

When Graig started back to its new term, a number of new faces joined the team of staff. Pupils and colleagues wish to welcome the following teachers into the school. Mrs Christine Williams has joined the French Department after teaching in Swansea University for many years; Mr Jay Extence joins the History Department; Mr Muir Ball, who has come to Graig from Bury Port, joins the Science Department. Mrs Irene Rowlands is on temporary cover for Mrs Helen Davies who at the moment is on maternity leave. Mrs Rowlands joins us from her native country of Russia and teaches French. Finally, Mrs Melissa Roberts joins the P.E. Department to cover Miss Davies' absence. We welcome all staff to Graig and hope they will be happy in their careers with us.

Round And About ...

Forward to the Future ...

On Wednesday 6th May, a Sixth Form Business Conference for Llanelli Schools was held in the Diplomat Hotel. The conference was held from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. and was designed to inform students about changes affecting the economy of Llanelli in the nineties and beyond two thousand. After the initial registration Graig pupils received an introduction to the day given by keynote speakers Mr. John Ellis and Mr. Bryn Parry-Jones. After the introduction, six key themes were explored. These included environmental organisations and awareness to small businesses and skill shortages and training needs. The day proved to be very interesting and enlightening to all who attended and it was a day to remember.

Light Industry ...

On the 11th and 12th May, Graig held its annual Understanding Industry Sixth Form Conference. The conference was held in the school library over a time span of 2 days. The first day comprised an introduction to understanding industry followed by Design and Development, Production and Management Lectures. The days also included a practical element as well, much to the pupils' delight! The second day of the course involved more informative lectures, with pupils taking all the information in their stride. The course concluded with an appraisal and presentation of Certificates by the Co-ordinator of the course, Mr. John Ellis. Hopefully, the conference will be as successful again next year.

Bus Along ...

On 12th of May Graig had the pleasure of receiving a visit from the East Dyfed ITEC 'Mobile Information Technology' bus. Pupils were invited 'aboard' where they were shown demonstrations on various systems and also various software packages. They even had their photographs taken and printed by a computer! Although it was an educational visit, it proved to be interesting, informative and enjoyable for all those concerned. Our thanks go to the East Dyfed Information Technology Centre.

On the Run ...

Glorious weather and a sense of fun pervaded Graig School on Friday, June 26th when the Parents' Association held a Fun Run for School Funds. It proved to be a most enjoyable afternoon and a wonderful selection of weird costumes was on display, the fun being enjoyed by pupils, parents and staff. Our thanks to the hardworking Parents' Association and their kindness in providing much-needed refreshments.

Higher and Higher ...

Twelve pupils attended a Higher Education Convention on June 29th organised by the Careers' Service and Education Department of Dyfed County Council. The convention was held at St David's University College, Lampeter. Specialist speakers were in attendance who were able to answer relevant questions on Student Grants and Sponsorships and the various opportunities in Higher Education. A guided tour of Lampeter University College was included and all participants found the convention well-organised and beneficial.

Teachers' Talk ...

On Tuesday 30th June Year 11 pupils, who had completed their GCSE exams, had the chance of coming back to school to talk to teachers about their prospective 'A' level subjects. Pupils also had the opportunity to talk to the present Year 12 to get an honest view of what life in the Sixth Form and 'A' level subjects was really like! The Careers Adviser for the school, Miss Luke, was also on hand to give pupils expert advice about their subject choices and career prospects. It is expected that Graig School will continue to have a healthy-sized Sixth Form and the Induction Day was an excellent taster of life in the Graig Sixth form.

A Right Royal Do ...

Thursday July 2nd was a Red Letter Day in the diaries of Staff-member Mrs Irene Clarke and Sixth-Former, Caroline Johns. Both had been invited to London for the launch of "Youth Express" which was attended by the Princess Royal. "YX", as it is called, is a new newspaper for young people to help them tackle crime through a nationwide network of Youth Crime Prevention Panels in five hundred schools. The newspaper will be distributed at every Secondary School in the country and "Youth Express" was launched by Princess Anne, who is the President of Patrons of Crime Concern. We look forward to the first edition of the paper in October and we are delighted at the honour brought to Graig School by Mrs Clarke and Caroline Johns in being invited to the London Launch.

Head Moves ...

Congratulations to Mr Philip Wrenmore on his appointment as Associate Principal Designate of Coley-Llanelli-College, having served Graig School as Acting Headteacher over the past year.

The First of the Last ...

On Friday 3rd July, the last intake of Form 7 pupils came for the morning to Graig School to be put into their different registration groups. The new pupils had a detailed tour of the school with the help of our Form 6 Prefects. The 10 to 11 year-olds learnt much from their morning and they were able to ask any questions which were worrying them. The pupils were able to meet with their registration tutors informally and this, along with a detailed tour of the school, helped quell some of those last-minute nerves. It allowed pupils to enter Graig School in September at ease and filled with excitement for the future in front of them. It appears that they thoroughly enjoyed their morning visit along with the refreshments available to them.

Site Meeting ...

On the 3rd of July two members of the Sixth Form, Alison Carter and Faith Thomas, spent the day touring the C.P. Taylor and Trostre Works as part of the Sixth Form Conference which was held at the Diplomat Hotel recently. The purpose of this visit was to discover how the implementation of new technology has affected industry. Two areas which were particularly concentrated on were the effect on the Work force and also whether the productivity of the firms has improved because of the new technology. Both companies are to be thanked for giving up their time to show pupils around their businesses and answering the many questions. The result of this visit was part of the Second Sixth Form Conference which was held at the Diplomat Hotel on the 8th of July.

Our Day Out ...

On Monday 6th July Years 7 and 8 went on a day trip to Oakwood, Tenby. The whole day was enjoyably spent on the numerous rides of the Park, pupils especially enjoying the train ride to a separate part of the Park where the attractions are situated. Graig pupils were impressed by the way the rides complemented their surroundings allowing the area to look natural with lots of grass and trees.

Theatre Tails ...

Fifty pupils made a visit to London on July 7th when they visited Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical "Cats" at the New London Theatre. The day's excursion to Covent Garden also included a visit to the Theatre Museum, the "Spitting Image", Wax-Works and St Paul's Church, Covent Garden popularly known as "The Actors' Church". Mr Noel Rees, Dr Terry James, Mrs Jackie Watson and Mrs Pat Davies accompanied the group and all agreed it was a day well spent.

On Display ...

On July 8th the second part of the Sixth Form Conference was held in the Diplomat Hotel. This was a follow-on, and Graig Sixth Formers displayed the work they had completed as a result of the talks at the first conference. All in all it was a very interesting and informative day and the previous guest speakers were invited back to see what the pupils had managed to complete from their talks. Congratulations to all pupils who successfully provided a display of their hard work.

Decisions, Decisions ...

There was an excellent turn-out at the recent Consultation Evening for Year 9 pupils and their parents. This is an important 'make-up-your-mind' time in the education of these pupils when decisions are made concerning the subjects to be studied for GCSE or COE. Graig School was pleased to welcome Miss Suzanne Luke of the Llanelli Careers' Service to give additional advice to pupils in relation to subjects required for particular careers.

Simon's Service ...

Year 11 student Simon Standen, who is a member of the local St. John's Ambulance, was awarded the Philip John Memorial Award for his service to the Llanelli community. Simon received this commendable award for the tireless 900 hours that he has given to his community. He has been a member of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade for the past five years and enjoys every moment of his challenging work with St. John's. Simon can often be spotted helping out at local fetes and other community activities, along with the Brigade, and he attended the Graig Sports' Day with his colleagues. Eventually once Simon has completed his education, he looks forward to a successful career in Nursing. We wish him all the best in his vocation.

Quizzed ...

During the Soccer Season, a group of Year 11 boys was presented with trophies for coming runners-up to Bryngwyn in the final of the Crime Prevention 8-a-side Soccer Competition. Congratulations are given to Craig Hugh, Paul Buckingham, Gregory Newman, Richard Jenkins, Wayne Bowen, Geraint Bowen, Geraint Fowler, Steven Summers, Jamie Bowen, Nathan Wilkins and Paul Stallard.



Le Weekend à la Française

Shortly after midnight on a Thursday evening at the end of the Summer Term, thirty-six sets of parents waved a thankful goodbye to a coachload of excited Year 7 pupils as they set off for a long weekend in France. As the coach sped along the M4 towards Dover, quietness and sleep gradually replaced the crunching of crisps and the usual fuss of first years.

Peace was short-lived. Crossing to Calais on an early ferry, Graig pupils seemed to be everywhere except where they had been told to sit and eat breakfast. However, none was lost overboard or even seasick and shortly after arrival, the party visited the exhibition at the site of the Channel Tunnel very impressive to most, but one or two found it "boring".

Lunchtime saw the party in the Old Town at Boulogne. No help was given in finding food pupils were told to "speak French or starve". No-one seemed to starve.

On to the hotel at Stella Plage, where the party infested the hotel in record time and within minutes filled bedrooms with incredible quantities of clothes, food, drink and other oddities. From the bar below, Graig pupils sounded like a flock of miniature elephants!

During Saturday, Graig School went shopping at Le Touquet Open Market, managing to buy the most unbelievable curiosities. Sadly, for the teachers, no-one seemed to want to buy any Graig Pupils! The afternoon's visit to the pottery at Desvres was a failure: the factory was closed, because they didn't know the Group was coming or perhaps they did know? Anyway, Desvres was a very pleasant town and many pupils took the opportunity to do their shopping: "Sir! they actually understood my French!"

Mums and Dads would have been shocked to see their little treasures out and about at 11 o'clock on Saturday night but, of course, Europe is one hour ahead of Britain, and Stella Plage is a family resort with several pleasant cafes suitable for active youngsters. Eventually, everyone managed to get tired enough to go to sleep.

On Sunday morning a start was made back to Calais, calling at Montreuil to see the fortifications to do some supermarket shopping and to pretend to be very French with coffee at pavement cafes.

By now all were hoping to be trapped in France by the lorry-drivers' strike, but Calais was clear and sadly it was "au revoir" to France. Those with any money left ate on board the ferry, and those without cash just made a nuisance of themselves as usual! By the time the party arrived back in Llanelli, most parents seemed glad to see their little darlings back. Had they actually missed them?

Many thanks to the three Sixth Formers who helped immensely; to Mrs Cecily Lloyd on the last of her many school visits, when she dealt with Anglo-French liaison; to Mrs Ann Kormylo for keeping an eye on everyone who needed it; and Mr Wyn Oliver, who frightened even the French and German guests in the hotel when he laid down the law in an adjoining room. And a final but very important "Merci" to Mr Barry Harding, who organised the whole excursion.

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Taking the Mickey ...

At midnight July 15th 1992, a party of 40 pupils and 5 staff (Miss Sara Davies, Miss Jane Rosser, Mrs Caroline Burgess, Miss Jane White and Mr Adrian Davies) left Graig School bus-bay heading for Calais bound for Paris. The group arrived at the hotel mid-afternoon on the following day. The weather in Paris was absolutely glorious and throughout the holiday the temperature was in the nineties. The party spent two unforgettable days at EuroDisney, staying until 11.00 pm to see the Electrical Light Parade which was a truly memorable sight. The party also spent one day visiting the sights of Paris, including a cruise on the Seine, a trip to the top of the Eiffel Tower and a visit to the Church of the Sacre Coeur and the bohemian area of Montmartre. As usual, the home-produced "Cabaret Night" was an unqualified success. Pupils, as well as staff, made the most of the occasion by dressing up and performing to entertain others. The party returned to a rainy typical climate at Graig School bus-bay at 10.30 pm on Monday 21st July, thoroughly exhausted but very, very happy.

Two Graig sixth-formers were successful in representing Graig School and Dyfed at National summer schools this year. John Hooper gained a place with the National Youth Orchestra of Wales while Robert Stroud was chosen as an actor in the National Youth Theatre of Wales. The number competing for places on both courses is high and the places limited. Left is pictured Dr. Terry James with John, who is leader of the Graig School Orchestra and leader of the Llanelli Area Schools' Orchestra. Robert pictured with Mr. W. Noel Rees (right), is a doyen of many Graig productions and was involved in a production of Brecht's 'Caucasian Chalk Circle'.

Pastures New ...

Last year's Headteacher, Mr P Wrentmore, has been appointed as Associate Principal of the CCTA with responsibility for the new Tertiary Coleg-Llanelli-College, on the Graig School Campus. Mr Wrentmore stressed that it is an unique opportunity for the students of Llanelli to have Post-16 Education brought together on the one site. The new college will have an extensive range of 'A' level courses, together with a number of vocational courses. Of course, there is an extensive building development programme for the site which will provide a new library and learning resources facilities; a new media block is being built; and there will also be improved sporting facilities. Obviously these will be an asset to college students and will also be available to the pupils of the Graig School during its phasing-out period. Mr Wrentmore also said "It is important that we look ahead with enthusiasm and optimism to the future of Post 16-Education in Llanelli."

Looking Ahead ...

Links are already being made with the Carmarthenshire College of Technology and Art, by the Sports Clinic Festival which was held last term. Every boy and girl in Year 10 throughout Llanelli had the chance of two days coaching in various sports, such as, pony trekking, mountaineering, skiing, squash, golf and many more. It proved to be an extremely exciting and action-filled two days for all concerned. The object of this was that the Associate Principal of the Tertiary College wanted to show that there would be plenty of sport available at the new college. These pupils will be awarded a Record of Achievement Certificate for successfully completing this sporting activity.

Careers in Mind ...

On 15th September, Fifth and Sixth Form pupils accompanied by senior staff, attended the Selwyn Samuel Centre for a Careers' Convention. The Convention, which takes place annually, is of great use to the pupils who get the chance to meet a representative of the career they have chosen; getting to talk to them on a one-to-one basis; and having any queries or questions they may have answered on the spot. The Llanelli Careers' Service was also on hand to advise pupils about Higher Education and their chosen careers. We are very grateful for all the spokesmen who gave up their time to talk to pupils and who offered valuable advice.

Some Words from our Sponsors ...

Mr. Aled Williams, an old boy of the School, is the Sales Manager and a Director of SANDY PARK FORD. He feels that the local comprehensive school must be supported and hopes that Graig's transition into a Tertiary College goes smoothly. "We feel it is important to forge links with pupils and our support runs to Work Experience". Mr. Williams of THE SPC PATIO CENTRE gives support to Graig School because the firm rules that customer relations and customer care is on the "top" of their priority list. Close contact with pupils is very important because today's pupils are tomorrow's employees. Mr. Richard Gibson of GIBSON and JONES VETERINARY SURGERY feels that local business contact with schools will benefit the school and the practice and he would wish to maintain such links as far as possible because he much appreciates the integration of local business into the area. Paul Smith of CELTIC CARAVANS was pleased to sponsor 'The Graig Gazette' so as to make a firm link with pupils who, hopefully, will be his future customers. 'The Graig Gazette' wishes to acknowledge the continuing generous sponsorship of the above, R.J.B. WHEELER & SON, GARAGE and also to BARCLAYS' BANK for their constant support of Graig activities.



Records of Achievement ...

At the end of Year 11 pupils are issued with a personal Record of Achievement (ROA). This summative document contains important information on the progress and development made by pupils in the subjects they study. It also contains information on their personal and social development and their hobbies and interests, both in and out of school. There is also a personal statement hand-written by the pupil. The information contained within the ROA is positive in nature and it is intended to act as a record for pupils to take to employers or establishments of Further Education. Evidence to date suggests that this document has been most valuable in assisting pupils to gain employment and places on Further Education courses. The whole process is co-ordinated by Mrs Caroline Burgess.

Industrial Thanks ...

Following INA Bearings' Sponsorship of one of last year's Year 11 students, Amy Doran, to an all-expenses paid weekend to Germany last term, Mr Henry Gilbert, Personnel Manager of INA Bearings paid the school a visit to present Amy with a book and the school with a commemorative plaque. At the same presentation the School, on behalf of the Llanelli Consortium, presented INA Bearings with a Certificate of Achievement for its contribution to the local Business Conference aimed at the Sixth Form recently held in the Diplomat Hotel. This is yet another example of the links being forged between local industries in the area and long may they continue.

The Big Time ...

Darren Thomas, a 17 year old ex-pupil of Graig School has made a break-through into big time cricket. He has become the youngest player to take five wickets on his debut in the history of the County Championships. Congratulations are given to Darren from Graig staff and pupils.

Natural Trip ...

On Monday 14th September, seven senior pupils were accompanied by Miss Jane Rosser and Toby, her dog, to Brandy Cove on the Gower. The purpose of the visit was to study the sea shore ecology at Brandy Cove. It proved to be a very interesting and enjoyable visit and a great deal was learnt by all. The Sixth Form Biology class would like to thank Miss Rosser for organising the excursion. We all hope that there will be another one very soon.

In Tune ...

Another first-class "Summer Serenade" was held in the Graig School Hall on Thursday, July 9th. A capacity audience attended and enjoyed a varied programme of Music presented by the Graig School Orchestra, Choir and Soloists. Directed by Dr Terry James, the concert was followed by light refreshments. The guest accompanist was Mr Allan Fewster with solos by Mr David Lewis, Sian and Bethan Thomas, Robert James, Paul Hooper, and John Hooper. Another enjoyable feast of Music for a Summer night.

Playing Wicket ...

Congratulations to Wayne Law, a year 9 pupil in Graig, who has been made the Captain of the Cricket Under 14's for Wales. As well as playing for the Dyfed Under 15's, along with Marcus Leaf of Year 10, both Wayne and Marcus have proved to be very successful and we wish them luck for the future.

Flower Power ...

Pupils of Year 9 went on an excursion to Ebbw Vale Garden Festival on Friday July 10th. They found that there was plenty to amuse them and all say that they enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Mr Wynne Owen who accompanied them said that a great day had been enjoyed by all.

Diary Dates ...

Start of Autumn Term	: Thursday 3rd September
School Closure	: Friday 23rd October
Half-Term	: Mon 26th - Fri 30th Oct
End of Term	: Friday 18th December
School closure	: Monday 4th January, 1993
Start of Spring Term	: Tuesday 5th January
School Closure	: Friday 12th February
Half-Term	: Mon 15th- Fri 19th Feb
End of Term	: Fri 2nd April
Start of Summer Term	: Monday 19th April
School Closure	: Monday 26th April
Holiday	: Monday 3rd May
Half-Term	: Mon 31st May-Fri 4th June
End of Term	: Wednesday 21st July

The Senior School Year ...

This School Year has been a particularly busy time for Year 12 and 13 students. The extra-curricular activities in which they have taken an active part have been many and varied. Last November, a group of Year 13 students was pleased to be invited to take part in Mock Interviews arranged by the Rotary Club. The students who took part found the experience very useful and a great help in the preparation for college interviews which were ahead of them. In January, three students from Year 12 competed in the Public Speaking Competition, arranged by Llanelli Rotary Club. Alison Carter, Caroline Johns and Lisa Thomas represented the school and performed very well. In an excellent competition with a very high standard, they were not placed but put up a very creditable performance. One of the Highlights of the Year was the Dyfed Road Safety Quiz. Graig School won the first round which took place at Llanelli Town Hall. They received a cash prize and the Road Safety Shield. The team composed of Philip Esney, Conrad Rees, Nicola Trow and Faith Thomas then travelled to Ammanford Police Station where they met and defeated the Dinefor winners, Cwrt Henri YFC. The final took place at Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters where the team put up a good performance. They were eventually placed third in the whole of Dyfed, again winning a cash prize, trophies and numerous small individual prizes. This competition was a fitting end to a successful year which also included numerous visits to College Open Days and Higher Education Conventions.

Premises ...

A new pipe line and three extra valves for water were installed in June of last year after many years of water leakage. The charge for the above items was sent to the County Architects who were prepared to meet the cost. The Groundsman's shed and garage have now been demolished after storm damage in 1990. Repairs have been carried out to the boundary fence and the large trees running parallel to the fence have also been cut down by Mr David Mansel Lewis (Stradey Castle). The pavement from the main gate along the school drive and part of the pavement in the bus bay have been tarmacadamed. The Craft Block, the corridor leading to the hall and the flat roof of the Gymnasium were renovated and re-roofed last June by the Architect's Department. The roof lights to the gymnasium changing rooms have also been replaced. Extensive painting has been carried out to the main block (exterior) and also to the railings and main gate. Interior decoration has been carried out in rooms D1 and D2 plus the adjoining corridor, Headteacher's corridor, staff toilets (3), boys' toilets (2), Main Entrance Hall, landing, covered way and Biology Laboratory 1 and its prep room. Due to the lack of air in the existing reprographics room and in response to the Health and Safety report carried out by Mr Alan Rees, a new room was provided in the existing corridor opposite the Physics Laboratory. Two other rooms, namely the Conference Room and Administrative Officer's room, were also installed in the same corridor. There will be a necessity for extra burglar alarms to be installed in D1 and D2, E1 and E2 and the Barclays Bank Room. The roadway into the school will need re-surfacing due to the added coach traffic using the facilities of the canteen. Future exterior work will include new shiplap boarding to the exterior of the Girls' Gym and certain areas will also need repainting.

For the 'Graig Gazette'

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