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A message from Dai Sibbons, our principal

The autumn term has been exceptionally busy for learners, trainees and staff. In the last edition of the **Coleg Chronicles** I alluded to our recent Estyn inspection and that we couldn't promulgate the outcome until August 20<sup>th</sup>. As you are now aware the judgement made by Estyn was Excellent. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their monumental efforts to ensure that we were ready for inspection. It was great to see all departments in the college working so well together for a common aim. Parents also played a significant part in the inspection by their positive contributions to the Estyn questionnaires - thank you.

**Now let's turn our attention to the most important people. What fantastic progress our learners and trainees are making.** Their ability to take part in community events and contribute is truly amazing. The sponsored walk demonstrated that in bucket loads. Every single person took part and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Once again parents and wider local community - thank you for your support.

The Advent Fair, which took place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> of November was a great day and was enjoyed by all. The quality of produce made by our own craft teams was second to none and was soon snapped up by parents looking for Christmas presents for their families. The Advent dinner in the main hall was superbly cooked from all our home grown produce. Once again our talented Guest Volunteers took the lead and created a musical interlude, which was well received and enjoyed by all - many thanks to all our guest volunteers.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and on behalf of the whole team at the college, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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's the different articles which they sent to us..

#### Gardevias



During the last term here at Gardevias we have been on lots of exciting trips and outings. We have celebrated a few birthdays, which included a trip to a Chinese restaurant and lots of yummy birthday cake!!! Edith and Sophie both raised money for Children in need; Sophie raised £61, collecting money at the advent fair. Edith raised money through baking cakes and selling them at youth club, which everyone loved. Sophie also helped out at the advent fair in Llangadog and wrote an email talking about her positive experiences.

To get into the festive spirit we went to the festival of senses in **Llandeilo**. We spent quite a while in 'Heavenly', the chocolate and sweet shop because there was so much choice and we all came out with a little treat! We have gone on lots of outings to the beach, quite often walking along the sea front in Aberaeron and stopping off at the cafe for a snack and a drink. It can sometimes get very windy, but the girls all love it. One of our favourite activities during the week is Girly Night. We have a relaxed evening full of girl talk, nail painting, singing and lots of laughter. By the end of the night we are tired from all the chattering and have beautiful sparkly nails. Girly Night (you heard it here first at Gardevias)!!



#### Ty St Barbe

Welcome to our new learner, Gus! He joined us at the start of this year, and is settling into his new house well. We also have three new support workers; Taffy, **Chloe and Lisper**. We'd like to welcome our new GV Juan and welcome back Johanna, whilst we wish those that have left all the success for the future.

We have had a good year at Ty St Barbe and had lots of fun! The house has had a makeover and we have participated in lots of activities this term. We have been bowling in Brecon, a trip to the Zoo, walking through the bird reserve and made a visit **to Rhyader waterfalls**. We've also made a lot of trips to the beach and explored a



few castles along the way! We are always encouraging choices and plan more trips next term to the zoo and water park, whilst Peter has expressed a desire to visit the cinema. In our free time the learners take turns in choosing where to eat out and our trip to the fireworks in Llangadog was a particular



highlight this term. Our old friend Ruaridh joined us for that and we wish him all the success in his new house Nant Gwyn.

We said goodbye to our old manager Klaus, and welcomed Steve in his place as our new Manager at Ty St Barbe. This allowed Dan to step up and become the new Assistant Manager. Everyone is now **really looking forward to their Christmas, and can't wait to begin decorating the house for the new year.**

Ty Rhieni

### "IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR"



Last Saturday Ty Rhieni paid a visit to Winter Wonderland in Swansea. We all boarded the mini bus and looked forward to day full of fun and Christmas cheer, accompanied by some lovely Christmas music. When we arrived the weather was dry and crisp. Everyone became excited as the fair came into sight. As we entered we heard a shout behind us and when we looked it was Bruce, who had come to join us. The excitement James showed when he saw the horses on the carousel made everyone smile. Ffion was eager to go on the Dodgems and James decided he wanted to have a go too. After purchasing some tokens, Nadja accompanied Ffion, whilst Chris and James waited for the hooter

in another car. The cars went quite fast and Ffion continually drove the wrong way around, bumping many cars on her way. James really enjoyed and kept waving at everyone watching from the side. Laurence, Neil and Bruce had wandered around with Tracy and had gone on the Fun House, which was great fun. Laurence won some prizes on one of the games. There was one ride that went very high and very fast and everyone agreed we would give this one a miss. Santa was in residence in his very pretty looking grotto and Ffion and James decided they wanted to pay him a visit so we joined the queue. The others decided they did not want to visit Santa so they went to take another look around the fair and watched the ice skating. **When we came outside James' dad had arrived and he met him with a big hug.** Ffion decided to go on the Dodgems again, accompanied by Nadja.

We left the wonderful winter wonderland, had some food and headed back to Ty Rhieni in a very cheerful bus.







### Farmhouse



During the term we have done many fun activities in the evenings and at the weekends, including going to see fireworks on Bonfire night.

We had a very

enjoyable evening and all wrapped up from the cold to enjoy the beautiful firework display in Carmarthen. We have also been bowling on several occasions and have enjoyed fun afternoons with the house. Most recently we did some Christmas shopping and also decorated our house and Christmas tree. It was a fun afternoon working together to decorate the tree and the house.

Hilary Devia is leaving the Farmhouse after being with us for 2 years. It has been a pleasure having Hilary with us over the last 2 years supporting the students. We will miss her and we wish her all the best in the future. We are also saying goodbye to Nicola Mulrine who has been working with us for a few months in the Farmhouse. It has been a pleasure having Nicola here because she has helped us so much while she has been working here in the Farmhouse. We would also like to welcome back Kelly Woodall from her maternity leave.

An update from Greg

I have started to run the shop on one day at the weekend. I have enjoyed it because it is something I **haven't done before. I am hoping to do a couple of hours each day at the weekend for the students to buy their toiletries and snacks. I have done this 3 or 4 times before and I would like to do this after the Christmas holidays. I go to Aberglasney independently and work with the main gardeners. I'm** really enjoying it because it is something I am interested in and I would like to do in my future.

### Nantgwyn



Hi there,

We at Nant-Gwyn went on a visit to Andrew Duff's new placement in Bristol. As a group, we decided to combine this visit with a trip to the zoo. Below is what we had to say about our day;

Ruaridh M- It was a really good idea to go to Bristol. it is a really nice place and I have been there before with my parents. I liked the snakes at the zoo which were kept in a glass cage.



Andrew- I enjoyed visiting my new placement, which is called 'The Hatch'. It seems to have a lot of fun things to do to help me on my next step. There will be a lot of fun things to do in my free time in Bristol.

Jake- I loved the trip to Bristol it was really nice to go get the chance to see all the animals and we had food there. I think I actually enjoyed it more than Swansea.

Jared- I liked the bus ride seeing all the nice views and I liked the fish at the zoo. We had food out in a restaurant, which was really nice.

Stacey- Stacey said she liked seeing all the animals but McDonalds was the highlight of her day. She said Andrew's new home looks really good.

Natasha- I liked Bristol, the nice shops had lots of clothes and jewellery. I also enjoyed the zoo with all the animals.

We all wish Andrew a big goodbye and we will miss him. We all believe you are ready for this next step at 'The Hatch'. **We wish you all the best in the future and look forward to seeing you soon.**

Ty Iori



**There's been quite a few additions to our Tŷ Iori**

family. They've all added some unique features to the house and we're glad to see how new ideas come all the time. We're proud to say we've been pioneering several activities both for us and the community in general, including music evenings (now a regular occurrence), walks to the so-called magic tree (close to the river), football matches, board games, drawing and colouring sessions and card-making, both manually and digitally.



Now there's a whole different layout to the areas indoors as well, as we've undergone some much-needed refurbishment. The office looks a lot better, not to mention bigger, and there's such a homely atmosphere about the lounge. We've all been more involved in baking and cooking, especially the former since we've had quite a few birthdays this term.

Last but not least, there've been several trips, either as a group, or in one-to-one arrangements using public transport, either for shopping or just sight-seeing and having a good time outside. We're pleased to report we also interact a lot with people from other houses in those activities.



Coleg Elidyr wins £3000 Lloyds Bank Community Grant



**Coleg Elidyr's learners and staff** are celebrating winning a public vote, which has resulted in the award of a £3000 grant from the Lloyds Bank Community Fund. The college was shortlisted for the award this September along with 3 other charities in the Brecon area and voting took place throughout September and October. As a result of fantastic support from staff, parents, members of the public and local residents, Coleg Elidyr received 40% of the total votes cast for

the four nominated charities in the local area and therefore secured the maximum award of £3000.

This money will now go towards the purchase of equipment and resources to establish a screen-printing workshop for the learners and trainees of Coleg Elidyr to develop their craft and enterprise skills.



David Sibbons, Principal of the college, said: "We are delighted with this news. It means that we can extend the range of craft and enterprise opportunities available to learners and provide them with the resources to de-

velop new skills and independence. We are enormously grateful to everyone who voted for the college - as a charity, we rely heavily on charitable donations and grants from initiatives like the Community Fund to be able to develop resources for the learners. Many thanks to everyone who took the trouble to vote for Coleg Elidyr."





Vote for your favourite article!

### The Coleg Elidyr Media team are now in charge of editing the Coleg's Chronicles

and are actively encouraging all learners to write news stories for us. As you read this issue we would like you to choose your favourite news story and vote. Email your name and favourite story to [mediagroup@colegelidyr.com](mailto:mediagroup@colegelidyr.com). We will announce the winner in the next edition!



### Candle workshop and the shop



Hello my name is Greg. We have been making a range of different sizes, shapes and coloured candles ready for the Advent Fair. We also put some nice fragrance into some of the candles. We used recycled wax from the Candle workshop.

We designed some lovely candles and sold them at our recent Advent Fair - we had a very successful day and we sold all of the candles. We would like to make more!!

Written by Greg - working with Laurence, Peter, Julie and Jacquie.



Hello my name is Jake. I have been working in the shop on a Friday morning.

I feel very important in my work. I check in the All Inn and Kantele to see if any of the cleaning products need to be re-stocked. I write a list of products and collect them from the shop, Nerys puts them through the till and I take them to the All Inn and Kantele. I check that the total costs of the items are the same as the shop receipt by adding up the prices.

I would like to train other Learners to carry out the same task.



Hello my name is George,

I have been working in the shop on Wednesdays as part of my timetable.

I phone the houses to see if they need any orders for delivery. I write a shopping list and collect the products to take to the houses. Julie puts them through the till and I take the till receipt to the houses with the products.

I greet the customers and give them their order. I use my delivery list to know which house I need to deliver to.

I feel very proud of my work in the shop.



### Shop

Hello, everyone, my name is Edward Graham and I work in Saint **Martin's Shop.**

Some days I tidy up, sweep the floor and wash the floor, because the shop gets dirty and I like it to look clean and tidy.

Sometimes I unpack the boxes and check the deliveries and then stock the shelves. I like weighing, I weigh porridge oats and sugar and one day I weighed 26 bags of sugar.

I felt very proud. I would like to learn more about stock rotation. I enjoy working in the shop very much.



### Christmas Card Competition Update



**Congratulations to Jared Davies, this year's winner of the Christmas card competition. Jared is an enthusiastic member of the printing team - not only has he designed the college Christmas card but he also is part of the team that hand prints the cards.**

Well done Jared and a big congratulation from us - your co-workers in the printing workshop.

### Grounds Maintenance Update



The Grounds Team has worked hard this term, we have ensured that we contribute towards the maintaining of the site. We have been working

hard to ensure that the orchard has been kept tidy and cleared it of brush. Bruce has taken pride in making sure that the Estate shed and the surrounding areas are kept clear and tidy.





### Garden Update



Even though we are now entering the quietest time of the year for the garden, we are still keeping very busy outdoors, despite the temptation of the warm classroom on cold frosty mornings. After a good harvest, we have now put most of the garden to bed for winter and are already looking ahead to spring, getting the garden ready for these busier months by clearing and tidying as much as possible, as well as planting spring bulbs around the garden. When we need to dodge the rain we have been working hard in the polytunnels and in the greenhouse, doing lots of good winter jobs like fixing the borders of the wooden beds, washing the walls to let in as much light as possible, topping up the paths with woodchip from the estate and adding manure to the soil thanks to a welcome but rather smelly delivery from the farm. We are still delivering vegetable boxes to the houses every Monday, although they look a little less colourful than they do at other times of the year!

Another very important job for us to do in the garden over winter is to look after the local wildlife and to help them through the hard cold months. Helping wildlife is a long term focus for us in the gar-



den, and we are already planning ahead by sowing lots of wildflowers around the garden ready for next year. These flowers will be especially important for us since we plan to start keeping bees from next spring! The hedgehogs are also still keeping us very busy as they need to be cleaned out and fed every day. Since the grand opening of our hedgehog hospital (or Hogspital) in April this year we have already rescued and cared for 31 hedgehogs. Most of these have now been released back to the wild, although we are still looking after 11 hedgehogs that need a little extra TLC, and will overwinter in the brand new hedgehog shed built by the trainees. We look forward to releasing these when it becomes warmer next spring. All in all, there are lots of exciting things to look forward to in the garden next year!

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/ColegElidyrCamphill)



### Swimming Update



My name is Peter. I like swimming. We go on the bus every Friday afternoon with Karien, Billy, Sam, Karen, Stefano, Stacey, John, Kevin, Liam, Daniel, David and Freddie to Llandovery. I enjoy swimming underwater in the pool and playing with the floats. My favourite thing to do in the pool is getting my picture taken swimming under water. Freddie also likes swimming. He likes to do races

with everyone. There is a lovely atmosphere every week in the swimming session where some like to play games, do races or just relax for the afternoon. It is an enjoyable way for all to end the week. By Peter, Freddie and Karen Murphy.

### Farm Update from Jake

Hello all!!

In my farm work I am preparing a place to sow wild flowers. I pulled the grass clear for sowing the wild flowers. It was sunny and hot and I worked hard. I first worked with others and learned how to do it properly, and then I could work on my own. I look forward to see the seeds sprouting and grow into flowers.



I am imagine the flowers will grow into big colourful flowers. The ground is ready for the seeds to be sown, but there is boggy ground near the stream so be very careful.

### Baby Announcements!



This term we are lucky enough to announce not just one birth but four new born babies! We would like to congratulate our staff members; Iulian and Christina, Jordan, Emma and Alice upon the arrivals of all their new born babies! We hope you enjoy this treasured time and look forward to seeing you all back at work in the near future.



The Leather Craft team was very busy during this term again, producing quality and saleable leather items.

Sophie Sheeres: Our group has been very busy every week creating nice leather items. We made belts, key holders, pencil holders and glasses cases. I made a pencil case, some coasters and I made bracelets too. The advent fair was successful because we sold a lot and made £351.

Andrew Duff: We carried on making belts, key holders, glasses cases and I started to make two new items: a pencil holder and a Dog Collar.

I learnt a new technique to decorate the belt, lacing in the middle of it. We sold this belt during the Advent Fair. **James Mellor's favourite task is embossing the pattern on the glasses case.** Oliver likes doing the leather stamping on belts. My favourite activity is when I am doing the leather preparation with the safety Beveller tool and work with Edge Beveller. I also like dyeing the leather and its important not to forget to put the leather finish on it.



I will move out from Coleg Elidyr in December, and I hope to use these skills in the future. I will really miss this team.

James Mellor: I like working in the leather workshop. I made a glasses Case for my Dad. I do the embossing and stitching during the sessions.

Tom Beynon: I am happy working in the Leather Workshop. My favourite tasks are using the Leather Hole Punch and doing the stitching on the Key holder and Glasses case.

Ruaridh: I have just started the leatherwork in October. The leather work is great. I never did this before. I would like to learn more about it. For example I would like to make a leather seat cover in the future.

Oliver Sontheimer: Thank you to Zsuzsanna for teaching me leather work lessons. I made leather

mats (coasters)

for supper and I also made some belts during this term.

#### Felting Team

Our felting team Kathryn and Martyn produce beautiful Cobweb Scarves.

Kathryn said: I am happy working here. I like soaping and rubbing the felt, but I would like to learn leather work, too.

Martyn is happy with the felting task but he showed he would like to do leather work in the future.







### Day at the Market



My name is Nathanael Meates. I am in my fourth year in Coleg Elidyr. I have become a trainee, and I work on the farm two and a half days a week.

I have learnt about Health & Safety, keeping livestock well, making sure fields are looking good for making hay and silage. I make sure we have everything we need to feed livestock and making sure they are fit to go to market. We need to sell animals to make money for the farm.

I have also learnt to give medicine to sheep, to check for injuries and

to feel with my hands along the backbone of lambs, checking if they are fit to go to market.

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November I checked if the lambs were fit for market. I separated the thin ones from the fat ones. On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> we went to the market. When we arrived we moved the lambs **to the entrance of the market. Then this guy came to check on our lambs and said "they are all fit for market". I felt proud.**

Then we had to wait a bit for the bidding to start. We had coffee and a burger.

When they started bidding I went to the pen with our lambs. I got them to stand up so that everyone could have a good look at them and I stayed with them while they were sold.

The lambs weighed 41 kg each and made £ 70 each. That works out to be £ 1.70 per kilo.

I feel this day has been a success.

### Weavery Update by David Macey

In the Weavery we have been making a wall hanging as part of the Camphill World Wide Weave project. Our piece will be part of a touring exhibition that will be visiting the National Wool Museum in Wales next May. We have also been busy weaving table runners and rag rugs. We have been working together as a good team. I Like working in the Weavery with my friends.

At the start of every session we read the weaving poem before we start our work:

Weaving

My life is but a weaving  
Between the Lord and me  
I may not choose the colours  
He Knows what they should be.

Tis He who fills the shuttle  
And he knows what is best  
So I shall weave in earnest  
And leave to Him the rest.





### The Estate Team



The Estate team have been extremely busy this term, involved in a variety of jobs. Jared gives us an insight as to what we do; Today I split logs using an axe and put them in a wheel barrow, took them to the wood store and stacked them. I have also cut logs with a saw and a horse I cut them to the same size. Last week I scattered the wild flower seeds to grow new flower beds.



### Welcome to the Coleg Media team



The Media team have now grown in size. We are responsible for publishing the newsletter and making news videos. We are currently editing our latest news video and it will be online soon for all to see. The team; Sophie the editor, Ruaridh the News Anchor, Peter and Sam the reporters, Bruce is in charge of sports, and Tom is the weather presenter. We have different roles in front of the camera but all contribute to the writing or editing of the news letter.







PDC Update



Our focus this term in the 2nd Year PDC groups has been physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Everyone has chosen a different sporting activity to do each week so that we can keep healthy and active. Each week we apply literacy and numeracy through different sporting activities. We have talked about the importance of eating healthy and how it helps us to feel better about ourselves. During the last week of term we will cook a healthy lunch for our guests to celebrate our success. Whilst participating in our different sport, we have noticed that we all enjoy and have different talents. Daniel for



example is brilliant at badminton and can serve like a professional. We hope to keep up our physical activities for the rest of the year and spread the message that keeping fit is important for our wellbeing.

Running Club by Natasha



**Join us at Natasha's Running Club!**

Every Wednesday evening at 4.30pm we lead the way in our running club. We run around the hall for half an hour.

Running;

- Helps us feel happy and fit.
- We feel tired in a good way.
- We enjoy the company of other people.





### The Sponsored Walk



On the 23rd of September, learners and staff joined together on a sponsored walk to raise money for our 40th Anniversary fundraising project. The walk took place in Cwm Rhaeadr. The money raised will be spent on a training kitchen, gym and sports equipment amongst other purposes. Here are some of the experiences from members of our media team;

The Sponsored Walk was good but tiring. I had Julie and Alice in my group and went by bus to the start point. It was very long and the best part of the walk was the final part of the track. After finishing the walk we all went to the All Inn for some refreshments and headed back to the houses. I am happy because

we are going to use this money for a new training kitchen and gym. *Sophie Scheers*

I walked in the forest with my friends. We went there on the bus. I loved the forest and we walked for two hours. I was so hungry afterwards. We had a big supper. *Sam Leesley*

I enjoyed the sponsored walk and got a certificate. I am proud of my achievement. The media team interviewed Sandra the house manager at Gardevais. She went with her group twice around the forest and it took them a long time. I enjoyed my day and would like to do it again. *Peter Jenkins*

When everyone went on the sponsored walk, I stayed in Coleg to do some important jobs. I had to do some deliveries for the farm house so we could prepare a big tea break for all the tired walkers. I enjoyed the day and I am proud of all of the walkers. *Tom Beynon*

*Written and Edited by Sophie Scheers.*

### Fundraising Success

Thanks to everyone for all their hard work this year to enable Coleg Elidyr to hit its fundraising target of £25,000 - in fact, so far we have raised £25,362! Fundraising events included the Summer Fair, Advent Fair and Lloyds Bank Community Fund Award, which together brought in over £6,000. A huge thank you also to all parents, family, friends and staff for sponsoring us for the sponsored walk in October. As well as being a great day out, we raised another £1,600 towards our target. Some of the money has already been allocated to buy a screen printing press for the Print Workshop and we spent some money in the summer, renovating the kitchen in the All Inn to provide a training kitchen for learners and trainees. The Learner Forum will be helping to decide how to spend the balance of over £7,000 on exercise equipment in the New Year - we will keep you posted!





### Work Experience Update



In October Nathanael started work in Many Tears Animal Rescue. Many Tears is a large predominantly dog rescue centre that takes in unwanted dogs and puppies from all over the UK and often Europe. Nathanael had to do a 2 hour induction in order to become a volunteer. He was shown how to safely go in and out of the kennels, how to approach and handle dogs, which chemicals to use in order to clean the kennels and general orientation. Nathanael is accompanied by Anthony (LSA) who is eventually going to reduce his support leaving Nathanael to achieve an independent placement. There is a wide variety of jobs to be done from cleaning, to feeding, but one of the best tasks is socializing with the puppies. This helps the puppies get used to human contact when they might not have had any in the past. Huskies are a firm favourite with Nathanael, here he is playing with them before taking them out for a lovely walk.

**Nathanael is working towards an accreditation in 'Looking after Puppies and Dogs'** which is a level 3 Agored Cymru certificate.

#### Aberglasney Gardens

Spectacularly set in the beautiful Tywi valley of Carmarthenshire, Aberglasney House features one of the finest gardens in Wales. Aberglasney Gardens have been an inspiration to poets since 1477. The story of Aberglasney spans many centuries, but, the house's origins are still shrouded in obscurity. A team of 2 learners, 1 trainee, 1 Victoria House resident and 1 Bran Yard resident go to the gardens every Wednesday and help with various gardening tasks which range from edging the beautiful lawns to laying new paths and walkways. Learners take a packed lunch with them and are respected members of the gardening team. Aberglasney is a popular Work experience placement and a wonderful place for our learners to gain skills which they will keep with them for life.



After the half term we saw a slightly depleted crew at Aberglasney as Neil and Stephen left to pursue work experience elsewhere in which we wish them the very best of luck. However Jake and Khyle, Greg, Peter and George from Victoria House

are still going very strong. They all work very hard every Wednesday assisting Joseph (head gardener) and the staff in maintaining and constantly improving these stunning gardens. Jake and Khyle love the variation in all of the tasks and enjoy the social experience they get from eating their packed lunch in the staff room. Health and Safety is such an important aspect of working in the gardens. Safe tool use is maintained very well by Jake and Khyle who are now using the petrol powered leaf blowers to help keep the gardens looking tidy. Although Greg gets a lift in with the rest of the gang, he now works independently of the rest of the group working alongside the permanent staff and horticultural students. In this he is doing very well and is gaining in confidence and learning so much in order to achieve his aim in becoming a full time gardener. We are accompanied by Qinghe (Shelly) who has been working in the gardens for a while and Cinar who is a new Guest Volunteer from Turkey.

#### Kings Head

Neil has just completed week 2 at the Kings Head in Llandovery where he is helping the kitchen. He is now getting the hang of his surroundings and is completing tasks such as using the dish washer, cleaning down after breakfast, safe food handling, peeling vegetables etc. In a short time Neil is already improving his motor skills whilst using sharp kitchen objects and is gaining in confidence in asking the members of staff what jobs need doing and where the equipment lives. Neil is enthusiastic and would love to work towards an independent placement. Well Done!





### Work Experience Update



Myddfai Trading- Today saw the end of an era. Andrew Duff who leaves Coleg to go the Hatch had his last session in Myddfai Trading. Mike and the gang were very sad to see him go as he is such a fantastic worker. Having been on work experience there for quite some time he has become a valued member of the team especially on the run up to Christmas when there were many orders to be sent out. Myddfai Trading is a social enterprise based just outside Llangadog which makes luxury toiletries, many of which go to the hospitality and leisure industry. As well as Andrew, Peter, David and Sophie also attend work experience at Myddfai trading. Sophie is working towards an independent placement but currently goes with Jackie every Tuesday. She takes lunch with her to experience the social aspect of a work experience; she has developed a very good working relationship with all of the staff and really enjoys being a part of the team. David, Andrew and Peter are going with Luke and Diego on a Friday morning when they participate in tasks such as labelling bottles, making soaps and bath bombs, assembling display boxes to name but a few of many tasks. The newest member, David has settled in very well and his skill and abilities are developing with every visit. As well as the work they have a great time laughing and joking with Mike, Nia and Colin. A great term!



Friday Estate Group- This is a great group of learners and trainees comprising of Gilly, Greg and Nathanael who go out on a Friday armed with a variety of tools which they use on different work placements. Up until this point they have worked in Llandovery Hospital Gardens which was a project that started last term where the aim was to restore the garden to its former award winning glory, also with the help of the local scouts and Llandovery College. The group go to Llest Horse and Pony Trust, where they help with the woodland path and general maintenance around the yard. They have been asked by a Myddfai Church member to help with the maintenance of the churchyard, where the future intention is to roll this idea out to more local churchyards. They are a very enthusiastic bunch of hard working men who have gained in confidence (and strength) by doing very rewarding and community based work. For Gilly it is his first external work placement and he is really enjoying the responsibility that comes with the different work that he does. For Greg and Nathanael it is a perfect opportunity to gain more skills to broaden their horizons in preparation for their next step in life. They both thoroughly enjoy the physical aspect of being outside and are always willing to take on the next challenge.



Royal Oak- Well, what does one say about the Royal Oak? They have been FANTASTIC. Not only does Laurence continue his great work there in helping Chris and Rachel with the cleaning, bar prep and shop on a Friday morning, which he enjoys especially as he is accompanied by Sebastian. Laurence has gained so much in confidence. But they have also recently facilitated Machteld who now runs a Cafe from the pub on a Monday morning as part of her essential skills tutorial group. During this period Neil, Alyn, Natasha and Edith prepare and serve tea, coffee and cakes to the local community. By doing this it covers so many skills, from customer service, **money handling, food prep, kitchen skills and communication to name but a few. It's**

a very exciting new facet to the transition of out learners into the next stages of their lives. ALSO The Royal Oak have agreed for college to help run and expand their community shop. Facilitated by Julie it is a brilliant opportunity for Work Experience and for our learners and trainees to learn the many aspects of retail and customer service. With the recently acquired grant Chris is planning to give the shop a facelift which will tie in very well with our up and coming involvement in expanding this essential local amenity. Very exciting times ahead.





## Goodbyes - Andrew from Nant Gwyn and Sophie from Gardevais



We would like to say goodbye to two trainees this year. Andrew Duff has moved on to his new placement in the Hatch and Sophie Scheers will be leaving us as the term draws to a close. We wish you both all the success in your futures and you will both be remembered fondly by all at Coleg Elidyr.



We have had to say goodbye to James in the Garden. Hayley Codd has taken his place as the new Garden tutor. Neil Harris is the new Estate tutor, whilst we have had a number of new support workers and LSAs. We would also like to congratulate Steven Bird as the new Ty St Barbe House Manager and Daniel Hodges as the new Assistant House Manager. We would like to wish everyone all the success in their new roles and a great future.

## Thank you to Guest Volunteers

We would like to offer a huge thank you to all our Guest Volunteers past and present. The college would not be the same without your support. We have had to say goodbye to Hilary, Javier, Sandra, Andrew, Jair, Cassie, Jason, Kevin, Gemma and Yama. We wish you all the success for the future and thanks for all your hard work.

## 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 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)