



▶ *Helping schools in some of the world's poorest countries.*



▶ *Pupils learn the problems of spending six million pounds.*



▶ *The ground-breaking system making teachers' lives easier.*



▶ *Ensuring teenagers are ready for the world of work.*

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## INTRODUCING INFORM

Welcome to Inform For Education.

Every month we will bring you up to date with news from secondary schools around Wales, celebrating the successes of teachers, heads and pupils.

Backed by education IT company Lisol, Inform For Education intends to make a positive contribution to education in Wales.

So send news from your school to:

[news@inform4education.co.uk](mailto:news@inform4education.co.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you. Until then, happy reading!

## NEW INCENTIVE GRANTS

Students starting PGCE courses next September will be offered revised grants.

Trainee maths and science teachers going to secondary schools will receive £7,200 training grants and £5,000 teaching grants.

Trainees on modern foreign languages, design and technology, ICT, English, Welsh, Music and RE courses will receive £7,200 training grants plus £2,500 teaching grants.

Trainees in art, geography, history and PE will receive £4,200 training grants.

# INform FOR EDUCATION

## GET SET TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Every school in Wales can make a world of difference on UNICEF's Day for Change.

It is a chance to have fun - and to reach out to help children around the world. It is easy to take part and everyone need only make a small donation, but every little bit done here will mean a lot to someone in the world's poorest places.

Youngsters like 12-year-old Roukaya (pictured) depend on the help of UNICEF (the United Nation's Children's Fund). She was infected with polio when she was a baby, and can only walk with crutches and leg braces. Thanks to the support of UNICEF, she now attends a day centre near her home in Niger where she gets



12-year-old Roukaya depends on the help of UNICEF

physiotherapy and school lessons.

UNICEF's 18th Day for Change takes place on Friday, February 3, 2006, but Welsh schools need to register now. Once registered, planning for the day can begin. Everything done - wearing pyjamas or fancy dress to school or simply changing a daily routine - will help.

Blackwood Comprehensive School's 980 pupils take part in the Day for Change every year.

Deputy Head Sue James said: "It shows the pupils how children of the same age are living in the very poor countries of the world."

Even small collections go a long way. Just 45p will buy polio vaccines for 10 children. Only £1.50 will provide a child with a mosquito net treated with insecticide to prevent malaria. And £200 can provide malaria treatment for 250 sick children.

Every school that registers will receive a free resource pack crammed full of curriculum-based

lessons and activities based on the countries they will be helping. The packs contain ready-made lessons, case studies, posters, photos, classroom activities and assembly ideas. Last year, £320,000 was raised for children's feeding projects in Ethiopia and Tajikistan.

Day for Change 2006 will focus on Niger, where 40 per cent of

children are malnourished and vulnerable to killer diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and measles, and Madagascar, where 100,000 children die every year before they reach their fifth birthday.

To register call 0870 606 3377, email [dayforchange@unicef.org.uk](mailto:dayforchange@unicef.org.uk) or visit [www.unicef.org.uk/dayforchange](http://www.unicef.org.uk/dayforchange)

## AROUND WALES

### VALE OF GLAMORGAN

The biggest refurbishment project ever undertaken in the Vale will see three comprehensive schools partly demolished and rebuilt. Split-site schools at Cowbridge and Penarth are to be turned into single-site schools and Llantwit Major comprehensive will see a major overhaul in the £68m scheme.

### POWYS

Budding 'Freddie' Flintoffs get the very best batting and bowling practice at the new £66,500 Builth Wells Centre of Excellence for Cricket. Schools are welcome. [Call 01982 553610](tel:01982553610).

### DENBIGHSHIRE

Teenager Mari Palmer, a Year 11 pupil from Ysgol Brynhyfryd in Ruthin, is leading a new craze in North Wales, winning a number of hip hop or street dancing competitions despite only taking up the hobby this summer.

### CARDIFF

Through the internet and a student exchange programme Whitchurch High School has linked up with children at Macassar High School in Cape Town, South Africa.

### CAERPHILLY

Pupils at Rhymney Comprehensive School have produced a DVD warning other teenagers about the dangers of spiked drinks.

### FLINT

The Football Association of Wales Trust and Disability Sport Cymru have teamed up with Connah's Quay Nomads to launch a disability football club for children up to the age of 16. [Call Joanne Edwards on 01352 702480](tel:01352702480).

# YOUR COUNCIL ... ...YOUR CALL

It does not sound like the hardest dilemma for sixth-formers - being given £6m and told to spend it. These teenagers, however, were not allowed to blow it on clothes, CDs and computer games; they had to act wisely - and buy public services.

The challenge, posed by Pembrokeshire County Council and Careers Wales West, gave the students the chance to discuss the sort of real-life decisions made every day by local authorities.

At the 'Your Council, Your Call' event, pupils were split into management teams and asked to decide how to spend a £6m council budget for the forthcoming year.

At the end of the day, they gave presentations to their fellow classmates on how they would spend the money.



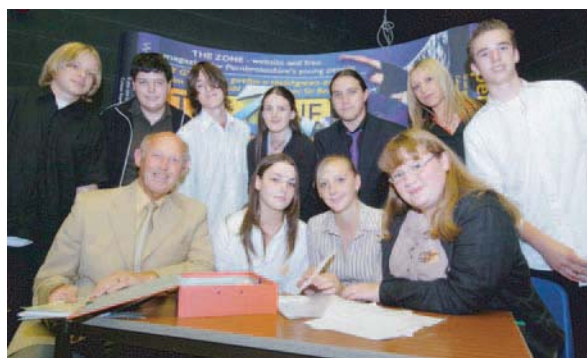
pic Gareth Davies Photography

Tasker's winning team features: Ollie Nicholls ('chief executive'), Stephen Bevan, Kimberley Davies, Kimberley George, David Hughes, Nichola Lawler, Nicola Oriel, Kirsty Stewart, and Tomos Whelton.

Councillor Islwyn Howells, Pembrokeshire's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and the Welsh Language, said the project not only developed communication and team skills, but also helped explain the role of local government.

"It tells young people about the wide range of services provided by the authority as well as highlighting career opportunities," he said.

Councillor Howells presented awards to winning teams from Greenhill School, Tenby, and Tasker Milward School, Haverfordwest.



Pictured from Greenhill are: Joe Rodham ('chief executive'), Jodie Sebo, David Jones, Sarah Davies, Louis Malia, Abigail McCrindle, Joel Rees, Camilla Rodriguez, Joseph Varallo and Lucy Cope.

# PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Groundbreaking system saves teachers' time and allows parents greater involvement in their children's schooling.

The Pathways for Schools system is the future of education. Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, is blazing a trail with the groundbreaking high-tech solution, and has found that it makes life easier for staff and parents. The system cuts down on time-consuming tasks for staff whilst allowing parents greater interaction with the school and working day of their children.

**Pathways enables the school to cut down on the inevitable bureaucracy.**

Pathways allows class work and information about pupils to be loaded onto a school intranet facility, so that parents can securely log on to see how their children are getting on. Parents can make sure that their children have arrived at school safely, check on their latest grades and homework projects and see if they have been awarded any merits



Dr Dylan Jones - Headteacher at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

From any Internet connection, teachers can upload research and homework onto the system, allowing parents greater involvement in schoolwork. They can also fill in report cards, send reminders to pupils and other members of staff and use the system to calculate a pupil's attendance record.

Bro Morgannwg's head Dr Dylan Jones said, "We have almost 800 pupils and almost 60 staff. They all make use of the system and are very pleased with the accessibility it allows and also the time saving elements which accrue.

"Pathways enables the school

to cut down on the inevitable bureaucracy. "It also allows us to face up to the challenges of the school of the future. Curriculum material, research and homework tasks can be placed online, which allows pupils to extend the schoolday and also allows greater

interaction for the parents.

"It means that lessons do not end with the closing of the school or classroom door. Both pupil and parent participation is increased and staff are rescued from mundane time consuming tasks."

The system, developed by Cardiff-based IT-experts Lisol, is now used by a number of secondary schools across Wales, and Dr Jones is delighted to have been the first to see the potential of the technology. "These are exciting times," he stated.

Go to [www.lisol.co.uk](http://www.lisol.co.uk) to find out more.

## AT THE ASSEMBLY

A new committee is hearing evidence about school funding. It is to track funds from the UK Treasury to examine how much money actually reaches schools in Wales.

It will also consider the introduction of a three-year funding regime for schools.

## THE INVENTORS OF THE FUTURE

Grant Riley, a former pupil of Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive in Beddau, has won £500 in this year's A-level Innovation Awards. Grant's back-pack amplifier for buskers also earned his school £250.

The runners-up were Owen Edwards (Llanishen High, Cardiff) who designed a sundial from granite, clear acrylic and aluminium and Mark Davies (Amman Valley

Comprehensive, Ammanford) who created a central bike lock for town centres.

Owen also won the Patent Office prize and had his design registered. The Creativity Award went to Felicity Haf (Ysgol Penweddig, Aberystwyth), who designed a haute couture dress. The awards were organised by the WJEC and the WDA

# STUDYING FOR A FUTURE IN WORK

Welsh school fights back against "school leavers unprepared for work" criticism

Cardiff High School is teaching life skills to its Year 7 and 8 pupils as part of a 'Thinking for Learning' scheme to equip them for the workplace.

Schools have recently come under fire from the Confederation of British Industry, which maintain that employability should be at the heart of education. The course teaches pupils resilience and gives them the mental tools to work through various difficult situations. It does not involve books or traditional homework.

Instead, students are given the chance to discuss thoughts and ideas and are provided with a series of problems and puzzles to solve. The life skills course is taught over 18 modules with titles including 'Listening with Understanding and Empathy', 'Taking Responsible Risks' and 'Remaining Open to Continuous Working'.

The brainchild of Deputy Headteacher Sheila Bevins and Headteacher Mike Griffiths, the course involves a number of staff,

including a Head of Thinking for Learning, Natasha Charles.

It was set up following years of research and staff professional development training, partly funded



Pictured are Cardiff High School Year 8 pupils on the Thinking for Learning course. They are using a 'traffic light' system, holding up green to show they understand the question, yellow to say they are not sure and red to indicate that they do not understand.

by the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW).

"The course is a compromise between preparing students in their early school years for school success, and focusing on the skills needed for our young people to be successful once they leave school and enter the world of work," said Sheila Bevins. "There is no such thing as a job for life any more, and to reflect this we wanted to teach our students ways in which they can flourish in an ever-changing job market."

Mike Griffiths said the school was very proud of the course. "Once this course has been piloted on the younger years, and its success has been evaluated, we will roll it out to

other years - particularly sixth formers for whom it will be especially relevant," he added.

Hayden Llewellyn, Deputy Chief Executive of the GTCW, said the initiative at Cardiff High could benefit other teachers in Wales.

"It is testament to the fact that our Continuing Professional Development

(CPD) programme for individuals is having an impact on the whole school," he said. "I would encourage those interested in improving their teaching abilities to get in touch with us as soon as possible."

For information on the CPD programme, go to GTCW's website at [www.gtcw.org.uk](http://www.gtcw.org.uk), call 029 2055 0350 or email [cpd@gtcw.org.uk](mailto:cpd@gtcw.org.uk)

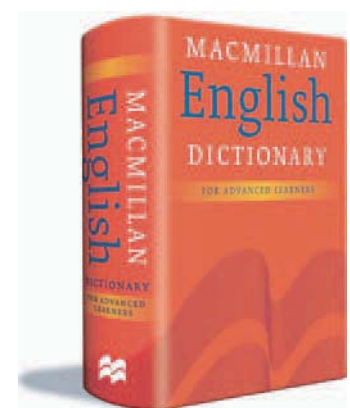
## COMPETITION TIME

Our competition prize this month has been described as "the teacher's choice" for its amazing innovation.

The best-selling Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners contains an incredible 100,000 references and is widely

regarded as the best available. Could it be what your desk is missing?

We have two copies of the book and CD ROM, worth £17.99, to give away, courtesy of Macmillan. Just email your name and address to [comps@inform4education.co.uk](mailto:comps@inform4education.co.uk) and we will enter you into our prize draw.



You can contact us on [news@inform4education.co.uk](mailto:news@inform4education.co.uk)

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