

# Raising the bar

*Year 11 students at MACS set another personal best this summer when more than half of the year group achieved at least 5 grades A-C in GCSE and vocational examinations.*

*Headteacher Mr Guilfoyle said, "This year's GCSE results of 51% 5 A-C represent another milestone in the school's progress. Adding a further 11% to last year's record results is a fantastic achievement for everybody concerned."*

*As we mention every year, a good set of GCSE results is the very best passport into the Sixth Form and further education. This year, however, prospective sixth-formers had a further challenge to contend with as MACS welcomed back former teacher Major Steve Morgan and his Army colleagues to put them through their paces.*

*Students thoroughly enjoyed being outside on one of the last sunny days of the summer taking part in a range of team-building challenges which included feats of strength and skill.*



Here are just four of the many students who gained the very best A\* grades and have chosen to further their education at MACS. From left to right: Samantha Jenkins gained A\* grades in History and Religious Studies as well as gaining a further four A grades and one C; Matthew Rowland-Jones gained A\* grades in English Literature and Science as well as three A grades, three B grades and one C; Esther Pavett gained A\* grades in Music and Resistant Materials as well as gaining a further four A grades, one B and two C grades; Josh Martin gained an A\* in Office Technology as well as eight A grades and one B grade.



Assistant Headteacher Mr Alun Howell counsels Leah Taylor on GCSE results day.



## Year 6 Open Evening

As part of the transition process between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, parents of our feeder school pupils are invited to attend a special Open Evening on Thursday 25th October, commencing 5.00pm.



The evening will give parents the opportunity to meet with teachers, see a variety of activities and get a taste of what goes on at MACS.

Free transport is available and will leave:

*Abercynon Clock at 4.20pm, then to Ynysboeth, Tynnt, Penrhiwceiber and Mountain Ash.*

*Perthcelyn Community Centre at 4.30pm, on to Darrenlas for 4.35pm.*

*Glenboi at 4.40pm, then up through Fernhill Estate.*

The evening will conclude at 7.00pm with the bus leaving at 7.15pm. Light refreshments will be available.



### PhotoNEWS

New Head of Sixth Form, Assistant Headteacher Mrs Elizabeth Lewis is pleased to present the school's new Head Boy and Head Girl James Allen and Laura Davies. James' sister Clare was named Head Girl back in 2003.



**PhotoNEWS**

MACS was pleased to welcome Mr Derek Robbins CChem FRSC, the Master of the Welsh Livery Guild, to an Upper School assembly to present former Sixth Formers with bursaries. The Welsh Livery Guild was established to promote education and to contribute to the cost of education for talented students. Sarah Owens and Maryann Jones (pictured above) along with Victoria Ball (unfortunately stuck in traffic) each received monies to purchase essential materials for their first year in university.

## Sponsored Walk

Toward the end of our Summer Term, hundreds of pupils put their best feet forward to complete a sponsored walk in aid of the Holme Tower Marie Curie Cancer Care Centre in Penarth.

MACS has regularly raised money for this centre which provides emotional support and terminal care for hundreds of cancer patients each year.

We look forward to presenting Volunteer Schools Coordinator for Holme Tower Mr Carl Palmer MBE with a cheque for £1,900 in a forthcoming school assembly.



## All work and no play?

*In the case of our popular CACHE childcare qualification, these photographs prove that there is most definitely plenty of fun to be had.*

*Our Year 12 students recently took part in a new induction programme which included a play workshop - play coordinator*

*Miss Louisa Allcott and EBP representative Mrs Angela Parry led the group through a range of activities which included ball games, painting, modelling and skipping.*

*On the following day, students relocated to the Integrated Children's Centre in Merthyr where they were able to focus on the importance of play in children's development. This experience will stand our students in good stead for their two days a week placements in creches, nurseries and schools.*

*Mrs Pugh would welcome the chance to talk to Year 11 pupils considering this CACHE level 2 qualification as a starting point for a career working with young children which is both interesting and challenging.*



## Transfer News

MACS is pleased to welcome two new additions to our 'staff team'. Mr Malcolm Thomas joins our Maths Department while Miss Sian Jeffreys transfers to our English Department from Olchfa Comprehensive in Swansea.

Another new name on our 'team sheet' is that of Mrs Louise Tucker - we congratulate the former Miss Scott on her recent marriage.

## Dates for your diary

*This half-term concludes one day early for pupils as teachers will be involved in an INSET day on Friday 26th October. It's back to school on Monday 5th November.*

The MACS is published by: Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, New Road, Mountain Ash, Rhondda Cynon Taf, CF45 4DG. Tel: 01443 479199. Fax: 01443 473412. Website: www.macs.rhondda.sch.uk

*If you have a story you think we could feature you can e-mail us at: newsletter@macs.rhondda.sch.uk*

## What is 5x60?

Since the start of the term, it has been difficult to ignore the many posters plastered about the school advertising something called 5x60 - what is this all about?

Funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and managed by the Sports Council for Wales, 5x60 is a scheme aiming to change the face of sports provision in schools.

This scheme's main target is to get 90% of children taking part in regular and frequent extra-curricular sport and physical activity by the year 2020.

MACS is pleased to welcome its 5x60 officer - former Wales rugby international Mr Geraint Lewis. Mr Lewis is tasked with talking with pupils to determine what sporting and physical activities they would enjoy taking part in.

Already, lunchtime dodgeball sessions have proved immensely popular - look out for dates and times.

Similarly, breakdancing sessions have returned, this time with a more athletic slant. New host 'Wildcard' (pictured right) would welcome any boy, who wishes to learn some of his moves, to his sessions held after school on Mondays.

If you have any ideas for physical activities you would like to participate in, get in touch with Mr Lewis.

