

ASK THE HEAD PREFECTS!

WHAT IS THE STUDENT VOICE?

WHAT DOES THE LEARNING TEAM DO?

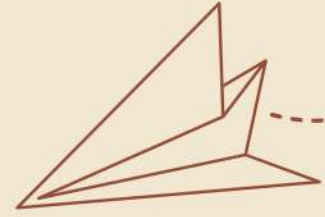
ENVIRONMENT TEAM: A NEW VISION

UNIFORM RECYCLING SYSTEM

MRS EDWARDS' TOP TIPS FOR WRITING

ASK THE HEAD PREFECTS!

By Oliver Rothnie (Head Prefect)



What do the Head Prefects do?

As Head Prefects, we try to represent Eirias in the best way we can. As part of the Senior Team (a group of ten Sixth Form students) we check that prefects are doing their duties, arrange the Leavers' Ball for the Year 13 students, and reach out to the rest of the school. For example, we arranged a session for Year 7 students where they played board games in the Common Room at break-time. We also did an assembly for Year 12 students about organisation, and Erin, Head Prefect, and I spoke in the hall at the most recent Open Evening.

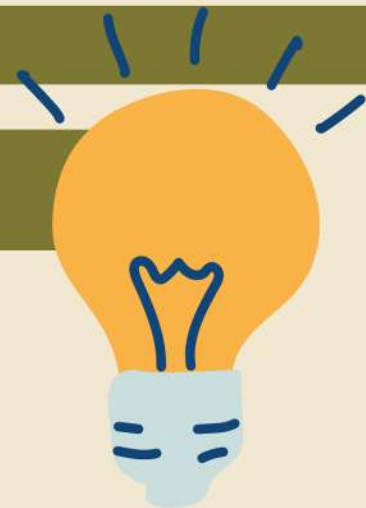
How do I manage my revision?

Revision is a personal thing; it depends on how you learn best. A timetable often helps but slight deviation from it may cause the whole schedule to fall apart: it is about being realistic about the length of revision that you think is useful and achievable. The element of revision that has probably served me best in my exam preparation is doing past paper questions. The most important thing to bear in mind when doing this is not to be demotivated by the inevitable early low scores: although you have done the topics in class, you are still learning!



WHAT IS STUDENT VOICE?

By Thomas Dickson and Annie Gibson
(Co-Heads of Student Voice)



What is Student Voice and what does it do?

Student Voice is responsible for helping everyone to get the best possible experience during their time at Ysgol Eirias. We try to focus on different areas of Ysgol Eirias, ranging from working to improve the quality of the canteen, to trying to make homework more manageable for students. Our focuses are entirely rooted in what the students want so we can truly work to help with improving the school. To allow us to do this, we have links with the form and year representatives, meaning your ideas can be acted on.

We also give advice to the school when they are making changes, an example of this was the changes to the PE uniform, where we gave feedback to make it more comfortable and convenient for all pupils. This year we are continuing to work on more projects, such as further improving homework and setting up a uniform donation area to help reduce how much people have to spend on school uniform.

(All Student Voice Leaders' email addresses can be found on the last page)



WHAT IS STUDENT VOICE?



How does Student Voice work and how can I get involved?

The easiest way to get involved in Student Voice is through one of the teams. There are five teams that together cover what we think are the most important elements of school life: Learning, Environment, Wellbeing, Inclusivity and Publicity. These teams are easy to join, just email me or Thomas (co-leads of the Student Voice) and we'll add you to the Teams channel so you can find out when each team is meeting, and what they are working on at the moment! Each team meets about once every other week (depending on the team) which means we're constantly looking at issues being raised in the school to keep up to date and find as many solutions as possible.

When you join a team, it's important to know that you don't have to attend every meeting, you can join as many of them as you would like – anyone is welcome, as long as you get involved!

Joining teams is not the only way to get involved in Student Voice.

In your form, you will have voted for two Form Leaders and out of the Leaders in each year, two people will be voted by the whole year to become Year Representatives. All the Form Representatives meet with the Year Representatives about once a half term, and they talk about what they and their forms want to change in school. If you have any suggestions or issues, you can talk to them, and they will be brought to either the Heads of Year or Student Voice teams and we will look to find a solution!



LEARNING TEAM



By Rosie Dickson (Head Of the Learning Team)

Hi I'm Rosie and I am the Head of the Student Voice Learning Team. This means that I run the section of Student Voice that involves everything to do with learning. The Learning Team covers topics like homework, marking and how teachers are teaching lessons to benefit students.

Joining the Learning Team means that you will have your say with anything to do with learning. How does it work? My Team meets every few weeks; we all come together to put our ideas towards how we would like to benefit the school regarding learning. We would really love new members to bring in their views and add some more diversity to our team. We would also like to have more students across all the year groups so that the entire student body is represented.

If this sounds like it's something you would like to be a part of please contact me at my email address or come to one of our meetings advertised on the Student Voice Teams page. This year, our aims are mainly related to homework- how often it's set, homework timetables and the usage of Teams.

Hope to see you at our next meeting!



ENVIRONMENT TEAM



By Josie Morgan (Head of the Environment Team)

The Environment Team at Ysgol Eirias aims to work towards making our school a place which benefits and values the environment and sustainability, making it a greener and healthier environment for everyone at the school.

The team's main aim this year is to achieve the bronze or silver certificate with Eco Schools Wales, by taking action to make the school and the local area more eco-friendly.

The Environment Team is open for everyone in the school to join if they would like; it would be brilliant to see some more people at the meetings! Even if you are not interested in joining, you can still make a difference by offering your suggestions for what we need to work on in the school. Everybody in the school, including teachers and caretakers, can contribute to the work of the Environment Team.

Having started the school year with few members, we have decided to start afresh with the Environment Team and its goals and responsibilities. With a new team of members and a new main aim, we are hoping to make great progress this year and have our hard work and effort pay off by achieving a certificate with Eco Schools Wales.

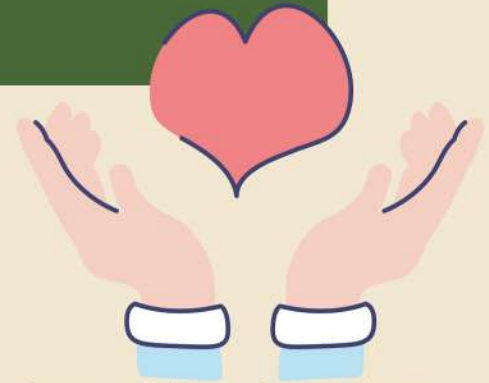
Our first steps as a team are to obtain suggestions from the rest of the school as to what needs to change or be introduced in the school to make it more environmentally friendly. Once we have suggestions from the whole school, we can filter these down to form a list of aims and objectives to work on as a team. With a clear list of aims, we can begin to act towards achieving them, with tasks and action points divided between the members. Examples of things we might work on in the future include effective recycling, reducing waste, promoting environmental awareness and organising events such as litter picks.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking part or offering their suggestions, you can email me at my email address.



WELLBEING TEAM

By Mari Baxter
(Head of the Wellbeing Team)



The Wellbeing Team is a new addition to the Student Voice, but that does not mean that we are not springing into action. Our aim is to make sure that the students' inclusivity and wellbeing is at the centre of everything we do at Ysgol Eirias. So, with that in mind, we brainstormed and developed a new system that could become a huge part of the Eirias community.

We have been working hard at coming up with a uniform recycling system. The idea is that all students will have access to free uniform so that it is less of a financial burden for families. It will put Eirias at the heart of the community by supporting families through the cost-of-living crisis, as well as creating an inclusive community that everyone has access to. We want to create a culture where students are at the centre of everything that we do, and we feel that this project is perfect for that.

At Eirias we are deliberately bothered about making the school and our community a better place, and through Student Voice we are able to do that. This is the first project that has ever been led by the Wellbeing Team, and we hope that this is the first of many. The project will be student-led with staff support and should be in full swing in the next few months. So, how does it work?



WELLBEING TEAM

There will be a clothing bin in the reception area where parents can drop off their unwanted uniform. From there the uniform will then be washed, dried and ironed- Ysgol Eirias is in talks with a local launderette who would provide this service. When the uniform is returned clean, it will be organised and made ready for collection- this will all be done by our students. To 'order' clothing from the 'in house uniform recycle service', students will pick up a slip from referral and will need to fill it in by selecting what uniform they need and in what size.

When the form is returned to school with parental consent, the slip will be delivered to the uniform recycling office and their fresh uniform will be packaged up and ready for collection.

To further the whole school aspect of this project, we will be holding a competition to design a logo. This logo will be the face of the recycling system, and we think it is important that everyone is involved.

We are excited to watch the system come to life, and to impact families lives positively!



MRS EDWARDS' TOP TIPS FOR WRITING



By Mrs N Edwards (author of *This Thing of Darkness*)
Top 5 Tips for Writing a Novel

1. Read

Read widely and often. Novelists are readers first and writers second.

2. Research

Whether your book is set in the past, now or in the future, research is crucial to world building.

3. Develop a Routine

Writing long fiction is hard work. A routine, although it sounds dull, is crucial to finishing a novel. If you write 500 words every day for four months, you'll have a book at the end of it.

4. Redraft

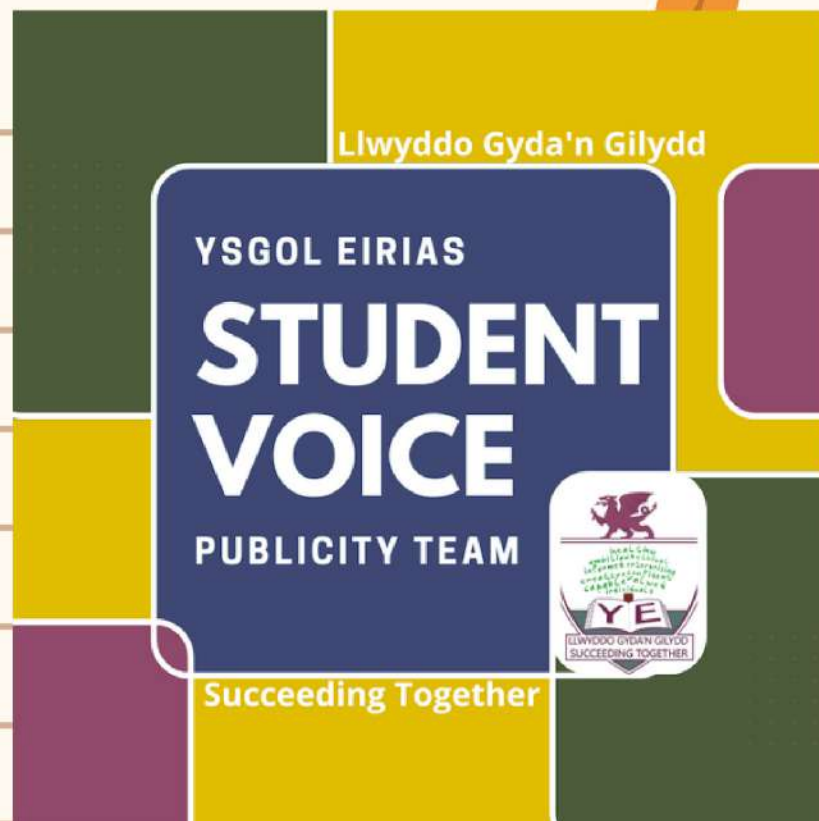
Be prepared to redraft your novel repeatedly before it even leaves your computer. If you secure an agent or a publisher, then there'll be more structural and line edits to complete. By the end of the process, you'll either love your novel or you'll be sick of the sight of it!

5. Stamina & Perseverance

Published writers are the ones who do not give up. It takes immense stamina and resilience to both finish a novel and cope with rejection. Every novelist, regardless of their eventual success, experiences rejection at least once. Stephen King's first novel was famously rejected by thirty publishers!

Nicola Edwards' debut novel, *This Thing of Darkness*, is available online and in bookshops.





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