

It gives me great pleasure to inform the WBU membership that on Tuesday 22 September 2009, the first Welsh school bridge academy officially opened at Monmouth Comprehensive School.

The preceding weeks leading up to the official opening saw the school running drop-in sessions every Tuesday, all of which were organised and ran by Keith and Elaine Sharp, with the kind help of members of Monmouth Bridge Club.

Myself, Alan Screen and Neville Richards were encouraged to hear how successful the drop-in sessions had gone, and all three of us were delighted to attend the official opening. Unfortunately Keith and Elaine were on holiday and were unable to attend.

The drop-in sessions were regularly well attended, and the official opening saw 5 pupils attend (along with some teachers!), with those present keen to attract more of their friends to the future sessions. This is a great achievement considering the size of the school and the numerous after-school activities on offer to the students.

The Educational Trust for British Bridge recently awarded the school a grant of £250 so that all the necessary equipment can be purchased and turn the club into a 'bridge club'.

The signs are positive, and future Welsh players may soon herald from Monmouth Comprehensive.

This would not have been possible without the hard work of Elaine, Keith and Monmouth Bridge Club who I send my sincere thanks to for all their efforts.

More schools are being looked at as potential bridge academies and if you are a teacher or know of a school nearby you think could accommodate a bridge academy please get in touch - after all, juniors are the future of our game.

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