



▶ *Linking lessons about climate change to the National Curriculum.*

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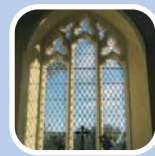
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Welcome to the second issue of *Inform For Education*, the bright new publication for schools across Wales. This month we have plenty more news from schools around the country, celebrating the successes of teachers, heads and pupils.

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

If there is something you would like to celebrate at your school, let us know at news@informededucation.co.uk and do not miss our competition on the back page!

AT THE ASSEMBLY

- Teachers and young people are being consulted on the Welsh Assembly Government's Learning Pathways report which outlines plans to ensure all pupils aged 14 to 19 balance their education with learning skills for life. Conferences are due to discuss the report in Wrexham (December 1) and Cardiff (December 7).
- Tory education spokesman William Graham has voiced concerns that the winter "be safe, be seen" road safety campaign has received little attention in Wales.
- The number of pupils in schools in Wales is falling faster than previously thought. By 2013 the Welsh Assembly Government estimates there will be 106,000 empty desks in classrooms. There are presently 73,000 surplus places.

INform FOR EDUCATION

WELSH SCHOOLS CAN SAVE THE WORLD

Sixty per cent of young people are concerned that the world will suffer the effects of climate change when they are adults.

And more than 70 per cent are already taking action at home or in school to save energy, according to a new survey.

The results were published as hundreds of 11 to 13-year-olds in more than 40 Welsh schools signed up to the Shout About Climate Change initiative.

The project, organised by Friends of the Earth, features booklets of information, key facts, lesson plans and ideas for activities which fit into the National Curriculum.

Climate change topics can be studied as parts of geography, science, maths, English and art lessons; in youth club meetings; and as part of organised themed days.

Chepstow Comprehensive School, Chepstow, has already held a series of themed assemblies and put up a wall display in the library and the geography room.

The school's head of geography, Des Thomson, said: "Climate change is an important part of our curriculum years 7 to 13.

"We ran assemblies on climate change, hoping that raising awareness on the environmental issues will inspire pupils to a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

"It's good to have a chance to discuss such an important issue."

Geography students from Fairwater High School in Cwmbran are also going green.

Pupils there joined with Cardiff-based rapper Captain Kieran for a rap workshop to help save the world.

Firstly, they played different roles at a 'world conference', including an oil company director and airline representatives. Then they worked on raps about climate change using key words such as flood, drought, starve and energy.

A number of other schools, including Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Gwynedd; Ysgol Glan Clwyd, St Asaph; Ysgol Tryfan, Bangor; Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern, Anglesey,



Picture: Ian Homer

Pupils from Fairwater High School Cwmbran rapping for the environment.

and Ysgol Bro Gwaun, Fishguard, are looking to organise climate change-themed events.

Schools are being encouraged to hold activities such as designing a poster on the theme 'What can we do about climate change?'; taking part in a climate change quiz; designing an eco-car; or running an energy audit on their school or home.

Friends of the Earth Cymru's education co-ordinator, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, said:

"It's inspiring to see what the pupils at Chepstow and Fairwater are doing. We know that young people are concerned about climate change and it isn't surprising, as they are the generation which will face the worst impacts if we don't act now to tackle the problem."

The Shout About Climate Change pack, which is available in English and Welsh, is a free resource for teachers. For more information please call **Naomi Luhde-Thompson**, Friends of the Earth Cymru, on **029 2022 9577** or **07921 039 844**, or go to

AROUND WALES

NEATH PORT TALBOT

More than 600 vulnerable 14 to 19-year-olds will be given the skills, motivation and confidence to take up education, training, volunteering and employment opportunities thanks to a new project from Neath Port Talbot Council and the Young People's Partnership. The three-year scheme, which recently received a £1.25 million European grant, aims to help teenagers with choices about their future careers.

FLINTSHIRE

Year 11 pupils from St David's High School in Saltney are working to improve the grounds around the local community centre and are creating a flower bed depicting the school logo.

CARDIFF

Amanda White, head of history at Cathays High, has travelled to Lesotho to teach pupils there about Wales. She took pen pal letters, messages and photographs from Cardiff with her.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Girls are going football crazy in Rhondda Cynon Taf thanks to a new council run scheme to encourage them into the sport. Special sessions are being held at Michael Sobell's Sports Centre, Aberdare. Call **01685 885637** or email anthony.m.avo@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

CAERPHILLY

Bedwas High School teenagers have linked up with Cardiff University students to start learning Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. They also met with workers from Panasonic for an introduction to Japanese.

CEREDIGION

Eighty pupils have met with Ceredigion council as part of the Young Peoples Partnership to give their views on local issues.

AWARD WINNING STAFF

Headteachers and senior managers from across Flintshire have received Investors In People (IIP) and Leadership awards.

The awards, from the newly recognised University of Chester, represent a key element in the school improvement agenda for

Flintshire LEA. The Advanced Certificates in the Management of School Improvement and Graduate Certificates in

School Leadership were awarded to school leaders who have successfully completed the programme over an 18-month period. It is the first time the University of Chester has awarded these certificates in its new status as a university.

Presenting the certificates were Flintshire's Director of Education, John Clutton, the county's executive member for education, Councillor Chris Bithell and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Chester, Professor Tim Wheeler.

"I congratulate everyone in attaining these qualifications," said Mr Clutton. "It is testament to the hard work and dedication they show to their profession."

The picture shows Professor



Professor Wheeler presenting a Graduate Certificate in Schools Leadership to Helen Critch of Flint High School with fellow award winners Kathy Brewster, Bryn Davies, Ian Evans, Michelle Ford, Julie Green, Paul Williams, and Don Platten, and Elwyn Davies.

Wheeler presenting a Graduate Certificate in Schools Leadership to Helen Critch of Flint High School.

Looking on are Ms Critch's fellow award winners Kathy Brewster, John Summers High School; Bryn Davies, John Summers High School; Ian Evans, Holywell High School; Michelle Ford, St David's High School; Julie Green, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High and Paul Williams, Elfed High School; and Don Platten, IIP Co-ordinator, Flintshire County Council, and Elwyn Davies, Head of Schools Improvement Unit, Flintshire County Council.

Tony Combes, of Connahs Quay High School, also received an award.

CHARITY GIVES PUPILS HELPING HAND

A project to help children in the early stages of secondary school could be rolled out across Wales.

Under the plan NCH Cymru workers meet with pupils to discuss practicalities such as timetables, school transport and homework, as well as issues such as bullying.

Glan yr Afon and Llanrumney High School in Cardiff and Aberdare Boys and

Girls Schools are already taking part.

Aberdare Girls head Jane Rosser said the scheme helps pupils develop confidence and self-esteem.

Headteacher of Aberdare Boys School, Ian Machin, said it developed links between local families, individual pupils and staff.

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR ENGINEERING

Budding engineers across Wales have taken up a challenge to design buildings capable of withstanding an earthquake. Over 300 14-year-olds joined the Engineering Team Challenge, which hopes to encourage pupils to consider careers in engineering.

"The students had to build models of three-storey buildings which were then subjected to an earthquake simulator," explained design and technology teacher Larry Norling, of Cowbridge Comprehensive School, in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Mr Norling took 13 Year 9 pupils to the University of Glamorgan-hosted section of the challenge. Two pupils, Joel Southgate and Laura Mallows, won awards.

Eight pupils - Charlotte Emmanuelle, Bethany Bullock (a prize-winner), Rhoswen Morgan, Callum Barrett, Charlotte Stanford, Joshua Coles, Hannah Morgan and Robert Lewis - went from Porth County Community School, in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Design technology teacher Deborah Llewellyn said:

"The event provided a valued addition to the pupils' education providing extra access to key skills - communication, application of numbers, working with others, improving own learning and performance and problem solving.

"Their eyes were opened to the need for engineering in our everyday lives."

Jeremy Evans, of Ysgol Gyfun Pantycelyn, Llandoverly, took a dozen pupils to the event.

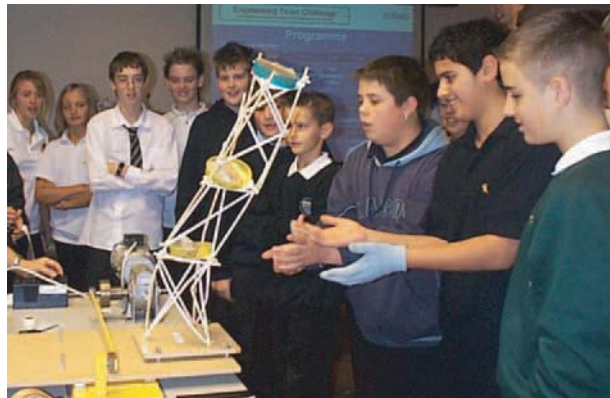
"It allowed the pupils to work in groups to solve problems with all of them having an input no matter what their strength - ideas, practical skills or

creative skills," he stated.

"They also worked with pupils from other schools and made new friends."

Pupils Wynne Jones and Stephen Hill won prizes, he added.

The event was held on different days in the University of Glamorgan, Trinity College, Carmarthen, and Swansea University.



Welsh secondary pupils take on an engineering challenge

Atkins, a provider of technologically based consultancy and support services, set the challenge, entitled 'Earthquake Engineering'. In addition to constructing the model from dowels, straws, plastic joints and paper, pupils were asked technical questions, with prizes and certificates being presented to all winners

Wales Education Minister Jane Davidson, who visited the challenge, said Wales had a shortage of engineers.

"To fill these gaps we must encourage young people to see engineering as an option that is both rewarding and necessary," she said.

Schools attending the University of Glamorgan were Bedwas Comprehensive School, Newbridge Comprehensive School, Whitchurch High School, Llanishen High School, Pen-y-Dre Comprehensive School, West

Monmouth School, Bryn Hafren

Comprehensive School, Bryntirion Comprehensive School, Bishop of Llandaff High School, Bettws High School, Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School, Porth County Community School, and Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The following schools attended the

Trinity College leg: Ysgol Dyffryn Aman, Ysgol Dyffryn Taf, Ysgol Gyfun Pantycelyn, Ysgol Tre-gib, Ysgol y Preseli.

The Swansea University leg was attended by: Cefn Saeson Comprehensive, Cwmtawe Comprehensive, Llangatwg Comprehensive, Bishop Gore Comprehensive and Olchfa School.

* Thanks to Porth County Community School and Cowbridge Comprehensive School for our photographs

HELP FOR GOVERNORS

School governors are to work to a new strategy developed by Cardiff County Council.

The city has introduced an action plan to help improve the efficiency of school governing bodies.

It aims to ensure governors carry out a self-review at least every three years.

Hugh Knight, Chief Schools Officer, said the plan would help governors have a greater impact on raising the standards of pupils' achievement.

HISTORIC WAY TO LOOK TO FUTURE

Prince Charles is calling for secondary schools across Wales to help celebrate the history and culture of the nation.

The prince has revealed his support for the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative (WHSI), a competition to encourage youngsters to explore their area's heritage.

He said he was delighted to hear about this "vitaly important" initiative to link schools, families, communities, local organisations and industries.

"Heritage is not just a relic of the past," he said. "It evolves and involves the continuation of activities of people at their place of education, employment and workshop; in the fields of arts, entertainment and sport, and in the pursuit of their hobbies.

"An awareness of heritage can create an awareness of community and, for young people looking to the future, what could be more appropriate than an understanding of their past?" WHSI is inviting entries for its 15th anniversary competition now. The closing date is January 31, 2006.

Schools have to submit a project based on themes of people, traditions,

the history of science and technology or religion or sporting heritage.

Pupils need to research, collect materials, and analyse and evaluate their findings.

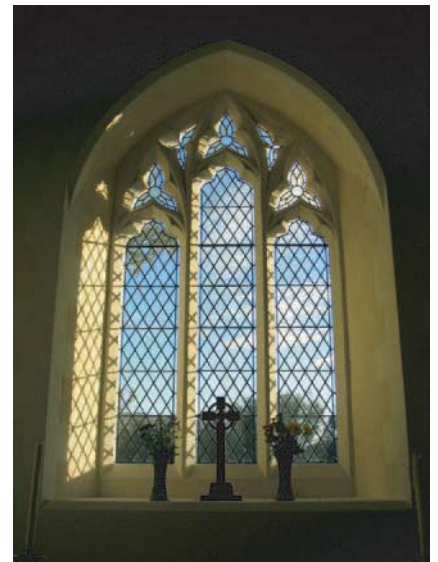
A number of prizes up to the value of £1,500 are available to secondary schools.

Last year themes spanned Welsh history from medieval times to the turmoil of the Second World War.

At Ysgol Botwnnog, Pwllheli, 400 children took part in a project on the Llyn Peninsula. Many worked with artist in residence Catrin Roberts.

"We used a poem by Meirion MacIntyre Huws to start off and looked at the images in it," explained head of Welsh Eswyllt Maelor. "The school did a lot of work and everyone took part." And Maes-y-Dderwen Comprehensive produced a video on the history of Ystradgynlais. "The school's history club looked at the changes in the area between the 1960s and now," said head of history Jill Lord. "They also made a map to show how the streets had changed."

Other winners last year included



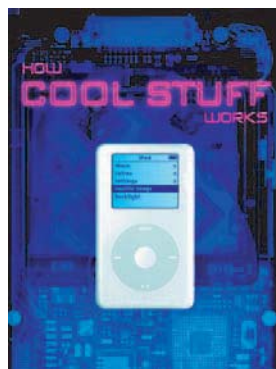
RC School, Pontypridd, (the Rebecca Riots); Alun School, Mold, (VE Day); Abersychan Comprehensive (Blaenavon Heritage Site); Bedwellty Comprehensive, Caerphilly (school history); Y Pant Comprehensive, Talbot Green (19th Century Merthyr) and Carmarthen Christian School (medieval Wales).

* For more information email info@whsi.org.uk

COMPETITION TIME

Our competition prize this month has been described as a visual journey into how, when and why things were invented.

How Cool Stuff Works takes a fascinating trip through the modern world, answering burning questions such as 'What is going on inside an iPod?' and 'How does a jellyfish glow?'



The book contains colourful images and jaw-dropping facts about the gadgets of today and the technology of tomorrow.

We have two copies of the book, worth £19.99, to give away, courtesy of DK Books. Just email your name and address to comps@inform4education.co.uk and we will enter you into our prize draw.

* Last month's winners were: Miss S Hetenyi, of Fitzalan High School, Cardiff, and Gareth Cowell, of Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen, Caernarfon. They both receive a copy of the Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners.

You can contact us on news@inform4education.co.uk

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