

Girls Aloud? MACS girls are louder!

Was it just a spooky coincidence? On the same day as a group of Year 13 Religious Studies students were to visit Llancaiach Fawr Manor House to seek out the supernatural, popular all-girl group Girls Aloud were all over the national press because a similar visit of theirs had not gone entirely to plan. It seemed the perfect excuse to make comparisons between the two groups.

Head of Religious Studies Mr Dave Church, who accompanied the girls on that cold November night, can report that MACS girls are certainly louder as he witnessed the sound of their first blood-curdling scream - and that was just because the lights went out!

If the press is to be believed, our girls most definitely showed more courage as they went ghost hunting - one member carried on despite suffering from an acute fear of the dark!

As part of the girls' A2 course, they must study the evidence for the existence of life after death, so what better place to go than the manor house which was featured on last year's 'Most Haunted' television show.

Did they see any ghosts? Once locked in, one saw a small child sat on the stair - one of the more common sightings. As for the rest, despite no sightings, they remain open-minded concerning matters paranormal.



Our ghost hunters - Sarah Owens, Leah Davies, Leah Jervis, Vicky Dyer and Harriet Perkins. Leah swings an axe (below) and conclusive proof that our girls can play their own instruments (right) - eat your hearts out Girls Afraid (below left).



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MACS has successfully completed Phase 1 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Healthy Schools Scheme and this achievement was recognised when Head of Food Technology Miss Jo Bradley attended an awards ceremony at the Rhondda Heritage Park. The school is now well into Phase 2 of this scheme which requires the development of a School Nutrition Action Group along with other whole school initiatives.

Virtual business is good

Students from the Cynon Valley Sixth Form Consortium recently attended a virtual business trade fair held at the Rhydycar Leisure Centre, Merthyr. As part of their course, pupils trade virtually to gain work-related experience to enhance their employment opportunities. Virtual firms do not exchange real goods or real money but copy all business procedures and functions. This allows students to work using all the documentation, systems and protocols needed to run a business.

The group has decided to trade as a stationery supplies company called Pencil Case and is sponsored by Lyreco, who help in providing materials needed for display purposes and give support on a range of business issues.

Other virtual businesses which are based in the area were present and students were given the task of buying and selling from each other for a three hour period. Many orders were made and taken and they now have the task of carrying out all the paperwork necessary for the business transactions to take place.



Dates for your diary

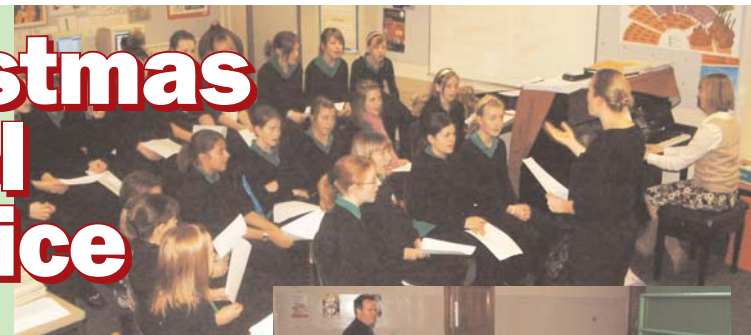
School finishes for Christmas on Friday 22nd December.

*Pupils are reminded that it's back to school on Monday 8th January. This is **not** an INSET day.*

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 14th December, commencing 7.00pm.

These pictures illustrate the hard work the pupils have been putting in to what promises to be another evening to remember. We look forward to seeing you there.



Miss Rachel Palmer works with the choir while Mr Andy Mulligan finely tunes the guitar group's performance.

Year 6 Open Evening hits the right note

Assistant Headteacher responsible for Transition Mrs Elaine Reynolds is keen to report the very positive feedback our recent Year 6 Open Evening has received.

Parents really appreciated the effort both staff and pupils had put into the evening and the warm welcome they were given.

Here are just a few of the activities parents witnessed on the night.



Slaves4U enterprise is a success

Faced with the task of raising working capital for their fledgling business, three Year 12 Young Enterprise students decided to raffle themselves into slavery! Slaves4U - Jonathan Andric, Leigh Parfitt and Zack Williams (two of whom are pictured in disguise elsewhere on this page) - quite literally put their bodies on the line for their business idea which is to produce T-shirts with Celtic designs.

Jonathan was acquired by French Teacher Mrs Claire Harrison who used

him to organise photocopying, make phone calls and update her classroom displays. Head of Religious Studies Mr Dave Church ensured Leigh dressed as a priest to carry out his duties, one of which was to sing to his class. Year 8 pupil Amberley Cotter insisted Zack helped with her History and Technology work as well as carry her bags all day.

All Slaves4U's customers spoke highly of the service they received but whether this enterprising exercise will be repeated could not be confirmed.



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A group of Year 10 boys was lucky enough to visit the Safety Zone in Treforest to take part in an Education Business Partnership Wise for Life activity. During the day, the boys had presentations from various agencies which included South Wales Police, South Wales Fire Service, Network Rail and Trading Standards.



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Year 8 pupils Kelsey Hall and Lauren Grant are pictured furiously taking notes on their visit to Garwnant Forestry Centre. As part of the Education Business Partnership's World of Work scheme, pupils made industry visits to a wide range of businesses and locations to learn about their activities and then produce posters, brochures and other publicity. MACS would like to thank all those who gave up their time to welcome our pupils and make these visits such rewarding experiences.

Children in Need 2006



Students at MACS used a wide range of diverse strategies to raise £685 for the BBC Children in Need Appeal.

The Sixth Form used fancy dress and, again, the cake stall sold out in mere seconds!



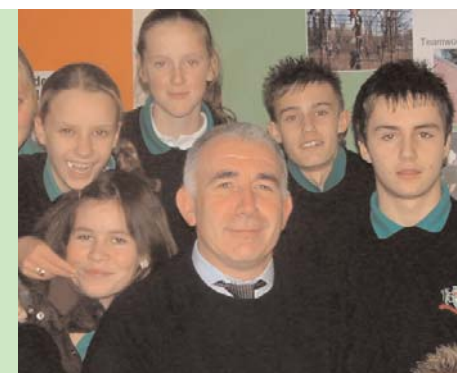
Season's Greetings

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the production of this newsletter over the last year. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Howells and Mr Mason for their ever-reliable technical support.

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

Farewell!

We wish a fond farewell to Mr Steve Morgan who leaves teaching to become an Army Careers Advisor. Since joining MACS in 1992, he has been very much a man of a thousand departments having



taught many more subjects than most. As a Major in the Territorial Army, Mr Morgan recently served in Iraq. We wish him all the very best for the future.



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The Army Student Presentation Team recently visited MACS to outline the roles and responsibilities of the Army in the many countries it is stationed. Students from Years 10 and 11 had the chance to ask questions and found out what was really happening around the world.

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