



RE: 'Menter Llechan Lân', Ysgol Pentreuchaf

"There are two things we can give our children; one is roots and the other is wings". This is our school's vision and is indeed at the core of what our children are taught daily, and the enterprise above is another stepping stone in the road to realizing our vision.

This enterprise, which is the children's own initiative, will essentially use Gwynedd slate and the children's designs to produce serving slates in cooperation with Cerrig, a Pwllheli-based stone supplying company. Another part of the venture is to create a partnership with food provision/production companies in the North West to use these slates to create unique packs.

The seed for this enterprise was sown when discussing the slate mounds dotted around the Llanberis, Dyffryn Nantlle and Ffestiniog areas as part of the thematic work being carried out by the Key Stage 2 classes (7-11 year old pupils). This developed into a Design and Technology project, with the aim of coming up with a good use for the surplus slate. The project is currently evolving and a number of contacts have been created with the school's stakeholders, Bangor University, the Young Enterprise programme and successful local companies such as Cerrig, South Caernarfon Creameries and Anglesey Sea Salt.

Members of the Cerrig company came to the school to discuss the modern slate industry with the pupils, and have very kindly agreed to provide prototypes of the pupils' work following their research.

One of Wales' most prominent dairy cooperatives, South Caernarfon Creameries, are very keen to work with the pupils and invest in the enterprise, with the intention of purchasing the slates to promote their 'Llechwedd' cheese and their 'Dragon' salted butter. The pupils have presented their product with the view to formally selling the idea in a 'Dragon's Den' style pitch before the directors and stakeholders of South Caernarfon Creameries on the 14th of June 2016.

If the venture is proving successful, and South Caernarfon Creameries intend to launch the 'Menter Llechen Lân' product, along with the 'Llechwedd' cheese and the 'Dragon' butter, at the 2016 Royal Welsh Show, before distributing it to their suppliers, including the Sainsbury's supermarket!

Year 5 and 6 pupils are about to commence on a unit of work called 'Our Business', under the guidance of the Young Enterprise charity, in order to learn how to go about establishing a business along with further developing their literacy and numeracy skills.

As well as creating links with local companies in Llŷn and Eifionydd, the school has been liaising with the Anglesey Sea Salt company. The company's marketing officer came to visit the pupils to provide some background information about their company and their product as part of the pupils' research. The company is keen for Menter Llechen Lân to go about creating an attractive slate design to accompany their famous salt. Establishing the same process as with South Caernarfon Creameries, the aim is to launch the new product in November 2016, to be sold as gift packs in local markets and via Anglesey Sea Salt suppliers, which extend across the world.

As well as the above established companies, the new 'Venu' restaurant/nightclub, which employs 40 local people in Pwllheli, are also very keen to purchase slate boards from Menter Llechen Lân to use as cheese boards and so on.

As a result of the connections of a parent and governor of the school, discussions are also ongoing to sell Menter Llechen Lân's product in the famous Fortnum & Mason store in London!

We want the children to leave Ysgol Pentreuchaf as confident pupils with a passion for education, good communication skills, personal credibility and the ability to tackle a challenge. We want the pupils to be able to learn independently as well as use their cooperation skills; to be aware of the standards expected from them; to know how to improve their work and solve problems creatively; to have the ability to use the resources they need to develop; to know what to do if they're facing difficulties and to be able to use their research skills to come up with solutions.

In order for this to be possible, the curriculum must stimulate them and be multi-sensory and the teaching must be planned so that the children take an active part in the learning process rather than having everything given to them on a plate. This enterprise allows the curriculum to be extensive, interesting and full of experiences for the children, giving them the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

In order to realize the venture, the school is currently applying for financial support including a social and economic grant from the Magnox company. At this stage, match funding is required to be successful in the application. This funding is essential to make a start on the cutting and production of the slates using Cerrig's specialised machines. Indeed, the school community and local companies are confident that the venture will be a success.

We must remember that at the heart of all of this are the pupils of Ysgol Pentreuchaf. Our aim as a school is to develop the self-confidence, communication, literacy, numeracy and entrepreneurial skills of our pupils, as well as preparing them for further education by respecting and appreciating our roots and the assets we have in North West Wales, and give them the confidence and ability to thrive economically in Gwynedd – "roots and wings".

Yours sincerely,

*Gethin E Thomas
Head of Ysgol Pentreuchaf*

"Gallwn roi dau beth pwysig i'n plant, un yw gwreiddiau a'r llall yw adenydd"