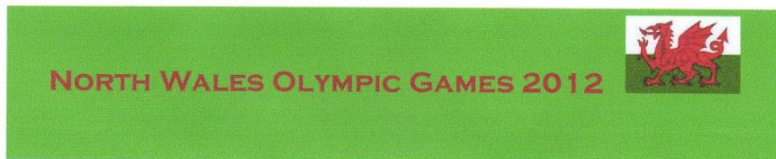


# An unforgettable fortnight for pupils & teachers from Nivolas Vermelle



WELCOME IN CYMRU! FROM JULY 1ST TO JULY 8TH WE TOOK PART IN A MAJOR AND UNUSUAL EVENT, ABERGELE'S OLYMPIC GAMES. THIS IDEA WAS TO GATHER DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOLS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE, AND TO HAVE THEM COMPETE IN THE AFTERNOONS AROUND COLLECTIVE GAMES. THEY WERE HOSTED IN FAMILIES AND IN THE MORNINGS THEY COULD ATTEND ENGLISH CLASSES FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS. ON THE FIRST DAY THERE WAS AN OPENING CEREMONY AND A PARADE IN THE STREETS WITH A MARCHING BAND, EVERY COUNTRY HAD A CAP OF A DIFFERENT COLOUR, FRANCE WAS... GREEN, GERMANY BLACK, ITALY WHITE, PORTUGAL RED AND BELGIUM PINK.



A week full of emotions, **encounters**, and **Friendship**. The pupils we brought to Wales were keen on sport; we had decided not to take their language skills into account. It **was amazing** to see how easily they managed to get by. Their only way to **communicate** was to speak English and I was thoroughly delighted to see them talking, laughing, and cheering in English so **naturally**.

Sometimes they came to ask for words but beforehand we had decided to speak only **English** while in Wales, so we laughed a lot. Even the PE teacher was **fluent** by the end of the week.

In the mornings the pupils had three hours of **English speaking lessons**, with native speakers used to teaching English to foreigners, there were level groups in which there were **different nationalities**.

The games were on in the afternoons and they played football, basketball, which was easy. But they also had to play **rounders** or **dodgeball**, and it was more complicated since some teams **discovered** these British sports while playing. And I can assure you rounders has nothing to do with baseball!

In the evenings they went back to their families by bus and some of them had the **opportunity** to meet other foreign pupils in their families. Besides they lived in the same area so they **enjoyed** spending more time together on the beach. We also visited **Llandudno** and Liverpool together!

But still it was a competition and they fought until the end of the week while never failing to **display respect and fair play**.





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## Carnival time



INSPIRED by the London 2012 Olympics, more than 200 students from France, Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Romania took part in a parade through Abergele to kick off the first ever North Wales School's Games.

The two week event, organised by Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan, will bring sport and education together, with the visiting students taking in English lessons as well as tackling their Welsh peers in five sporting events.

The project, which has taken three years to plan, has been organised by Emrys' own Olympic hero Andrew Goodwin, who also carried the Olympic flame through Abergele on the recent torch relay.

11-14 co-ordinator Andrew said the school's links with Conlan school, which caters for large groups of foreign students in Abergele, had helped bring more than 100 competitors from

By CHARLOTTE DYKES

across Europe to the games, continuing an extensive programme of events leading up to the start of the Games.

He said: "This year we have already had a visit from Olympic Medallist Jamie Baulch, and had over 700 pupils taking part in the sports relief mile as part of our 'Get Active' initiative. It is very exciting, I just hope that pupils don't miss any opportunity to get involved, as most of us will never see the Olympics in this country again."

"The North Wales School Games gives pupils a chance to experience a multinational competition for themselves whilst also having the opportunity to make new friends and gain an insight into cultures that may be different to their own."



Italian student Valeria Oca said: "I'm very happy to be here, and I'm really enjoying my time here in Wales".

Pictures by KERRY ROBERTS