

# education

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edited by  
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## Golden trio's London award

A TRIO of top achievers have reached the highest level of the Duke of Edinburgh Award after years of community work and expeditions.

Thomas Davies, a former pupil of Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun, Aberdare, travelled to St James' Palace in London to receive his Gold Award.

Meanwhile, Steven Davis and Jonathan Bush – former pupils of Ysgol Maesgwyn, Aberdare – returned to the school to be presented with their Gold awards after initially completing bronze and silver levels.

## Summer of fun for kids

SCHOOL is out for summer, but under 16s in the Cynon Valley have no reason to be bored.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's leisure centres are once again hosting the High 5 school holiday provision which sees leisure centres across the borough offer various free activities in the summer.

Robert Bevan, council cabinet member for culture, recreation and tourism, said: "We understand the issues school holidays can cause in terms of keeping the kids active and occupied, especially if the weather is not so great or money is tight."

## Bible studies arrrr amusing

CHILDREN learnt about the Bible last week by dressing up as pirates and hunting for a buried treasure.

Seventy-nine children, aged between five and 12, enjoyed games, crafts, stories and songs and took part in sketches and drama in a Bible Group event organised by the Gilgal Baptist Church, Bridgend.

The desert islanders spent the week searching for missing treasure – but learnt it was Jesus they were looking for, rather than gold or silver.

Organiser Jane Owen said: "They all understood what they were doing really well, even the younger ones."

## Language school makes name for itself internationally



Peartree Languages Centre Manager Nicky Partridge with Fairwood Trust Director Charles Middleton, seated, who have recently attained British Council Accreditation

A CARDIFF language school has gained British Council Accreditation and begun to enter the international market.

Canton-based Peartree Languages has established itself as a principal language service provider after opening

nearly six years ago. The school offers private and group tuition in all modern world languages.

Due to an increase in demand its main focus has become teaching English as a foreign language.

To get accreditation

Peartree Languages Centre Manager Nicky Partridge applied for funding from the Fairwood Trust, which donates money to initiatives for the local community.

The centre got £10,000 towards accreditation costs and staff development.

Nicky said: "Since establishing the school we've seen the demand to learn English grow and grow with no sign of diminishing."

"Having the quality standard has opened up the international market and allowed us to promote our

English language service worldwide. We are now listed in the UK guide used by all major overseas agents."

The school has since seen the number of students pre-enrolling for courses in the Summer of 2011 triple on last year's figures.

# Schools 'can help to prevent future riots'

EDUCATION leaders in South Wales have said schools within their communities can help promote the social values needed to avoid a repeat of last week's rioting.

Two union leaders have said that schools are vital to shaping the values and guiding the actions of young people.

And they said the riots and arrests of people as young as 11-years-old showed the everyday challenges teachers faced in the classroom.

Cardiff-based union leader Dr Philip Dixon – the director of ATL Cymru – said schools need to be an "example" for the rest of society.

**Simon Gaskell**  
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He said: "Since the 1980s, the belief that 'greed is good' and that happiness lies in having rather than being have grown dominant in the UK."

"Our schools need to be examples of the sort of society we want."

"Others might disagree but I want to live in a community that values people for who they are not what they have, that thinks of greed as a sickness that needs to be cured, and is convinced that physical violence is never an answer."

Meanwhile Gareth Jones, the secretary of school leaders' union, from ASCL Cymru said the majority of young people he had spoken to in South Wales had condemned the violence carried out by people of their age.

He said: "Some of the rioters are clearly of school age and thus the television pictures provide clear evidence of the challenges that teachers and school support staff face on a regular basis."

"Let us remember that the riots have not involved all or even a majority of young people."

"Indeed, the teenagers that I have met in the last few days

have been as disgusted at the behaviour of their peers as the adults.

"All of us within our communities and institutions must share the task of ensuring that all young people have a common set of values to guide their behaviour and that those who transgress suffer appropriate and prompt punishment."

"We must be determined that we will not see such scenes being repeated in future."

**Cardiff teachers' union leader Philip Dixon: "Our schools need to be examples of the sort of society we want"**



# 'Amazing' mum always there for her family

**Daniel Fisher**  
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A MOTHER who has devoted her life to her children and been a full-time carer to her disabled daughter has been described as a "saint" by her family.

Linda Dadd, 58, was nominated for the Echo's Bouquet of the Week by her teenage daughter Mary, who said her "truly amazing" mum deserved some recognition for her tireless commitment to her family.

Linda has devoted much of her life to caring for her daughter Sarah, 32, who has cerebral palsy and epilepsy, as well as raising her other two children – despite suffering with osteoarthritis herself.

Mary Dadd, 18, said: "I believe my mum deserves the bouquet of the week because over the past 32 years she has brought up my severely disabled sister, Sarah, who suffers from cerebral palsy and epilepsy as well as my older brother, David, and myself."

"To this day my mum is still her carer even though she herself suffers from surgeon's syndrome and osteoarthritis in her whole body. She is a great mum."



"It has been very hard for her and my father but they have always been there for us and each other. My mum is a true saint and nothing is too much trouble for her. She is a truly amazing woman and all she has done over the years for my sister, my brother and myself really should be rewarded."

Linda said she was not expecting a nomination, and added that she was touched that her family had put her forward. She said: "I'm so surprised, thank you very much. It's lovely to be nominated by my daughter."



Linda Dadd, left, and her two daughters, Sarah, 32, centre, and 18-year-old Mary

After so many years of caring, Linda has recently started receiving a small amount of support from visiting carers who help out from time to time.

If you know someone who deserves an Echo Bouquet of the Week, e-mail your nomination, with your reasons and your details,

to echo.newsdesk@walesonline.co.uk marked Bouquet of the Week.

Alternatively you can write to Bouquet of the Week, South Wales Echo, Six Park Street, Cardiff, CF10 1XR. Usual terms and conditions apply, and all nominees must agree to be photographed.

## Youngsters get back to nature

CREATIVITY has been growing through a grasslands project which is home to an extremely rare butterfly.

Over the past year pupils at Ysgol Bro Sannon and Aberbargoed Primary school have been exploring their local community and their neighbouring Aberbargoed Grasslands which houses the Marsh Fritillary.

They have been looking for the rare creature and also used old maps to look at the past, created shelters, discovered bugs and found hidden mines.

For more information about the Aberbargoed Grasslands Project contact Mark Allen, Aberbargoed Ranger on 01443 875557.

## Italian flavour to Big Welsh Bite

TV chef Gino D'Acampo brought his culinary skills and Italian charm to Pontypridd last weekend, as he headlined this year's Big Welsh Bite.

Thousands of people flocked to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, Pontypridd, in summer sunshine, for the annual event, organised by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

The attractions at the two-day open-air show included a Welsh Food and Drink Fair.

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