

## Pavement ramp to improve access for bank users

A PAVEMENT ramp will be provided to improve access at a bank in Shotton after complaints were made from customers.

NatWest Bank in Chester Road West had applied for a pavement ramp which has been approved by Flintshire Council planning officers.

Flintshire County Councillor Sean Bibby, of the Shotton West Ward, said he has received complaints.

He said: "I'm very pleased to hear planning permission has been granted for alterations to provide wheelchair access to NatWest bank. Many disabled and elderly residents have complained to me about struggling to access the bank, this will be greatly beneficial to them and I'd like to thank NatWest for addressing it."

Previously, if anyone with a pram or wheelchair needed assistance, members



NatWest Bank in Shotton.

of the bank had to set up a portable ramp for when they entered and left the building. A design and access statement submitted with the plans explains that the layout of the pavement will remain unchanged, only the gradients will change.



Tim Penn with Ysgol Treffynnon students Serena Boybay and Tom Hone.

# Students encouraged to learn a language

BY BETH HUGHES

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A BUSINESSMAN man and former amateur jockey spoke to students about the advantages of learning modern foreign languages in today's global world.

Tim Penn, founder of Welsh-based Signature Leather Ltd, who design and manufacture hand-made British leather gloves, is working with North Wales' education consortium, GWE (School Effectiveness and Improvement Service for North Wales), as part of

a Wales-wide initiative to promote the study of Global Communication at GCSE and A Level.

Mr Penn recently visited Ysgol Treffynnon, and will visit all high schools across North Wales to deliver his inspirational talk.

He talked about how having the ability to communicate with people in their own language could be hugely beneficial in any field of work, including sport, entertainment, and medicine.

He said: "I really want to communicate to these intelligent, young people that they must think beyond

where they are now when making their subject choices, and look at those that will benefit their future career. In today's fast-moving digital age and with ever-increasing globalisation, the ability to communicate in different languages is even more relevant.

"Over the last ten years, there has been a fifty per cent drop-off in modern foreign languages in Wales, which is a concern for Welsh Government who are striving to ensure that Wales is, and remains, an outward looking nation."

Sarah Woodvine, French teacher and acting lead

teacher for care, support and guidance KS4, said: "The students responded enthusiastically to Tim's visit with many saying how much they had enjoyed his talk and that it had certainly given them something to think about while considering their options for next year.

"Up until his visit, only a few students were seriously considering taking French. He has been a brilliant help in providing another viewpoint."

Mr Penn will be returning again to Ysgol Treffynnon to work with year eight and year ten students.

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