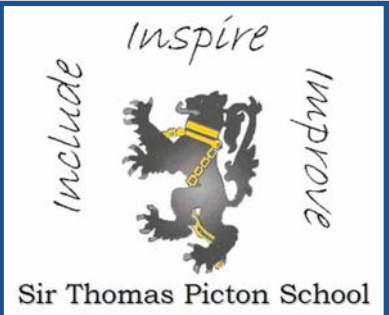




Sir Thomas Picton School

the_word4@STP



Champion crimebusters at STP

A team of Year 8 pupils has recently been titled the Dyfed Powys Police Force's winning regional team in the National All Wales School Core Programme. This is a challenging competition run by all Police Forces and Fire Brigades in Wales. Pupils are tested on their in depth knowledge of drugs information, crime prevention, health and safety, fire prevention and the Highway Code.

Having convincingly won the Pembrokeshire round in November, the team made up of Caitlin

Thompson, Ffion Richards, Ella Staden-Coates, Mrinmayi Morje and David Omoregie travelled to Police Headquarters in Carmarthen for the regional competition. The team was victorious again in this round and now travel to Cardiff for an all expenses stay in a luxury hotel and the chance to walk away with the national title. The very best of luck!



Now there's a choice of two eating venues

In line with the school's commitment to the "Appetite for Life" initiative established by the Welsh Assembly to encourage healthy eating, all pupils are now required to stay on site at lunchtimes. As a result, the existing canteen struggled to provide meals for all within the allocated time and so an additional facility was needed.

With the full support of Mrs Rosemary Griffiths, Pembrokeshire County Council's catering manager, a brand new serving hatch has been installed for pupils to buy a full range of cold food and snacks. This service is available before school starts and at break and lunch times and is in addition to the main canteen's established hot food facilities. A further enhancement has already been added to this new Café Zone in the form of an outdoor eating area and pupils can now enjoy their meals alfresco style.



Hall of Fame

Whilst our Hall of Fame feature has already recognised dazzling careers in the fields of music, drama and sport, STP's ultra successful Art department has also had its fair share of celebrity past pupils.

Shan Valla was an 'A' Level Art student at STP up until 2001 when she transferred to Buckinghamshire Chilterns University, qualifying in 2005 with a first class honours degree in ceramics and glass. Winning the prestigious New Designers Award in 2005 for her individual, innovative and truly beautiful glass pieces was an exceptional achievement, especially when considering that over 3000 entries are received annually from all the art colleges in the UK.

Shan has now proceeded on to a Masters' Degree in the Royal College of Art in London where she is currently working on fine art ceramic pieces. She continues to exhibit in contemporary galleries and her work has recently been selected for the famous John Soane Museum in Holborn. She also has her own website (www.valla.co.uk/shan) and continues to work on commissions and one off designs. STP is very proud of her tremendous achievements.



Come surf with us. . .

by Katherine Hannah Year 12

As a member of the 6th Form at Sir Thomas Picton School, every Wednesday a group of us head down to the beach for a surf. This is part of the enrichment programme we are offered by the school. We do this come rain or shine! We are all of different abilities- some are putting in nice turns whilst others are happy just to get to their feet. It's great fun whatever stage you are at. Admittedly, at this time of year, the sea does get pretty chilly but we all agree that it is definitely worth it. A great way of getting fit away from the pressures of school. Want to come along?

xtr@stp

An exciting menu of after school opportunities has recently been launched for all STP pupils. Entitled xtr@stp, the school has worked with Alistair Birch, Pembrokeshire County Council's Community Schools' co-ordinator, to plan a whole host of fun, but productive, activities.

Organised into three distinct zones- chill, skill and learn- the school is committed to becoming a community focused school and is extending its opening hours up until 5pm on Tuesday to Thursday evenings.

The menu of activities changes every term but this is what is on offer from 23rd February. The chill zone is an area where pupils can relax and socialise with friends whilst enjoying a film or participating in a Nintendo Wii club. The skill zone offers a range of fun based structured



activities that support and extend the existing school study provision. These include joining a samba band, cookery lessons and membership of gardening or art clubs. The learn zone is aimed at making learning fun and offers a gadget group, ecology club and a computer forum.

More information is available by contacting the school or visiting the website on www.stp.pembrokeshire.sch.uk



Our girls keep on winning

Congratulations and good luck must go to STP's U16 Hockey and Netball squads. Both teams recently became Pembrokeshire and Dyfed champions and now go on to compete at national level. This is a truly exceptional achievement for this cohort who have shown top level skills in more than one sport.

These results are in addition to the U18 Hockey squad also being named county champions after beating Preseli 3-0 in a recent final. Notable personal hockey performances have included Ceri Jenkins and Sophie Rees being selected for the Welsh U18 and U16 squads respectively. They have been attending training sessions and are waiting to see if they will be included in the teams to play in the European and Home Nations' Tournaments. Good luck to all concerned- flying the flag for Pembrokeshire and Sir Thomas Picton School.



ICT study tour

At midnight on Sunday 12th January 2009, twenty nine pupils and three very brave, and soon to be very tired, teachers left Sir Thomas Picton School and made their way via the Eurotunnel to Disneyland, Paris.

On arrival everyone was keen to make the most of their time and took straight to the spectacular theme park. Later that evening a lecture, followed by a discussion, was given in the Gaumont cinema, the first of three educational sessions that discussed Animatronics, Computer Aided Design and 3D Modelling. Later that evening some ice skating skills to rival Dancing on Ice were seen on Times Square to finish off a delightful start to the trip.



Back to the park on the Tuesday morning and the Tower of Terror, Space Mountain and Rock N Roller Coaster did not disappoint. Then onto another lecture and a discussion

about Hotel Information Systems and Data Protection. This was followed by Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show where Mr James and Mrs Price were abducted by bandits, much to the pupils' delight, and had to be rescued by Buffalo Bill himself!

The group returned to Sir Thomas Picton on Wednesday evening exhausted but thrilled to have had such a good time. A huge thank you from Mrs Price, Mr James and Mrs Foster to the pupils who participated, they were a credit to the school. An amazing time was had by all and the department is already looking forward to going again next year.

Recognition for one of STP's teachers



Sir Thomas Picton School is delighted to announce that one of its most respected teachers has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to sport in Pembrokeshire. Mr Med Richards, joint Head of PE at the school, was recently named the Secondary School Teacher of the Year at the prestigious Sport Pembrokeshire awards ceremony.

Mr Richards has taught at the school for 13 years and in that time he has always been involved in a whole range of sporting activities. This has been especially so with regard to athletics where he was honoured to hear recently that he has been added to the list of Vice Presidents to the Welsh Schools Athletic Association for his considerable contribution. His interest started many years ago when he was an athlete and cross country runner when being brought up in Croesgoch near St Davids.

Mr Richards enjoys teaching all aspects of PE - from the practical and academic qualifications of GCSE & 'A' level to the innovative and vocational 'BTEC Sport' that he and Mrs Delyth Truman are delivering for the first time this year. His philosophy has always been to try and give students as many positive experiences as possible through the range of physical activities that the school offers. All at STP are very proud of Mr Richards' well-deserved recognition.

Early GCSE celebration

Well done to the Year 11 pupils who have already passed their GCSEs in English and Mathematics. A considerable number of pupils received excellent news recently after sitting their GCSEs early in November. The Mathematics pupils now get the opportunity to study for an additional GCSE in Statistics and the English pupils will concentrate on their Literature studies. As expected, the results were outstanding!

We are so healthy!

The national Healthy Schools' initiative continues to make great strides forward in making an impact on the health and wellbeing of the whole STP community. We recently became the first secondary school in Wales to pilot the heady heights of the Welsh Assembly Government's Phase Six of the National Quality Award. Two actions areas have already been successfully achieved and we look forward to being assessed in the five soon.

Quality labs for a quality Science Faculty



Four of STP's nine laboratories are currently benefiting from total refits paid for by Pembrokeshire County Council. This is in addition to two that were fully refurbished in 2006. Every state-of-the-art facility is being incorporated including innovative sound systems, electronic blackout window blinds, the latest interactive whiteboards, ergonomically designed work clusters and new bespoke lighting. All this means that STP is able to offer its pupils outstanding, fit-for-purpose facilities where even higher quality investigative work in Years 7 to 13 is possible.

The Science Faculty is currently enjoying great success with improving results and an increase in the number of pupils opting for Triple Science GCSE and individual Advanced Level courses in Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Now that we have the facilities available that match the teachers' expertise and pupils' enthusiasm, there will be not stopping them!



Term dates

Easter	6 April - 17 April
May Day	4 May
Half term	25 May - 29 May
Summer	20 July - 2 September