



# Newsletter

October/November 2024

## From the Headteacher's Desk

November is the month for Remembrance. At Gowerton School this is such an important event. A time to remember the Gowertonians that lost their lives in World War 1 and World War 2. In particular this month we remember Penry Guy as it is 80 years since he lost his life in World War 2. We also look back at the month of October and share some of the excellent work and events that took place.

## Annual Service of Remembrance

Our Annual Service of Remembrance was particularly moving remembering Penry Guy and other Gowertonians from both World Wars. Miss Lawlor, Mr McGinley, Head boy Ellis J and Head Girl Isla B led the service. Major Dean Owen, a Gowertonian read the poem 'The Man We Never Knew' followed by musical items from the senior woodwind trio. Katie P (year 11) provided atmospheric piano music as well as accompanying the hymn. Millie C (Year 13) played the emotional last post beautifully. Millie is an excellent brass player and has performed the last post at every Remembrance service for the last 6 years. We will miss her superb playing as she is Year 13 and will be in University this time next year.



We thank everyone that was involved and thank our visitors for attending this important annual event.

## Penry Guy

Penry Guy was from Penclawdd and attended Gowerton school from 1933-37. When World War 2 started he was only 17 years old, the same age as some of our 6th formers. By 1944, he was 22 years old and a member of bomber command in the Royal Air Force. During one night in June 1944 133 Lancaster Bombers and 6 Mosquitoes were sent to attack a synthetic oil production target at Wesseling, an industrial German City. During the raid, German night fighters attacked the bomber force and 37 Lancaster planes were lost. One of these Lancaster planes was piloted by Penry Guy.

The Lancaster bomber, of which he was pilot was hit while over Belgium on the night of June 21/22 1944. Penry Guy told his 6 crewmen to 'Jump or die' and parachute to safety. His crewmen did this. He then managed to control the plane long enough to avoid the village and thus saved its residents. Although Penry Guy lost his life he had heroically saved his 6 crewmen and the lives of the villagers. 70 years later a villager found parts of the Lancaster Bomber and researched Penry Guy. Gowerton School was contacted and since then we have formed a close relationship with the village. We have commemorated the 70<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> anniversaries with them. The banner donated by the village of Asch proudly hangs in the main hall.



## Poppy Appeal Launch

A group of 6<sup>th</sup> formers and Year 10 pupils were privileged to be invited to the Brangwyn Hall to participate in the Poppy Appeal launch. Everyone involved spoke highly of the event and the importance of the Poppy Appeal.



## Books Donated

The school library is grateful to two families for donating a selection of books to the library. The two sets of books will help many pupils to enhance their knowledge and reading. One set of books is linked to the Mindfulness section in the library. The other set of books consists of individual books on famous people. These will hopefully inspire the pupils.



## Maths Challenge

A successful half term with Year 7 pupils enjoying a trip to Pontarddulais comp for the Maths Challenge with John-Amos and Zak winning gold medals! Year 12 and 13 pupils also braved the Senior Maths Challenge with Niko, Mia, Dylan, Matthew, Jemimah and Josh achieving bronze awards. Da iawn pawb!



## Children in Need



Congratulations to Sixth Formers for wearing pyjamas and fancy dress to raise money for Children in Need. A huge effort was made by staff and pupils to sell cakes and sweets. On the day £330 was raised. Special thanks to Rosie and Millie (year 13) for the sweet stall.

## Positivity Rocks



Year 7 pupils have started the 'positivity rocks' lunchtime club in the school quad. The group enjoy painting rocks with bright colours and positive messages. All involved enjoy.



### Welsh Hockey

Congratulations as Miss Preuss, Head of 6th Form, has represented Wales in hockey and gained two Welsh Caps this year. She now has 4 Welsh Caps in total. She recently played with the Welsh Team in South Africa. Whilst there she visited schools and presented basic resources to help pupils in their learning. We are so proud of her achievement.



### El Día de los Muertos

Year 7 produced some fantastic pieces of work for their Day of the Dead creative, cultural homework for their Spanish lessons. Ambitious, capable, enterprising and creative pupils at Gowerton thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and produced outstanding pieces of work to represent their understanding of the Hispanic Festival. Some made cakes, others made posters.



### Cyber Security

Gowerton School is proud to announce our membership with The Cyber Resilience Centre for Wales, reinforcing our commitment to safeguarding our digital environment and protecting our school community from cyber threats. By partnering with the Centre, we aim to enhance our cybersecurity practices, ensure the safety of our data, and empower our staff and students with knowledge about cyber safety. This membership enables us to access expert guidance, resources, and training to strengthen our defences, aligning with our goal to create a safe and resilient digital space for all.



### Individual Successes

Congratulations to Evie J in Year 10. She has been selected to play for the Swans under 16s. Well done Evie and amazing achievement.





Congratulations to Taylor C. He recently had a Gold Medal in Kickboxing at the ICO World Championships. An outstanding achievement – well done Taylor.