

Prize Night 2009

On

the evening of Thursday March 25th Mountain Ash Comprehensive School welcomed parents and friends to its Distribution of Prizes 2009.

The Guest Speaker was Mr Anthony Williams—The High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan who talked about the history and the role of the position of High Sheriff.

The musical items this year were provided by Year 11 pupils which included a solo of *Handel's Dove Sei* by Holli Moulds and a lively version of Queen's *Crazy Little Thing called Love* which saw Rickey Paveltish on lead vocals, backed by Jessica Hamer, Holli Moulds and Amberley Cotter, with Eleanor Davies on drums, Bethan Jones on Guitar and Lewis Morgan on Bass. *Think of Me* from the Phantom of the Opera was performed by Jessica Hamer on lead vocals, Eleanor Davies on Drums and Bethan Jones on Bass.

After the musical items the Head Boy, Kieron McGinley and Head Girl, Charlotte Jones gave their vote of thanks.



Distribution of Prizes

Deputy Headteacher Mr Saunders was again Master of Ceremonies as each prize and its recipient was introduced.

First up to receive the Memorial Prize were Head Boy and Head Girl, Kieron McGinley and Charlotte Jones. Further awards were made for academic success, effort and attendance. Other prizes included The Performing Arts Prize for Drama which was presented to Coran Jones, and The GCSE Welsh Short Course Prize which went to Dylan Jones

After the Vote of Thanks, a rousing rendition of "Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" played by Year 11 pupil Rhys Evans on Piano brought this special night of celebration to a close



Dylan Jones receives the GCSE
Welsh Short Course Prize



Coran Jones receives the Performing Arts
Prize for Drama

Ambassadors to Auschwitz



Charlotte Jones & Stacey Morgan our ambassadors to Auschwitz (top left), pictures of Jewish adults and children who died in the camp (above left), Charlotte & Stacey leaves memorial candles on the tracks (above)

Recently 2 "A" Level RS students Charlotte Jones & Stacey Morgan, along with Science Teacher Mr White, flew out to Poland to visit the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. They were part of a program run by The Holocaust Educational Trust.

The students attended an orientation seminar held in Cardiff where they heard a very harrowing and moving account from a Holocaust survivor.

Here are some of their thoughts and recollections of the trip.

"The most striking part was probably the immense size of Auschwitz Birkenau coupled with the preserved sleeping quarters which could hold hundreds of people in what is a very small space. Before going I did not really know what to expect, when leaving I did not really know how I felt about the whole experience; Sadness? Close to tears? Yes, but also a desire to ensure that the Holocaust will never be forgotten. Forgetting the Holocaust would be an insult to the memories of all who died, fought and protected the Jews during this time."

Charlotte Jones

"I was deeply moved when I saw the artefacts found after the Holocaust which included suitcases that were brought by the prisoners, shoes and tonnes of human hair. To me the most upsetting part was seeing the children's clothes and the happy pictures of families on days out before the Holocaust. I am very grateful to the Holocaust educational trust for running this emotional but very worthwhile trip to allow people like myself witness the place where so many people were killed simply because they weren't liked".

Stacey Morgan

"I remember the first black and white photograph, three women, five children standing beside the tracks at Birkenau, two boys looking into the camera; they would probably be dead within an hour."

If I had to characterise my emotions, it would have to be a growing anger. Time prevented us from visiting every barrack block, but, the visit to the 'punishment block' [sic] truly marked, for me, the hinterland between reality and Insanity

I confess, I did not spend long in the Improvised gas chamber at Auschwitz I"



M White

After an incredibly emotional and sombre one day trip to Poland the party returned to school where they gave a very moving presentation and emotional recollections of

their visit to School Senior Management Team, Chair of Governors, Cllr Pauline Jarman, Miss Cerys Thomas, ESIS RS Advisor in R.C.T and "A" Level RS Students.

Mr H Lloyd, Headteacher, commented *"The workshop was very powerful and very moving, and will have a lasting effect on all who took part. There are lessons to be learnt for the Cynon Valley today in terms of tolerance and respect for others. Mountain Ash Comprehensive School looks forward to working with the young people of our valley in exploring ways of ensuring that these visits impact positively on life in our towns and villages"*



Miskin Crime Prevention Project

Ceirion Binding, Ian Davies and Luke Irons received a community award for their outstanding contribution to



the Miskin Youth Club Crime Prevention Project. The sixth form students volunteered after school in a range of fundraising activities and organised events to promote awareness in the community. The funds raised

were used to purchase a police car for the area.

Also in recognition of the achievement, they received the High Sheriff Prize with each student being presented with a cheque for £170

Well done boys!

A group of students from Years 12 & 13 have taken part in Peer Mediation training organised by the RCT Community Mediation Service.

The training took place in school on Tuesday mornings over a period of three months. The students are now trained mediators and will assist lower school Heads of Year in dealing with aspects of student conflict.

Outstanding Attendance Awards

Mr Griffiths from the Education Welfare Service attended school assemblies recently for years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 and awarded pupils at Mountain Ash Comprehensive with certificates and gift vouchers for 100% school attendance..

He would like to congratulate all the pupils involved who achieve this outstanding attendance award and hopes that by their example good attendance will continue by all members of the school in 2010.

Education Welfare Service

The Education Welfare Service (EWS) works in partnership with Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, its pupils, families and other supporting agencies with the principle aim of **improving school attendance**.

Part of Mr Griffiths' role is to ensure that all pupils attend school and that all pupils are given the opportunity to gain the maximum benefits from your education.

Your parents are responsible for ensuring that once you are registered at this school you must attend regularly and punctually.

So what does an Education Welfare Officer do ?

EWO's, as they are more commonly known as, work to support pupils and their families at times where there may be difficulties in attending school.

As soon as the service receives a referral from the Head of Year concerning a pupil, they will:

- Make contact with the family by letter, or more often by making a visit to the pupil's home.
- Make an assessment of the situation and establish a plan for improvement.
- Act as a "bridge" when communications between the school and a pupil's family have broken down by resolving any issues and ensuring that the pupil returns back to school.
- If thought appropriate make referrals to other agencies such as; Social Services, the Medical Officer, Eye to Eye Counselling Service.
- Advise and assist families in specific circumstances such as; allegations of bullying, school transfers and issuing licenses for young people to work or perform.

What happens when attendance does not improve?

The Law states that once registered at school all pupils **must** attend regularly and punctually. If after a period of involvement with the EWS there is no improvement in attendance then the EWO will instigate legal proceedings against parents. This takes place at Aberdare Magistrate Court and can result in fines being imposed of up to £2,500 per parent.



Year 11 pupils (Luke Miles, Luke Parker, Rhys Evans, Cameron Hughes, Carwyn Davies, Bethan Rees, and Holli Moulds) with Garod Griffiths EWO are presented with their 100% attendance prizes

Records of Achievement

Mr Phil Morgan of the Education Business Partnership returned to present Year 11 pupils with their Records of Achievement in a formal ceremony.

Nowadays, potential employers expect to see these documents presented at interview.



After an inspiring speech, Mr Morgan distributed a range of COMPACT awards before concluding with the prestigious COMPACT trophy which was presented to Rhys Evans. This prize recognises the fact that Rhys has consistently demonstrated the personal qualities which would make him ideal for employment.

Mr Huw Lloyd, headteacher along with Rhys Evans Yr 11 & Mr Phil Morgan Education Business Partnership



E3+

Dear Student,

Welcome back to school, we hope that you have had a nice Easter holiday and are ready to take part in some of these exciting activities.

This term we are launching some new after school activities (See overleaf for timetable) as a result of the feedback from you.

E3+ and 5x60 is your chance to enjoy something you wouldn't normally do, so remember to ask us or use the suggestion boxes to recommend new activities.

Please ensure that you attend at least one activity and don't forget to tell us how you get along.

Dennis Payne Gareth Turner

Adele Sankey E3+ & 5x60 team

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e3+ Programme

Extend Enrich Excite



MOUNTAIN ASH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Summer Term 2010

19th April 2010

to

9th July 2010



General Information

What is E3+? - It's the name given to all activities that take place after school including weekends and school holidays.

Who can take part in E3+? EVERYONE!! That means you!

How much do I have to pay? NOTHING – all activities are FREE!!!

Give me one good reason why I should attend E3+?

Here's a few:

- Improve or learn a new skill
- Meet new friends
- Enjoy doing something different
- Have fun
- Give your parents another hour's peace

Is transport provided?

Yes, a bus will be provided to drop you off at your regular bus stop near your home at the end of the activities.

Are there any rules in E3+?

There are some rules in place which are as follows:

E3+ Code of Conduct

At all times you will be expected to:

- Follow all instructions and procedures given to you by the session leader or member of staff.
- Wear the appropriate clothing for your choice of activity
- Show good manners and respect
- Turn up on time to all activities
- Attend regularly or you may lose your place
- Use best behaviour whilst travelling on buses home and whilst using venues.
- Ensure that your parents/guardians know where you are and that the registration form has been completed and handed in to the school.

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
Lunch time	Lunch time	Lunch time	Lunch time	Lunch time
Yr 7 Rounders - Field Boxercise - Gym	Trampolining - Gym Yr 8 Rounders - Field Tennis	Dodgeball - Girls Gym Yr 9 Rounders - Field Cricket - Bus bay	Yr 10 Rounders Field Cricket - Bus bay Tennis	Table Tennis - Gym Cricket - Bus bay Tennis
3.30pm—5.00pm	3.30pm—5.00pm	3.30pm—5.00pm	3.30pm—5.00pm	3.30pm—5.00pm
Football Yr 7/8 - Astro turf. Martial Arts - Gym Funky Textiles	Swimming - ASP Fun Club School Council Snooker - ASP Archery - LH Driving Skills YR 12/13 Rounders Girls All years Trampolining - Gym	Table tennis - Gym Dance (Chanta) - LH Ready steady cook Mixing & Recording Workshops At School Studio Crime Busters Science Club Work Out At The VIBE Gym Can You Handle It YR 10/11 Girls Softball Boys Learn To Ski At Cardiff Ski Centre	Swimming - ASP Snooker - ASP Photography Workshops - I.T. Suite Fun Club Trampolining - Gym Netball - LH Tag Rugby Girls All Welcome Work Out At The Vibe Gym Can You Handle It YR 10/11 Boys	Multi- activities ASC Full use of Abercynon Leisure Centre swimming multi-gym badminton squash table tennis football
FREE BUS HOME	FREE BUS HOME	FREE BUS HOME	FREE BUS HOME	FREE BUS HOME