

Eisteddfod Ysgol Bryngwyn 2023 - it's good to be back!

Ysgol Bryngwyn's Eisteddfod is always a great day. 2021 we celebrated online. 2022 we enjoyed a combination of online performances and inter-form competitions. This year we are back together for a full day of fun and inter-house competitions involving all pupils and all staff. Mr Rob Jones, Head of School was delighted with the presence of the vast majority of pupils. Before the day began Mr Tyler, Assistant Headteacher commented on the "buzz" around school as pupils and staff prepared for the day ahead. A truly exciting atmosphere! The music and Welsh departments and Heads of House: Cothi, Lliedi, Morlais and Tywi have been busy preparing pupils to perform on the stage. In the weeks leading up to the event, staff have also run departmental competitions for pupils to compete off-stage.



The hall was decorated with balloons in the Welsh colours provided by "The Party Shop". Many thanks to Robert Davies for the excellent service. On display were the winners of the departmental competitions. Many thanks to staff for running the competitions but also to pupils for their impressive work. Pupils surpassed themselves this year with fantastic works of art and literature as well as 3D models of Welsh landmarks! Bendigedig!



This year's Eisteddfod began with our talented junior musicians playing a range of instruments. First place went to Jacque Fourie playing the piano expertly. Ardderchog Jacque!



All of our vocalists sang a Welsh song. First place went to Scarlett Esney-Davies, Iara Stephens and Leri Watkins from Tywi house, with an impressive performance of Cwlwm Cariad. Mrs Hopkins, Head of Welsh, told us "All three girls worked hard to perfect their harmonies and gave an outstanding performance". In joint first place was Mia Williams of Morlais house with a stunning performance of Anfonaf Angel. Arbennig o dda!



On to the Welsh recitation. This year's poem was "Deg o Elyrch Gwynion" gan Robin Llwyd ab Owain in which the poet addresses the impact of society on the world of nature, represented by ten white swans. All four recitation groups made excellent use of props but Lliedi took first place for their performance which impressed the judges with their dramatic interpretation of the poem and their effective costuming.



Standards were high in the Senior Instrumental where competitors played piano, guitar, violin and clarinet. Lliedi's duet secured first place with Maheen Kashif on violin and Cerys Brown on trumpet. Their performance of George Ezra's Shotgun was an outstanding performance. Corey Lewis representing Morlais house gave a rousing performance of "Great Balls of Fire".



From solo performers to groups, it was time to up the tempo with Dawnsio Gwerin! This year's dance was Jac y Do and the competition was won by a mixed group representing Lliedi house. Head of House, Ms Fair was very proud "The pupils worked so hard, they have been an absolute joy from first rehearsal to final performance. Da iawn pawb!."

From traditional dancing from Wales we switched to South African dancing! The performers were our 12 pupils and 3 members of staff who returned from an exchange visit to Lesotho just 48 hours before Eisteddfod! Hyfryd i weld!

Junior vocalists were up next! For the third consecutive year first place was won by Cothi house, represented by Livia Marchant, a year 7 pupil who sang Yma o Hyd with passion. Well-deserved win! Da iawn Livia! This brought the morning to a close and after a hearty lunch of Cawl and Welsh cakes the afternoon's proceedings began with a traditional Seremoni Cadeirio led by Mr Adrian Davies. The adjudicator for the Welsh Chair, Mr Dafydd Roberts, commented on both the quantity and quality of the 18 poems this year. The winner of Cadair Cymraeg Ysgol Bryngwyn is Erin McCarthy of Cothi house, writing under the nom de plume of Y Ddraig Las. This is Erin's second year of winning this prestigious prize. The English Chair adjudication was presented by Mrs Jessica Aubin, Head of English. There were 5 pieces of writing worthy of this prize, all interpreting the theme of Home in different ways. The winning entry was written by Brooke Watson also of Cothi house! Da iawn Brooke!



House choirs sang "Calon Lan" with the judges declaring Tywi as the winning House Choir due to their tone, volume and overall performance, although all houses performed impressively. Dawnsio disgo soon followed with 4 very different dance routines. The winners were Cothi with an energetic dance which certainly engaged the whole audience!

Grwp Carioci is another highlight of the Eisteddfod and this year did not disappoint! All four performances were highly entertaining, a mixture of song and dance from musicals such as *Grease* and *Mamma Mia*, along with medleys by Queen and Elvis! They were all excellent items and the joint winners were Morlais with their *Grease* medley and Tywi with their *Mamma Mia* performance. The costumes, choreography and presentation were all excellent and kept the whole audience enthralled throughout.





Final results, after a well-fought "battle" of the houses:

1af - Morlais

2ail - Cothi

3ydd - Tywi

4ydd - Lliedi

Diolch yn fawr to Annabel Thomas for the excellent photography.

Many thanks to our 4 adjudicators - Mrs Bethan Parry (former teacher of Welsh at Bryngwyn School), Mr Mike Thomas (current TA in Bryngwyn), Mr Derek Rees of Menter and Mr Dafydd Davies (musician/entertainer).

Diolch yn fawr i chi gyd.

Da iawn Cothi, Tywi a Lliedi.

Llongyfarchiadau Llys Morlais - Enillwyr Eisteddfod Ysgol Bryngwyn 2023!