

# A construction environment for the future

On Wednesday 11th June, Chair of Governors Councillor Pauline Jarman took centre-stage to unveil a plaque to commemorate the grand opening of Mountain Ash Comprehensive School's new state-of-the-art construction environment, now christened C@M (Construction at MACS).

Students studying the BTEC First Diploma in Construction will no longer be held hostage by the weather and can now practise their trowel skills in this prestigious purpose-built facility.

The building was funded as part of the Heads of the Valleys

Programme in partnership with the school and will be available to outside agencies and the wider community. Currently, Valleys Training is running a kitchen fitting course after school hours in the building.

Guest speakers at this opening were Mr Chris Ashman, Head of Regeneration for the Heads of the Valleys Programme, and Councillor Eudine Hanagan who is RCT's Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning.



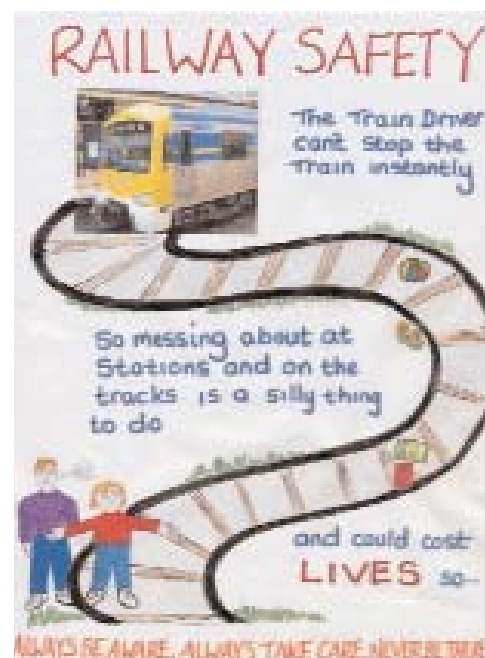
## Dates for your diary

GCE AS/A2 results can be obtained on Thursday 14th August, 9.30am - 11.00am, while GCSE and BTEC results can be obtained one week later on Thursday 21st, between the same times. Counselling and careers advice will be available in the School Hall.

If you want your results sent to you, provide the school with a stamped self-addressed envelope before the end of term. If you want someone else to pick up your results, they must have your signed permission. Please note, results cannot be given out over the telephone.

This term finishes on Friday 18th July. After an INSET day, pupils return to school on Tuesday 2nd September.

You may well have seen copies of Natalia Powell's prize-winning poster (pictured below) around the school. By all means, enjoy your break, but please heed her advice when it comes to railway safety - 'always be aware, always take care, never be there.'



## More COMPACT presentations

Mrs Clare Makin from the Education Business Partnership has been a regular visitor to school assemblies in recent weeks as she has presented COMPACT prizes and certificates to reward pupils' excellent records of attendance and punctuality.

Trophies were awarded to Owen Gibson 7T, Nicole Solik 8E - Nicole's sister Charlotte recently won the Year 11 trophy - and Luke Miles 9T. These winners are pictured with Mrs Makin and their respective Heads of Year,

Mr Steve Williams, Mr Ian Major and Mrs Euryl Major.



PhotoNEWS

Head of History Mr Alan Richards took great pleasure in presenting Hannah Coles 7E with her prize for winning the Read a Million Words in Wales 'Horrible Histories' Competition. Hannah was one of only two pupils in RCT who managed to answer all the questions correctly and she wins a Horrible Histories board game, a torch and a book while the School Library receives a number of Horrible Histories titles.

## A record-breaker for all seasons

After breaking the javelin record at last year's Sports Day, Beth Willis 8C turned her prodigious athletic talents to this year's 300 metres where she posted a record time of 51.88 seconds.

House captains Gavin Brown and Rachel Murphy gratefully accepted the house trophy on behalf of victorious Pennar. Rachel took the overall GCSE PE award as did counterpart Jamie Rowlands for the boys.

Further congratulations go to Kaity Jamieson for breaking the 200 metres record at Senior County level with a time of 28.02 seconds.



### PhotoNEWS

Head of Sixth Form Mrs Liz Lewis is keen for many of next year's Year 13 students to have a higher profile about the school by becoming prefects with prescribed duties and responsibilities. To help build confidence and nurture decision-making skills, students spent a day working with members of the army on a range of team-building tasks.



### PhotoNEWS

LEPRA's Fun Workout took a martial arts twist as Year 7 pupils exercised and raised money to help cure people of leprosy led by probably the most qualified instructor ever to set foot in the school. For the record, Mr Richard Olpin of the Ilyokwan Black Belt Academy is a 5th dan in taekwondo, a 5th dan in jujitsu and hapkido, a 3rd dan in ninjitsu and a blackbelt in both karate and toritejutsu! If you know someone more qualified, you tell him!

## Presenting the news

Miss Sian Jeffreys accompanied our Year 9 news team to Aberdare Rotary Club's Young Presenter Competition, held at Aberdare Girls' School, where they made their presentation 'Bus Safety: Get on board!'



The last of four teams to present, Jordan White and Carwyn Davies claim the wait was never nerve-racking. In fact, this experience was a great opportunity to show off their talent and tackle a subject that they feel strongly about. Capably supported by Gina Jones and Technician Rhys Evans, the duo gained plaudits for the clarity of their presentation.



Rather than presenting the news, Year 9 bowls prodigy Ross Owen made the ITV News when he attempted to improve presenter Justina Simpson's technique. Certainly no stranger to the sporting limelight, Ross spoke of his immense pride at representing Wales when they recently beat Scotland.

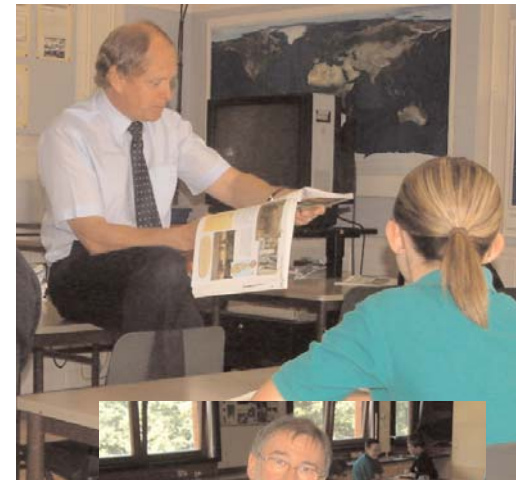


## Fond farewells

Another school year is at an end and it is again time to say farewell to valued members of the MACS team.

Assistant Headteacher Mr Alun Howell looks forward to retirement having taught at MACS since 1972. Mr Howell became Head of Geography in 1980 and then Head of Upper School four years later.

Mr Andrew Jones, who joined MACS as Head of Physics in 1984, similarly, looks forward to a well-earned retirement as does teacher of Welsh Mrs Mary Thomas who joined us in 1990. Notably, Mrs Thomas was a former pupil at Mountain Ash.



Second in our English Department, Mr Vaughn

Gibson looks forward to distinctly sunnier climes as he transfers to the Rakess English Speaking School in Ras al-Khaimah - part of the United Arab Emirates.

As always, we wish our friends well and all the very best for the future.



## Essential summer reading

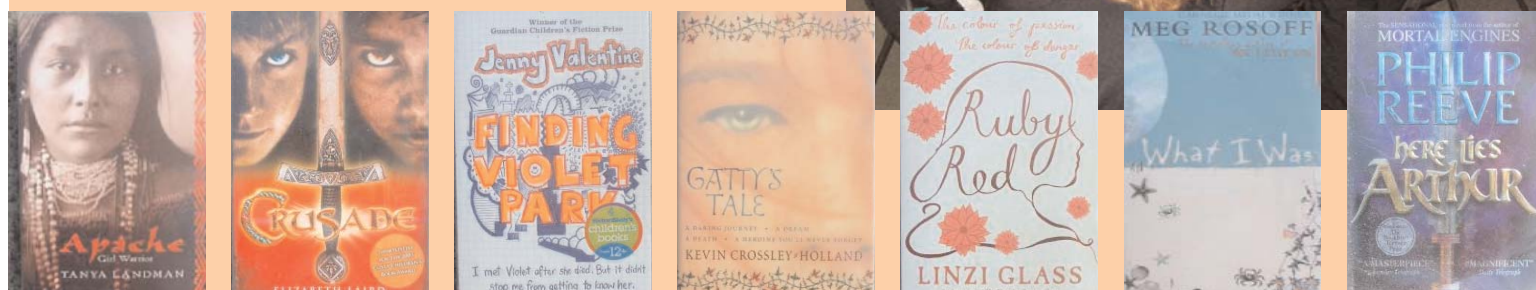
As in previous years, Year 8 pupils at MACS have 'shadowed the Carnegie'. They have read all the books shortlisted for the prestigious Carnegie Medal which is awarded annually by children's librarians for an outstanding book for children and young people. One group of readers is pictured discussing their favourites with School Librarian Mrs Rosemary Morgan and the Head of RCT's Youth Library Service Mrs Ceri Roberts.

If you need a recommendation for your summer reading, visit the school library and take a look at the impressive wall display which includes our pupils' reviews of the shortlisted books - *Apache* by Tanya Landman, *Crusade* by Elizabeth Laird, *Finding Violet Park* by Jenny Valentine, *Gatty's Tale* by Kevin Crossley-Holland, *Ruby Red* by Linzi Glass, *What I Was* by Meg Rossoff and the eventual medal winner, *Here Lies Arthur* by Philip Reeve.

Mrs Morgan is keen to remind pupils that they may borrow two books for the holiday period so ensure you make your choices before the end of term.



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If you have a story you think we could feature you can e-mail us at: [newsletter@macs.rhondda.sch.uk](mailto:newsletter@macs.rhondda.sch.uk)