



Adlais **Elfed** Echo

Your voice, heard!



Third edition

Written by the students, for the students.

Winter 2013

Students sample **German culture**



Students at the 'Deutsches Eck' in Koblenz, where the River Rhine meets the Moselle River.

STUDENTS in Years 9, 10 and 11 travelled to Germany for a week as part of their German studies.

The students were accompanied by Head of Modern Languages, Mr Woodman, French and German teacher, Mrs Graham, along with Mrs Sullivan and Mr and Mrs Riddler. The group met at Elfed before beginning the

gruelling fifteen hour journey to Boppard, a small town in western Germany. The students and their teachers took part in a variety of different activities throughout the week. On the Tuesday, they travelled to Rudesheim am Rhein, where they had a guided tour around Siegfried's Mechanical Music

Museum, followed by a shopping trip around the town and then bowling in Koblenz in the evening.

On the Wednesday, the students made their way to the city of Frankfurt where they spent the day in Hanns-Seidel Gymnasium, one of Elfed's partner schools. The majority of students took part in lessons throughout the day with some of the German pupils, whilst the others took part in either baking or arts and crafts sessions. The group then spent an hour in the City-Galerie Shopping Centre in Aschaffenburg.

As the week drew to an end, the students and teachers took to Phantasialand, one of the largest theme parks in Germany.

The trip is one that provided the students with a plethora of opportunities to see and experience Germany. Kerina Perhat, a Year 10 student who has never visited Germany before, said: "It was an amazing experience.

"I really improved my German speaking skills and I would love to go again."

The week was an experience that has provided the students with a fabulous opportunity to develop their language skills and created fond memories that will stay with them for years to come.

By Georgia Cash

Students still helping after 22 years



Year 7 students gather the shoe boxes for collection.

ELFED High School has compiled shoe-boxes for Operation Christmas Child for the 22nd year running.

Elfed High School, Buckley, has risen to the challenge of making another child's Christmas special this year. Students across the school have searched shops to send presents to underprivileged children abroad who would otherwise not celebrate quite as joyful a Christmas.

Elfed students have supported Operation Christmas Child since it first began in 1991 and appreciate the opportunity to reach out to children who are much less fortunate than themselves. A total of seventy boxes have been collected this year.

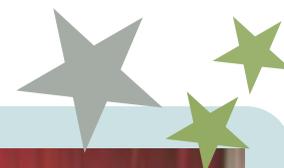
Mrs Supersad, a teacher of French who has liaised with Operation Christmas Child to collect and send the shoe-boxes, is overjoyed with the amount of boxes that have been sent in this year: "I'm absolutely amazed at the amount of shoe-boxes that have come in this year because everything is just so expensive.

"These shoe-box gifts will be enthusiastically received by the children. I'm extremely proud of the students and also the staff who have encouraged the children to help."

Inside this issue...



Elfed Youth Theatre deliver top performance



STUDENTS performed two excellent drama productions, Behind Closed Doors and The Story of Buckley, for an intrigued audience.

The Story of Buckley was a mixture of different fairy tales. Those included were Robin Hood and elements Hansel and Gretel. The old man that was telling the story was played by Mr Kelleher. He told his grandchildren about what Buckley was like when he was younger and all the adventures he got up to. It contained humour, adventure and a variety of time periods. It was an exquisite play directed by ex Sixth Formers Rhianwen Pullen and Abbey Willoughby. It was written by the students and performed to a professional standard by all students involved.

Behind Closed Doors was a story about two school children conducting a survey about how much Flintshire had changed over the years. It was written and directed by Elfed's drama tutor, Laura Heap, who used the students' ideas to create the plot. It was performed by Elfed Youth Theatre.

Instead of just answering the questions simply, the characters answering the questions responded through telling stories. The children conducting the survey found out about all the different stories of the neighbours who

lived on the street.

It was a fantastic performance by all students who showed that behind every door there is a story worth telling.

Elfed Youth Theatre will be performing a short play in the Mid-Winter Concert in December. Make sure you do not miss it!



The cast of Behind Closed Doors.

By Holly Maguire



Year 7 at Elfed High School



Year 7 raised money for Children in Need during their first term at Elfed.

EVERYBODY'S first day at high school is a challenge, but once you get used to it, it is lots of fun.

There are a lot of things to keep you occupied at Elfed like clubs, playing on the yard, relaxing in the dining hall and checking out the library. If you get lost (we have all been lost before), do not fear; just ask a nearby student or teacher and they will help you.

We really enjoy Elfed. The teachers are truly kind and helpful. If the future Year 7s are feeling nervous, don't be! You don't get too much homework and what you do get is fun. You will get planners at the start of the year that will remind you of homework, clubs and the subjects that you will be doing next. There are lots of fun lessons to do; our favourite lessons are Technology, Art, Welsh, Science and Music. We have already used Bunsen Burners in Science and cooked several foods in Food Technology.

We all enjoy the clubs. There is such a wide variety of them. Take your time to decide which clubs you want to go to – try some out, then choose your favourite one.

Elfed is a really caring school. The teachers are really kind and funny. You can ask them about anything and they will understand.

Vivo Miles is the reward system at Elfed. You are given Vivos if you have made a brilliant contribution, behaved well or completed really good homework. When you get some Vivos, you can buy things from the Vivo shop. The people who have the most Vivos in the year group go on a special school trip at the end of every month!

No one should be nervous because when you get here, you will enjoy it.

Overall, Elfed is an amazing school full of wonderful people and things. Do not be so scared; sit back and relax... once you've done your homework!

By Luke Jones, Poppy Millward and Chloe Round

Arts Clubs at Elfed

- Monday : Swing Band
- Tuesday : Choir
- Wednesday : String / Drama Club
Elfed Youth Theatre 3.40-4.40pm
- Thursday : Play an Instrument Day
- Friday : Karaoke Club

come along and get involved!

vivo.

How to log on to your Vivo account to check your rewards.

Type in your username. This is your first and second name with a full stop in the middle. For example: john.smith

Type in the domain name which is Elfed.

Type in your password (this should have been created by you!)

Click log in and check out how many Vivos you've earned recently!

If you have any problems with logging on, go and see Miss Messum!



The Adlais Elfed Echo caught up with Simon Rhodes from Fifteen Design to find out how his team created Elfed's fabulous new website.

Kerina: *What do you think the main differences between the old and the new website are?*

Simon: We wanted to create a website that looked completely different and make your website look a lot fresher, a lot more modern, a lot more colourful and we wanted to make sure that we could get parents, students and teachers to access the information a lot quicker. So what we did is, put a lot of big buttons and a nice big scrolling banner on there with lots of pictures that rotate.

Kerina: *Did you do this purely by yourself or did you have other people helping you?*

Simon: Unfortunately, I'd like to take the credit for it but my job is the account manager of Fifteen Design. I speak to the client, in this case Mrs Jones, and I take a brief from them. They tell me what they'd like the website to do, what they want to achieve in it. I take that information back to one of our designers and she put together some design ideas to show the client. Our web development team build the website and put all of the pictures and everything in there. I then come back to train the client and show them how to upload their own content.

Kerina: *Are there any particular difficulties you know of or came across while you made the website?*

Simon: It was a really, really well organised job on the behalf of Mrs Jones because she was quite happy to work really hard on getting all of the content together. In terms of the design, she listened to what we suggested and took our recommendations, as professionals, of how the website should look. We work with a lot of schools so we understand what the website needs to be able to do. On the whole, the job went really, really smoothly.

Elfed gets a new Website

Kerina: *Do you think it's easier, now, to navigate around the website?*

Simon: Massively so. We've managed to break the sections down with what's called a 'mega menu' which is a drop-down menu that shows a lot more of the information rather than having to link pages to pages to pages. The old website would perhaps have five or six different clicks before you get to the information you want; now what we've tried to do is lay that all on the home page and let people navigate their way through the site a lot better.

Kerina: *In total, how long did it take to design and create the website?*

Simon: In total, from the initial consultation through to the design, I would say, it has taken us about six weeks to do everything which, from our point of view, we usually say between eight and twelve weeks to design a website and to build it but Mrs Jones wanted to get the website up and running for Open Evening so we were able to run it through quite quickly.

Kerina: *Do you think the new website will improve links with parents, governors and the general community?*

Simon: That's the idea, that you can drive more 'traffic' to the site and allow people to learn more about what you've got happening at Elfed. It also gives people the opportunity to use the site to access things like the letters that are produced and the newspaper you're working on which means that it will increase the number of people who are visiting the site on the whole.

Diolch yn fawr. Thank you to Simon Rhodes and the Fifteen Design team for our fabulous new school website. Check it out at:

www.elfedhs.co.uk



Year 11 enter world of work

By Holly Maguire



Year 11 spent a week working in their chosen job sector.

YEAR 11 students explored the world of work for a week to see what their futures hold.

Work Experience is a big part of Year 11. It shows the students just how different it is from school. Each student chooses a placement that they think they may want to pursue as their career.

For one week, the Year 11 students travelled to their placement and explored what it is like to work there. They chose from a variety of placements such as Spavens, PCM Motors and Lloyd's Bank. They used a range of skills such as ICT and communication as well as learning new skills which were appropriate to their work placement.

One student, Beth Morgan, went to St. Joseph's Primary School. She learned about how to work with young people and was encouraged to be proactive whilst she was there. She found the experience interesting: "Although it made me realise I don't want to be a teacher, I really enjoyed my work placement.

"It was interesting to be out on duty on the playground and it was good to help the children with their work. I was pleased with my report and the compliments they gave me at the end of the week."

Students thoroughly enjoyed their week and some learned that that type of career is not for them. It is a great idea as it helps them to decide what their next step will be when they leave Year 11. It is also a good opportunity for them to gain new skills and a perspective of the work place.

Year 10 visit Oxford University

SELECTED Year 10 students from Elfed High School travelled to Oxford as part of the More Able and Talented scheme.

Whilst there, they had tours around some of Oxford University's colleges, attended lectures and spoke to several of the university's professors and students.

The students met at Mold Alun High School at 6.00am where they began the four hour journey to Oxford. After arriving at the first college, St Peter's, the students listened to a presentation about what courses were available at Oxford and how the education system works.

Next, the students took part in a Question and Answer session with some of Oxford's current students, followed by a tour around St. Peter's college. The pupils attended two lectures about Linguistics and Computer Science at Exeter College.

The day was enjoyed by all who attended. One student said: "The trip was very interesting.

"It has made me want to strive to achieve more".

The students were accompanied by Mr S. Kelleher, one of Elfed High School's Chemistry teachers, and several other More Able and Talented students and their teachers from around Flintshire.

By Olivia Arkley

Report writing workshops at Elfed High School

More able and talented reporters from primary schools have taken up our challenge to write for the Adlais Elfed Echo.

Welcome to our team - Croeso!

The pupils received training from Miss A. Pennington on how to structure and write a news report before returning to their schools to gather information. With the support of Miss Pennington and the Adlais Elfed Echo staff, the primary school pupils then put pen to paper and have shared events in their schools with our readers.

The young reporters will continue to contribute to every issue of the Adlais Elfed Echo for the rest of the school year.

The pupils have enjoyed the new experience of writing for a newspaper:

"Learning to write reports has been so much fun.

"I can't wait to see our news report in the Adlais Elfed Echo."

Year 6 student, Mountain Lane.

Miss Pennington is impressed with the work that the young pupils have produced: "I am so pleased with these pupils.

"They quickly grasped what report writing is all about and have shown a flare for this style of writing. They work well as a team and I look forward to working with them for the rest of this year. What an outstanding result!"



Ysgol Mynydd Isa

We will remember them

ON NOVEMBER 11th, Ysgol Mynydd Isa got together to remember the people who fought for our country during World War I and World War II.

The service started off with the head teacher, Mr Collett, introducing Class 5/6T and the veterans from the Wirral and Chester branch. Many of the other children participated and performed well. During the Remembrance Service, the pupils watched a short clip to help them remember those brave soldiers that fought to secure the future and the freedom of the country which is taken for granted today.

After the slideshow, the pupils all joined in to sing 'Eternal Father Strong to Save' and 'Last Night I Had The Strangest Dream'. Then the pupils all stood up and started a two minute silence by listening to the Last Post, played by Mr Taylor on the cornet. The two minutes ended with Mr Taylor playing the Reveille. To finish the Remembrance Service, the pupils sang the British and Welsh national anthems.

After the service, the pupils from 5/6T joined the veterans to talk and have some refreshments. Lydia Jones, pupil of Class 5/6W who watched the service that day said: "I thought the Remembrance Service was very touching and I am very grateful that the veterans could come to remember with us."

By Ffion Jones, Tom Sturt and Tiegan Halpenny.



Ysgol Mynydd Isa Remembrance Service.



Drury

Three cheers for Liverpool

CLASS 6 had a fantastic trip to Liverpool to study Judaism and Christianity through comparing places of worship.

Class 6, along with Mr Biltcliffe, Miss Jones, Mrs Ashley, Mrs Lomarno and Mrs Hughes, went to visit three places of worship in Liverpool, as they were comparing different places of worships in R.E. Mr Biltcliffe arranged the trip as he teaches R.E. in school.

First the pupils visited a synagogue in Liverpool. It was very colourful with patterns over the windows which looked fabulous. It had very decorative walls and floors which reminded everyone of their religion. The synagogue took around five years to build and many people gave donations to build it. Class 6 had a great time learning there.

Secondly, the group visited The Anglican Cathedral which is higher than the sky and looks gorgeous inside. Without the tour-guide the pupils would have got lost. The organ there has 10,500 pipes and it takes a whole week to tune them. In the building there is a special arch called the Whispering Arch. The ends are far away from each other but when you whisper in one side you can hear it in the other side.

The last place the pupils visited was the Catholic cathedral which is very round and looks like a gorgeous crown. Class 6 went into a room in the cathedral where they prayed to Mary. When they left that room they sat on some benches to sketch. It was beautiful. After sketching the pupils looked at some ornaments and pictures. There is a lot of gold in the Catholic cathedral.

Mr Biltcliffe, Headteacher, said: "What I was very pleased about was when we got back to school there was a telephone call from Liverpool cathedral to say what an outstanding school we were.

"That summed it up for me because I was pleased to see how well everyone was listening and behaving. We had a fantastic experience."

By Sophie Wynn, Paris Jones, Kirsty Wilson and Stacey Clapperton.



Super Southdown go on pilgrimage to Liverpool

LOCAL Year 5 pupils of a Buckley school went to Liverpool to visit places of worship.

Southdown Primary School pupils got picked up by a coach at 9 o'clock with their teachers Mrs Chisholm, Mr Smith, Mrs Bibby and local Reverend Batchelor and made their way to Liverpool. On their trip, they went to the Anglican Cathedral and the Al Rhama Mosque.

When the children entered the cathedral they were split into four groups.

One of the groups was led to the middle of the cathedral to learn about the cathedral's architect, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. They learned that he won a competition when he was twenty-three and got the chance to design the cathedral.

Another group went to examine the font, they also got to pretend they were baptising a baby. The pupils learned that in 1942 the windows exploded because of a bomb hitting it, which is why they were replaced.

Afterwards, Year 5 jumped back onto the coach and drove to the Al Rhama Mosque. When they got there, they were asked to take off their shoes to show respect for the mosque and they sat down in a very big room.

Year 5 really enjoyed their trip to the mosque and cathedral. Yannick Merrilees-Kelly said: "I thought that cathedral was interesting because I learned lots.

"I especially enjoyed using the Whisper Tubes."

Megan Batchelor, who preferred seeing the mosque, said: "I learned lots and found watching the praying in the mosque most enjoyable."

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed the trip and would love to go again.

By Jay Butler, Yanik Merrilees-Kelly, Abbie Turner, Megan Batchelor, Brooke Cummins, Lucy Walker-Turner, Amy Lamb, Chloe Miller and Luke Rowe.



Pupils visited the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool.



"Cluck, cluck, cluck" said the Little Red Hen

YEAR 3's wonderful harvest service wowed the crowd with a performance of *The Little Red Hen* and songs by the choir.

Mountain Lane Year 3 pupils performed a show stopping service about how fortunate we are in Britain today. All pupils attended and joined in with the celebrations and songs and everyone enjoyed themselves.

The harvest festival was a great success. Mrs Wilkie, who conducted the choir, said: "The choir performed very well, all the practice paid off and the soloists did themselves proud.

"I really enjoyed the Year 3 "Bread song", it was extremely entertaining."

The choir performed many songs including 'Beautiful World', 'Harvest of love' and a charity appeal song. The rest of the school also contributed in the song 'Lord of the Harvest'.

In addition to the songs, five Year 3 pupils performed a brilliant short play, "The Little Red Hen." Hannah Jones, who played the Little Red Hen, said: "I quite enjoyed my part as the Little Red Hen, it was really fun.

"The other three characters and narrator were good too.

I enjoyed practising my part, and I got louder and louder each time."

After the play, two pupils shared a fantastic model of bread created by Mrs Marsden and Alex Marsden (Year 6 pupil). Year 3 also shared a bread song which included jokes and instructions on how to make bread.

This service will be one that will be remembered for a long time.

By Mia Cannon, Grace Tasker, Robert Shone and Alfie Jones.



Year 3 at Mountain Lane with their harvest bread.



School sneaks to finals



The Westwood athletics team.

A PRIMARY school took a place in the finals after entering an Indoor Athletics competition.

Westwood C.P. competed in an Athletics Tournament in Deeside College. Some of the pupils from Years 5 and 6 went, along with the headmaster, Mr Nicholson, Mrs Donaghy and Mrs Whitehead, and competed with five other schools and took part in many events such as Sit and Throw, Vertical Jump, Obstacle Race, Relay and many more.

After much sweat and few nervous tears, the school's athletics team reached the end and came out successful in second place. Even more surprising is that they got into the finals.

Ruben Jones, a Year 6 athlete stated: "I felt surprised that we actually came second! It was very interesting when they were telling us the results."

Also Abigail Hart, another Year 6 athlete, said: "I was quite happy but at the same time I just couldn't believe that we came second out of five other schools.

"I am so proud to be a part of Westwood C.P!"

By Charlotte Shone, Evonne Blackwell and Mairielle Mattar.





5 Minutes With...

Kairin Mizka!



Name: Kairin Mori (Mizka)

Occupation: DJ/Producer/Performer/model/Japanese fashion and culture representative/Illustrator/fashion designer

Projects worked on:

Monomania: Europe and North America Tour

Two currently unreleased documentary films

Hyper Japan: Marble Collection fashion expert curator.

IF fashion show and many more!

The Adlais Elfed Echo caught up with Illustrator, Designer, Musician and Model, Kairin Mizka to find out how she's got so far in her exciting career.

Q: How old were you when you realised this was the career for you?

A: I've always been creative but I had no idea that I'd become an illustrator, musician or fashion designer. Although when I left higher education and started a nine to five job I felt like it just wasn't right for me. It was around that time that I began exploring my options.

Q: Where did you study or train for your career?

A: I've studied many courses in Art, in several different institutes but I didn't obtain any degrees or qualifications. Despite trying everything, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I ended up leaving university and began self-directed study. I've learned more through my own curiosity than in all the years of formal education I received. The key to success is always learning things because you want to, not because you are told to.

Q: What was it that encouraged you to enter this career path?

A: In university, there was so much pressure to be 'serious' about my career, so what was once fun became a strain. However, a friend from my Uni class introduced me to "chiptune," using old consoles like gameboys to create music. It sounded like a fun break from my work. I began creating and posting my music online and a few months later, I was approached by a Japanese record label and invited to perform at Superbyte 8-bit Arts Festival. I didn't know what I was doing! So I got a few friends in ridiculous costumes to dance and enlisted visual artist Invaderbacca, from New York City, to help me create some animated visuals to project while I

performed. I was headhunted after the show and booked for my first large festivals in the USA and Europe. The rest is history.

Q: Were there any drawbacks when you began your career? If so, how did you overcome these obstacles?

A: There was a point where it was difficult to find work. With limited funds, I couldn't afford to make CDs or set up a shop. I had to think outside the box and draw upon every skill I'd learned so far. Using my jewellery making and digital design skills, I produced laser cut keyrings including a free download code for my music, coined the 'KeyP' (a portmanteau of Keyring and EP). My idea took off and they totally sold out. The profit enabled me to continue expanding. Sometimes, innovations come from limitations. And, by combining all my strengths and skills, I'd ended up creating a unique way for me to earn a living.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: There are too many to single out just one! Being my own boss is definitely a highlight, managing my own schedule means I'm able to work on my projects whenever suits me. Seeing the world for free is a bonus too! Having the creative freedom to get up on stage and just have fun and do what you want. Most of all, I love that every day is different since I'm running so many simultaneous projects between Illustration, fashion and music. It's difficult to even say what my job is actually... my job is just having fun!

Q: What would you say is your greatest accomplishment?

A: Seeing myself on billboard posters in London Underground advertising the J-culture event "Hyper Japan" in London. Then a few months later, when

meeting one of my musical inspirations at a show, he said: "I've been seeing your face everywhere in London." While it isn't really an accomplishment, it's more a humbling milestone which made me realise the sheer scale of it all. As well as having people recognise me on the tube and chase me down for photos, of course.

Q: What advice would you give to others wanting to enter this career?

A: There is no right or wrong way of doing things despite what others may tell you. Don't be afraid of challenges or failure because you will almost certainly be challenged and fail. But don't worry; that's ok. You'll just learn how to succeed next time. Also, finally, "Absorb what is useful, discard what is not, add what is uniquely your own." - Bruce Lee

Q: What inspires you?

A: As a musician, late 80's and early 90's rave culture inspires me. An artist and designer, I'd say cute but dark themes inspire my visuals. I'm highly interested in Japanese culture, street fashion and design. My inspiration can come from everywhere, even fleeting conversations. One such influential conversation occurred during my time as a guest at Hyper Japan in London. I was lucky enough to interview Mr Junya Yamada, a highly renowned Creative Director from Japan, and we spoke about his current show 'Marble Collection' in which he combined performance art, visuals, fashion, and music to create what can only be described as an 'experience' rather than just a show. That conversation was the catalyst which inspired me to bring all my creative skills together to make one experience also.

Diolch yn fawr. Thank you to Kairin Mizka for sharing your story with the Adlais Elfed Echo.



Ariana Grande – Yours Truly



When Ariana Grande released Put Your Hearts Up last summer, we had no idea that it would be so long before the accompanying album came out. Little did we know that Grande was underway with writing a brand new album when she released The Way in March this year. It was a huge success around the world and made Grande a household name. She found a firm place in the hearts of many teenagers but still, no album!

When asked by ClevverTV when the album was going to be released, Grande quickly responded with, "We've rewritten the whole thing." This meant that failing single Put Your Hearts Up had been scrapped and fans were left waiting for a whole new era.

Well, the wait is finally over and Grande's debut album, Yours Truly, arrived in stores in September. Before the album was released, Grande promoted it by embarking on her first headline tour, The Listening Sessions, supporting Justin Bieber on his Believe World tour. She even changed her Twitter location to 'Honeymoon Ave' which is the title of the first track on the album.

Of course, with Grande being a teenager, the album was always going to face stiff competition from artists like Miley Cyrus and Bridgit Mendler but one thing that sets Ariana apart from the others is her incredible voice. This is half the reason why this album is so sensational. She has an astonishing vocal range that establishes her as 'the new Mariah Carey.' She flaunts her 'head-voice' ability in almost every song but most notably in Almost is Never Enough (a collaboration with The Wanted's Nathan Sykes) and lead sing The Way.

The album has 13 highly anticipated tracks (with stands-outs including Better Left Unsaid and Piano) and the next single, Baby I, which is a sweet, romantic song that will almost certainly be a chart topper! After all, she is the first woman to have two debut singles in the top ten of the Billboard American Charts. This record is a sweet success!

You can buy Yours Truly on iTunes and from all stores around the UK Now. Also, grab a copy of The Mortal Instruments soundtrack which features Almost is Never Enough.

A Day to Remember – Common Courtesy



A Day to Remember (ADTR) is an American rock band from Ocala, Florida. They are mainly known for their unusual combination of "metalcore" and pop punk as a musical style.

Their new album, Common Courtesy, is classical ADTR from the skate punk riffs to the lyrical content, it incorporates both brutal heaviness and popcore in equal measures. The vocalist, Jeremy Mckinnon, has improved since their last work, his coarse verses show off his full potential whilst the slower paced songs let his voice be heard in a new light. The relatable lyrics are outstanding with thin-veiled bitterness toward their label, who almost didn't let this record out.

Common Courtesy isn't just a relentless onslaught of heavy breakdowns and choruses; it has got defined peaks of punk that proves their versatility. Perhaps it was a little too safe for ADTR as they could have pushed the boundaries instead of keeping it quite predictable; it is reminiscent of past albums but it works.

White House Down



White House Down is a spectacular film which is packed with action, explosions and lots of fight scenes. It will keep you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end.

John Cale (Channing Tatum) is a Capitol policeman who wants to work for the Secret Service. He brings his daughter along to his interview at the White House because she is a huge fan of the President (Jamie Fox). What seems like an interesting and fun day turns horribly wrong. Something you would never think possible takes place and, let's just say, John has to save the day, his daughter and the President.

The film is like no other action film, with twists and turns throughout. Just when you think you can't get any more action – BOOM – there is it! This film is one of the best films I have ever seen; Channing Tatum plays an amazing role and I highly recommend watching it.

White House Down is available to buy on DVD on January 20th 2014.

Minecraft



Minecraft is a sandbox style game made by Swedish developer Notch (now run by Jeb) and Mojang. Now that update 7.2 has come out, Minecraft is better than ever with new biomes and, as the creators say, "Less ocean, more awesome!"

The game takes place in the fictional world of Minecraftia and has three main purposes: to mine, to create items and to survive the nightly onslaught of hostile mobs. The game is based around the idea that you can make anything. From a city to a dirty hovel, as long as you have the materials, you can make whatever you want.

Another great thing is that, as long as you're on a PC, you can download literally millions of mods (modifications) and resource packs (to change the look of blocks). To enhance your experience, you can play Minecraft at about 10 fps (frames per second) on any computer but if you take the time and have the money, you could even build your own PC to run at around 100 fps (this does not "lag" as much).

This game is not classed as an "Intensive Application" and will not take up much space on your computer. Minecraft will create a file for itself in which it stores all the data needed to run the game. Installing a mod is quite easy; you just drag the mod you want into the designated file. Creating your own custom pack is a little harder but can still be done with relative ease.

This game costs £15 and is digital so you will not receive a disc. Overall, I give this game a big fat 5/5

"Heads Up" App



Heads Up is a game created by American chat-show host, Ellen Degeneres. The rules are easy. First, you have to choose a category from the 18 that are available, which include 'Act It Out,' 'Accents' or 'Impressions.' You then put the phone on your head and the other player has a minute to give you clues about what it says on the screen. You must guess

correctly in order to win. If you are right, you flip the phone forwards but if you are wrong or decide to give up, you flip the phone backwards.

The game is incredibly simple but provides hours of entertainment. It is absolutely fantastic because you can always have a good laugh when you play it. You can buy it from the Apple app store for only 69p which is a bargain! I rate this game 4/5.

Back of the Net!

The latest sports news from Elfed High School

Students venture into the great outdoors



Middle school students prepare to use their raft.

STUDENTS went to Glan Llyn to try out a range of activities to improve their skills in the great outdoors.

Students in Years 8 and 9 at Elfed High School spent three days learning and developing new skill sets through taking part in different activities. They put to use their navigating skills to take part in orienteering and developed a higher sense of ingenuity whilst building rafts. During canoeing, students learned to appreciate others and work collectively as a team.

For some, the pinnacle of the trip was taking on the high ropes course. Molly Sahin, who has never attempted a high ropes course before, said: "I hate heights and had a bit of a panic attack but felt like I achieved something and overcame a fear."

Overall, the trip was a huge success and a fantastic experience for all the students involved.

By Josh Gonzalez

Year 9 students run for Save the Children

OVER 67 runners from Year 9, and members of the Elfed Sports Council, completed the World Marathon Challenge for Save the Children.

The main aim of the event was to raise money for Save the Children. Other aims were to get Year 9 active for an afternoon and to achieve better results than the world records. In total, they raised a fantastic £500 for the charity.

The Year 9 students took turns to run laps of 200 metres. In total, they ran 210 laps to cover the marathon distance of 26.3 miles. Altogether, the students ran an impressive 175.3 miles. One of the groups even managed to beat the women's world record, completing the run in just two hours and twelve minutes.

Mr Lewis-Jones thought it was an outstanding afternoon for the year group. "It was a fantastic afternoon and all of the runners did themselves and the school proud.

"It was a great way to raise money for Save the Children along with promoting healthy living and exercise," said Mr Lewis-Jones, following the success of the event.

All Year 9 students agreed that to achieve your goals you must work together and push each other to work as hard as you can. Marcus Williams, one of the Year 9 runners, said: "I really enjoyed the team effort, with everyone working together.

"It was difficult running for so long at such a fast pace but it was worth it to help Save the Children."

So if any Year 8 students would like advice for next year's challenge, you should be the best you can be; try your hardest and give it your best effort.



Students work hard as a team to complete the marathon

By Olivia Thomason

Spring Sports 5x60 and P.E.

| | Lunchtime Activities | After School Activities |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday | Cheerleading Cricket | Netball Primary Transition club |
| Tuesday | Dodgeball Netball | Football Hockey |
| Wednesday | Basketball Street dance | Netball Rugby |
| Thursday | Handball Dodgeball | Futsal Fixtures (Home and away) |
| Friday | Badminton Tchoukball | Staff Sports |

*Subject to change

5x60 Tournaments 2014



| Date | Event |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thursday 30th January 2014 | Tchoukball Tournament |
| Wednesday 19th February 2014 | 5x60 Games |
| Wednesday 12th March 2014 | Girls Football Tournament |
| Tuesday 6th May 2014 | Orienteering Tournament |
| Thursday 15th May 2014 | Festival of Youth Sport |
| Monday 19th May 2014 | Year 9 5x60 Festival |
| Tuesday 20th May 2014 | Year 7 5x60 Festival |
| Wednesday 21st May 2014 | Year 8 5x60 Festival |
| Tuesday 10th June 2014 | Rounders Tournament |
| Wednesday 16th July 2014 | Year 10 5x60 Festival |

Students who attend clubs at lunchtimes and after school will be considered and put forward to participate in these events. For more information, see Mr Thomas.