

A new location for Prize Day

And a sad farewell to Mrs Letten (although she's not leaving us!)

It was a busy day on the last day of term as Prize Day was held at Slebech Park for the first time this year. Despite the logistical pressures, musicians, singers, readers, prize winners, boom-whackers, pupils and staff were all safely dispatched to the stunning location along with displays, prizes, scones, Pimms and a harp.

Parents were greeted with a glass of bubbly or orange juice to celebrate the successful year as it came to a close before being ushered into the marquee to the soothing sounds on the harp from ex-pupil Anna Phillips. We were privileged that she could return to play for us and thrilled to learn that she has gained a place at The Royal Academy of Music to study both the harp and violin.



We were also treated to musical numbers by Imogen Grimes on the piano and the rock band, consisting of Tom Newman, Lloyd Smith and Will Letten. However, the musical highlight for many must surely have been the boom-whacking prep pupils, performing Grieg's 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' with great gusto.

There followed a quick review of the year by Mr Scotney for the Arts, Miss Algieri for Sport and Mrs Cowell giving an overview of the year, focusing on the end of year creative which had seen all the pupils involved in a wealth of different activities, exposing them to new skills and challenges away from the classroom and traditional subjects.

A flurry of activity followed, with the prep performing their mime, musical piece and readings along with a much better review of their year, which for some reason left Lily Stonehill in stitches.



Some of the older pupils performed their LAMDA pieces in celebration of an excellent set of results and it was lovely to see year 11 pupil, Georgie Richards, return to accept her prize, sharing it with Imogen Grimes.

We had a poignant reading of 'In Flanders Fields' from Hywel Mansell which had moved so many when he had performed it on Armistice Day at school last year.



Time for the prizes, and we were honoured that Alec James, the husband of much beloved maths and PE teacher Shirley, was able to come and present the prizes for PE and Maths that have been donated in her honour. As well as the fiercely contested Netball trophy, which was won by the pupils, a new trophy for football has been awarded for the first time, which was won by the staff.

More activity as certificates and medals were handed out in quick succession and, in the soaring heat, the prep were excused and disappeared out into the shade of the woodland surroundings. The Language Cup was awarded to Isabella Ferguson Ward, the Janet Smith Writing Prize to Adelaide Lort-Phillips, the Shirley James Prize for PE to Carys Jones and the Maths prize to Alex Rigden.

As part of Castle School Creative, an Art Challenge was established by Miss Hope in conjunction with Folly Farm who judged and donated the prize. It was a fiercely fought contest but the overall winner, Meg Harris, triumphed with her stunning watercolour of a parrot. Highly commended runners up were Pipa Jay (art) and Iris Black (photography).





One of the highlights of 2017-18 has been all the fundraising that has taken place during the year, culminating in an impressive total of over £2000. Miss Algieri had been instrumental in much of the fundraising and was delighted to be able to hand over the cheque to volunteers of the Withybush Cancer Unit Appeal.

But of course, the award most pupils had been waiting for had yet to be announced. Who would win the House Cup? Indeed, it was no foregone conclusion this time and after a dramatic pause for effect, Miss Algieri announced the victors to be Picton House.

Although we allowed Mrs Letten a few final words to round up proceedings and wish all leavers well for the future, she was not allowed to disappear so easily. Mrs Cowell took over the microphone to say a few words of thanks to Mrs Letten for all she has done for the school in the nine years she has worked here. Thankfully, she is not leaving us but will continue in her role helping those in need of extra support and we look forward to seeing her back next term.



Needless to say, as you can see, she was both thrilled and shocked by the leaving present given by the school. Some subterfuge had clearly come into play since the painting was one she had coveted for some time every time she walked past her local art gallery.

We would like to thank all the staff, pupils and members of the PTA for helping to make our first prize day at Slebech such a success and wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer.

