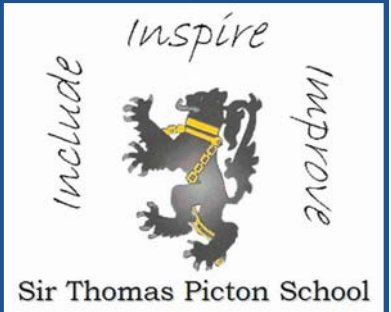




## Sir Thomas Picton School

# the\_word6@STP



### What a green school we are!

Sir Thomas Picton School has just been awarded both the Pembrokeshire Sustainable Schools' Award and the Eco Schools' Bronze Award. The staff and pupils at Ysgol Sir Thomas Picton have been working extremely hard towards these awards by tackling sustainable issues both within lessons and as a whole school. These activities have included lunchtime clubs (Eco Warriors, Going Green, Junior Park Rangers and Gardening Club) and after school clubs which are on every day of the week ("xtr@stp" such as Chill zone, Skill zone and Learn zone).

The school has also reduced its impact on the environment in other ways including the provision of recycling boxes in all rooms, appointing energy monitors in all years to turn off lights and close windows at the end of each day as well as the organisation of an Environment Day for the whole of Year 8.

The School is working in partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council Waste Management Service, Eco-Schools, Pembrokeshire Sustainable Schools Award, West Wales Eco Centre, The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Tir Coed woodland project. This is the first of three awards and the next is the Silver and then Gold award which the school is continuing to work towards. Well done to the very active working party led by Mr Andy Thompson and Mrs Julie Foss.



### Hall of Fame

This edition of our regular Hall of Fame feature focuses on a very well known character from STP. Having paced the corridors for over thirty years, the end of term sees the retirement of one of STP's longest serving teachers. Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Dianne Kalvik, has decided that it is time to travel the world, fine tune her painting skills and even learn to ride a bicycle. However, before she does all this, she intends to take her "gap year" and is just going to spend it tending her sizeable wild garden. Mrs Kalvik is going to be missed and everyone at STP wishes her an enjoyable and long retirement.



### Woodland Project

STP's innovative outdoor classroom has been officially opened with a celebration that saw invited dignitaries marvelling at our new fantastic resource. The classroom is located in a totally enclosed quadrangle and was launched to the sounds of a funk band, champagne corks and the running water in the lily pond. The traditionally made woodland shelter, using larch poles and a group of hard working pupils' newly acquired skills, is now available for teachers to book and for pupils to enjoy during lunch breaks.



### Bugsy Malone

It was all bryl cream and beads at STP recently for the school's dazzling Bugsy Malone extravaganza. Led by Miss Amy Walker, STP's newly appointed Drama teacher and Mr James Olyott, the school's Head of Performing Arts, the production fully embraced the wealth of talent available and the tremendous state-of-the-art facilities at STP. A full report of the ultra successful experience appears in the main body of the Western Telegraph. Plans are already in place for the next production!

### It's Chemistry Summer Camp for three STP pupils

Three budding chemists from Year 10 are off to an exciting and prestigious summer camp held at Manchester University. The initiative, run by the Salters' Institute is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to experience challenging practical chemistry in University laboratories, participate in amazing chemical demonstrations, network with other young scientists from around the country and enjoy a variety of social events. Dr Nicole Wayman, STP's Head of Chemistry had to nominate pupils she thought had a real flair for the subject and the commitment to give up a little of their summer break. The lucky three who were selected following a lengthy application and selection process are Bethan Reynolds, Tom Morrissey and Elliot Collins.



## Duke of Edinburgh

STP has a long tradition of providing pupils with enrichment opportunities through the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. This year has been another successful one for our record number of participants - 46 Bronzes, 14 Silvers and 4 Golds completed so far. Congratulations to all for their sheer hard work and commitment.

Students achieve their awards because they have shown persistence and commitment over a period of time. They have learned new skills, helped others, made friends and had fun. This is a great achievement. Many thanks to all the teaching staff who give up a lot of their free time to supervise groups during the year, both in school and out on expeditions.

## Hairdressing

Sir Thomas Picton School now has its own hair and beauty salon to rival those found in the most glamorous of trendy cities. With six stations, the fully kitted out facility offers pupils the opportunity to work in a professional environment whilst



developing their skills and knowledge. A recent visit by an external verifier from City & Guilds confirmed that this was the best school facility they had seen to date. The school will be offering the Level 1 City & Guilds certificate in Salon Services from September and the course will be run by a professionally qualified practitioner employed from outside the school. There is already a long list of volunteers and models waiting for their free makeovers.

## Welsh Baccalaureate



As we come to the end of STP's first year offering the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification, it has been an extremely busy and exciting time for all our Year 12 students. A Faith Day started the proceedings with several workshops providing insights into Middle Eastern faiths, including Bhangra dancing, meditation, Divali sweet making and an Indian lunch kindly provided by The Bridge Inn in Narberth.

The language module has also been a focus and recent activities such as aerobics with instructions in Italian and Spanish, multilingual bingo and preparation of foreign meals, were followed by the culmination of the whole year's activities in the form of a two day study tour of Cardiff.

Staying in Cardiff University's Halls of Residence, the tour included a visit to St Fagan's, an innovative foreign language treasure hunt around the market, a meal in an Italian or Spanish restaurant, a visit to Swansea Marina and a talk from the University on Higher Education issues. The event, which was organised by Mrs Tracy Edwards, the Welsh Bacc co-ordinator and Mr Tim Williams, the Deputy Headteacher, was enjoyed by all and provided an invaluable learning experience. Next year's event is already on the calendar.

## The healthiest school in Wales

Sir Thomas Picton School has great pleasure in announcing that it is the first school in Wales to be awarded the prestigious Welsh Network of Healthy Schools' National Quality Award.

The school has been prepared for this level of achievement by Mrs Emma Richards, our Healthy School co-ordinator. Pupils, staff and governors were involved in the very thorough assessment of the seven modules- including Food and Fitness, Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Personal Development and Relationships, Substance Use and Misuse, Environment, Safety and Hygiene. A visiting inspection team made up of two Welsh Assembly Government officials visited the school for two days to make the assessment and school council members, SNAG (School Nutrition Advisory Group) members, Eco- Warriors, Treewise project and members of various enterprise teams spent time with the assessors discussing their various roles in each project.

All at STP are delighted that we are again leading the way nationally for this vitally important aspect of life. Extremely well done to everyone involved.



## Wind Turbine

Sir Thomas Picton School's ambitious plans to install its very own wind turbine moved a step closer recently with an application for financial support being accepted by the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Low Carbon Buildings' Programme. STP's proposal is to site a 50metre wind turbine on its land bordering the Fishguard Road roundabout and is presently seeking planning permission to get the project started. The aim is to produce electricity that will reduce the school's carbon footprint whilst also reducing fuel bills.

Tim Williams, Deputy Headteacher at STP commented: "It's a very exciting project that the whole school population has embraced. The

location's commanding position at Haverfordwest's gateway provides a bold statement about STP's, and Pembrokeshire in general's, commitment to sustainability."



## Athletics

STP had nine athletes competing in the Welsh Schools' Athletics Championships in Cardiff on Saturday 4th July. An outstanding five medals were won.

For hurdles, Adam Phillips achieved a bronze at the senior boys' level with

Tom Morrissey also achieving a bronze at middle level. Jonathan Stowell was awarded a silver in the hammer and Matthew Richards also achieved the silver in the steeple chase. The best result was achieved by Heather Lewis, from Year 10, who won the gold in the 2000m walk, breaking the national record by nearly two minutes.

Jonathan, Matthew and Heather should now gain selection for the International event being held in Belfast during mid July. Mr Med Richards, the school's joint Head of PE confirmed "These outstanding results at national level confirm STP's position as a front runner in the Welsh Schools' Athletics world. Well done to all involved."