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A message from Dai Sibbons, our principal

**This summer term has been tremendously busy. The results of all our learners' and trainees have been excellent and I thank all staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication.**

Earlier this term we received a full Estyn inspection, which went very well, with very positive **feedback. Estyn's judgment grade on the college will be promulgated on the 20th August. We will share this result with you on Face book, Twitter and on the college website.**

Ruaridh, Kathryn and David, from the third year programme took part in the annual biography retreat. This is where they discuss their hopes and aspirations for the future. This year they **went "glamping" they tell us they thoroughly enjoyed themselves, having seen the photos, they did!**

There was a gloomy start to the morning of the summer fair, but the weather changed and the sun shone, the choir sang and everybody had a fantastic time. Thank you to all staff for the fantastic workshops and games and superb craft stalls. Of course a big thank you to all parents and families that travelled to attend and support the event.

As we close yet another year of college life sadly we have to say our goodbyes. Jim Nowell leaves us after 7 years and Simon Edwards after 6 years, both are transitioning to new placements and we wish them well in their new lives.

Just to finish I would like to personally thank everybody that contributes to college life. This has been a very successful year and I look forward to a further year of positive growth next year. Hope you all have an enjoyable safe holiday and see you all next term.

**Dai Sibbons**



### What's been happening in the houses?

We asked some of the Houses to update us with what they've been up to this term. Here are the different articles which they sent to us...

#### Gardevias



This term we have had some changes in Gardevias. We have a new House Manager Sandra and are very pleased to have her in Gardevias. We also welcomed new night staff Ania and have welcomed Jacquie onto days. We were very sad to say goodbye to Katie. She has been a big part of Gardevias and is sadly missed by all. We are also sad to see some of our staff and guest volunteers leave this term, which includes Olivia W, Rachael, Alexandra and Olivia L. We thank them for their hard work and will miss them and wish them well for the future.



During summer term we started a "girlie night" in Gardevias on a Wednesday. The girls in Coleg Elidyr meet in Gardevias to interact with each other doing girly activities, which include nail painting, face masks, hairdressing, bracelet making and playing games, which they all seem to enjoy.



With the recent sunny weather, the learners, staff and guest volunteers have enjoyed many weekends having picnics, playing football, beach visits, bbqs,

carnival, relaxing outside and going for long walks.

During one of our weekend trips to Carmarthen, we participated in a St John's ambulance demonstration of first aid. Kathryn, Ffion and Edith were shown how to do CPR. Ffion and Edith had a go practising what they had learnt, with Kathryn observing, which was great fun!

#### Ty St Barbe

Our house has experienced a few changes this year, Sandra Tandy has left to become the house manager of Gardevias (see above), and Klaus Bennecke joined us as manager. We've said goodbye to some great guest volunteers and welcomed some more great ones to join us.

We have done some exciting things over the course of the last year, For example;

Folly Farm - **sadly the lions weren't there yet, but we had a really good day out!** We also went to **LC2 Swansea's water park** - we enjoyed the slides the most!! Llansteffan beach and castle was good for a walk and a packed lunch. We went to Pendine beach for a BBQ with Ty Iori and some swimming in the sea and also to Vue Cinema Swansea - because Peter loves the cinema! (Continued opposite...)



Ty Rhieni



This term Jake Griffiths and myself asked to go Swansea on one weekend to do some shopping for the things that we needed. I spent some of my free time planning the trip. I had to look up train times and find an available member of staff to give us a lift to the train station and back. I also had to check if the Coleg Elidyr bus was free. I asked one co-worker to come with me.

This was my first trip to Swansea on a train, it took almost two hours to get there. Once we were there we first had some food, after food we went to the music shop to buy some guitar strings for the guitar that I am making during wood work club.

I would like to do something like that again next term. Maybe I could get more friends to come with me.

Sophie and myself decided we would like to go and watch a film together in the cinema in Carmarthen. We asked staff if we could organize it together. We sat down with Sophie together and decided which film to see. We had to make sure that we picked the right bus so we had plenty of time to get there and see the film. The day before, we phoned the cinema and booked the seats. Staff helped me to work out how much money I needed for the day and advised me to write down the plan for the day so I would not get confused on the day and everything was clear.



The film that we watched was very funny and the two co-workers who came with us enjoyed it too.

Ty St Barbe

**We've also enjoyed meals out in Llandeilo, Llandovery and Carmarthen. We went to Llandovery Fair to see the parade and walk around the stalls. We went for some packed lunches out, at Llangorse Lake where we fed the swans and Penian park where we went for a walk to enjoy the scenery. We went out so many places that other houses got in on it too; we went to Rhandirmwyn Dam with Ty Iori, Nantgwyn and Farmhouse. Finally, we recently went shopping in Builth Wells, where we had lunch whilst out also. Please enjoy the photos we've taken below, we can't wait to have more great times over the course of next year - we're already planning ahead!**







### Farmhouse

The perfect weather is back and so the Farmhouse decided to go to Llan-gorse Lake close to Brecon to enjoy these sunny days.

Jim went canoeing while Daniel, Gilly, Greg and David went on a pedal boat. Of course the staff got in on the action too!

After being so active everyone was very hungry and enjoyed a nice pick nick. There was still some food left which the swans were very happy about as they were lucky to be fed the leftovers. Before going back everyone joined in a football match. We would like to share with you some of our best moments together.



### Ty Iori

Inspired by the musical outing in the Equality and Diversity day, the volunteers in Ty Iori and around the site organised an International Music Festival at the end of June this year. There were songs from around the world and throughout time performed by the volunteers, and a chance for some of the learners to join in too!

We have made a beautiful write-up of the event, its history and inspiration which you can find online through the Coleg Elidyr facebook. Please give it a look and discover what made the day so special!

Find the post on facebook, or via  
[www.colegelidyr.com/internationalmusic/](http://www.colegelidyr.com/internationalmusic/)





### Nantgwyn

The other week we went on a trip to Oakwood theme park, the learners enjoyed the build up to the day and were very excited. The learners prepared their packed lunch with water in the morning and put sun cream on as it was hot outside. The trip to Oakwood was quite long but on arrival everybody forgot about how long **we'd been in the bus! They collected their tickets and started their exciting trip.**



We enjoyed a mini train tour of the park (which Nata-sha loved), and a loads of rides including a slide (which Jared and Andrew enjoyed the most!). We stopped for a picnic lunch in the park (which was **Stacey's favourite part**).

We had a trip on a boat around the lake in the park, before all the boys went on the Pirate ship ride (which you can see Jake enjoying above!)

At the end of the trip, we stopped for a whole group photo. We had a lovely day!



### Cooking

As usual, our trainee groups have been cooking in the Houses throughout this year, but this **year, everybody has been wearing new chef's whites when cooking for the house, and we've been putting an additional focus on food hygiene so that we all learn safe working practices.**

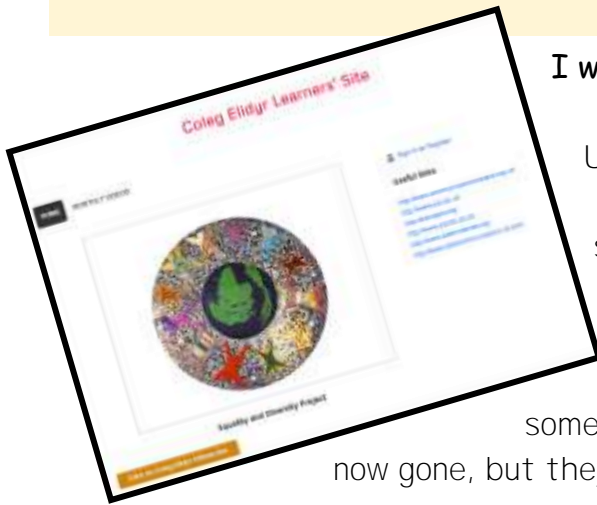
Zsuzsanna, the cookery tutor in Nantgwyn, has sent through some lovely photos of everybody to share with us.







## The Learners' Site



I wonder how many of you have missed the learners' site for the last few months?

Unfortunately we have had a long period this year battling with technical problems on the learners site, which has prevented us from making live updates.

Recently we managed to overcome these problems and get it working again! You will notice some of the old features like forums and the blog are now gone, but they are actually just hidden and will be re-launched by the ICT group in the Autumn term.

Until then you can have fun watching some of our old videos! Find us online at

[www.colegelidyr.co.uk](http://www.colegelidyr.co.uk)

## The Coleg Elidyr Facebook and Website



You can keep up-to-date with the latest news about Coleg Elidyr on our facebook and website! Find us online:

[www.colegelidyr.ac.uk](http://www.colegelidyr.ac.uk)

[www.facebook.com/ColegElidyrCamphill](https://www.facebook.com/ColegElidyrCamphill)

## Shop Update

### What a busy year in St Martin's Shop!

We have all been working hard to provide an excellent service to the community, whilst also developing our skills and personal attributes.

As a personal note from myself (Emma Blofield Shop tutor) I would like to congratulate all learners and trainees on their hard work and standards in the shop this year. The community has been provided with an outstanding service, from shelf filling and ensuring the shop is clean and tidy to providing excellent customer service, most definitely not forgetting all the other tasks we do in between!



Everybody has demonstrated an excellent work ethic and have proved to be an outstanding team!

A big thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets to win our hampers and congratulations to all winners! All money raised has been contributed to the Coleg Elidyr 40th Anniversary fund-raising collection.



We have been very very busy in the garden this year during Internal Work Experience. As well as getting the vegetable plot planned, the beds prepared and sowing all of our crops for the year, we have also extended our fruit beds to include blackcurrants,



**gooseberries, rhubarb, cherries and autumn raspberries. We've**

**hatched and raised a pair of ducks named I tchy and Scratchy who have been keeping us company whilst we work. We've also hatched and raised 25 quails, so it won't be too long before we are all dining on quails eggs and asparagus - oohlala!**



In April we opened our hedgehog hospital and have already treated and released 10 hedgehogs back into the wild. We are currently nursing an orphaned baby hedgehog called HufflePuff who came to us at less than two weeks old. We have also created lots of wildlife homes throughout the garden for birds, insects, reptiles and bees. As part of our wildlife work we have been doing surveys for the RSPB, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and the People's Trust for Endangered Species. Whilst we were getting all sciencey we also decided to take part in some experiments using biochar for Coventry University.

This week we received our new bee houses and look forward to creating wildflower areas for our bees next year, as well as eating all the lovely **vegetables we've been tending!**

By Greg Potter and the Garden team







### New Soap Making Workshop

Soap Making Workshops. Edith, Kathryn and Sophie have been very busy within our new craft area making homemade soaps. We have all enjoyed creating beautiful soaps by using various moulds/shapes, colours and fragrances. We have followed **the process for 'melt and pour' by measuring the required amount of soap base and then adding our chosen colours and fragrances.**

We are very proud of our finished soaps and we hope you had a chance to see them on the open day. The smells and shapes are beautiful!



### Farm Update



The new horses are now installed at Coleg arriving in the first week after Easter. Buzz and Gismo have settled in well to their new home after some initial misgivings between them and the **Welsh Black cattle they really weren't sure quite what to make of** these horse sized things with horns! They are being brought in and brushed regularly to help them become accustomed to their new surroundings. The students are very keen to be working with them.

The Pig Sty Project is progressing well. The roof structure is now complete, and by the time this newsletter is published the slating will be finished. The students have worked really hard on this and many new skills have been learnt, not just by the students! The pride the student show in what they have achieved is

fantastic. During the recent inspection, Kyle requested (practically insisted) that the inspector come round to the wall he was pointing up in order for him to explain exactly what he was doing and why. The pigs have been keeping an eye on the project themselves and when loose on the yard often pop in to check on progress.







The Leather Craft team have been working hard all year to make some quality leather crafts, and practical items. We hope you got a chance to see everything when you last came to visit. We asked everybody in the workshop to each say something about what they've enjoyed doing this term:

Andrew Duff: I really enjoyed making the leather art, embossing the man during this term. I got some orders to produce more of these. I am very proud of my work. I would



like to thank Zsuzsanna for teaching me this skill.

Tom Beynon: I made more key holders to sell on Open Day, and also for my own flat keys. I also made a Glasses Case for my Dad.

Oliver Sontheimer: I really like this group. I've stamped belts to sell on Open day, and one for my friend.



Yama, our volunteer: It is a pleasure for me to work with Andrew, Oliver and Tom. During the time working in Art & Craft I have gained not only the skills of art work but also happiness which the trainees bring me. I am looking forward to spending more precious time here.



#### Zsuzsanna, our tutor:

I am very proud of my leather Craft group. We have become a real team, supporting and helping each other. We have enjoyed working, and we had a lot of fun too!

Well done Andrew, Tom & Oliver,  
**and thanks for Yama's support.**





We now have a new subject session at Coleg Elidyr. The Media course began this term, whereby Bruce and I have been out and about across Coleg creating a short **film about Bruce's favourite things to do at Coleg Elidyr**. We have had great fun filming at the farm, estate, garden and at Ty Rhieni and aim to complete the project by the end of term.

We have been working really hard together and Bruce has not only excelled as a budding television presenter but has really progressed with his camera skills. The film **entitled 'Hello, I'm Bruce' will premiere at the end of term in front of all at Coleg**

**Elidyr. Not only will this be a great chance to showcase Bruce's talent, but to inspire others to join the media course next term.** Bruce has contributed to all aspects of the film, from planning and recording to presenting and post production, Our first film together has been the maiden voyage of our fantastic new course.

We hope to offer a wide range of filming opportunities from personal life stories, documentaries and **dramas to short news stories about what we do at Coleg Elidyr. We aim to offer a week's trial for a couple of individuals during the internal work experience week, so that they get the chance to see what the Media course can offer, learn about work ethic and above all, have a lots of fun. Until then, we just can't wait to show everybody what we do!**



### Welcome to Idris, the Coleg Dragon!



Greg Potter, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Trainee, has for a while now had the idea of creating a piece of art/sculpture for our garden at Coleg. It was decided that this would be a great project for the Trainees outside of their normal sessions, so in May Greg, Tom, Oli, Sophie and Sam embarked on creating a growing sculpture, an 8 metre dragon!

*"I visited the Forest of Dean where there are lots of sculptures, so I thought of making one in Coleg Elidyr to give Coleg a bit more life" -Greg.*

A little larger than originally planned, the dragon grew and took on a life of its own, drawing in helpers from all over Coleg to help complete it.

We wanted it to be made from natural resources gathered from around the grounds and for it to 'grow' out of the ground.

The central part of the dragon would be the 'growing' part, built up like a large, layered, compost bank onto which would be planted alpine plants, moss and ferns, based on the permaculture 'hugelkultur' principle.

Before starting the physical building of the dragon we looked at







### New Recycling Shop



Hello everyone from the 2nd year PDC team! Just thought you'd like to know about our new shop. Ben and Kyle have been working very hard this term making money for our Coleg 40th Anniversary fund-raising project, from other people's rubbish. How clever is that?

They have done a lot of research and even went to Carmarthen to look at Trysordy which is a big recycling centre. They had a good look around, asked lots of questions, so they could get the know how to set up their very own shop here at Coleg Elidyr. We opened for one morning and made over £15 and all our customers were very happy with their purchases. The shop has been described as a treasure chest of surprises. So come along on a Thursday morning and have a good rummage, you never know what you may find!



### Welcome to Idris, the Coleg Dragon!

'dragon features' like scales, claws and eyes for inspiration and talked about what we thought a dragon would look like and sculptured mini dragons in clay.

*"We collected big logs for the base of the dragon and then layered it with big branches so we got the outline right. Then we put smaller branches on top and once we got the main part of the sculpture done we layered twigs, grass cuttings, cardboard, leaf mould and compost to give the plants some food. And lastly we put the top soil to grow the alpinas and mosses" -Greg.*

The finishing touches were added to the dragon by our learners and pupils of Ysgol Penmaes during their visit to Coleg. They made a very enthusiastic contribution to the project in its final stage.

*"Inside the dragon sculpture the wood and branches will start to decompose and it will be hot inside and will encourage the plants to grow to their full potential and then give us colour to the dragon" -Greg.*





## Essential Skills Update



Essential skills are the golden thread, connecting everything we do throughout our curriculum. We have made so much progress and have had so much achievement. Here is a poem which summarises our fantastic year.

Every day of the week

So much teaching and learning

Stepping on ladders, so to speak

Each individual: seeking, finding and yearning.

Never a moment is lost

To practise my numbers, measures, writing and reading

In Coleg, we ask what everything cost

And carry on work, from cooking to weeding

Lo and behold, I know for a fact that we celebrate outcomes and impact!

Skills are developed left, right and centre

Keeping track on the ladders of progress

In case we are struggling, there is always a mentor

Learning always, to self assess

Land work, cooking, crafts, life skills and more

Skills that are essential will open our door!

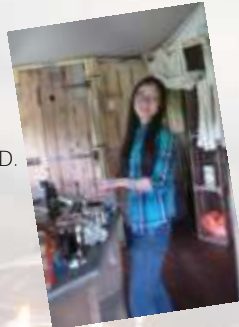






The Biography Retreat- The Third Year's Personal Development trip

WE WENT IN THE BUS  
VERY EXCITED  
SAUSAGE AND CHIPS ON THE WAY  
SHOPPING IN SAUNSBURY  
BOUGHT SOME PROVISIONS  
AND MADE SURE WE HAD ALL WE NEEDED.



MARTIN AND ANN  
LOVELY PEOPLE  
WELCOMED AND SHOWED US AROUND  
TOOK OUT THE BAGS  
AND WHEELBARROWED THEM DOWN  
TO OUR POSH TENTS CALLED GLAMPING

NOW SHE TELLS US  
NO ELECTRICITY  
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

GUESTS FOR SUPPER  
KAREN AND GUY  
BURNT BANGERS AND GAMMON  
PUT RUARIDH IN THE HATCH  
DAVID IN THE BUNK BED  
AND KATHRYN SHARED WITH CHRISTINE



ALL NIGHT LONG TELLING STORIES  
BEATING RAIN ON THE CANVAS  
THUNDER AND LIGHTENING VERY EXCITING  
BUT ALL SAFE AND SOUND

HERE SHE IS  
JACKIE SITTING BY THE FIRE  
KEEPING THE KETTLE BOILING



CRAWLED OUT OF BED  
ON THE NEXT MORNING  
HAD ENOUGH  
**OF RUARIDH'S SNORING!**

FRESHLY BAKED BREAD  
AND HOMEMADE JAM  
WITH A HOT CUP OF COFFEE OR TEA  
DAVID OPENED THE FLAP WINDOWS  
SANDWICHES WERE MADE  
READY FOR THE ADVENTURE OF THE DAY

OFF ON A STEAM TRAIN  
STEEP HILLS  
A LONG, LONG WAY DOWN  
SMOKE IN MY EYES  
A BIT CHILLY  
NO GLASS IN THE WINDOWS

TRAIN WHISTLE  
LOUD NOISE  
EVERY STATION ON THE WAY  
STOPPED AT LAST  
COKE AND ICE CREAM  
RUARIDH OFF WITH THE BIKE BOYS  
LOTS OF PHOTOS  
STANDING IN FRONT  
OF THE ENGINE  
  
BACK TO ABERAERON  
THE HARBOUR MASTER  
POSH BURGER AND CHIPS  
WALKED BY THE BOATS  
CLIMBED ON THE WALL  
AND CHRISTINE TOOK ANOTHER PHOTO

OFF TO BED  
A QUIET NIGHT  
TOO TIRED FOR STORIES  
  
THE NEXT MORNING  
A SLOW START  
RELAXING AND CHILLING TOGETHER  
GETTING READY  
TO TALK ABOUT  
OURSELVES

LOOKING BACK  
READING REPORTS  
TALKING ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE DONE  
ALL AGREE  
WE HAVE LEARNT MANY THINGS  
AND HAVE BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT  
READY TO FACE  
OUR FUTURE

ON THE WAY BACK  
STOPPED IN LAMPETR  
SENT OUR PARENTS A CARD  
ONE MORE ICE CREAM  
BACK TO COLEG ELIDYR





## Work Experience Update

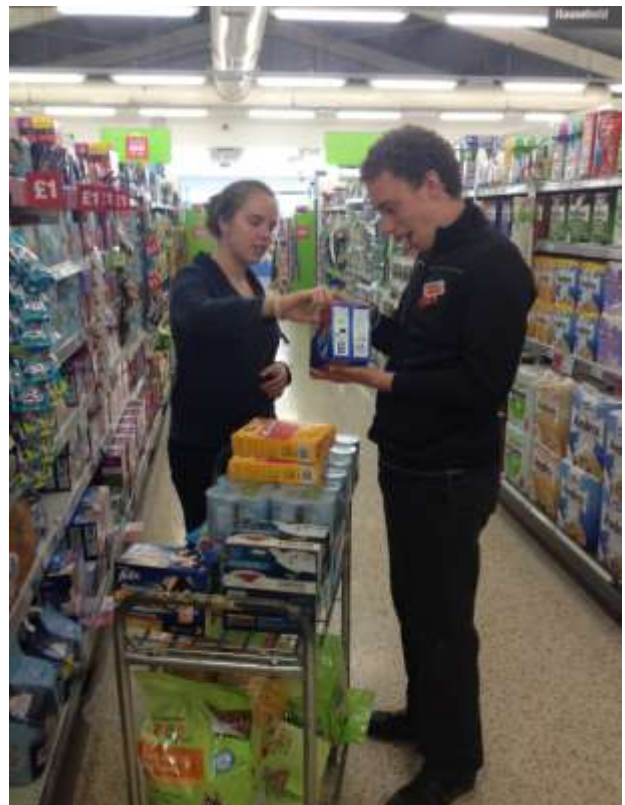


### Careers Wales Mark

We have been working closely with Eleri Jenkins from Careers Wales to develop and further improve our careers and work experience provision within Coleg Elidyr. We were awarded the Careers Wales Mark in June 2014 which recognises the progress that we have made and shows that we have demonstrated continuous improvement in learning for Careers and the World of Work. Eleri came to Coleg Elidyr on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 to award the certificate and we are looking forward to seeing our picture in the local paper.

### The Cooperative Supermarket

David Macey started his Work placement at the Cooperative supermarket, Llandoverly in May 2014. He initially had an informal interview and induction day where he was shown around the store and given his uniform which he proudly wears each week. David works alongside a Guest Volunteer on the shop floor where he stacks shelves, checks products and dates and generally helps to keep the aisles well presented. David has tea break with the other staff and has settled in well to his new role. It is great to see David happy and confident in the store. Well Done David!







### Work Experience Update

#### Llandovery Cottage Hospital

Greg, Stephen and Jake have taken on the challenging and exciting task of redesigning the gardens at Llandovery cottage hospital. The gardens have been left to go rather wild in recent years which prompted a local resident and previous patient at the hospital, Val Woodgaiger, to set up an action group. Coleg Elidyr volunteer at the gardens every Thursday and are working alongside Llandovery College pupils and the local scout group to make the gardens beautiful again. Fundraising events are organised for the autumn term, including a strawberry afternoon tea and plant swap. We look forward to updating you on the gardens progress in the forth coming months.



#### Dryslwyn Shop

Jared Davies started a placement at Dryslwyn Shop in May 2014. The bustling shop serves the local area with groceries, newspapers and local produce. They also have an internet café, book swap and fruit and vegetable stall. Jared works alongside a Guest Volunteer from his house on a Tuesday morning. **Jared's tasks include stacking the shelves, helping customers, tidying the book swap and re stock-**ing the fruit and vegetable stall. Jared always dresses smartly for his work experience and ensures that he is on time. Jared makes himself a packed lunch which he eats in the café after his shift. Jared is enthusiastic and motivated each week and is becoming more confident within the shop. A great start Jared - Well Done!

#### The Station Café

George Rose started his placement at the Station Café in May 2014. George goes to the café every Tuesday morning and has astounded us all with his progress. George is very proud of his role at the café. He is responsible and mature throughout his time there. George loves socialising with the customers and especially looks forward to his tea break where he watches the trains passing. George is growing in confidence and independence and it is a pleasure to see him working so well in the professional surroundings of a real work environment.



## Coleg's Chronicles: 40th Anniversary Year

Goodbyes- Jim Nowell from Farmhouse and Simon Edwards from Ty Iori



This year we are saying goodbye to two Trainees who have been with us for many years. Simon Edwards (left) from Ty Iori will be moving on to a new home, and we hope they will share as much happiness and joy with Simon as we've had the chance to here.

All the best for the future, Simon.

Jim Nowell is also leaving us after seven years in Coleg Elidyr. He has written a short piece below to say goodbye to his friends here. Good luck and enjoy Bran Yard, Jim.



The first picture on the left is me when I first started Coleg. I have been in Coleg Elidyr for seven years. I came here as a teenager unsure what it would be like. I have done a lot of things in Coleg. For example: I have made an Angel out of wood. I have made a chair in metalwork. In the woodland I learnt how to use a chainsaw. Over the years I have been in plays and shows. It has been a good seven years.



I have grown in confidence over the years, I also have met a lot of lovely people that I can call friends.



I am leaving Coleg on the 23rd of July and moving to Bran Yard on the 28th of July to start the next step in my life. I would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported me over the years to become the man I am today.



Thank you to Guest Volunteers

We haven't had much room in this newsletter to say thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have been with us this year. We would like to wish good luck to all the volunteers who are leaving us this term: Olivia, Ha Young, Sae Yahn, Boom, Cristhian, Judith, So Young, Se Hee, Almas, Aleksandra, Leonard, André, Alexandra, and Leila. Daniel (above right) is also leaving us; moving to Victoria House after many years of working with us in Coleg Elidyr. You'll be close but missed Daniel, best of luck!

### About our newsletter

Our Newsletter is made from submissions submitted by everybody at Coleg Elidyr throughout the term and we'd like to thank everybody who contributed to our Newsletter this term. We'd also like to say thank you to Matthew Jefferson, Josh Fretwell and Richard Tither for editing the articles. Edited by Mathew Jefferson and Richard Tither



Updates can often be found on our Facebook account or website before being collected for the newsletter. Find us on Facebook as "Coleg Elidyr Camphill Communities", or

directly at [www.facebook.com/ColegElidyrCamphill](http://www.facebook.com/ColegElidyrCamphill)  
You can also find us online at [www.colegelidyr.ac.uk](http://www.colegelidyr.ac.uk)