

Abergavenny Eisteddfod 15 June 2013 Morning

Proud parents, grandparents, teachers and friends crammed the hall at King Henry VIII School on Saturday for the children's competitions on stage from 9 o'clock in the morning, followed by the young people's event in the afternoon.

This year's compere, April Wiggins from Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni, kept the morning's proceedings moving briskly on with the aplomb gained from years of Urdd eisteddfod experience. At mid-day the Mayor, Sheila Woodhouse, came on stage to award prizes to the large numbers of creative youngsters who had won Abergavenny Town Council's Art, Literature and Photography competitions, expertly adjudicated by Lisa Tippings and Albany Jones. Stage competitions resumed afterwards, and the morning session drew to a close at around two o'clock.

Adjudicators Tim Hill from KHS, Richard Davies from Gwynllyw and Sharon Howells had a difficult job choosing the winners for some competitions, so high was the standard. Among the highlights were the performances by the instrumental ensembles, with Llantilio Pertholey recorder group taking first prize and Deri View Pantastic and Cantref Orchestra tying for first place. April Wiggins paid tribute to the hard work of teachers at these and all the schools taking part for their hard work in preparing the pupils. In drawing the morning to a close, she also thanked parents and friends for their support, and eisteddfod committee volunteers for organising the event.

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Afternoon

The afternoon was compered by Rosemary Williams, eisteddfod committee chair, and adjudicated by David Davies and Angela Durrant, with Sean Montgomery joining the eisteddfod for the first time as accompanist.

Another new link being celebrated was the support of the King Henry VIII Former Pupils' Association, which enabled prize money for some of the group competitions to be given a generous boost. David Spencer, representing the FPA, presented prizes and commented afterwards that he had *"never seen so much talent covering a vast range of abilities in such a short time. The enthusiasm of the children, let alone the parents, in the primary school events had to be seen to be believed, and then the brilliance of the performances in the afternoon was a joy."*

The afternoon contained a number of highlights, making the adjudicators' job of choosing four acts to perform on stage in the Borough Theatre in the evening quite a challenge. The afternoon audience enjoyed the spirited rendition of country & western favourite "Jolene" by Mayzmusik's band JRC, but the four acts eventually selected to perform in the evening were harpists Lisa and Cara, pianist Molly Bradley, singer Caitlin Prowle and trombonist Rhiannon Symonds.