

# Blue Skies students meet the Red Arrows

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Helping young people achieve

**O**n Thursday 2nd June, students from Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi met the Red Arrows at RAF Valley. The students are all part of the Blue Skies youth engagement programme which concentrates on teamwork and leadership skills. The programme is run by Jon Egging Trust (JET) in conjunction with personnel from RAF Valley, Ascent, BAE Systems, ISS Catering Services and SERCO.

Watching from the runway's edge, the young people observed the spectacular sight of the Red Arrows landing in formation. Their excitement grew as they waited for the pilots to debrief, grouped around one of the famous red Hawk jets. The students were welcomed into the crew room, where they had a chance to take photos and to ask questions. Aoife, aged 14, said: "It's amazing. I can't believe I've just met the Red Arrows!"

JET was set up in memory of Red Arrows pilot Jon Egging (Red 4) who tragically lost his life on 20th August 2011 whilst completing a display at the Bournemouth Air Festival. The charity realises his dream of helping young people overcome adversity, identify their strengths and work towards their ambitions. During the programme the students are guided through problem solving, teamwork, leadership and communication tasks.

Red Arrows Team Leader, Squadron Leader David Montenegro,



said: "I knew Jon personally as we were on the team together from 2010 – 2011. Whilst on the team I remember talking to him about his plan to encourage young people to learn about teamwork and leadership and it has been fantastic to see his vision made a reality by the incredible work that Emma and the JET team have accomplished. Inspiring young people to realise their potential is a core objective synonymous with the Red Arrows and the Jon Egging Trust and, as a team, we are extremely proud to support the charity."



Mrs Nia Wyn Roberts, Assistant Headteacher from Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi, said: 'Thank you to our JET links for arranging such an amazing day for our pupils. It was great for our pupils and their families to meet with the Red Arrows pilots. It was a very inspiring day for us all and one that will be remembered for a long time.'

It was also Families' Day on the 22nd June. Thank you to everyone who visited the JET stall and who supported us in buying merchandise, donating money and trying to guess the teddy bear's birthday. We raised a fantastic £145.20!

JET are expanding their work with more secondary schools in Anglesey and North Wales through their Inspirational Outreach programme. If you would like to support the charity in volunteering your time or by raising money in a sponsored event, please contact: [bonny@joneggingtrust.org.uk](mailto:bonny@joneggingtrust.org.uk)

## Thank you RAF Valley!

*Our Blue Skies students have won the Daily Post's Class of the Year Award 2016. This is due to their commitment, but also to the help and support of RAF Valley and the private companies on base, most notably Ascent, BAE Systems, ISS, Serco and Schmidt. Thank you!*

