

## WLCOW SCHOOLS AWARDS REPORT 2023

Ten Awards of £250 have been made to ten schools.

1. Ysgol y Deri, Vale of Glamorgan: Jennaliese Salter
2. Calon Cymru, Builth: Henry Bonos
3. Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi: Millie Crowe
4. St David's College: Kenzie Hollingsworth
5. Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur: Non Watts
6. Coleg Merthyr: Ismail Shaikh
7. Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw: Carys Jones and Jacob Lewis
8. Ysgol Hari Tudur Pembroke: Molly Edwards
9. Bishop Vaughan Swansea: Annabel Parry
10. Hillside (confidential)

1. Ysgol y Deri Special School, VOG: Jennaliese (Jen) Salter: Bridgend College Diploma Course



Jen has worked hard throughout her time at YYD. She has gained a range of qualifications and has achieved excellent results. She completed her English and Maths GCSE and gained an A\* in History. She has completed Art GCSE in one year, showing determination and a passion to achieve. She has also gained the Prince's Trust Entry Level 3 – Professional Development and Employability. Jen is considerate and thoughtful and has volunteered at a local charity shop, on a weekly basis, throughout the year. Jen has previously felt anxious about change and adjusted well to this new experience. She also worked

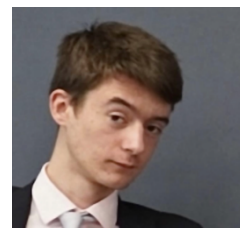
in the school Café and training kitchen, allowing her to also develop catering and customer service experiences.

Alongside school, Jen has always had an interest in music. She plays a range of instruments including guitar, and drums. This will be part of her Level 2 Diploma course at Bridgend College.

2. Ysgol Calon Cymru, Henry Bonos: Warwick University Mathematics

During his time at Ysgol Calon Cymru, Henry has been an exceptional student who approached his studies with intelligence and determination. He has constantly looked to extend his knowledge. And attended the SEREN international summer school.

He also took part in the highly competitive, Harvard pre-college program and a 2-week internship at JP Morgan, London. Here he was involved in research and utilizing and comparing data and observing economic positions of emerging markets.



Henry says *"I have always appreciated mathematics for the opportunity to think creatively, and I enjoy observing the patterns of sequences and graphs for different functions. Through A-levels, my desire to study mathematics has only become stronger, as I have been introduced to new concepts, such as hyperbolic functions, polar coordinates, and further manipulation of calculus, that have inspired me. I was amazed by how many equations there are to prove even simple rules in number theory, but what intrigued me most were the equations involving modulo operators, as they create simpler ways to observe patterns amongst primes, products of numbers, and fractions."* Henry gained 4 A\* stars in his A level exams.

3. Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi: Millie Crowe Astrophysics at Cardiff

Millie says *"I am fascinated by Astrophysics and I'm eager to learn more about the fundamental principles of the universe and mathematical equations which allow us to explain our observations. I am looking forward to the intellectual challenges that studying*



*Astrophysics will bring*". Millie gained top grades in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics, A-levels that are particularly well related to a degree in Astrophysics: These have given her both the knowledge and skills required for the application of fundamental principles to complex scenarios and the basic building blocks to create descriptions of the universe. Millie participated in the Seren Award completing an assignment focused on dark matter and its influence on the universe. She attended a residential summer school at the University of Oxford, an experience which further solidified her desire to study Astrophysics at a higher level.

4, St David's College: Kenzie Hollingsworth University of South Wales, Law



Kenzie is fascinated by the role of legislation; in particular how slight amendments in legislation or common law can lead to a monumental impact on the life of an individual or society. Kenzie gained excellent results in BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate, A-Level Politics and Business and the Welsh Bacallaureate Advanced Skills Challenge.

Kenzie has also been enthusiastic in participating in the environmental club and describes how he gained a sense of integrity and discipline from his time spent in the Army Cadets. He was President of the Catholic & Friends Society at St David's College. He worked as part of a team. His main responsibility as President was to represent the student body during meetings with all levels of staff from teaching staff to the governing body. He helped arrange St David's College's Culture Day. This was an event which saw the celebration of the more than 35 countries represented within the college. It was supported by the local MP, Jo Stevens. *"My time as president has made me want to continue to have an impact on my*

*community, workplace, education, and society. I will continue to try to do better in every aspect of my life and my goal is to make sure that I continue to benefit people, now and in the future."*

5.Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur: Non Watts, Jesus College Oxford History and French

Non gained 4 A\*'s and hopes to become a foreign correspondent for a media company. She says *"My love for language has developed from my bilingual upbringing, having been immersed in both Welsh and English since birth. Bilingualism has enriched my ability to see things from different perspectives and has made me appreciate diverse cultures and societies. Observing how language, culture and historical events intertwine to form a nation's identity has been of great personal interest. The combination of studying History and French excites me because it will not only allow me to explore the connection between past events and contemporary society but will also provide me with different lenses and perspectives to analyse historical and literary texts"*.

Her passion for French literature led her to enrol in The Scholar's Programme, a research project, in which she achieved a First.

Non gave a speech at the Remembrance Service. and she felt that this experience of public speaking allowed her to communicate her passion for history to others and to convey her cultural awareness and respect for her own historical roots. Non was deputy head girl and competed nationally in swimming, giving her the self-discipline, perseverance and resilience required to complete her degree.

6. Coleg Merthyr, Merthyr Ismail Shaikh Medicine, Peninsular Medical School Exeter.

*"I am honoured to be nominated by my tutors for the WLCoW Award. This nomination has encouraged me even more to work towards my dream. That is, to give back to society by*



*pursuing Medicine as a career. My interest in Medicine started developing whilst caring for my grandmother who has dementia, I care about her because she is someone that I am very close to. Her treating clinicians listen to us with patience and respect, and this made me admire the values that these professionals held. Aside from that, I see myself as a person who lives to learn and as Medicine is always evolving it will be very interesting". Ismail aims to be a psychiatrist which he feels combines patient contact and academic knowledge about brain function."* Through the College Merthyr Tydfil work experiences and shadowing, he gained further insight into the day-to-day roles of

doctors, affirming his choice of career Ismail gained 3 As in Psychology, Chemistry and Physics and an A\* in Biology.

Ismail is one of the founding members of Merthyr Astronomy and Rocketry Society. He took the lead role in designing the rocket for the UKROC competition. He is also an Imam in his local Mosque.

7. Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw: Carys Jones and Jacob Lewis. Oxford University - Jacob at Jesus College to read Physics and Carys at Exeter College to read Chemistry. Carys Jones and Jacob Lewis gained straight A\* Grades in their A-Levels.



*Carys says: "Chemistry touches almost every aspect of human existence. From making rocket fuel to developing drugs, it is Chemistry's multidisciplinary and ever-evolving nature which I find so captivating. I aspire to be a*

*part of the future of chemistry, to make useful contributions to existing and future societal challenges. To study chemistry at university is the next step in expanding my knowledge and studying it for many years ahead excites, motivates, and inspires me".*



*Jacob says "My desire to study Physics arises from my curiosity to understand the laws governing our universe and my penchant for problem-solving. I am particularly interested in studying particle physics and quantum mechanics at university because of their links to Chemistry, which is another subject I thoroughly enjoy, and because I am intrigued by subatomic phenomena. For instance, electrons being described as a wave function as well as annihilation and pair production. Through studying Physics at university and understanding these mechanisms, I hope to pave the*

*way for pursuing a career in which I can seek answers to some of the universe's phenomena via the employment of physics principles.*

8. Ysgol Hari Tudur Pembroke: Molly Edwards: Cardiff University Mathematics

Molly is quite an exceptional young woman. Molly has excelled throughout her school life, both academically and personally. She was one of our highest achieving students in her



GCSE cohort and continued to work with complete commitment through the Sixth Form, being elected to the position of Vice Principal Student and Captain of the County Netball team.

In spite of serious challenges Molly performed very well in her AS Levels last year and gained AAAA this year.

Molly has made a successful application to Cardiff University to study Mathematics, all testament to Molly's maturity, tenacity, ambition, and zest for life.

I cannot praise this young woman enough, she is an outstanding example to her peers and her achievements are staggering

#### 9. Bishop Vaughan Swansea: Annabel Parry: Neuroscience Cardiff

Annabel feels that Neuroscience and psychology integrate the science behind behaviour and the nervous system, with social and external factors. *"A few years ago, my grandfather was diagnosed with dementia, which sparked my interest in the brain, how it works, and how things go wrong. The brain is something with so much complexity and I am very excited by the prospect of exploring the physical brain, the mind, and the role of the nervous system in different processes. In biology, we studied the nervous system and how neurotransmitters from the brain influence behaviour. However, in psychology I was taught that behaviour is also influenced by our environment and social factors. This contrast is extremely fascinating to me; Why do some people experience mental health problems, but others do not? Why do some people become criminals? These questions motivated me to pursue a career in the field of neuroscience and psychology"*. Last year she attended virtual masterclasses from Cardiff university which examined neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. She looked at the ethics of treatment and concluded that even though valid consent is difficult to obtain, the overall benefit to the individual and their family outweighs this cost. This gave her an insight into the world of neuroscience and university and made her even more interested in the subject through the task of gathering information and researching various neurological disorders and their treatments, then listening and discussing our findings in groups,

#### 10. Hillside Secure Children's Home: Confidential

Tutors at the centre recommended a young person who has turned their life around. They have gain GCSEs to enable them to progress to a vocational College Course. The Master presented the Award.

PM Dr. Kathy Seddon  
November 2023