

## In This Issue...

A message from Dai Sibbons	1	The Crafts Update	11
<b>What's been Happening in the Houses</b>	2-5	Internal Work Experience Week	12
Fundraising for our Wellbeing Centre	6-7	Heaving a Ball—Summer Celebration	13
A Tidy Site—The Estate Team	8	End of Year Presentations	13
Film Premiere—The Media Team	9	Changes to the Learner Programme	14-15
Wild about Wales—a Grow Wild project	10	...And the Trainee Programme	15
Woodwork for the House	10	Goodbyes and Thank You's	16



### A message from Dai Sibbons, our principal

The summer term is always one of our most productive, and I am very keen to share some of the highlights with you in the latest edition of the Coleg Chronicles.

There was a lot of hard work put in during this term. Work-ready skills became a focus during our Internal Work Experience week, which helped us to prepare the site and gather together all the crafts ready for the Summer Fair. We were blessed with fantastic weather, which enabled us to make the event the huge success it was.

**I'd like to express my thanks to Isabel Graham who has been working tirelessly raising money for a new wellbeing centre (gym) for our learners and trainees, which will house new gym equipment. The gym equipment arrived on-site at the very end of this term and a temporary home has been found for them which we'll be opening up to our learners and trainees at the start of next year.**

A very big thank you goes to the Summer Ball committee and everybody who contributed to a smooth and very much enjoyed evening. The end of year presentations ceremony were we celebrated the learners Trainees and also said farewell to some of our superb guest volunteers. Both of these events were greatly enjoyed by all.

Richard Tither leaves the post of Vice Principal of Education and Training to become an HMI inspector with ESTYN. The contribution that he has made to improve the college has been significant, I am sure you will join me in wishing him well in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Kirsten Jones, who replaces Richard. I am sure you will make Kirsten very welcome.

**Dai Sibbons**



## What's been happening in the Houses?

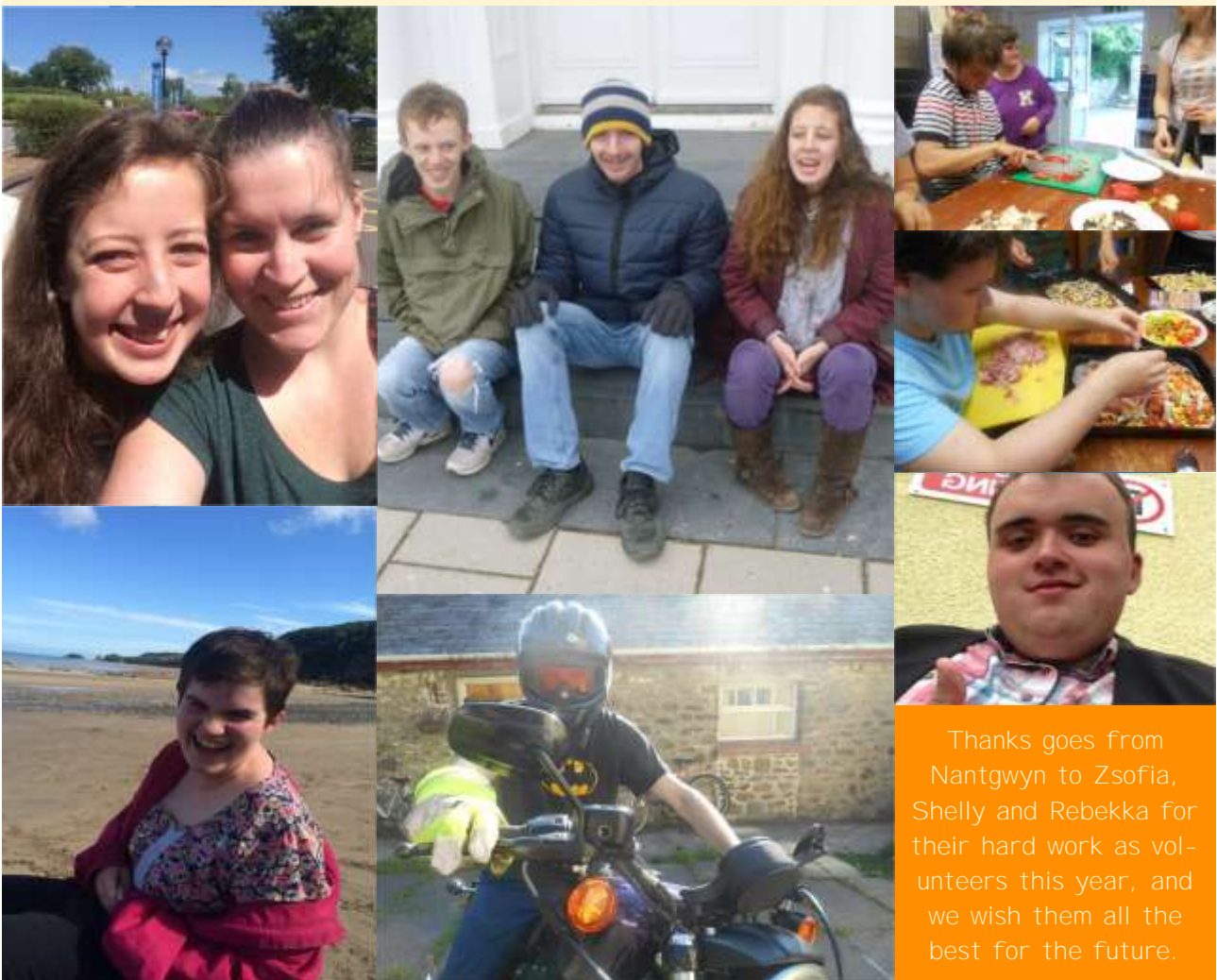
### Changing Rooms

The academic year 2015/2016 will bring a number of changes to the residential houses in Coleg Elidyr. Plans have been drawn up for a number of learners and trainees to move residential houses next year, with a focus on separating the two groups to create better living and learning opportunities for both. To facilitate this, many staff members will be moving to a different residential house at the start of the academic year—waiting there for their learners and trainees to catch up with them!

The transitions between houses will take place periodically throughout the coming months, working with the needs of individual learners and trainees to make the moves as smooth as possible. Social stories have been created to take home with learners and trainees who need them over the summer; **we're all looking forward to the exciting opportunities these moves will create.**

For this end of year edition of the Coleg Chronicles, we have compiled a selection of photographs from the Houses to celebrate their lives together this year.

### Snapshots of our year — Nantgwyn





### Snapshots of our year — Ty Rhieni



Ty Rhieni would like to say thank you to Nadja, Katharina and Barnabas for all their help as volunteers this year.

### Coleg Elidyr Online

Did you know you can find the latest news from Coleg Elidyr online? You can even find past issues of our newsletter!

Please visit our website:

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



We also have a facebook page, where we share photographs and news as it happens. Our page is called **'Coleg Elidyr Camphill Communities'**, and you can find us at [www.facebook.com/colegelidyncamphill](http://www.facebook.com/colegelidyncamphill)



Our twitter handle is @colegelidyr, you can find our twitter page at [www.twitter.com/ColegElidyr](http://www.twitter.com/ColegElidyr)



Our Year — Gardevias



Gardevias would like to say thank you to Adam, Daniela and Mira for all their help as volunteers this year. Daniela (pictured above left) has volunteered for two whole years in Coleg **Elidyr; our House wouldn't have been the same without all your help.**

Our Year — Ty St Barbe

Ty St Barbe would like to say thank you to Sigrid for her help as a volunteer this academic year—you will be missed, Sigrid.





Snapshots of our year — Ty Iori



Ty Iori would like to extend their thanks to Benni, Juliana and Moon for their help this year. Also leaving is volunteer Sebastian Ben-Saisat, who has been contributing tirelessly in Coleg Elidyr for almost four years. Thank you all for the help and friendship you have offered to our learners and trainees.

Snapshots of our year — Farmhouse



The Farmhouse staff would like to say thank-you to volunteers Yenny and Lisa for their help this year and wish them the best of luck for their future.



### Fundraising for our Wellbeing Centre



**Our learners' forum has highlighted the need for a wellbeing centre for the College.**

In conjunction with the parents association, work is now underway to begin raising funds for this leisure building which will house our new gym equipment and provide an area for learners to relax while keeping healthy.

At present plans have been made at an estimated cost of £80-100 thousand pounds; quite a daunting figure! But with the combined effort of every donation - no matter how small - **and the fantastic fundraising which is currently underway, we're hopeful** that we will be able to achieve this goal.



Sergeant John Whittaker is organising a 300 mile cycle for Coleg Elidyr for one week from Monday 21st September to raise money for our Wellbeing centre. John is part of the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre; wellbeing and fitness and the benefits it offers is close to his heart as it is ours.

As part of the Cowbridge food and drink fest held on May bank holiday weekend, an informal but fun cocktails and supper evening was held at a champagne tent at the Bear Hotel.

Everybody had a fantastic time on the evening. £5,000 was raised by the event - thank you Esther, Julian and Freddie Hitchcock and chef Adam Wood for making it such a success.

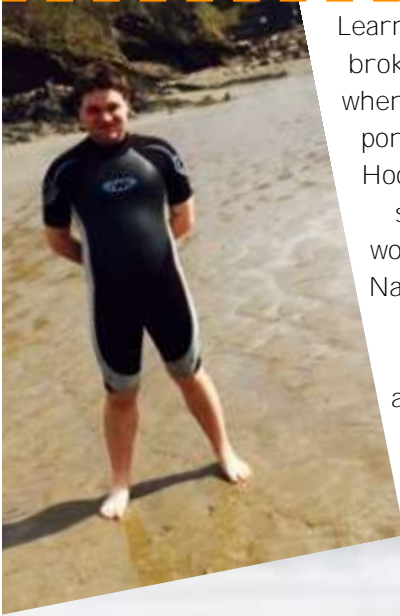




### Fundraising for our Wellbeing Centre



Individual challenges were carried out to raise sponsorship. Trainee Fred (left) took on a triathlon-style challenge, and Volunteer Juan (top-right) did a sponsored skydive from 7,000 feet! Sarah and Vilma (below-right) took on a humongous **22 mile 'swim the channel' challenge** at their local pool in Cardiff—thank you all for your efforts.



Learner Ed was part of the Pembroke-shire Triathlon Challenge, where Coleg Elidyr saw huge support. Ed made a team with Ben Hool (brother of learner Natasha) and Jake Guerin (who worked with Natasha and Ed in Nantgwyn). Thank you to everybody who supported Coleg Elidyr. You can read more about those who supported us and watch their video at: [www.colegelidyr.com/triathlon-challenge/](http://www.colegelidyr.com/triathlon-challenge/)



Coffee for Coleg was a series of over 25 fundraising events held primarily from the 1st to 5th of June. Most took the form of coffee mornings, but there was a huge variety—one venue running a cocktail party in lieu of coffee! Pictured above is the coffee, tea and cake stand which was set up on the Open Farm Sunday at Slade Farm Organics, which raised £1500 alone! Thank you to all of our Coffee organisers.



The new wellbeing centre will house gym equipment for our learners and trainees, and will have a huge impact on their lives and opportunities for gym access while in College. Credit and thanks goes to parent Isabel Graham for organising and coordinating so many fantastic fundraisers. Please consider helping Isabel and supporting the fundraiser:

Donate online through JustGiving at: [www.justgiving.com/cecc](http://www.justgiving.com/cecc)  
Or organise an event or fundraiser, e-mail Isabel at: [isabelgraham@home-uk.com](mailto:isabelgraham@home-uk.com)



### A Tidy Site — The Estate Team



With 180 acres of farm and woodland, Coleg Elidyr 's countryside setting needs a lot of TLC. This provides a huge amount of opportunities for vocational activities for our trainee programme throughout the year, but often concentrated efforts are needed to complete a particular project.

Good opportunities for this come in the trainee weeks. These are the weeks at the start of every term when the trainees have returned to Coleg Elidyr, but our learners are still enjoying their holidays.

Trainee week saw fine weather and warm sunshine, an unusual occurrence! Fortunate though for those of us working on the land, as we had grand plans. The almost insurmountable task was to clear the orchard of all brash and logs. We were blessed with a sizable team of talented trainees and some fairly able staff, which was essential if we were to achieve our goals. All team members got stuck in without delay under the watchful eye of Bjarte the farmer who was overseeing the project. The brash was to be burnt and the logs to be taken to the woodland shed for processing in to firewood over the next term by the estate team.

The tangled mess of fallen branches which we faced on day one was quite daunting. But we made an impressive start; Laurence and Billy were lifting logs and loading the trailer at breakneck speed under the watchful eye of Jordan. Jan discovered his inner fire starter while Bruce and Oliver B kept the flames going with a regular supply of brash. In no time at all the improvement was visible and the sense of achievement tangible amongst the group. The group was so successful that we were able to clear the whole of the upper orchard area and the field above the driveway.

Another exciting opportunity to organise a land-based project was created this term during our internal work experience week. This let learners have a chance to get involved too, and practice their vocational and work-ready skills. You can read more on page 12.







Film Premieres — The Media Group



This term and last, the media team have been creating a variety of films; practising their script writing, team working, directing and acting. Bruce, Peter, Sam, Tom and Ruaridh all created films, and four of them were showcased in a film premiere this term.

The film premiere, held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of May, was organised by the 2nd year PDC group, who made sure there were also refreshments and popcorn to sell. It was hugely well attended and enjoyed. Below, directors Peter and Sam write about their films:

### Simon the Keeper of the Woods (★★★★★)

**I created my story called "Simon the keeper of the woods". It had two characters; Joshua and Sophie. They liked go for walks in woods. One day they felt scared because they were lost. Simon came to save them and they went home.**

After I wrote the story, we went around Coleg Elidyr to find good places to film. I then used a story board to write the script.

In our media group we decided who play the parts of Joshua and Sophie. I chose Peter to be Joshua and Daniela, Sophie.

We chose our costumes and I chose a colourful coat and a walking stick and then made the film.

Finally, we edited the film and we chose some music that would be nice for the story. I enjoyed all the work we did to make the film.

*Sam Leesley*

### The Lost Carrots (★★★★★)

This term has been really busy, we have worked really hard. We made films about different things. I have written a story and chosen characters for it and some pictures of where the story would be happening. I was looking for actors and I made a poster to advertise for the cast.

The characters in my story were a lazy police man played by Sam Leesley and Tim, who I played. Tim **had lost his carrots and had to go and find them. Tim went to the police officer but he said "do it yourself". Tim had to look for the carrots on his own.**

**I was also acting in Tom's film called "Salabin the Gangster Slayer" as the bad gangster, and Sam's film "Simon the Keeper of the Woods" as Joshua. I really enjoy acting and want to make more.**

*Peter Jenkins*



## Wild About Wales: A Grow Wild Project

Funded by 'Grow Wild', Coleg Elidyr has started a wildflower garden project. This beautiful garden will also be practical, growing resources for craft sessions - Check out our most recent creation below: wildflower hearts made from biodegradable scrap paper and seeds.



Our project, led by Greg and Katie, is being documented from start to end online. You can find us at: [GrowWildUK.com/community-projects/wild-about-wales](http://GrowWildUK.com/community-projects/wild-about-wales)

## Woodwork for the House

In the woodwork shop we have many projects to complete, where learners are taught how to make wooden joints and professional, saleable items. However, we also get requests for repairs and alterations to wooden items in the houses. The cupboard shown did not have any shelves, so the learners in woodwork were asked to measure, cut and then put the new shelves in. We used a packet of corn flakes as a guide as to the distance required between the shelves, 30 cm.

To be able to get the shelves in, the back of the cupboard had to be taken off without breaking the pieces, and then nailed back. Stephen and Natasha did this working as a pair with Stephen taking the lead and Natasha copying. They both learned how to use nail pullers, adjustable grips, and how to make pilot holes before screwing the shelf supports in place. Fantastic team work was on display from both, and leadership skills from Stephen—well done on your success.





The Crafts Update — Weaving, Leatherwork and Printmaking

The Weavery has had a busy time. We have been making rag rugs, cushions and table runners in a variety of colours and textures.

**We have used fleece from the college's sheep** and have worked well as a team to wash, dye and spin the wool before weaving it. Our major project for 2015 has been a large panelled wall hanging for the refurbished Karl Koenig Room. The panels were woven by trainees and decorated with handspun wool and handmade felted leaves. We are proud of the result.



Ruaridh has written for us a piece about his work in Leather Craft; **"This term I had my own leather work project. I was making a leather cover on a stool that I found in Coleg's Store Room. I designed a Celtic knot Pattern with Zsuzsanna's help. I cut the pattern from black leather and then glued it on the white base leather. I made holes for the stitching and sewed the Celtic Knot on the white leather, using running stitching. Finally I assembled the stool; you can see result on the photograph. It looks pretty fantastic, and I really enjoyed this work!"**



Rye wrote about his work—"I enjoy working here because of the good company; and we have always fun while we are working. I made some belts, glasses cases, pencil holders and coasters too. I would like to learn more leather **techniques and produce more items in the future.**" Oliver has **been working hard too, he's been excited to create special orders** for his friend Pascoe and music therapist Michelle. Patrick is new to the group, and this term has been taking part in a new project; the creation of a sensory board.



← *And in Print Making? They wanted to share an exciting update to their display in the shop; a new card stand! Putting this together was quite the effort for Gilly and his group, but it looks wonderful in place in the shop; very professional.*



Internal Work Experience Week

Work-ready skills are a part of every learner and trainee's programme in Coleg Elidyr; the will to see a task through and take responsibility and pride in what one does are very important life skills. However, Work Experience placements are not always appropriate for our learners and trainees; for some, the chance to practise internally is essential.

The Internal Work Experience week is a Work Experience taster which everybody in the college participates in. Learners and trainees make a choice of what they would like to do for work, and then stick with the same activity all week. For this week food is eaten in the All Inn, which is set up canteen-style, instead of in the Houses; the sense of a distinct learning experience is palpable.

Below, the Estate group wrote a little of their experience in this year's Internal Work Experience week:



*The Estate team have been busy, we took on the task of making sure that College is ready for the open day. The learners have been busy mowing the grass around site making sure that it looks good for the visitors to the summer fair. The trainees have also done a lot of work around the site making sure that the hedges have been cut and making sure that the brambles are kept down.*

*We have also hired in a wood chipper and we have been working on clearing the areas around the new hedge by Ty Rhieni. The wood chippings have been used by the house staff to ensure that the gardens around the house look smart and tidy.*



Other work opportunities this year included creating crafts for sale, Garden work, and making the lunch in the All Inn.



The Summer Fair

Many parents and visitors came through to see the outcomes of our Internal Work Experience week at the Summer Fair, which we held this year on July 4th.

The sun shone and it was a fabulous event, we were lucky to see so many people during the day—and we had great feedback.

If you want to see more photographs of our day, and learn about everything we got up to, why not check out our facebook album? You can find us at: [www.facebook.com/ColegElidyrCamphill](http://www.facebook.com/ColegElidyrCamphill)



*Jake and Khyle of the Learners' Forum opened the day*



*We had some beautiful looking crafts for sale, from our workshops, from local sellers, and from Victoria House.*



### Having A Ball — Summer Celebration



The Summer Ball is a formal occasion when learners and trainees celebrate the end of a successful year together. This year it was organised by the Learners Forum and was a terrific affair; food was prepared by the Houses for a communal supper, and a DJ was hired from Llandoverly. Everybody looked fantastic; massive thanks goes from us to the Learners Forum.



### Our End of Year Presentations

Academic years in Coleg Elidyr always come to a close with the End of Year presentations. These college-wide meetings celebrate and recognise all that learners and trainees have achieved during the year; Residential Houses share experiences and photographs, work areas showcase what has been accomplished, and certificates of achievement are distributed. This year our presentations were held on Thursday the 23rd July (leaving Friday for everybody to pack for their holidays) and were particularly interesting. We even got to view the latest Media film premiere during their presentations, **Ruaridh MacDonald's** *The Return of the Prince*.

Congratulations to all our Learners and Trainees on all of your achievements this term.





### Changes to the structure of the Learner Programme

Next year we will be making a few changes to our learner programme. While in the past we have based lesson discussion on work areas (such as the farm, weavery, or shop), this year **our choice documents brought work 'pathways' together under themes of *Land, Craft* and *HRC* (Hospitality, Retail and Catering).**



Land based studies include the Garden, Farm and Estate work. These work areas often provide the best opportunity for work experience, with many learners accessing Aberglasney Gardens, Lluest Woodlands, the local Hospital Gardens and St Barnabas Church Gardens in groups.



Craft covers a large range of exciting activities which develop fine and gross motor skills, including the Mosaic workshop, Weavery, Leather craft, Felting, Woodwork, Carpentry and Print making workshops. Craft has always been one of our most successful work areas.



**HRC is the shorthand we're currently using for Hospitality, Retail and Catering.** These service-based vocational areas have incredible Essential Skills potential, and have previously been used to teach discrete ES sessions to learners.



Personal Development and Citizenship (PDC), ICT and Essential Skills will still be a part of the curriculum for all learners, targeted through a variety of dedicated sessions and by being developed during work accessed in pathway sessions.



### Changes to the structure of the Learner Programme

While first year learners access a carousel of opportunities, those entering their second and third years have always started to hone their skills and concentrate on a smaller subset of work areas.

**The new 'pathways' system will keep this same learning format, but put new thinking behind it; which pathways will a learner access? Land, Craft or HRC?**

#### **What does this 'Pathway' system mean for our learners?**

Learners will usually access two pathways after their first year, which is unchanged, but these **changes will mean that learners will access 'land' sessions instead of 'Garden', 'Estate' or 'Farm' sessions.** Of course termly themes will be consistent to ensure that learners know what to expect from each session, but it could mean that a summer Garden session becomes a winter Farm session as learners move to where seasonal learning opportunities arise.

Does this mean learners will have less choice over their lessons?

No, we have been talking with our learners who will be moving into the second and third years about their session choices as usual. Some have indicated they would like to continue to access certain craft areas but would not like to work in others, and this can be accommodated as it was in the past. **We will always work with what's best for the learner; in the cases where it's appropriate there will even** be the chance for learners to continue to access all three pathways in their second and third years.

What are the benefits of this system?

**We're hoping that this system will hone the thinking about vocational learning in Coleg Elidyr. Instead** of accessing a variety of seemingly disparate areas (e.g. a timetable which follows Garden, Estate, Weaving and Mosaic), we will instead think of learners as following pathways (e.g. a learner following a Land-based pathway and a Craft-based pathway).

It will have a positive knock-on impact on our accreditation system. Learners complete and achieve Agored Cymru units every year. but by starting to work with our accreditation under pathway umbrellas these units can add up to larger qualifications such as certificates and diplomas.

### And the Trainee Programme...

The Trainee Programme is also undergoing some changes. A new role has been created for a Head of Training and Trainee Programme to lead changes to the daytime provision for trainees. Our first change will be to bring more consistency to work areas and working groups; trainees will access fewer work areas during the week so they can become more skilled in those which they do access.

Many trainees will concentrate on two work areas; one which they access every morning, and one which they access every afternoon. They will still continue to take part in Personal Development **activities on a Friday afternoon, and where it's identified as appropriate they will have time set aside** for Independent Living Skills sessions, External Work Experience opportunities and Internal Work Experience. Some of our trainees will also need a different timetable to suit their individual needs; this will continue to be set up as it was in the past.

**We're excited to welcome into the newly created roles** Christine Koeller as the head of our Trainee Programme, and Machteld Haugen as the head of our Learner Programme. Christine and Machteld both have a long, positive history with Coleg Elidyr and have moved into these roles from previously being PDC Coordinator and Essential Skills Coordinator.



### Goodbyes & Thank You's

**We're saying good-bye to a few friends at the end of this year, and we'd like to wish them all the best for the future**



Bruce Dickson is leaving us after five years in Coleg Elidyr. Any visitors to Ty Rhieni house will know Bruce well; **he is a fantastically social and funny guy, and has brought a lot of joy to Coleg Elidyr. We hope we've brought a lot of joy to Bruce's life too; we've been so impressed Bruce's increased ability to concentrate and take part in lessons across the curriculum, as well as coming out to participate in more group activities in the House too.**

Ffion Cross is completing her learner programme this year, and will be moving on into a new supported living placement. **We've seen Ffion grow in her years at Coleg Elidyr, both in Gardevias house and later in Ty Rhieni house; she's made strong connections to those around her, and will leave a social hole in her wake. Quick to chat, Ffion has become well known by all staff for her talk up and down the track—good luck for your future Ffion!**

Nathanael Meates has finished his trainee year in Coleg Elidyr, and is now moving on to independent living in a bungalow. Nathanael has had a huge impact this year as the farm apprentice, and his input will be sorely missed **by Bjarte and the farm team. This year we've seen Nathanael take real ownership over his learning and future, and we're confident that with these new skills he's set for a great future; good luck Nathanael!**

Our final leaving learner this year is Ashley Delaney, whose learner programme also came to an end last term. He is moving on to a supported living placement. We wish Ashley all the best for the future!

Richard Tither will also be leaving us as the Vice Principal in charge of Education and Training this year. Richard has been instrumental leading the team towards and through our recent Excellent ESTYN report. Richard will be leaving us to go and work for Estyn—**unfortunately he won't be able to come back and inspect us, but we still hope to see him and all our other leavers at our open days!**

Also leaving us are Jan-Marvin Kutassi, learning support assistant, and Charlotte Morgan, who has been our Work Experience Coordinator while Alice James was on maternity leave. Best of luck to Jan and Charlie!

### About our newsletter

**We'd like to thank everybody for the information submitted to the Newsletter this term, and to the Coleg Elidyr Media team and Richard Tither for editing the articles.**



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)