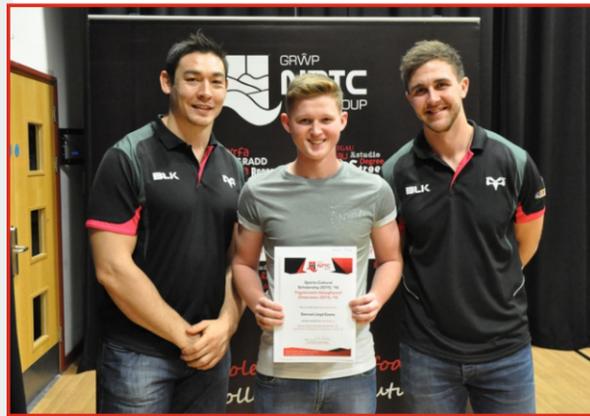


Scholarship New Students

Rugby



Samuel Evans

Senior Osprey rugby players Gareth Delve & Ashley Beck presented the students with their awards and scholarships. (pictured in the group sport picture) Gareth Delve then went on to deliver an excellent motivating speech to the students and audience at the Nidium Theatre.



Welsh Colleges Cricket Champions 2015/2016



Welsh colleges Indoor cricket 6 a side champions. Rhodri Maddock (capt) Lawrence Hornby, James Carsley, Tom George, Joe Humphreys, Matthew Ellis, Sam Mogford

Beat

- Gower College - 18 all out NPTC 42 NPTC won by 24 runs
- Merthyr College - 35 all out NPTC 47 NPTC won by 12 runs
- Pembroke College - 24 all out NPTC 37 NPTC won by 13 runs

NPTC Group took part in the inaugural indoor 24 cricket competition, a new fast and frenetic indoor cricket competition run by the England Wales Cricket Board. Held in unseasonal date in the traditional cricket calendar; February, NPTC adapted to the new format quickest. Wins against Gower, Merthyr and a winner takes all tie against Pembroke see NPTC go on to represent Welsh Colleges Sport at the AOC Sport National Championships in Newcastle. Astute captaincy by Rhodri Maddock (Level 3 Sport) a fine all round batting and bowling performance by Sam Mogford (A Level Academy), and the rest of the squad chipping in with runs and wickets saw NPTC take away the trophy, becoming the first Welsh Colleges Indoor 24 champions.

NPTC GROUP SPORTS and PUBLIC SERVICES NEWSLETTER



Neath Issue No. 12

Welcome to the twelfth edition of NPTC Group School of Sport & Uniformed Public Services (SPS) annual newsletter.

Here you will find details of some of the sporting successes and activities that our staff and students have accomplished over the last few months.

It also introduces some further opportunities and challenges open to students in this exciting department over the coming months.

If you would like any information about the courses we run at NPTC GROUP, please visit www.nptcgroup.ac.uk or contact Admissions on 01639 648000

Welsh Schools Trampolining Success for NPTC Group of Colleges



NPTC Group of Colleges' Under 19 trampolining team has sprung straight into the Trampolining British Semi-Finals (Zonals) after securing first place at the recent Welsh Schools' Championships.

Elaine Giddings, Ffion Thomas, Casey Williams along with Captain Ria Hughes executed an impressive intermediate routine. All the girls performed clean set and voluntary routines, with each of them being placed in the top 18 when combining their two routine totals. Captain Ria went on to finish 3rd position overall.

This competition also acts as a qualifier for the British Semi-Finals (Zonals) which encompasses all of Wales and the South West England finalists in January. Footage of the girls' routines has also been sent to the Welsh Colleges selection committee to determine places and selection for the Welsh Colleges team.

Well done girls and good luck!



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more than just an education
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/nptcgroup  

Busaries for Elite Sports Students



TWO new elite sports students at NPTC Group of Colleges have been recognised for their outstanding sporting achievements whilst at school.

Miquie Walker-Jones from Ystalyfera and Charlie Davies from Cwrt Sart Comprehensive are the proud recipients of the 2016 NPTC Group of Colleges bursary award.

This is the first time that the College has awarded a specific bursary of £1,500 to new sports students from partner comprehensive schools; the young stars have already achieved to the highest level for their age group and this bursary will support and encourage them to take this further.

Both Miquie and Charlie were identified by the governing bodies of both rugby and netball respectively as potential internationals and have demonstrated exceptional achievement.

Miquie Walker-Jones is an aspiring netball player currently studying Level 3 Sport and is part of the new netball academy at the Llandarcy Academy. She has played for Wales at U15 at the age of 13 and was also a member of the Wales U17 squad; she is currently part of the Junior Dragons.

Also part of the new rugby academy at Llandarcy, Charlie Davies was previously a pupil at Cwrt Sart Comprehensive where he captained the 1st school team and also captained the Neath and District schoolboy team at under 15 level. Charlie has played for the Ospreys at under 16 and 18, and is currently in the Ospreys' Elite (C group) squad.

Barry Roberts, Head of Sport and Public Services, commented: "Both of these have something special that has been identified by the respective governing bodies that deserves recognition and deserves nurturing. The bursary will support them in their professional development and we wish them all the best in the future."

Pic caption: NPTC Group of Colleges Elite Sports Students

Sport and Public Services students raise money for Children in Need



In time honoured tradition, Sport and Public Services' students from NPTC Group of Colleges have been busy raising money for Children in Need.

This year, the students walked a triumphant 10k from Llandarcy Academy of Sport to the 360 Waterfront Cafe in St Helen's, Swansea in fancy dress and raised an amazing £1,100

David Williams, sports lecturer and event organiser, said:

"As part of their BTEC Level 3 Sports course, the students really enjoy the 'Organising Events' module and actively engage in the organisation and running of a variety of sporting events; they thoroughly enjoyed raising money for this great cause, with some even walking in fancy dress!! The students always love getting involved in charity fundraising; we are delighted that the proceeds will go to such a good cause."

Scholarship New Students

Womens' Football



Megan Kearle

Cricket & Netball



Hollie Manning

Womens' Rugby & Football



Jasmine Hare

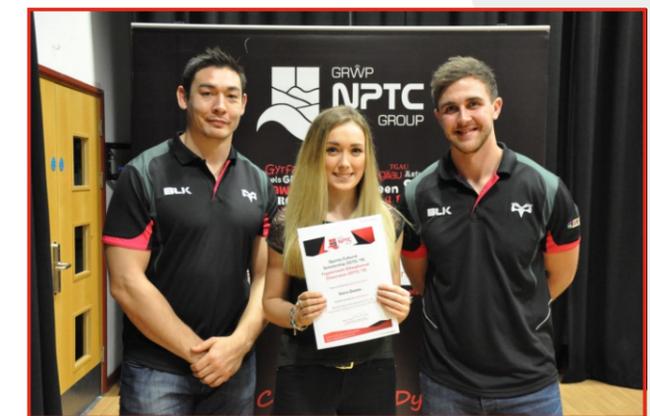
Netball and Volunteering (Gold Ambassadors)



Jessica Wills



Sophie Cardy



Keira Davies

NPTC Group of Colleges Sports Students take part in Rugby World Cup Festival



Over 900 children enjoyed a day of rugby activity at Llandarcy Academy of Sport last week in the second of three Rugby World Cup festivals.

Twenty-eight primary schools from across Neath Port Talbot, over a third of all schools in the county borough, were signed up to the event, which was hosted jointly by Ospreys in the Community, NPTC Group of Colleges, and the Physical Activity and Sport Service (PASS) at NPT Council.

The focus of the event was on promoting the benefits of physical activity to children and encouraging rugby participation, with those youngsters who show an interest being signposted towards their local rugby club, as well as the development of communication skills.

The festival was supported by a team of NPTC Group of College students who are all currently studying BTEC Level 3 Sport courses at the College's Llandarcy Academy of Sport. As part of their course, the students are required to complete a set amount of voluntary hours coaching in a primary school.

Having all completed the Active Young People Organiser training with Mark Napierella and his team at PASS, Friday's festival was the first opportunity this academic year for these students to put their learning into practice.

Barry Roberts, Head of Sport and Public Services, NPTC Group of Colleges, said:

"We are delighted to be part of this festival which gives young children from the local area the opportunity to showcase their rugby skills in a friendly environment as well as providing an amazing experience for our own students; the sport stars and coaches of the future."

"With the recent appointment of former Osprey Duncan Jones as NPT Schools' Rugby Officer, the College will continue to work closely with schools and clubs from the area to improve the provision of grassroots rugby, as well as encourage the development of rugby and the transition from school into College through our NPTC Rugby Academy."

Just as with the first festival at Dunvant RFC last month, each school adopted a Rugby World Cup nation, spending time in class researching their country and creating special flags and banners for an opening ceremony. They then kicked off proceedings with a morning of skills' development sessions, followed by tag rugby matches in the afternoon.

Mark Napierella, AYP Co-ordinator, said:

"It was a fantastic day at our Rugby World Cup festival. Schools had been asked to represent their chosen country and they did not disappoint. Flags, banners, kits, singing, dancing and Hakas were everywhere. The college students organised skills coaching and refereed tag rugby games. The children were active all day; it was a great celebration of rugby and the Rugby World Cup. We hope that the festival will inspire more children in Neath Port Talbot to join their local rugby teams."

Paul Whapham, Ospreys in the Community, added:

"Friday's Rugby World Cup festival was a tremendous example of three community-focused organisations working together in collaboration to host an event that was a resounding success. A lot of hard work went in to ensure that the participating children had a great time, and the students from NPTC Group of Colleges are to be commended for their efforts."

"It's important that we use landmark events such as the World Cup, when the public eye is very much on the game of rugby, to drive physical activity in children and, hopefully, increase rugby participation, and to grow numbers at our community clubs."

NPTC Group score a great appointment as Duncan Jones returns to College

NPTC Group of Colleges and the WRU are pleased to announce the appointment of Duncan Jones as the NPT Schools' Rugby Officer. The post, funded by both NPTC Group of Colleges and the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU), will see the link between College, school and club rugby strengthened and galvanised across the Neath Port Talbot area of the Ospreys region.

Duncan, a previous NPTC Group of College's student, returns to College in this post following an incredible career in rugby representing Wales at Schools, U18, U19, Youth and U21 levels, playing a key part in the U21 Grand Slam side of 1999; he has also played for Wales A and the Wales Development XV. He made his senior debut for Wales as a replacement against Australia in 2001 and went on to represent Wales a further 56 times, including captaining the squad during the tour of Argentina and against the Pacific Islanders in the 2006 Invesco Perpetual Series. Domestically, he played firstly for Neath RFC before becoming a prolific member of the Ospreys front three.

Duncan's appointment will see him work closely with the College's feeder schools across NPT to encourage the development of rugby and the transition from school into College which is already a renowned Rugby Academy based at the College's Llandarcy Academy of Sport. He will also work with local teams to establish strong community links and provide support to both schools and clubs to improve the provision of grassroots rugby to ensure that young from the authority have the opportunity to participate at whatever level they choose locally

NPTC Group of Colleges' Rugby Academy is set for a revamp for the 2015/16 season. NPTC Rugby Academy is currently part of the WRU Colleges' League Programme, this not only includes playing in the WRU's flagship competition which is televised by S4C but also gives colleges/players elite training programmes, fitness testing/skill training days at WRU Headquarters and a full analysis breakdown of every match played in the competition.



Duncan Jones explains: "Having been involved in rugby from a young age, I am excited to be starting this new chapter as part of the Rugby Academy at NPTC Group of Colleges. It is amazing to think that I am now going to be helping the players studying here at the College to achieve the things that I could have only dreamed I would have achieved when I was in their position. It is great that both the WRU and the College recognise the benefits to young people that rugby can bring. Not only to those who aspire to have a career in sport, but also to instil the qualities required to achieve academically and in all areas of their lives."

The post forms part of the existing three-year WRU School Club Hub programme which began in 2014 which has already seen great results with over 1,300 new female players and over 1,600 new male players already engaged. Future goals of the project include doubling the number of schools involved and improving and supporting the link between schools, clubs and the College. The aim is to introduce and reinforce a rugby culture for Wales that encourages sport for all abilities.

Three NPTC Group of Colleges' students make up WRU's new Youth Board

Three NPTC Group of Colleges' students have been appointed by the Welsh Rugby Union as members of its inaugural Youth Board after an online selection process which saw a host of high calibre candidates submit video applications via YouTube.

The WRU asked each of the candidates to give their views on how they should engage as a Union with future players, referees, volunteers and supporters - people of their own generation and the next one coming through.

The Youth Board is made up of fifteen individuals aged between 16 and 21; seven of whom are female and eight male, who form a wide geographical representation of Wales and the national game, and will meet for the first time at the Principality Stadium on Monday the 15th of February.

Samuel Evans, from Dulais Valley attended Llangatwg Community School before joining the Level 3 Performance & Excellence Academy for Rugby at the Llandarcy Academy of Sport on top of coaching his club's U7s side.

"My life revolves around rugby and I've always been really involved with my local community, as a player, a coach and as a qualified referee so this will give me a really good opportunity to use my knowledge and voice my opinions," Sam said.

Scrum half Menna Preece, 18, is a past Ystalyfera student from Seven Sisters, Powys and is also studying at Llandarcy on the Level 2 in Sport programme as well as being part of the Ospreys Academy based at the first class sports campus.

She said: "I've been around rugby from a very young age, my father is a rugby coach so I guess it's in my blood. I've played rugby from the time I was in primary school and will be using this opportunity to campaign to keep girls interested and playing rugby."

Andrew Moule, 19, from Port Talbot went to Glan Afan before joining the College to study Sports Therapies at the Afan Campus. He has progressed onto a Foundation Degree in Business and gained much of his knowledge of rugby from being a national referee.

Andrew put himself forward for the role in search of a new challenge, and said he was extremely passionate about rugby.

He added "I have been involved in the sport for eight years; six as a junior player and two as a ref. I wanted a new challenge and to put the knowledge gained from being a rugby referee at a national level to good use."

Duncan Jones, the College's Schools' Rugby Officer was delighted at the news and said:

"It's such a fantastic achievement to have three students represent the College as part of the WRU's Youth Board. They are all extremely dedicated and motivated individuals that will now help to shape the way the junior game is seen."

WRU chief executive Martyn Phillips, who will chair the Youth Board - which will meet quarterly over the next two years - himself said:

"We have gathered a rich and varied array of young talent to form the inaugural WRU Youth Board and I am very much looking forward to meeting everyone at our first meeting in February.

"We will also be discussing the future of the Youth Board itself, its aims and its objectives and what we want it to achieve and asking some of the bigger and wider questions about the WRU and the way our national sport is viewed and operated.

"The new WRU Youth Board will play an important part in the future of the WRU as will the advisory panel we have selected to sit alongside it."

One of the main discussion points on the agenda at the new WRU Youth Board's first gathering will be methods of future engagement with young people in Wales, but the meeting will have a wide ranging remit and leave no topic off the table in its ongoing discussions about the national game.

The standard of applications for the Board was extremely high and so a further thirty of the top candidates have been invited to sit on an 'advisory panel' to the board.

The advisory panel will be an important focus group and be asked for opinions on all WRU Youth Board topics throughout the year. All successful applicants have also received free membership to the WRU's official supporters club as recognition of their dedication to rugby.

The YouTube entries can be seen here: <http://supporters.wru.co.uk/matchdaytv/?play=media&id=22800>

PIC CAPTION: Inaugural WRU Youth Board Members Samuel Evans and Menna Preece



Llandarcy Hosts Women's Welsh Rugby Tournament



NPTC Group of Colleges' Llandarcy Academy of Sport played host to the Welsh Colleges' women's rugby trials and tournament recently which saw Duncan Jones' first year team's inaugural outing.

Battling against teams from across Wales including Coleg Sir Gâr and Gwent College, they were lucky enough to secure a third place position; an amazing achievement for their first outing.

Coach Duncan Jones was thrilled with the girls' performance and said:

I am very pleased with the excellent commitment, enthusiasm and efforts of the team! The girls are from courses all over the College including Beauty which shows that you really don't have to be studying sport to be involved within it.

In the same event, NPTC Group of Colleges' netball team beat Cross Keys in a stunning Welsh Colleges' league match.

Sali-Ann Millward, Deputy Head of Sports and Public Services, added:

It was an excellent all round performance from the team! The 2nds Netball team also played against the Cross Keys team and also achieved a great home win.

Pre-Christmas Football Round up 2015/2016 Season

1st Team

A successful autumn period sees NPTC Neath, lie in joint first place in the ECFA Category 2 Welsh League, going into the festival break, 4 wins, 2 draws and a loss, with 6 game unbeaten run. A solid defence and fantastic work rate and attitude sees the 1st team go into January with real optimism with 7 of the last 8 games coming home. The boys also made the semi-final of the Welsh colleges 5 a side tournament, unbeaten in the group stages, narrowly losing out to eventual winners Gower College.

2nd Team

The development team lie, 2nd in their league themselves on a 6 match unbeaten run in the Category 3 West Wales league, 29 goals in their 7 matches see the boys, lie well placed for a playoff place in the new year against the best sides in the East of Wales.

Girls Academy

NPTC Group's new elite Academy run in partnership with Swansea City see the girls play in the elite Category 1 English Colleges league division. Playing some of the best teams in England such as: Birmingham and Bristol, the competition has been of an incredibly high standard. A 4-0 win against local rivals Gower Colleges sees the girls go into the new year with renewed confidence for the home games to come. The NPTC Girls also made the final; finishing runners up to Coleg y Cymoedd in the Welsh Colleges 5 a side tournament, held in Cardiff.

Trampolining Success



NPTC Group of Colleges' Under 19s and current Welsh school champions' trampolining team travelled to Cardiff's Welsh Institute for Sport for the British Semi-Finals (Zonals) recently which welcomed competitors from across Wales and south-west England.

Elaine Giddings, Ffion Thomas, Casey Williams along with Captain Ria all performed two routines and competed well in what was a large category with all girls being placed in the top 30; Ria was placed the highest at 11th.

All of the team were selected to represent Wales at the British Colleges' Competition in April.

Good Luck for April Girls.

Summer University Graduation

Summer University Graduation Winners: Victoria Clement won the Psychology, Criminology and Law. Victoria is studying at Llandarcy Academy of Sport on Level 3 Public Services Course.



University's calling for NPTC Group of Colleges' Students

A group of aspiring students from NPTC Group of Colleges received a taste of university life this summer as part of the South West Wales Reaching Wider Programme.

Twelve students from across all areas of the College took part in the scheme that provided a range of learning and inspirational activities over a three-week residential period at Swansea University, University of Wales Trinity St David's Swansea and Carmarthen .

The scheme helped to introduce students from a range of areas and backgrounds to Higher Education and also worked with other under-represented groups in HE.

The pinnacle of the experience was a Graduation Ceremony held at Swansea University's Taliesin Arts Centre recently where students from all the colleges and universities involved were acknowledged for their achievements and presented with certificates.

Swansea City and NPTC Group Team Up



Swansea City has teamed up with NPTC Group of Colleges to launch an elite female football academy based between Landore Training Ground and the College's Llandarcy Academy of Sport.

The female academy will offer young women aged between 16 and 19 the opportunity to study at NPTC Group and play football within the category one English Colleges League.

The partnership allows Swans coaches to deliver technical, tactical, strength and conditioning programmes alongside the College which delivers A levels and vocational courses.

Girls taking part in the course will be coached by Swans girls' development coach Nia Davies and assistant Emily Hancock.

"This partnership will help bridge the gap between junior and senior women's football in south west Wales and open more doors for women's football in our area," said Davies.

"There is currently nothing for girls who want to play football past the age of 16 unless they go straight into the Welsh Premiership or continue to play grassroots.

"This partnership will allow that and give girls the opportunity to keep playing football at an elite college level whilst continuing their studies."

Swansea will compete in the category one ECFA Premier League where they will come up against some of the best football collages in the UK, including Birmingham's Solihull and Oxford Academy.

"It is going to be a good season but it will be a very competitive league," added Davies.

"The girls are excited to get started. They have some great kit and can't wait to represent Swansea City and NPTC Group."

Barry Roberts, Head of Sports and Public Services at NPTC, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for young women in our area to get a first-class education and continue playing sport.

"We've worked with Swansea City for the past ten years with the male side of the Academy - this link-up helps extend that to girls' football, giving them a fantastic opportunity to play at a college level."

Chloe Boxall, 18, is one of the students taking up the opportunity. She said: "I had to drop out of football for a while because there was nothing available for me to study and play football.

"But this opportunity means I will be able to continue playing at a decent level whilst studying public services. I can't wait to get started it is going to be a great experience."

Hydrachill Machines in Full Flow



NPTC Group of Colleges has recently taken delivery of two HydraChill Water Refilling Stations at the Llandarcy Academy of Sport.

The new HydraChill two-in-one stations provide all College students and visitors with free chilled and filtered tap water with the added option of buying a College branded reusable bottle – which is available from the machine.

Taking pride of place in the sports hall and gym area of Llandarcy Academy of Sport, the HydraChill machines are customised to NPTC Group of Colleges and have proved an immediate hit with students and gym members. The machines in total have already been used an incredible 15,000 times since being installed just before Christmas.

HydraChill provides free hygienic access to freshly chilled public water for 'on-the-go' customers. Linking water delivery directly to pipe-fed mains water reduces the carbon and energy footprint of buying pre-bottled water in plastic bottles.

The College takes its corporate social responsibility very seriously and the Hydrachill system gave an ideal alternative to disposable bottled water with its associated demands placed on energy, resources and landfill as well as helping our students, gym members and all visitors have access to free water.

Our brains depend on proper hydration to function optimally. Brain cells require a delicate balance between water and various elements to operate, and when you lose too much water, that balance is disrupted therefore our brain cells lose efficiency.

Barry Roberts, Head of Sport and Public Services, explains:

“Years of research have found that when we're thirsty, we have more difficulty keeping our attention focused, it can impair short-term memory function and the recall of long-term memory as well as physical effects such as fatigue and dizziness. Keeping our students well hydrated will not only improve their concentration in the classroom but outside on the sports field too.”

“There are also other benefits to installing the HydraChill machines at the Llandarcy Academy of Sport such as the elimination of the spillage and wastage associated with the traditional water fountain dispensers, less plastic bottles going to landfill as well as promoting water as a healthy source of refreshment.”

Hydrachill recently had its efforts to improve access to free drinking water and reduce waste and emissions rewarded with a double award at the Houses of Parliament. In a special presentation ceremony at the House of Commons, HydraChill Ltd was presented with an International Green Apple Environment Award and further honoured as International Green World Ambassadors for 2016.

Nick Davis, Founding Director of HydraChill, added “HydraChill may be gaining national recognition but what's additionally satisfying here is that we are a local company, whilst I am an Ospreys season ticket holder and rugby nut. NPCT Group of Colleges approached us without knowing this, simply because they recognised the importance of the issues and the ability of HydraChill to encourage better hydration in a more dynamic and appealing way. The levels of use to which the machines have been subjected already, appears to justify their faith.

PIC CAPTION: NPTC Group of Colleges Sports students along with Head of Sport and Public Services Barry Roberts, Hydrachill's inventor Nick Davis and Duncan Jones, School Rugby Officer for NPTC Group of Colleges.

Calling all young football players - Do you have what it takes!



Swansea City FC in association with NPTC Group of Colleges will be opening the doors to its Landore Training Ground next week to all football crazy female players aged 16 and under and budding coaches in the female game.

Swansea City recently teamed up with NPTC Group of Colleges to launch an elite female football academy based between Landore Training Ground and the College's Llandarcy Academy of Sport.

The female academy will offer young women aged between 16 and 19 the opportunity to study at NPTC Group and play football within the category one English Colleges League.

The partnership allows Swans coaches to deliver technical, tactical, strength and conditioning programmes alongside the College which delivers A levels and vocational courses.

Swans girls' development coach Nia Davies said:

“There is currently nothing for girls who want to play football past the age of 16 unless they go straight into the Welsh Premiership or continue to play grassroots.”

“This partnership will allow that and give girls the opportunity to keep playing football at an elite college level whilst continuing their studies.”

If you're interested get yourself down to Swansea City's training ground in Landore, from 6.30pm on Tuesday 26 January.

For more information please contact NPTC Group of Colleges' James Jones on 01639 648728 email: james.jones2@nptcgroup.ac.uk or Swansea City's Nia Davies on email: niadavies@swansea-cityfc.co.uk

Go Run for Fun



BTEC Level 3 sport students help run the “Go Run for Fun” in Gnoll Country Park.

