

# BONT Life



Y newyddion diweddera' o Ysgol Gyfun Pontarddulais

Autumn Term 2017

Bringing you the latest news from Pontarddulais Comprehensive School



# Headteacher's Address / Gair gan y Pennaeth

*Dear Parent/Guardian,*

*Welcome to our Autumn Term 2017 newsletter.*

*As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank all the staff, pupils and parents for their unstinting support. This support can be seen in so many ways across the school. Our Remembrance Concert and Christmas Concert were just two examples. Staff and pupils work really hard giving up their time to give our pupils a memorable experience. Parents and families turn up in the rain and cold on dark nights to enjoy the performances.*

*This vibrant school community offers a breadth of experiences for the children. This newsletter gives a flavour of the outstanding achievements and the variety of activities which have been available over the last term.*

*This is a celebration of the success achieved by our pupils over this term. The possibilities for pupils to enjoy extra curricular activities are extensive and range from Duke of Edinburgh activities to enterprise with the Welsh Baccalaureate; the Winter Fayre through to the adventurous activities enjoyed in Public Services; to the quiet reflection in Art Club, the innovation and excitement of the STEM clubs and the amazing experience of pupils in the Food Show. The sporting provision for pupils is also extensive during lunchtime and after school.*

*This term we celebrated the excellent results of the year 11 cohort of 2016-2017 with pupils and parents in our presentation evening. The awards presented are included in this newsletter.*

*I would like to make a special mention to Charlie Woolley and Max Appleyard who received the Community Award for their sustained contribution to the school over the last 5 years. Also to Josh Rees and Cara Davies who achieved outstanding GCSE results and received the Academic Award.*

*Many thanks to Maisie Davies, Ryan Lenihan, Will Mullins, Alfie Appleyard and Ieuan Jones, who produced this newsletter.*

*I wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas Holiday.*

*School commences on Monday 8th January 2018.*

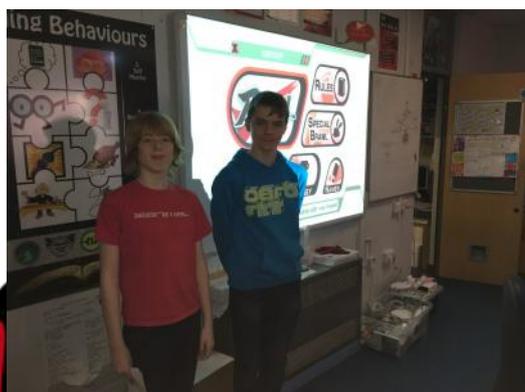
*J. Waddan*

# Year 11 Awards 2016-2017

Academic	Joshua Rees & Cara Davies
English	Jonathan Morgan
Mathematics	Jack Wilson
Science	Davy Daniel
Sportsman	Morgan Warburton
Sportswoman	Sophie Davies
Geography	Elliott Briskham
History	Amy Newton
Information Technology	Millie Clements
Graphics	Rhidian Davis
Home Economics	Charlotte Morgan
Cymraeg	Jodie Bates
French	Isabel Williams
Spanish	Anthony Stafford
Art	Eleri Pugsley
Music	Kathryn Fisher
Business Studies	Taylor Williams
Religious Studies	Jay Ashby
Public Services	Ethan Latham
Welsh Baccalaureate	Menna Aleman
Most Improved	Jake Jones
Community	Max Appleyard & Charlie Woolley
Special Recognition	Daniel Williams



On Saturday 25th November, the Winter Fayre took place. Year 10 pupils used the fayre as a base to complete the Entrepreneur Challenge, as part of their Welsh Bacc GCSE. The most successful of the groups were 'The Animal Experience', ran by Will Phillips, Dylan Phillips, Tom Richards, Rhys Lloyd, Corey Morgans and Fraser Williamson.



We are Team Bont Bolts representing Pontarddulais Comprehensive. We have been doing lots of preparation for a big competition in March called F1 in schools. This competition is really important to us because if we get through we visit different places and represent our team nationally.

We meet every Monday. At present we are looking for companies to sponsor us and also we have been designing a car and logo to race.

When we attend the competition we will be building a car and racing against other schools. It would mean so much to us if we got to the Regionals however we will need some help along the way. We would love as much support as we can get.

The first competition is in March and we will be staying behind some nights after school to get all ready!

We have 6 in our team— Rosie, Mannon, Lilly, Katie, Will and Harvey.

## ***By Bont Bolts.***



Pontarddulais Comprehensive School was fortunate to receive funding from the Gower Landscape Project to take some Cynnydd participants down to visit the DRYAD Bushcraft organisation.

Whilst there, the pupils learnt survival skills; such as fire lighting, shelter/den building and how to set trails within a woodland setting and knife skills.

The pupils learnt how to collect kindle to build the fire and were shown different ways of lighting a fire without using matches. They then cooked bread and made hot drinks on the fire that they had built. They worked in groups and independently.

We visited DRYAD Bushcraft on a Wednesday morning for 6 weeks and the pupils developed a range of skills, from learning how to identify suitable kindle to following a trail to find shelter.

Here are some of the pictures we took...



Keep a look out for more Cynnydd updates in the next newsletter!!

## Incentivising Attendance Programme - Kieran James

Kieran James was the IAP winner, receiving his prize from Ospreys players, Keelan Giles and Nicky Smith.

Well done Kieran



Jessica Shipton & Amy Dunbar in year 11 performed at St. David's Hall.

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY





We enjoy being out and about around our school and in Pontarddulais, meeting, greeting and-most importantly-eating!!





We love to explore the world around us through science, art, music, drama and photography. What did we do well? How could we do it better next time?

Visiting Hygrove's Llys Daniel building site to see the "big build" from start to finish .



Visit 1 -Foundations and no houses!



Visit 2-Scaffolding -the houses are appearing!



Visit 3-the houses are finished! and we even met the homeowner!



We enjoyed using our iPads and communication aids to chat to Tonia Antoniazzi MP about what we could see on site.



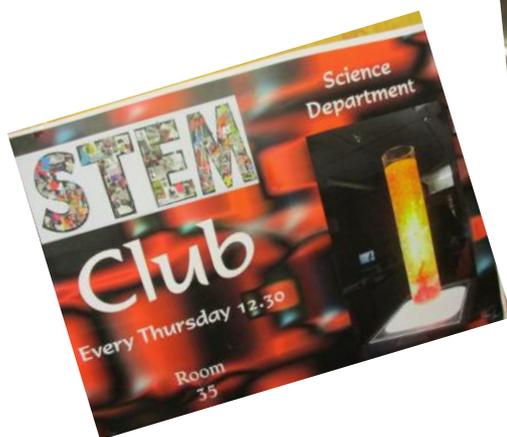
We worked hard with friends from another school to organise our stall for the Christmas Fayre. We were great at selling!! You're hired!!



We are always keen to try new activities and sports; here we are in Cardiff having a great day of sports challenges!!

Both pupils and staff have experienced a whirlwind of a term this Autumn in Science!

STEM club continues to be well attended and pupils of all abilities have experienced a variety of hands on activities learning more about the Science and Technological aspects every Thursday lunchtime in room 38 from making 'Bath Bombs', Kinetic and waterproof sand, Lava lamps and making their own mini tornadoes. Other highlights have included the screaming Jelly Baby experiment, burning magnesium used in distress flares by ships and making and testing their flying helicopters. Thank you to all staff who have given their time to deliver these tasks and to the pupils who have regularly attended. Don't forget next term to come along and get involved!



Finally at Key Stage 3 the NEW Area of Learning, Science and Technology, delivered another successful Challenge Week task. Working in close collaboration, Science and Technology worked together to create a task where pupils designed and made low and full fat biscuits in their Design and Technology lessons and in Science investigated and compared the energy content of both biscuits by burning them, and measuring the rise in temperature of a known volume of water, heated by the burning biscuits. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience from the making to the burning and the analysing of data, applying many useful LNF skills and picking up new DCF skills along the way. The department has invested in new data-logging probes which the year 7 and 8 pupils were the first to use along with the Bont's newly acquired chrome books, and collated their data electronically using Excel software. They applied their cross curricular ICT skills in inserting formula into spreadsheets to calculate averages and displaying their data in Excel graphs.



At Key Stage 4 our Triple Award pupils have experienced a term of dissections with some amazing pig eyeballs. Pupils competently dissected to remove the lens and cornea and, observe the inside of the eye for the first time. The kidney although a little more stinky allowed pupils to observe and identify features that will be examined on in both the mocks and the final GCSE examinations in the summer. A smaller group of pupils had the fantastic opportunity to attend an event at Swansea University – dissection of the World’s first Semi-synthetic Cadaver. The pupils all of whom have shown an interest in either studying Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary medicine were led through a thorough dissection of each organ system of a pig whose organs had been placed inside a very realistic plasticised human body. Pupils had the opportunity to handle the dissected organs and identify features of certain diseases of each system. All pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed this amazing experience.



In November, the music and drama departments hosted a truly wonderful remembrance concert that saw a wealth of talent. Millie Crawford and Thomas Perkins from Year 8 read their own description of the trenches during the world wars. Their vivid imagery and emotive representation of the harrowing experience soldiers had were incredible. They read them beautifully and brought a tear to many eyes. Below are extracts from their descriptions.



**Thomas Perkins**

*He stood there gazing at me. He did not make a sound. Someone then pushed past him and he pulled his gun out. He shot me immediately in the stomach. The blood rushed everywhere. He then pulled the trigger again. Everything was white. It was the end...*

**Millie Crawford**

*We clambered up the slippery ladders. As we went over the top of the crumbling trench wall, I saw for the first time the black smoke. Then I heard the screaming shells. They were deafening. Jack fell to his knees just as a bullet glided through stomach. His eyes looked at me, begging me to help him. A solitary tear ran down my*





The School Council has been hard at work coming up with ideas for improving the school. In their weekly meetings the school council have talked about and acted upon many problems, such as anti bullying.

The KS3 School Council members went on a trip to Cefn Hengoed Comprehensive School to learn about their anti-bullying policies. From this meeting, the school council now wants to use other school's anti-bullying policies to help model our new anti-bullying policy!

The School Council is currently working on changing the mental health systems, building a path for the STF to access the outside learning area, getting clocks in every class and raising money.



After a long break the year 11's finally went out on their Practice and Final expeditions.

I have to admit it was the wettest practice weekend we have ever had. After traipsing through mud all day, it was no drier in camp. Everyone got their tents up and even managed to cook their evening meal in the rain. Staff were slightly more cosy under Mr Jones's shelter tucking into Chilli and rice courtesy of Mrs Oulton – they even had a table and chairs. Thankfully no tents got washed away in the night despite the river running through the field. By the end of the weekend everyone was ready for a long hot bath!!

The weekend of the final was just one week later and what a change in the weather, a bit of misty rain to start the Saturday but it soon dried up and we had a dry night and a glorious Sunday. Everyone did exceptionally well and after presenting their expedition back to the leaders on 23<sup>rd</sup> October they all passed their expedition section.



KS3 pupils had a fantastic learning experience in their most recent challenge project – ‘Are we what we eat?’.

Pupils worked independently on a range of topics from all AoLE (Area of Learning and Experience), giving them opportunities to apply their subject specific, LNF and DCF skills.

In Science & Technology pupils designed and made biscuits, which they then burned to find their fat content. In Literacy & Communication, pupils’ researched fast food in preparation to create an infographic and in Languages pupils focussed on using food related vocabulary.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their theme based learning and are looking forward to the next connected curriculum project – ‘The Digital Era’ in the spring term.



On Monday 23rd October, our cross country team participated in the interschool cross country relays in Neath. Pupils from all year groups took



Congratulations to Anna Phillips in Year 10 and Lily Johnson and Becky Martin in Year 11, who won the Yr10-14 girls relay. A fantastic result!





Congratulations to Thomas, Iwan and Rhys, who came first in the Year 7 relay. A promising start to cross country running!



Well done to Kyle Baylis, Jack Hughes and Tom Lloyd, who came third in the Yr8-9 relay. A superb run!



Recently the year 8 netball team played Gowerton and Gwyr. They beat Gowerton through a very good match and showed good team spirit. Unfortunately they lost to a very strong Gwyr team although they put up a tough fight.



To raise money for the Florida Trip, a select amount of pupils went to GoAir Trampoline Park in Swansea. It was great fun for the pupils!

## Badminton:

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, our badminton team went to the LC2 to compete against other schools from across Swansea. Both KS3 and KS4 sent teams for the competition. It was a fun day out for all participants and everyone enjoyed. Here are some results:

KS3 Boys:     5<sup>th</sup> Place

KS3 Girls:    2<sup>nd</sup> Place

KS4 Boys:     2<sup>nd</sup> Place

KS4 Girls:    1<sup>st</sup> Place

## Rugby:

The Year 8 boys rugby team made the final of this years Welsh Cup.





**2017 Christmas Trips**

Year 7: Swimming and Theatre

Year 8: Limitless Trampoline Park and Pizza Hut

Year 9: TenPin Bowling and Cinema

Year 10: Winter Wonderland and Cinema

On Thursday 14th December, Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama pupils went to the Millennium Centre in Cardiff to watch Miss Saigon. All pupils had a fantastic time watching an amazing play.



## CHRISTMAS LUNCH / CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

A BIG thank you to all the Kitchen Staff for a beautiful Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings.



Diwrnod Shwmae!

Hydref 15fed

Dathlodd yr ysgol Diwrnod Shwmae eleni.

The school celebrated Diwrnod Shwmae this year.

Pwrpas y dydd ydy dathlu [celebrate] y Gymraeg.

Y syniad [idea] ydy i ddechrau pob sgwrs gyda “Shwmae!”

Cofiwch!

Remember!

Defnyddiwch [use] y Gymraeg ymhob gwrs. [every lesson]





### Children in Need:

Our school donated £700 to Children in Need, thanks to all the pupils. Special Mention to Amy Uden, Leah-Jade Knight and Jodie Rees in 8T, who raised an astonishing £75.21 from a sponsored silence. Well done girls!

### Scholars Programme:

*By Maisie Brenchley and Ellie Wilson 9P*

Over the past month, 12 Year 9 pupils have been attending a programme to further their education. We are taught by a PhD student who is a specialist in precision medicine. To begin the programme we attended an open in the established Bristol University. We were lucky enough to receive a tour of the campus by some students who are currently studying there. Also during the day we received our first meeting with our tutor. Since then we have had in-school meetings once a week to build up to our final assignment. This is an essay on the particular topic of precision medicine. The whole purpose of the programme is to encourage more people to attend university and it is possible for anyone to attend.

It has been a very busy term for the music department once again. Here are some highlights and a massive thank you to all the amazing musicians at Pontarddulais Comprehensive School.

### Pupil Success

A number of pupils have passed music examinations this half term through ABRSM and Trinity boards. Huge congratulations to you all on your outstanding achievements!

### County Music Concert

Congratulations to those pupils who performed at the Brangwyn Hall Swansea on 26<sup>th</sup> November. It was a fantastic concert.



### Remembrance Concert.

Pupils were involved in an excellent concert on 16<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate Remembrance Day. Pupils rehearsed every lunch time since September on exciting repertoire to celebrate this special occasion. Pupils performed spectacularly well with repertoire from Schindler's List to Stars from Les Miserables.



### Christmas Concert.

Wednesday 6th December saw the school celebrate Christmas with over 100 pupils taking part in the event. Once again it was a fantastic evening which included traditional and modern repertoire. Amazing standard, thank you musicians for all your hard work and commitment.

Thank you to all musicians and their parents for supporting the department.

I look forward to a busy and very talented 2018. K. Carter, Head of Music



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...Dysgu byw

Email: [pontarddulais.comprehensive.school@swansea-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:pontarddulais.comprehensive.school@swansea-edunet.gov.uk)

**Pontarddulais Comprehensive School**  
**Caecerrig Road**  
**Pontarddulais**  
**Swansea**  
**SA4 8PD**  
**Tel. 01792 884556**

*Spring Term Dates 2018*

*Term begins: Monday 8th January*

*Half Term: Monday 19th—Friday 23rd February*

*Term end: Wednesday 28th March*

*INSET DAY*

*Thursday 29th March*

**Learn to Live...**  
**...Live to learn**