

P.E.S.S. (P.E. and School Sport) Project Funds Training in Physical Education in all Vale schools

Since its conception in 2002, P.E.S.S. (P.E. and School Sport), a Welsh Assembly funded initiative, has invested millions across Wales to set up Development Centres within each local authority aiming to raise the standards of teaching and learning in curriculum P.E.

Through the Vale's PESS co-ordinator, Lesley Dancey, all primary and secondary schools have the opportunity to become part of a funded P.E.S.S. Development Centre by January 2010. A Development Centre is a partnership of secondary schools, their feeder primary schools and other partners dedicated to raising pupil standards in Physical Education and School Sport.

In the Vale, five funded centres have been established involving Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Bro Morgannwg, St Cyres and St Richard Gwyn Comprehensive schools. Teachers at these centres have access to high quality continued professional development opportunities in P.E. through high quality training days, resources, staff twilight sessions, mentoring of teachers with their own classes of pupils and working parties to develop areas of the P.E. curriculum.

During the Spring Term, Barry Comprehensive, Bryn Hafren and Stanwell Comprehensives were invited to an information day with their primary feeder schools to find out more about P.E.S.S. Part of this day focussed on completing a self-evaluation in Physical Education to identify current good practice within Vale schools and possible areas for development with funding through the project. The information day was FREE to schools with additional funding available through the project to release teachers to attend.

P.E.S.S. Co-ordinator, Lesley Dancey said:

"The day was very well received with over 88% of Vale Schools attending. Teachers were very keen and extremely enthusiastic about being involved in this exciting project."

Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Jane Hutt says about the P.E.S.S. Project:

"The improved quality of sport in schools gives young people a great opportunity for a healthy start in life, which as the (Estyn 2008) report confirms has many other positive effects such as on pupils behaviour and attitude. It is essential we build on the success of the P.E.S.S. initiative to ensure that future generations are aware of the benefits and go on to live healthy and active lifestyles."

Should you require any further information about the PE and School Sport Project please contact:

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Raising Standards - Extending Opportunities

Success in Catch Up Numeracy!

Vale of Glamorgan schools are experiencing excellent results both in engaging pupils in mathematics and raising pupil attainment in the subject, due to a new intervention called Catch Up Numeracy. Catch Up Numeracy is a one-to-one intervention programme which provides targeted support for learners who struggle with numeracy. Six schools in the Vale were involved in the development of the programme with a further two schools participating in the second round of the pilot.

The launch of Catch Up Numeracy was held in Cardiff in July 2008, prior to the launch in London. Since that time, four training events have been held in the Vale for teaching staff and LSAs, who are now delivering the programme in our schools. To date, 42 schools, including two special schools and one secondary school, have members of staff trained in the programme, with several schools having two or more staff delivering Catch Up Numeracy.

Initial results have been extremely positive, with pupils making gains of between 6 and 24 months in their maths age, over a period of 4 to 5 months. Feedback from staff indicates increased confidence and positive attitudes towards mathematics, from the pupils. The pupils thoroughly enjoy the twice weekly, 15 minute, one-to-one sessions which are oral and practical in nature. Class teachers have also reported that the gain in confidence of the pupils involved has also resulted in an increased willingness to participate in class lessons. As one member of staff commented,

"We have given our children a 'maths voice' at last."

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Welsh Books Competition - County Round

The competition was held at St Illtyd's Primary School in Llantwit Major on Wednesday 1st April.

Many thanks to headteacher Alun Smith and his team of teachers for making us most welcome.

Four schools took part, judged by teacher Sarah Jones and librarian Gill Southby. The children were humorously entertained, by author Francesca Kay with stories of guinea pigs, worms and lost socks!

The children had to discuss and compare their views about chosen Welsh books and present a dramatisation of a further Welsh book. The standard was extremely high and the judges had a very difficult task deciding on the winner. Well done to all those who took part.

Congratulations go to St Andrews Major Church in Wales Primary School, who will be going on to the National round to be held at Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon on the 19th June.



Barry Island Primary School.



St Illtyd Primary School.



Peterston-Super-Ely Church in Wales Primary School.



St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School.

Writer's Squad - Spring Term session

The Spring Writer's Squad session was held at St Bride's Major Primary School on the 25th March. Many thanks to all at St Bride's for making everyone feel welcome. 27 children attended from schools across the Vale.

The children worked with poet Kate Williams producing many exciting poems based on the theme of woodland life. Kate covered a number of poetry genres, the children had great fun extending their writing and working with their peers.

The next session is going to be held at The Museum of Welsh Life on the 17th June, working with local author and historian Phil Carradice.

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