

Representative honours

Sportswomen at MACS are certainly no strangers to success as many now represent the school at both District and County level.

Year 9 girls Alisha Davies, Jade Williams, Lucy Griffiths, Kaity Jamieson and Samantha Jones successfully made it through the District hockey trials with the former four going a stage further to gain places in the County squad.

At under-18 level, Melanie Evans and Laura Murphy came very close to gaining places in the County squad.

Turning to netball at under-14 level, Goal Shooter Laurie Chapple and Goal Attack Jade Williams made the District team while Year 8 pupil Rachel Murphy went that stage further to gain a place in the County team - a very notable achievement as Rachel's position, Centre, is regarded by many as being the most demanding.

At under-16 level, Cara Pollard and Samantha Williams have gained District places.

The school teams in both sports are doing well with the Year 9 netball team winning all their games by wide margins.

All this success doesn't mean there is no room for more players - if you want to be part of the success story, come along and train.



Year 9 girls are pleased to gain places in the County Hockey team.



Rachel Murphy - County Centre.



PhotoNEWS

Former-pupil Cyle Rosser is pictured after officially becoming a Royal Marines Commando and gaining his coveted Green Beret. The 17 year-old successfully completed thirty-two weeks of what is claimed to be the hardest initial military training in the world! MACS always welcomes news of former-pupils' success.



PhotoNEWS

Head of Year Mr Steve Williams accompanied Year 10 pupils to the University of Glamorgan where they attended the Education Business Partnership's ACE Day. The Awareness of College Education event was designed to show pupils the many further educational opportunities available to them. Mr Williams was pleased by the enthusiasm displayed by all the pupils throughout the day.

Does anybody want to be a Parent Governor?

MACS has a vacancy on the school's governing body for a Parent Governor. If you are willing and able to give up some of your time, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Dates for your diary

School finishes for Christmas on Tuesday 20th December.

Pupils are reminded that it's back to school on Thursday 5th January. School is closed on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th January for staff training.

The school will be inspected by Estyn early in the new year. Parents have the opportunity to speak to the registered inspector at a meeting held in the school hall on Thursday 26th January at 3.30pm.

Season's Greetings

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the production of The MACS Newsletter over the last year.

Particular thanks must go to Mrs Howells for her ever-reliable reprographic service.

We wish all our readers a relaxing festive period and a prosperous new year.

Christmas Carol Service

Rehearsals are well under way for this year's Christmas Carol Service which takes place at St Margaret's Church, Mountain Ash on Thursday 15th December, commencing 7.00pm.

Judging by the hard work the pupils have been putting in, this promises to be another evening to remember. We look forward to seeing you there.



Year 6 Open Evening

Once again, Year 6 Open Evening was a great success with over 180 pupils represented. Some parents sang in the French Department while others conducted experiments in the Science Department.

There were many positive comments made by prospective parents and pupils. One child summed it up, "It's great here, I can't wait until September!"

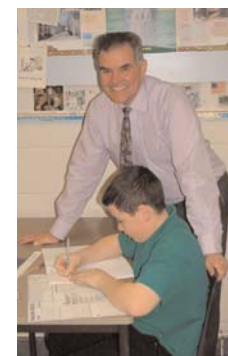


Farewell!

We wish a fond farewell to two valued members of staff who retire this Christmas.

Mr Russell George (pictured) leaves our History Department after twenty-seven years of service having initially joined our school from Hastings (a true historian - didn't something happen in 1066?) via Gadlys Secondary Modern School.

Mr Rob Hunt leaves our Maths Department having initially joined MACS from Coed-y-Lan as a Geology teacher in 1980.



Doing it for Pudsey

In typical fashion, students at MACS used a wide range of diverse strategies to raise money for the BBC Children in Need Appeal. New disturbing trends included menace and kidnap!

In total, the school raised £1,003.86 and provided plenty of entertainment along the way.

Clockwise from top right: Sixth Formers provide the menace, a member of staff is kidnapped and held to ransom and is that the real Gene Simmons? Year 10 boys complete their silence in solitary confinement in Mr George's store cupboard.



BBC PLANT
MEWIN IANGEN
BBC Children in Need Appeal



PhotoNEWS

The school's Crime Prevention Group under the guise of Mountain Ash Rail Safety presented the film 'Tyler 4ever' during an upper school assembly. This film concerned the death of a school pupil who trespassed on the railway lines and showed the effect this tragedy had on his close friends. MARS has made this presentation to other year groups and is about to take it to our feeder primary schools. The group goes from strength to strength with a significant influx of new members this year.



PhotoNEWS

MACS has been pleased to welcome former-Pontypridd star and now Regional Development Officer for the Cardiff Blues rugby team, Dale MacIntosh to lead weekly coaching sessions after school. Year 9 pupils are pictured making sure they are thoroughly warmed-up and practising the fine art of 'cleaning-out' at the ruck.

League tables show attendance improvement

As we approach the end of our first school term, competition in our attendance leagues is most certainly hotting up.

7T narrowly retains top spot in SuperSeven above 7E and 7A.

8U jumps to the top of SuperEight with a 6% improvement in monthly attendance. In fact, all-but-one class in this league improved their monthly attendance!

9E retains top spot in SuperNine for the third successive month while praise is due for 9I who improved their monthly attendance by a staggering 10%!

| SuperSeven | | Monthly % | % Improvement | % of 100% | Total % |
|-------------------|---|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| ATTENDANCE LEAGUE | | | | | |
| T | | 91 | -3 | 41 | 93 |
| E | ▲ | 93 | 2 | 39 | 92 |
| A | ▼ | 90 | 0 | 32 | 92 |
| U | | 89 | 0 | 19 | 89 |
| C | ▲ | 86 | -5 | 26 | 87 |
| D | ▼ | 84 | -8 | 29 | 87 |
| I | | 83 | -3 | 31 | 86 |

| SuperEight | | Monthly % | % Improvement | % of 100% | Total % |
|-------------------|---|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| ATTENDANCE LEAGUE | | | | | |
| U | ▲ | 93 | 6 | 42 | 92 |
| D | ▼ | 88 | -5 | 38 | 91 |
| T | | 92 | 2 | 44 | 90 |
| C | | 90 | 3 | 36 | 89 |
| E | | 89 | 1 | 29 | 88 |
| I | | 89 | 6 | 21 | 87 |
| A | | 87 | 6 | 24 | 85 |

| SuperNine | | Monthly % | % Improvement | % of 100% | Total % |
|-------------------|---|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| ATTENDANCE LEAGUE | | | | | |
| E | | 92 | 0 | 50 | 93 |
| U | ▲ | 89 | 2 | 14 | 90 |
| D | ▲ | 88 | -4 | 23 | 90 |
| T | ▼ | 86 | -2 | 32 | 89 |
| A | | 85 | 1 | 22 | 86 |
| O | | 80 | -6 | 26 | 83 |
| I | ▲ | 85 | 10 | 14 | 82 |
| C | | 80 | -1 | 14 | 81 |
| N | ▼ | 77 | -4 | 19 | 81 |

Come, join the dance!

The Girls First Initiative funded by the Sports Council for Wales has given girls the opportunity to get fit by learning a range of contemporary dance routines.

Instructress Karen Brown has been leading a group of girls through moves such as those capably demonstrated below by Rhiannon Williams and Gemma Stone.

Interested? The next after-school session is being held on the second Thursday in January.



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