

Llanrug Computer Club 'Rygarug'

During the past year the Rygarug Multimedia Computer Club held at the Llanrug Primary school has grown from strength to strength. Back in 2000 it developed as part of the Rygarug Arts Club, a local initiative to develop an after school arts programme for young people between 7 and 16. The Club holds weekly lessons in drama, music, dance, film, multimedia as part of an arts programme and is available to the children within the 'Eco'r Wyddfa' area of Dyffryn Peris. Since its original start, the Club has grown considerably with a strong membership of 160 young people and the original ideal of taking the arts directly into the community has been a resounding success. The Computer and multimedia element has grown considerably into 3 weekly hourly sessions which meet on Tuesday evenings between 3.30 and 7p.m. The tutors are Robin Williams, Ynyr Roberts, Len Brookes, and Dafydd Roberts, who was responsible for producing the 4 successful Rygarug films with Angie and Dyfan Roberts last year. The lessons are fully booked with 60 pupils between 7 and 16 registered this term. The pupils pay £1 a session, and a waiting list of 20 has already started for a 10 week module in the Summer term.

The Club were successful last year in getting a joint grant application through 'Cist Gwynedd' This was a joint venture with Llanrug Primary school. The grant enabled the club to purchase a modern mobile wireless classroom which includes 12 Apple Mac Multimedia laptops, digital cameras and keyboards. Llanrug were the first school in Gwynedd to move for the Apple mobile wireless classroom platform as part of the new extension block built for Year 5 and 6. This building has become the ideal centre for the Club and offers modern wireless IT capability for club members who come from primary and secondary schools. The self contained bloc allows the unit to be open for after schools clubs and INSET training sessions for P.C and Mac without affecting the rest of the school building. The lessons are based on the award winning Apple iLife software suite. This allows children to run professional multimedia applications such as iMovieHD, for editing film and projects to professional dvd presentations. The music element concentrates on the highly acclaimed 'Garage Band'. This has been developed this year with the introduction of a professional tutor Ynyr Roberts from the group Brigyn. His expertise has attracted a great interest in getting the pupils to produce their own original music. The development of the new Apple original innovation 'Podcasting' in iTunes online store means that they can broadcast their work on the internet and download original songs into their iPods and CDs.

Headmaster Robin Williams said

The 'Cist Gwynedd' grant as enabled us to expand and offer a variety of professional based multimedia projects for young people. The fact that we decided on Apple Macs as a platform seems to have increased the interest. The demand for Apple products since the introduction of iPods has been truly amazing. There has been also a revolution in digital products, and the use of digital media in education during the past few years. Producing your own films, digital story telling and producing animation products is now a popular activity. The interest shown by young people towards producing their own original material is very popular and we have had booking enquiries from across Arfon for placements in the Club. I know that Mr Dyfan Roberts the chairman of 'Rygarug' is looking at the possibility of increasing the number of sessions to cope with the demand from across Arfon.

For further details contact

<http://www.rygarug.org/>

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