Welcome from the Headteacher,

This term has been a very busy and positive one for our school. Our GCSE results were the highest ever achieved by the school; 63% of pupils achieved the gold standard measure of at least 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths, whilst 89% achieved at least 5 A*-C grades and almost 99% achieved at least 5 A*-G grades. It was particularly pleasing that we have improved in every Welsh government indicator, showing that we are improving the life chances of every child, irrelevant of ability. This year over 23% achieved an A*-A grade in mathematics, this is an outstanding achievement and shows the very high expectation we have in Morriston.

These results have being identified as the most improved GCSE results in Wales. This is a great achievement given that there are over 210 secondary schools in Wales, and is testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and children. Throughout my time as Headteacher I have spoken repeatedly about the need to raise expectations and ultimately become an outstanding school, and these results are an important first step to achieve this. We are a very ambitious school and appreciate that this got us to a good position, we now need to continue to aim to be a great school.

I hope this newsletter will give you a flavour of the huge range of opportunities and achievements in our school. Our House system got up and running this September and is proving to be very effective. Our 5 Heads of House and their team have worked very hard to begin developing a strong House identity and ethos and they share their experiences later in this newsletter.

We are particularly proud of Holly Jones Y11, who represented Wales at the junior commonwealth games in Namibia and came away with 3 Gold medals in gymnastics, Thushyanthan Karunanithy, Year 9, won Gold in the European Karate Championship in Montichiari, Italy back in October and Jac Colman, who won the most improved attendance in Swansea.

Thank you for your continued support of our school, I wish you all a very merry Christmas a happy and successful new year.

Mr M Franklin

Holly gets Gold!

Star gymnast Holly Jones Y11 represented Wales at the Junior commonwealth games in Namibia, and came away with 3 gold medals:

- Team gold
- Vault gold
- Floor gold

This is an amazing achievement, especially as hours after landing back in the country she was coming into school to resume her GCSE studies!

Well done Holly we all very proud of you!

Jack is top attender!

Jac Colman has won most improved attendance in the whole of Swansea, (he is currently on 100%). In a presentation at the Civic Centre this month, he won an iPad and was awarded a certificate by Councillor Raynor. Huge congratulations to Jac.
Eco News!

Members of eco-club attended an interactive Welsh environment talk on Friday 10th November. The talk, titled “Fire Skies”, was delivered by Phil Williams who shared inspiring stories of his experiences working and travelling in Central Africa, Central and South America and Southeast Asia. This included stories of time spent living with Orang Utans in Malaysia and native tribes in Ecuador. Students learnt about the importance of conservation, reducing waste and litter and were encouraged to act as global citizens.

Litter-awareness

Following the ‘Fire-Skies’ talk, year 11s Jenny Smith and Cerys Grantham delivered an assembly to each house on the importance of reducing our litter and behaving as global citizens. Both did an excellent job of independently preparing and delivering an engaging presentation in front of an audience of around 180 students. Members of eco-club have since agreed to do some research on how to improve waste disposal in school. They will feed back their findings to the school council and Mr Franklin.

Eco-club top-tips for an eco-friendly Christmas

1. Only buy what you plan to eat.
2. Buy a sustainably-produced Christmas tree.
3. Recycle scrap materials to make Christmas decorations. There are lots of ideas on YouTube.
4. Save your wrapping paper and re-use it next year.
5. Share lifts or use public transport if you are travelling to see family or friends this Christmas!

School wins £12,000 from Tesco’s Bags of Help

We are pleased to announce the school achieved first place in the Tesco vote and has been awarded £12,000 to develop an edible garden next year. This will offer a sustainable outdoor space for our pupils to learn, and gain valuable knowledge often unavailable in the traditional classroom setting.

London Art/Photography trip:

Year 10-13 Art and Photography pupils visited London on November 18th where they visited the Tate Britain art gallery and explored London’s Covent Garden. Pupils were able to get first hand inspiration and were able to study from key artists. All pupils enjoyed and were exemplary.

Our primary Schools get Wicked experience!

As part of the Transition programme this year, We thought we would offer something rather exciting to the Primary Schools, as a little treat to finish off the year. We invited all schools to attend a specialised West End Workshop at Morriston Comprehensive school, where they learnt the song and choreography from the West End Musical WICKED. They then got to perform their work on our stage with full sound and lighting. We had over 180 pupils attend the workshop and the feedback was incredibly positive.

Going for DoE Gold!

The success of DofE goes from strength to strength in Morriston. Congratulations to Elin Rees and Emily Diamond were presented with their Gold DofE award by HRH Duke of Edinburgh at St James Palace.

We presently have 55 students ranging from Y10 to sixth form working towards their bronze and gold award.

We are confident that all will eventually achieve the Gold award and attend the prestigious event in London.
In Dragon House (Ty Ddraig) Mr. Evans has started football House competitions. So far both Year 8 and Year 9 have taken part in the competition. Year 8 Dragons were led by Jay Riggeard and Year 9 were captained by Tito Anderson. Both teams did really well and the Year 9 team lost in the final.

Ty Ddraig has a new House Badge and a motto selected by our students. The badge is a red dragon with the motto “Y Ddraig Goch Never Give Up”.

Many of the pupils in Dragon House have also been involved with the Community Days we have planned over Christmas. They have participated in cake sales for Children in Need and Genes for Genes Day and they have filled parcels which will be taken out to the Senior Citizens of Morriston next week. Some of the Sixth Form in Dragon House have also raised money for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party and many will take part in entertaining and feeding over a hundred pensioners. Some of our students have raised money and bought selection boxes and presents which will be donated to the Childrens Ward in Morriston Hospi-

The children have settled in to the new house system extremely well and the structure has certainly helped break down year group boundaries. Older children have naturally supported the younger ones in the house and I am confident that this will continue to evolve as the year progresses.

The house motto is ‘Seize the Day’ as this incorporates all that we want to achieve – to seize every opportunity whether it be educational or personal. We also now have a house badge created by Bethany O’Mahoney in Year 11. Gwaith da Bethany.

Phoenix House has developed opportunities to build confidence further with ‘Give it a Go Friday’ where tutors have encouraged participation in fun activities by always giving it a go themselves and, of course, allowing the pupils to lead the session. Highlights have included: making origami frogs, icing cakes (purple of course!), hula-hooping, finger knitting, Kung Fu, sign language and Irish dancing. All year groups take part in this and it has been helpful in building collaboration, communication and confidence as well as ensuring every Friday starts with a smile!

It has been a busy time for Hydra House; Holly Riley won the Hydra House badge and motto competition, with her winning entry ‘We gather strength as we grow’, that sums up perfectly what our house means to us. Ella Rees, Chloe Price and Emily Jones were elected House Captains, who I am sure will be an asset to the house.

It has been a term of sporting excellence for Hydra House; Thushiyantahan Karunanithy, Year 9, won Gold in the European Karate Championship in Montichiari, Italy in October.

Holly Riley, Year 10, is currently training with the Ospreys Under 18’s Women’s rugby team in preparation to play with the regional team. Another of our Year 10 girls has had sporting success this term, Ava Houston-Phillips has been selected to train for the Welsh development netball squad. We wish her every success.

In Year 11, Kyle Owen is training with the senior touch rugby Welsh teams, for both the male and mixed squads in preparation for the European Championships next summer.

The pupils of Griffin House have adapted wonderfully well to the new structure. We have two house captains, Rachel Leung and Dylan Evans, and at least two form captains for each form.

The form captains will be liaising between their form classes and the house captains in order to ensure that the achievements of their classmates, both in and outside of school, are celebrated on the Griffin page of the school's website. We also have an emerging team of pupils who are going to cover the activities for Griffin House (Bobbi Coates, Marcus Watts and James Davies). Tanika Hyatt is going to co-ordinate our charity efforts and will be working with the local Rotary club after the new year on a project to supply children in Africa with school equipment.

Mr Jones-Bennett has devised a current affairs based Griffin Quiz of the Week for Friday with winners rewarded in assembly. We will also be running a ‘Random Acts of Kindness’ project where all staff and pupils are encouraged to participate and this will be shared on the webpage.

Our house motto is, “I am, I can, I will”. We want to be a house that is founded on the principles of positivity, aspiration, dedication and resilience.

Pegasus pupils have thoroughly embraced the Pegasus House ethos and are all working together to develop a fantastic team effort. This term pupils have taken part in the house logo and motto competition, with such a creative bunch and some fantastic entries it was very difficult to choose an overall winner, therefore a selection of all was compiled to create our logo. Pegasus 6 worked as a team to decide on our house motto ‘Wisdom begins with wonder’ which we feel supports the strong commitment to learning that we have adopted as a house. House captains were chosen from their strong applications Barakat Siyanbola (Y13) Pegasus 1 & Kyra Williams (Y11) Pegasus 8. Pegasus have been very successful in their Friday football tournament with Mr Evans as frequent winners of the tournament games. We look forward to further success in Pegasus House and wish you all the best for the holiday season.
Senior Citizens Party – our sixth form show the true meaning of Christmas!

Once again our wonderful sixth form organised The Morriston Senior Citizens Christmas Party held on Wednesday, 14th December.

Our guests enjoyed festive food, entertainment, bingo and quizzes. Entertainment was provided by our School Choir, students and Morriston Rugby Club Choir. A great time was had by all.

On Thursday, 15th December the Sixth Form took around 60 food parcels to pensioners in the Local Community, along with approximately 80 parcels to Morriston Hospital to the Children’s Ward.

Important School uniform changes
From January 2017, the school will no longer stock or sell any school uniform. Our approved school uniform supplier is Bergoni, who can be contacted on 01792 796880 or 01792 771070 and found at:

8 Tower Court,
Swansea Enterprise Park,
St. Davids Rd,
Llansamlet,
Swansea,
SA6 8RU

Bergoni stock the full range of school uniform, as well as non branded items such as shirts, trousers and skirts. They will also hold these items in large quantities, as well as being able to offer online shopping.

Important date for your diary!
We return to School on
Tuesday 3rd January.

From all the staff at Morriston!