

# A summer of success!

*In what was generally recognised as one of the most miserable summers on record, Mountain Ash Comprehensive School was definitely a centre for sunny smiles when students set a new school record for GCSE passes at grades A\*-C - a truly excellent 60%.*

*Headteacher Mr Guilfoyle said "Congratulations to students and staff. I am absolutely delighted with these latest results. The school has made outstanding progress in recent years."*

*"At 60%, the proportion of students achieving the 5 A\*-C threshold is now double what it was at the time of the last inspection in 2006. As always, success comes as a result of all-round effort: new vocational courses which maintain students' interest, constant improvements in the quality of teaching and resources, careful monitoring of student progress - and a great deal of hard work by everybody concerned."*

*"This is the third year running in which exam results have broken all records. The big question for 2009 is, can we make it four in a row?"*

*A good set of GCSE results is the perfect passport to the Sixth Form and further education. Again, we feature the students who gained record numbers of A\* grades.*



Form Tutor Miss Jo Bradley proudly presents her A\* students. From left to right: Sophie Reardon gained an A\* grade, five A grades, four B grades and one C; Andrew Richards gained an impressive eight A\* grades and three further A grades (Andrew's twin brother Ian gained six A\* grades and four A grades); Victoria Hughes gained two A\* grades, five A grades and three C grades; Lewis Morgan gained five A\* grades, three A grades, two B grades and one C; Laura Brooks gained three A\* grades, two A grades, one B grade, two C grades and a BTEC distinction; Charlotte Jones gained four A\* grades, an A grade, three B grades and two C grades; Connor Owen gained five A\* grades, four A grades, two B grades and one C grade.

## Year 6 Open Evening

As part of the transition process between Key Stages 2 and 3, parents of our feeder school pupils are invited to attend a special open evening on Thursday 23rd October, commencing 4.30pm.

This evening will give parents the opportunity to meet with teachers, view a variety of displays and activities and get a real flavour of what takes place at MACS.

Free transport leaves:

*Abercynon Clock at 4.00pm, then Ynysboeth, Tynte, Penrhiwceiber and Mountain Ash.*

*Perthcelyn Community Centre at 4.00pm and on to Darrenlas for 4.10pm.*

*Glenboi at 4.15pm (bottom of Fernhill Estate).*

The evening will conclude at 6.30pm. Light refreshments will be available.

## Souwoon is Student of the Year

*Not content with four A grades at A-level, Souwoon Cho has now won the RCT Griffin Mill Outstanding Student of the Year Award. At a prestigious awards ceremony, held at the Mercure Holland Hotel, she drove away in her prize of a brand new Fiat 500.*

*Souwoon was recognised for the hard work she has put in academically and through her extra-curricular activities.*

*Souwoon is now studying for a BSc in International Management and French at the University of Bath and Griffin Mill will be adding a parking permit to her prize.*



## Dates for your diary

*This half-term concludes one day early for pupils as teachers will be involved in an INSET day on Friday 24th October. It's back to school on Monday 3rd November.*



## Out and about

*Yes, there was a little sun and our pupils made the very most of it to get out and about to enhance their learning.*

*Geography students can be seen making their annual pilgrimage to Cold Knap to analyse the beach and cliffs.*

*Construction students had to successfully complete a test to gain their Construction Skills Certification Scheme Card before they were allowed 'on site' at Cardiff City's new stadium and HBG's new development in Cardiff Bay. Students also visited Ty Mawr Lime to work with a range of eco-friendly building materials.*



## A warm welcome

MACS is pleased to welcome two new additions to our staff team.

Mrs Claire Winters joins us as Second in our English Department from Nunnery Wood High School in Worcestershire.

Mrs Rebecca Thomas joins our Science Department from Ridings High School in South Gloucestershire.



## PhotoNEWS

**Head of Sixth Form, Assistant Headteacher Mrs Elizabeth Lewis is especially pleased to present this year's Head Boy and Head Girl Josh Martin and Samantha Jenkins. These students, with support from their deputies Sean Hasell and Vikki Bebb, will organise a prefect team which will take an active part in many aspects of school life including pastoral work during lower school registration periods.**



## PhotoNEWS

**Our pupils who gained international honours last year and those nominated in recognition of their work within the PE Department received prizes at the county Active School Awards Evening held at Llantrisant Leisure Centre. Pictured from left to right: Nathan Davies (rugby), Leigh Smith (football), James Bailyes (kick-boxing), James Herbert (contribution to the Department), Rachael Door (karate) and Leah Selway (karate). Further awards were made to Alex Allen (football) and Sophie Reardon (contribution to the Department and in junior schools).**

## CACHE students prepared for the future

*Our CACHE students were put through a rigorous schedule of activities, mock interviews and assessments in the last weeks of last term to prepare them for further study and employment.*

*Course Leader Mrs Pugh would like to thank all those who gave up their valuable time on behalf of these students, especially our health visitor*

*Mrs Angela Coleman and the ladies from the Surestart Childcare Scheme who led the baby massage activity pictured.*

*All the girls have now successfully progressed to the Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education course while Marcus Reacord has moved on to the government's Flying Start childcare initiative.*



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