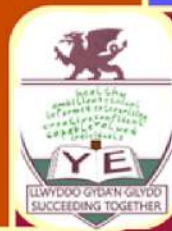


Llwyddo Gyda'n Gilydd

YSGOL EIRIAS

# STUDENT VOICE

PUBLICITY TEAM



Succeeding Together

***Ask the  
Head  
Prefects!***

***Talk The Talk***

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2023***

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## ***Ask the Head Prefects!***

### **“What would you recommend for GCSE’s?”**

“People often think about A-levels when considering which subjects to take for GCSE. However, most A-level courses (apart from French and German) require no non-compulsory prerequisite GCSE subjects. Your choice of GCSE subjects does not narrow your future prospects but enriches your skills. Therefore, choose courses that you are interested in, but which have skills that can serve you through later life. For example, taking a foreign language may be useful for travelling purposes. A Humanities subject may improve your essay-writing skills, which will be invaluable in future study. A technology subject may be useful for developing practical skills. It is important to bear in mind that GCSEs are a starting point for further education.” – Oliver

### **“Why do we have to wear school uniform?”**

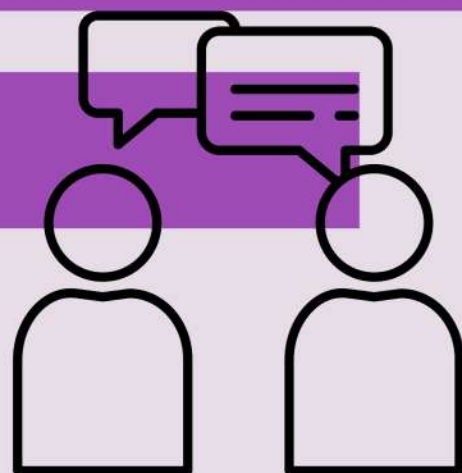
“We wear uniforms to ensure that everyone is equal in the school. Some students may feel pressured or even be bullied for how they dress if there are no rules in place. Uniform also allows students to feel smart and ready to learn.” – Erin

### **“Why can’t we have nose piercings?”**

“Having a nose piercing could come across as unprofessional and, for future careers, may not be acceptable. There is also a health and safety risk that, with wearing a nose piercing, it could get caught doing physical activity or could become infected and therefore lead to absence of students from school.” – Erin



# ***Talk The Talk***



## **Seren: Communication Skills** **A Report by Miss Sinkinson**

On Tuesday December 12th, Year 10 SEREN students took part in a communication workshop from Talk the Talk. Talk The Talk's mission is to develop students' oracy skills and communication confidence to support positive interaction in all life situations and improved social outcomes.

The Talk About Communication Plus is a full day workshop that supports the development of verbal communication skills for a variety of life situations. Working in groups, students were set tasks throughout the day that focused on honing the skills required for active 'group talk' – for meetings, interviews, seminars and the workplace.

Our Year 10 students found the day very engaging and enjoyable. 50% of students reported feeling more confident in their spoken language by the end of the workshop and 73% of students reported knowing more skills to help discuss their opinion in group situations by the end of the workshop.

We would like to thank Carl at Talk the Talk for all their work with our students!





# ***Hamburg Trip 2023***



## **Hamburg: More Than Just a School Trip** **By Isabella Roberts**

Hamburg is a modern metropolitan masterpiece, famous for its Speicherstadt, extensive shopping experience, Christmas markets and vibrant music scene.

As an A level language student, I find any possibility to utilise my German ability stimulating, but the chance to be immersed in foreign culture is something you can only truly receive from a visit. The benefits are undeniable, especially when you are considering carrying on the language for GCSE or further. The opportunity to speak with locals, observe casual German in your surroundings, and let the cultural setting disguise you as you walk, talk and act like a real German forces your language to flourish, your confidence to fly and your passion for your chosen language to grow.

After the 2022 trip to Berlin, an eye opening discovery into German history and how it has moulded the country's path towards the present day with trips to the Berlin Wall and the Reichstag, I was positive regarding my linguistic progress. However, I was constantly hindered by my lack of confidence to converse with locals, often switching to English and experiencing extreme nerves when being communicated to in German.





Yet, the Hamburg trip was different, with a newfound attitude, I was able to adopt the German lifestyle as my own, not only conversing with native Germans, but with my school peers, which helped all our language abilities soar.

Foreign language trips aren't merely beneficial for educational progress. In the context of stressful exams for the majority of the group, the activities for example, ice skating, seeing the musical "König der Löwen", and visiting cultural masterpieces like the miniature wonderland, improved the mental well-being of all students involved, creating a phenomenal four-day break full of laughter, education, friendship and great cultural experience.

So, as a student in her final year who will experience no further trips, here is a recommendation which I will never cease to announce: if you love a language then, visit, visit, visit! It's as the saying goes "If you are passionate about something, pursue it, no matter what anyone else thinks. That's how dreams are achieved."





# ***The Young Storyteller***



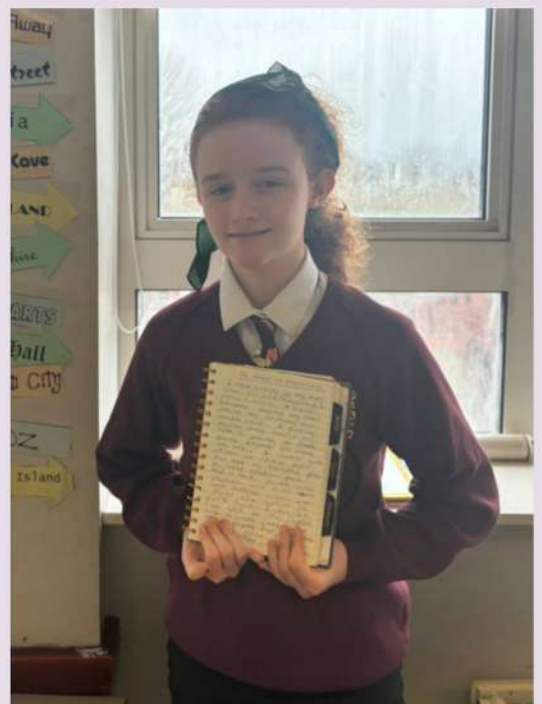
## **My Experience at the Young Storytellers Festival**

**By Mimi Holland-Roberts**

My love for writing started when I was around five years old. By then, I had made small poems and stories, and I started to progress to making ideas for many novels that I'd hope to write in the future. As such-- I am writing one now. But, as I was writing this novel, my Mum noticed that I was interested in writing and had reached a peak in writing and reading stories to other people. That's when the yearly event of "Young Storytellers" appeared to my Mum's eye. She instantly told me about it, and I was instantly intrigued. I made my way to the event and watched a fabulous storytelling before finding out that I could write my own short story and read it out to the crowd to potentially win an award.

I almost immediately went to work on the short story, and I had a sudden click. I thought that it could be possible to incorporate the skills that I had learnt from my English classes (Gothic horror novels and writing) to my small story. I decided to add the aspect of 'The Raven' by Edgar Allan Poe. My teacher taught a lot about this book, and I really appreciated that.

So, with all the media I had, I wrote a small story based largely on 'The Raven.' But instead of the raven, symbolising death, I replaced it with a cute little goose that came from the chimney that symbolized Christmas. I read the story out to the crowd and got an explosion of applause. Although I was the only one of my age range, I got the grand award of a seat to see the new show 'Peter Pan' at Venue Cymru, a tenner and a tutoring session with a storyteller.





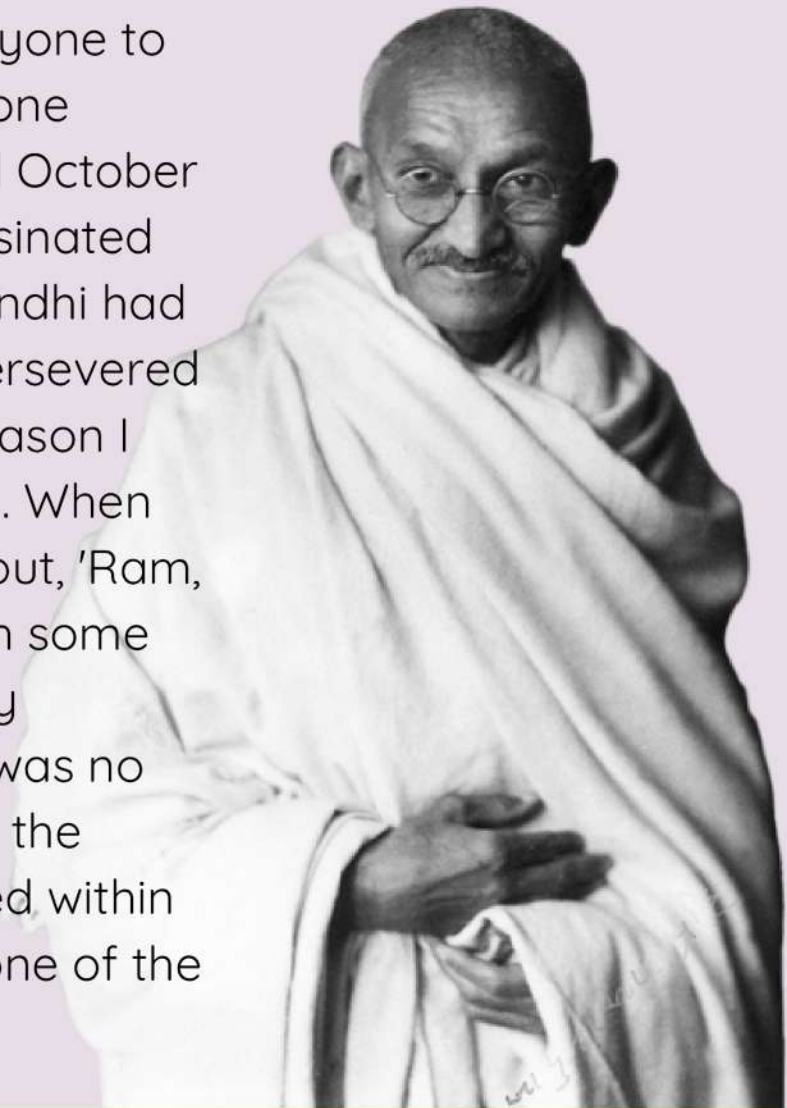
## ***A Reflection on Ghandi***

**Someone Who Inspires Me**  
**By Katherine Bukari**



One of the people that inspires me is Mahatma Gandhi, also known by his last name, Gandhi. I learnt about him in Religious Studies, and I learnt about how he did not believe in physical fighting, as it was truly irrational. He was a Hindu and inspired a lot of civil rights activists around the world due to his non-violent approach to everything.

In a way, Gandhi can inspire everyone to be less violent and more kind to one another. Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1869 in India but was sadly assassinated on 30 January 1948. Although Gandhi had a fear of public speech, he still persevered and got over it; that is another reason I am inspired by this historical icon. When he died, some said that he cried out, 'Ram, Ram', meaning 'God, God', though some other people did not hear him say anything. In the confusion, there was no attempt to call a doctor or to get the dying man to hospital, and he died within half an hour. This was probably one of the world's saddest deaths.



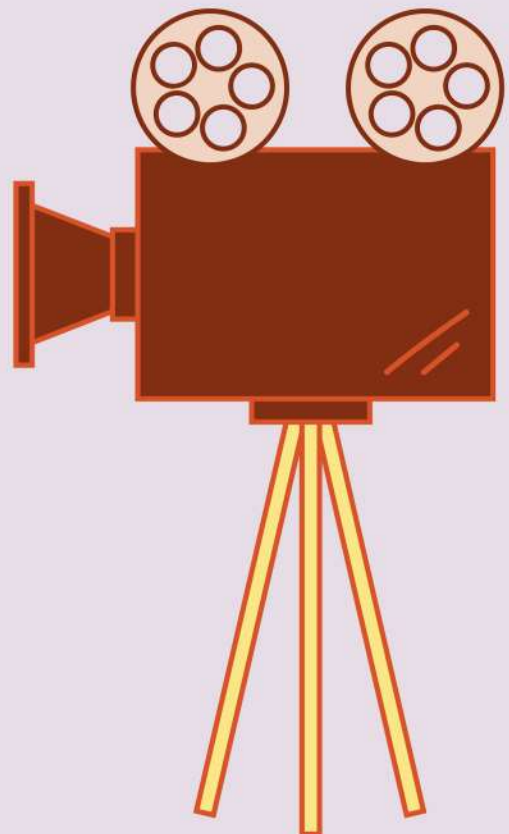
# ***Famous Welsh Actors***



## **From Small Beginnings: Welsh Actors Who Made It Big** **By Nicole Thurley and Katie Crompton**

### **Christian Bale**

Many of you may know the actor Christian Bale, but did you know he was born in Wales? Christian Bale is from the small town of Haverfordwest in Southwest Wales. He is one of the most popular actors from Wales. Bale became an actor at the ripe age of eight, starring in a fabric commercial while he was still at school. He first became known for his role in 'Empire of the Sun' at the age of thirteen. Bale is best known for his role as Patrick Bateman in 'American Psycho' (2000), which sparked a trend on many social media platforms, where he is known as "The Sigma". Bale has won one Academy Award, six Critics' Choice Movie awards, two Golden Globes and two Screen Actors Guild awards. He is from a small town in Wales just like you. Maybe one day, you could be like him too!







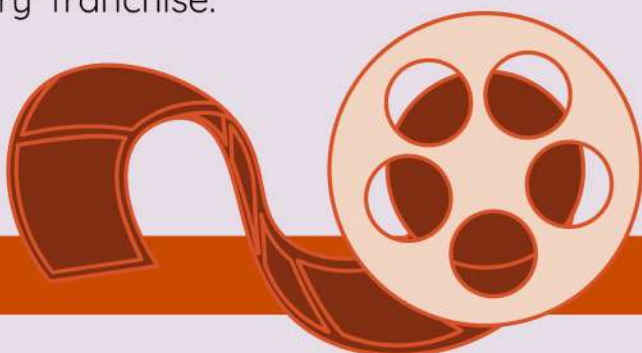
## Taron Egerton

Taron Egerton lived in Anglesea in the early years of his childhood before moving to Aberystwyth when he was twelve years old. Egerton began working as an actor in 2011 and began to become famous after the popularity of the film 'Kingsman: The Secret Service'. He was then in a series of different films until his most famous role as the gorilla, Johnny in the movies 'Sing' and 'Sing 2' where he sang 'I'm Still Standing' which has over 200 million streams on Spotify. Taron Egerton has won multiple awards including Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Motion Picture, Grammy Award nomination for Best Compilation Soundtrack for Rocketman, BAFTA Rising Star Award and a BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role.



## Timothy Dalton

Some of the older generation might recognise Timothy Dalton. He was born in Colwyn Bay in 1946 and starred in a series of popular movies and TV shows in the 80's. One of his more popular movies was his role as James Bond in 'The Living Daylights' which became the fourth most popular James Bond film at the time of its release. Even though his more popular films were filmed in the 80's, he still does acting today, his most recent role being a voice actor in the 'Toy Story' franchise.





# ***Eirias Christmas Concert***

## **A Musical Christmas at Ysgol Eirias A Student Report**



Once again, the Eirias Christmas Concert was a triumph of talent, enthusiasm and school spirit. Organised and directed by Miss Hammerton as usual, with the help of a handful of 6th formers, more than thirty students participated in a fantastic collection of musical groups, from solos to the orchestra.

The school choir, conducted by Annie Gibson, performed a selection of powerful yet sweet Christmas classics which gave a wonderful grounding to the show. This was complemented by the Senior Choir, conducted by Erin Grove and Felicity Stanyer, who added upbeat and nostalgic tones to the atmosphere with the iconic Christmas tunes 'Underneath the Tree' and 'Please Come Home For Christmas'. The Senior Ensemble contributed a wonderfully melodious piece led by Miss Hammerton, which contrasted beautifully with performances like the bright and sunny 'Sussex Carol' from the Flute Ensemble. Erin Grove's 'With You' from 'Ghost the Musical', Felicity Stanyer's 'Somewhere Only We Know' and Jennifer Roberts' 'Silver Bells' gave layers of passion, maturity and individuality to the concert, while Emilia Roberts' fabulous saxophone solo and Sarah Nicholson's contemplative piano solo were certainly performances to remember.







One particular gem in the concert was the Year 7 band led by Mr Collinge, who performed Chuck Berry's 'Run Rudolph Run' delightfully. The school orchestra, conducted by Margaret McLean, embodied both the traditional and the nostalgic Christmas spirit with their pieces, as well as accompanying the whole choir and audience with two Christmas carols.

The concert was followed by tea, homemade mince pies and merry chatter between students, teachers and families alike, a joyful celebration of both Christmas and the school community. The Eirias choir also performed at Coed Pella Council Building earlier in December, and a video of one song can be seen on the school website. We'll see you at the Eirias Christmas concert 2024!





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# STUDENT VOICE

PUBLICITY TEAM



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