

BONT Life



Y newyddion diwedddara' o Ysgol Gyfun Pontarddulais

Bringing you the latest news from Pontarddulais Comprehensive School

summer 2017

Byw i ddysgu...
...Dysgu byw



For the first time...

...Bont pupils take the reins!

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

Headteacher's Welcome/ Gair gan y Pennaeth

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to our Summer Term Newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it.

I am delighted to bring you our latest newsletter. The Curriculum Ambassadors have worked extremely hard to report on the activities and events that pupils have been involved in across the school. The highlights in the newsletter give a flavour of the outstanding achievements and breadth of opportunities experienced over the Summer Term. This vibrant learning community is brought alive within this edition of our newsletter, with the wide variety of activities and events that have taken place during the course of the last term

This newsletter shows the extent to which our pupils are supported through a very wide range of learning experiences – not just within, but also outside the classroom. Whether it is through extra-curricular activities, sporting achievements, trips and visits, through raising money for charity, through Duke of Edinburgh or work experience, our pupils never cease to amaze me with their talent, enthusiasm and energy.

As we approach the holiday, I wish all year 10 and 11 pupils who have sat external examinations this summer the best of luck. This year our key stage 4 classes have made good progress and this bodes well for another good set of results in the summer. Staff and pupils have all worked incredibly hard to make sure that they have been taught well, supported well and have learned well to ensure that they do their very best. The dedication of staff, both in the school day and through after school classes, as well as classes in the holidays, is testament to their dedication and the level of care for our pupils.

I want to thank parents and carers for the support and encouragement you offer your children and the school. We appreciate all you do to reinforce the work we do at school and the time you spend making sure your children have the best opportunities. I am sure that all parents/carers are justifiably proud of their children's achievements this year.

Our wonderful staff have contributed so much to the school both within and outside of the classroom. I am truly grateful for their endeavour and hard work.

Many thanks to the Newsletter Team: Emily Griffiths, Emily, Jones, Emily Warwick, Caitlin Lloyd, Abigail Hier, Lily Austin, Lloyd Griffiths, Alfie Appleyard, Kian Phillips, Jasmine Jones, and Mia Antoniazzi, who have produced this newsletter. I wish you all a restful holiday and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 5th September at the start of the new term.

Best Wishes,





Nelson Mandela



Do not judge me by my successes.

Judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.





 + 
Learning and working together









 The Egyptian banquet

 Senate - a game



 The Egyptians had many gods.

























 We learned that houses were made of straw and mud,







 baked in the sun. We made bricks.



Mummification is really interesting!



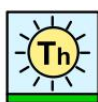






 We laughed at our 'Dance of the Mummies'.



Science



Club

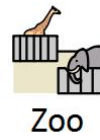
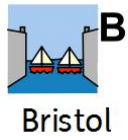
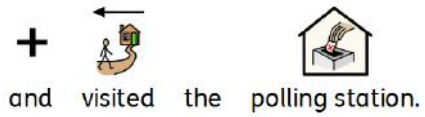
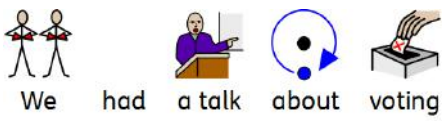


Thursday



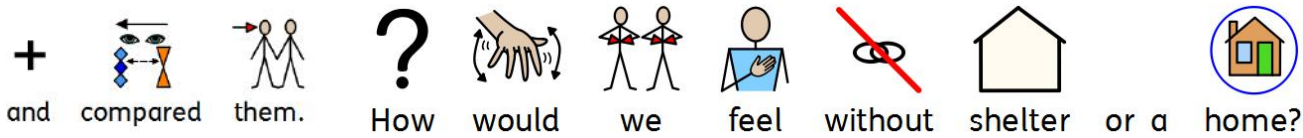
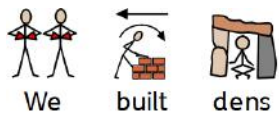
lunch time





OUTDOOR
CLASSROOM
DAY





Competing in St John First Aid competitions. Katie Hier, Abigail Hier, Emily Warwick, Jenna Maunder Lloyd.



They are West Glamorgan Champions and competed in the Welsh finals, where they came 3rd out of all the teams in Wales. In each competition they were faced with scenarios where actors pretend to have had accidents resulting in mild or severe injuries and also illnesses ranging from feeling faint to more severe anaphylactic shock and heart attack. The girls had to enter a room without knowing what they would be faced with and had to treat the casualties accordingly.

Their family and the school are extremely proud of them. They dedicate a lot of time during the week to St John, playing a part in shaping our community. They have demonstrated first aid skills to the general public while on duty at the Pontarddulais carnival and also while doing a charity bag pack at Asda Gorseinon. Young people get a lot of bad press, so when some go the extra bit and excel, then it should be celebrated! Well done girls.

SER Creative Arts Faculty Pupil Achievements 2017

<u>Music Awards</u>	<u>Pupil Name</u>	<u>Form</u>	<u>Representation</u>
Tenor Horn	Jessica Williams	7S	West Glamorgan Youth Brass band.
Trumpet	Meghan Phillips	7S	West Glamorgan Youth Brass band.
Clarinet	Caity Dudley	9P	West Glamorgan Youth Senior Wind band.
Percussion/Bassoon	Emily Griffiths	9P	Cwmtawe County Youth Orchestra.
Violin	Lloyd Griffiths	9T	Cwmtawe County Youth Orchestra.
Bassoon	Lewis Johnson	10O	West Glamorgan Youth Senior Wind band.
Bassoon	Hannah Davies	10S	West Glamorgan Youth Senior Wind band.
<u>Sports Awards</u>	<u>Pupil Name</u>	<u>Form</u>	<u>Representation</u>
Athletics	Holly Evans	10	West Glamorgan.
Athletics	Caitlin Hier	10	West Glamorgan.
Cross Country	Rebecca Martin	10	West Glamorgan.
Cricket	Hannah Garnett	9	West Glamorgan. Welsh International U 13s.
Cricket	Finlay Porter	9	West Glamorgan.
Cricket	Michael Cromwell	9	West Glamorgan.
Cricket	Dylan Martino	9	West Glamorgan.
Football	Lara Morris	7T	West Wales.
Football	Eve Fox	7S	West Wales.
Football	Millie Crawford	7O	West Wales.
Football	Libby Simmons	9	West Wales.
Football	Lilly Johnson	10	West Wales.
Gymnastics	Rebecca Newton	9	West Wales Regional Gymnastics Squad.
Hockey	Hannah Davies	9	West Glamorgan.
Netball	Emily Warwick	9	West Glamorgan
Rugby	Louis Walters	10	Osprey's U16.
Synchronised Swimming	Megan Pullen	10	Welsh International Synchronised Swimming Team.
Gymnastics	Hannah Jenkins	8	Welsh/British Champion

SER Creative Arts Faculty Pupil Achievements 2017

<u>Team Sports</u> <u>Awards</u>	<u>Pupil Name</u>	<u>Form</u>	<u>Representation</u>
Football	Jimmy Richards	8	Swansea Schools Football Champions
Football	Jacob Jones	8	Swansea Schools Football Champions
Football	Kyle Baylis	8	Swansea Schools Football Champions
Football	Nathaniel Roberts	8	Swansea Schools Football Champions
Football	Callum Evans	8	Swansea Schools Football Champions
Football	Harry Seabourne	8	Swansea Schools Football Champions
Rugby	Jordan Beatrup Smith	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Jacob Benrose	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Michael Dubiela	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Owen Brown	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Henry Kitching	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Dylan Jones	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Jack Wright	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Adam Bowling	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Lewis Whitehouse	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Ryan Mansel	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Rugby	Callum Williams	8	Swansea Schools Rugby Champions
Football/Rugby	Jacob Phillips	8	Swansea Schools Football and Rugby Champions
Football/Rugby	Aiden Hughes	8	Swansea Schools Football and Rugby Champions
Football/Rugby	Matthew Osbourne	8	Swansea Schools Football and Rugby Champions
Football/Rugby	Thomas Lloyd	8	Swansea Schools Football and Rugby Champions
Football/Rugby	Kyle Balis	8	Swansea Schools Football and Rugby Champions
Football/Rugby	Luke Hier	8	Swansea Schools Football and Rugby Champions
Football/Rugby	Jester Domingo	8	Swansea Schools Football and Rugby Champions
Football/Rugby	Jack Hughes	8	Swansea Schools Football and Rugby Champions
Football/Rugby	Josh Tucker	8	Swansea Schools Football and Rugby Champions
Swimming	Megan Pullen	10	National Urdd Finalists
Swimming	Alice Scott	10	National Urdd Finalists
Swimming	Alanah Thompson	10	National Urdd Finalists
Swimming	Alice Scott	10	National Urdd Finalists
Swimming	Danielle Williams	10	National Urdd Finalists

WIMBLEDON

Year 10 Prince's Trust class took part in an inter-school tennis competition. Two of our pupils, William Wassel and Aaron Howe won the tournament and their prize was a day in Wimbledon for the whole class to enjoy watching tennis & eating strawberries & Cream.

Well Done Boys—we expect to see you playing on Centre Court very soon...!



Diwrnod Mabolgampau

Roedd Diwrnod Mabolgampau CA3 eleni ar ddydd Llun, Mehefin 12fed, yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Ashley Road yn Abertawe. Teithion ni i'r stadiwm ar y bws – naw bws i gyd! Roedd llawer o gystadlaethau (competitions) – rhedeg 100 metr, 200 metr, 300 metr, 800 metr, ras gyfnewid, naid uchel a naid hir, gwaywffon a'r ddisgen. Roedd nifer o blant yn awyddus iawn (very eager) i gymryd rhan gyda llawer yn cystadlu (to compete) mewn mwy nag un gystadleuaeth. Roedd y tywydd yn braf ac roedd ymddygiad (behaviour) y disgyblion yn arbennig. Llongyfarchiadau (congratulations) mawr i'r buddugwyr (winners) sef disgyblion 7P, 8P a 9P!

We would like to congratulate Jodie Bates who began playing rugby for the school just a year ago. In that time she has joined Hendy rugby club where she has become an important player. Jodie has also represented the Ospreys U18s where she started every game in their regional programme, winning every game and being crowned champions. She finally went on to be selected for the West Wales U18s where she started in a game they went on to win by 50 points. For her hard work and effort Jodie was awarded Most Improved Player of the Year and has been selected for taster training days with the Women Welsh National Coaches.

Secondly, our boys rugby year was completed with a fantastic Finals Day at St. Helens. Both our Year 7 and 8 teams made Finals Day where they competed in the Swansea Plate Final. Unfortunately the Year 7s weren't able to overcome a very strong Bryn Tawe team. However, they showed how far they've come this year with the hard work and effort they have put in throughout. The Years 8s on the other hand were successful on the day, beating a strong Morriston team to lift the trophy. If ever there was a story to prove how hard work and commitment can change everything, then this was it. In their first game in Year 7 our current Year 8s lost by 50 points against local rivals Penyrheol. With a year past their big moment came in the semi final as they overturned Penyrheol by 30 points. Congratulations to all the boys involved and we hope the continued commitment through the summers touch rugby training and festivals will produce improvements and success.



This half term our girls rugby was launched and the turn out has been excellent. With opportunities growing in the girls game the interest is clear. We have attended festivals in Years 7 to 9 with the girls competing in both touch and contact games.

The performances the girls have put in so far have been outstanding . Its safe to say there's lots of talent in players who can hopefully follow in Jodie's footsteps in the near future at both club and regional level.



Moving into the second half of the summer term we look forward to meeting our new Year 7s ready for September. Their effort and commitment has already been demonstrated with weekly training sessions as a Primary School Cluster Team. They have already completed a number of fixtures and attended festivals where they have already shown great development.



Liam Gregg, Lloyd Meyrick and Jasper Jones represented the Swansea Schoolboys in the Welsh finals at Parc Hall Stadium, Oswentry Street. They competed for the David Nicholas Shield against a very strong Afan Nedd Schoolboys team in a competitive game. The Swansea side performed exceptionally well with Lloyd in goals, Liam in midfield and Jasper upfront and scoring 2 goals in a fantastic 7 - 2 victory.



Summer Term Football News

The summer term begun with our Year 8 boys in semi-final action of the Swansea Schools Football Cup. Welsh champions Bishop Vaughan were the opponents at Mynydd Newydd. Two goals from Kyle Bayliss ensured a 2-2 score at full time in an evenly contested match. The game was now taken to penalties, where some excellent goalkeeping from Jacob Phillips and cool finishing from our penalty takers put Pontarddulais through to the final 4-2. A remarkable effort! Our final opponents were Bishopston School who proved to be a very tough and skilful opposition. The match was played at Pontardawe Football Club and it was Pontarddulais who took the lead with a goal by Aiden Hughes. The boys worked tirelessly to protect their advantage, only for a well taken goal by Bishopston with 10 minutes left to ensure a nervy ending. The game finished 1-1 so again the match would have to go to penalties. The boys showed composure under pressure to score all penalties to win 5-4 and become the Swansea Schools Champions.

This caps off an excellent season for Year 8 boys sport having completed the double by also winning the Swansea Schools rugby plate at St Helens a few weeks before. We are very proud of all your hard work and commitment throughout the season.



Girls P.E. / Ymarfer Corff y Merched

In the recent girls rounders tournament we had some really promising results. In fact overall Pontarddulais Comprehensive won! We are so proud of the girls that took part, they really gave it their all and worked super hard to get the amazing results that have been achieved. The overall scores were us winning with 14 rounders to the 5 ½ rounders Bishop Vaughn scored. Our year 9's went up against Bishop Vaughn's year 10's and won the match, then our year 9's had a match vs their year 9's and two games were played, each school won a game. We hope these amazing results continue as long as we play rounders.



Extra-curricular Timetable Summer Term 2017					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime First half Boys:	5x60 Gymnastics Year 7, 8 & 9 Gym 5-side Football Year 7 & 8 Sports hall	JH/CB/SJF Touch Rugby All years/staff School fields	-----	5x60 Circuit training/spin class All years Spin Room	5x60 Gymnastics All years Gym
Lunchtime 2nd half Girls	5x60 Gymnastics Year 7, 8 & 9 Gym	5x60 JE/LW Rounders Year 9 & 10 School Fields	JE/LP Rounders Year 7 & 8 School fields	JH Girls Rugby Year 7 & 8 School fields	5x60 Gymnastics All years Gym
After school 3.00-4.00	5x60 Badminton All years/staff Sports hall	5x60 Girls Football training All years School fields	JE/LP/LW Rounders Matches Year 7, 8, 9 & 10	JH Rugby Festivals All years	Rounders matches may be played on different days, depending on the availability with other schools.

Afan Nedd Tawe Schools Athletics Cup took place in temperatures in excess of 30 degrees. Pupils from across Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot met to compete under the blazing sun. Pontarddulais had outstanding results in individual and team events. Some results were:

- ◇ Holly Evans Year 10 1st 200 meters
- ◇ Becky Martin year 10 1st 800 meters
- ◇ Addam Bowling year 8 1st boys high jump
- ◇ Nieve Bowen 1st girls discus
- ◇ Joshua Morgan year 10 won his 300 meter heat
- ◇ Jack Watkins year 8 Qualified for the 100 meter final
- ◇ Our junior boys relay team qualified for the final
- ◇ Olivia James qualified for the 200 meter final
- ◇ Pontarddulais junior girls qualified for the junior final
- ◇ Lily Johnson year 10 came 3rd in middle girls high jump

Overall Results:

- ◇ Our Junior Girls came 10th out of 18 schools
- ◇ Our middle girls came 5th out of 16 schools
- ◇ Our junior boys came 6th out of 19 school
- ◇ Our middle boys came 10th out of 19 schools

Congratulations to all our athletes and our thanks to all the volunteers, officials and teachers who were out in the very hot sun all day.

Breaking news Athletics!

Congratulations to Holly Evans year 10 and Caitlin Heir who were selected to represent Avanedd Tower in Cardiff on the 1st of July in the inter-school championships hosted by Gamear Cymru and Welsh Athletics.

Holly came an amazing 2nd in the 200 meters. We are so proud of both young ladies who represented our school as well as our county.

Sports Day/ Diwrnod Chwaraeon

This year, KS3 went down to Ashley Road Sports Centre for Sports Day 2017. Monday 12th June; we all caught buses down to the stadium and got settled into our seats, awaiting the first event; 800m! Following its opening we can all say we enjoyed it, whether participating or cheering on those taking part.



As a first try everyone would agree it was a great success; after all, the weather was on our side (it wasn't too warm or cold), plus, everyone was exemplary and well behaved. Most pupils participated in at least one event and some daring pupils entered for numerous ones. The events ranged from javelin, long jump, discus and shotput, to 100m, 200m, 300m, 800m and relay.

Quotes from particular teachers include:

"It was a very superb event and I especially enjoyed the teachers relay." – Miss Paton

"Everyone was quick." – Mr Lewis

"Bont pupils do the best Mexican wave." – Mrs Bird

Sports Day/ Diwrnod Chwaraeon

The results:

The furthest long jump was 4.90m by Neve Bowen in year 8.

The highest high jump was 1.50m by Addam Bowling in year 8.

The triple jump was 8.10m by Kieran Burder in year 9.

Discus was 9.56m by Henry Kitching in year 8.

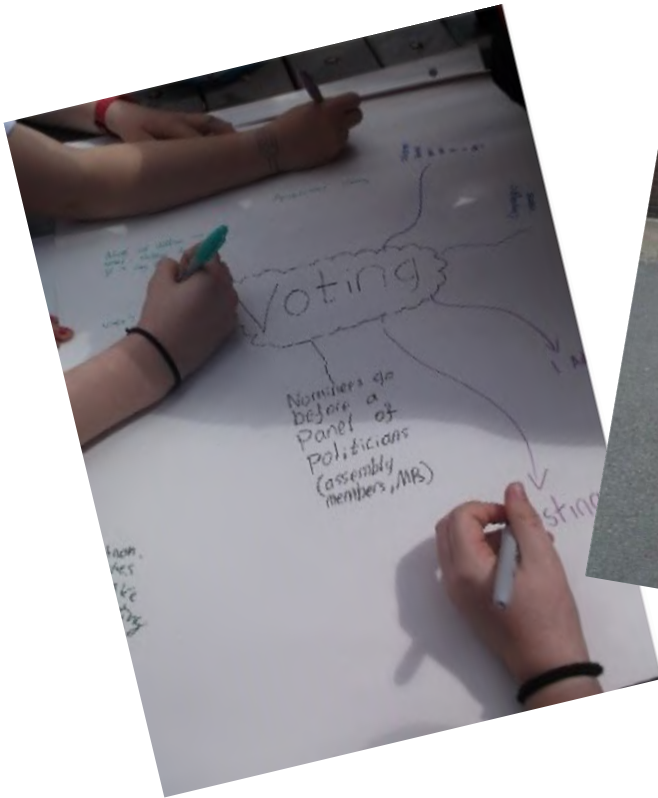
Shotput was 9.56m by Fraser Williamson in year 9.

Javelin was 33.72m by Rhys Piper in year 9.



Big Conversation

The Big Conversation is an event run by the Rights Respecting Team from County Hall. It is a conference which has debates on various topics and questionnaires (and free food!) every term. Each event is hosted by a different comprehensive school. At the moment, a group of nine Year 9 pupils attend the different events.



For our first visit, we went to Bishop Vaughan and debated the voting age and whether it should be lowered due to the benefit of the younger generations vote. For our second trip we went to Olchfa and had an in-depth conversation about sex and relationships and how it could effect us and our mental & physical health. We played games to press the importance of accepting yourself and not to lie and pressure others or become pressured yourself to have unwanted sex.

The latest Big Conversation was held at our school. It was hosted in the Drama Room (Room 1) and over 60 pupils attended from all over Swansea to debate substance and drug abuse. We had to name certain substances and the effects, went outside on the field to enjoy the warm weather, plus, we did a short competitive obstacle course whilst wearing beer goggles, even getting Mr McCallum to join in!

Big Conversation: Youth Parliament



To add to these amazing experiences, we also attended a Youth Parliament event at Church Front in Swansea where most of the comprehensives joined in and chose representatives to attend. We were separated into groups and interacted with different comprehensives. We were given a topic to discuss. For example, myself and Masie Davies were in a group with a few others from a different school and were given the challenge to argue where money should be spent in Health, and after one hour Masie bravely went up to argue our case. Afterwards we were given the option to question Swansea Council on any enquiries we had about any topic; it was a very organized event with a lot of information.

When asked Emily Griffiths expressed her interest in it: "The Big Conversation is there to educate young people about issues in today's life. It's also a good way to make new friends."

Lots has happened within the Maths department this term, and we've had some exciting events!

A massive pat on the back to the Year 11s and some Year 10s who pulled out all the stops and gave of their best in the June GCSE exams – fingers crossed for great results in August!

In January Emily Griffiths and Will Mullins in Year 9 attended a series of Saturday masterclasses in Swansea University looking at a number of interesting mathematical topics such as codebreaking, juggling (yes that has a lot to do with mathematics), problem solving, random numbers and theory of relativity

Emily said: "The masterclasses had a very professional attitude I was able to feel that I was really learning in a college environment. The classes were fun and interesting with a large range of subjects, it was really good."

In February we hosted our annual Maths Magic competition where primary schools and four secondary schools competed.



Bont pupils helping the primary schools participate

Results were

For Year 1 and 2 the overall winner Pontlliw B , for Years 3 and 4 the winner was Bont B and finally for Years 5 and 6 the winners were Pengelli B



Thanks to the pupils of Bont for really pulling ahead and winning the maths magic competition. Well done to all pupils who participated. We are really proud of you all.

This month some of our most able mathematicians in Year 10 have been invited to visit Swansea University to experience maths at a higher level, via a series of interesting lectures. Many thanks to Becky Rees for accompanying us.

Year 10 at the Conference in Pembrokeshire College.

But of course a big well done from the Maths Department to **everyone** this year for working so hard for the many tests thrown at you throughout the year. Keep this motivation and enthusiasm going ready for next term (especially new Year 11 for your 2 new GCSE exams in November) and the successes are bound to continue.



GCSE

Excellent practical grades obtained once again this year for all GCSE music pupils, well done!

Pupil Success!

A number of pupils have passed music examinations this half term through ABRSM, Trinity and County boards. Huge congratulations to the following on your outstanding achievements

- ◇ Ieuan Jones yr9 Grade 5 Cornet
- ◇ Jessica Williams yr 7 Grade 4 Tenor Horn
- ◇ Meghan Phillips yr 7 Grade 1 Cornet
- ◇ Sophie Phillips yr 10 Grade 6 Guitar
- ◇ Bradley Smith yr 10 Grade 5 Guitar
- ◇ Ellie Wilson yr 8 Grade 2 Violin

Good luck also to all those woodwind and string players who have their ABRSM exams in July!

Celebration of Excellence Evening

On July 17th pupils will be taking part in the school's annual Evening of Excellence. Many thanks to all those musicians for taking part, plus Emily Jones and Olivia Morgan for their wonderful talent and bravery on stage.

Ensemble day 2017

Over 300 pupils took part in the school's annual Ensemble Day this year. It was a fantastic day, with pupils from all our partner Primaries coming together with the Comprehensive school for a day of Music!



With items from Beauty and the Beast, the Beatles and of course Moana with our very own Maui! The pupil's talent shone throughout the day and resulted in an outstanding concert for the parents and teachers.

Well done and thank you to all who took part! We are already looking forward to the next one!

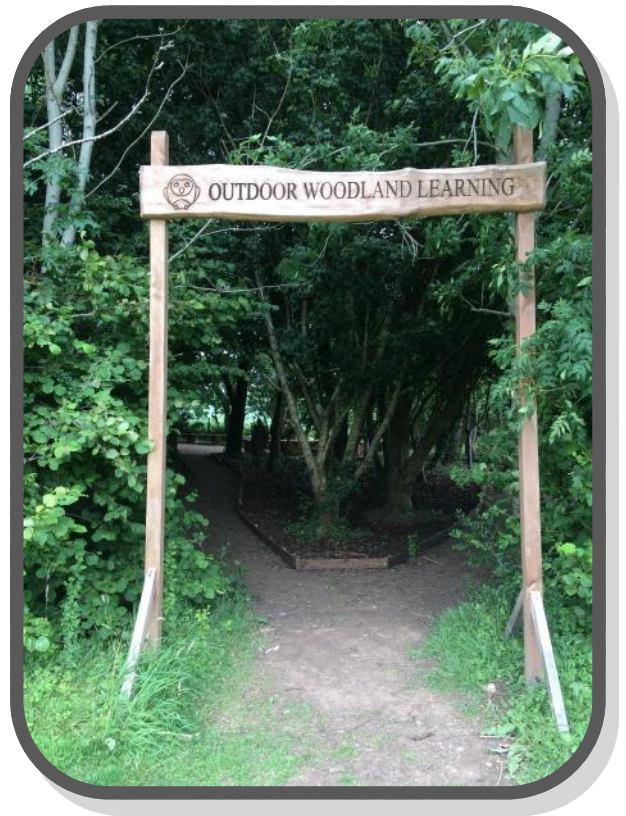


Outdoor Woodland Learning Area

After 12 months of hard work the Outdoor Woodland Learning Area is ready for use. A huge thanks to all the pupils and staff who have supported the project. Particular thanks to D. G. Heath and Cyfle I Dyfi for their support and time. The area now has a path network, a seating area, raised beds and a compost area. The trees and plants are in full bloom and the birds are singing!

We hope that this time next year, the O.W.L area will become an important part of teaching and Learning at Pontarddulais.

Woodland Ambassadors.



Paris Trip

During February half term a group of teachers led by Mrs Hillier took pupils to Paris to see amazing attractions in the capital such as the Eiffel tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the Sacré-Coeur. Pupils visited the top of the tallest tower in France and went ice skating on its roof. There was also a day spent at Disneyland Paris that everyone enjoyed!



Both pupils and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed the trip and said it was a once in a lifetime experience that they will never forget. It was also a great chance to discover French culture and to improve our French by talking with the local population.



Duke of Edinburgh / Gwobr Dug Caeredin

Year 9

On Tuesday the 6th June all the Year 9 pupils went to Pembrey Country Park for a fun day out to learn about DofE. It was preparation for Year 10 when the pupils decide if they want to take part in the DofE Award.

It was a brilliant, fun-filled day full of activities and tasks to complete. The pupils chose their groups and they had to complete challenges by working as a team.

Also, the pupils went orienteering with their groups and a teacher came to supervise them. Everyone had an hour & a half to find letters which corresponded to a number on the map. The pupils had to find their way around the park by using a compass and a map.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed it and we hope they have a wonderful time doing DofE in Year 10.



Duke of Edinburgh / Gwobr Dug Caeredin

Year 10

The Year 10 pupils had a great time doing DofE. They have been meeting after school every Friday to plan their routes, learn navigational skills and to do team building exercises. All this has prepared them for their final expedition.

They have done smaller walks in Pontarddulais and Waterfall Country in the Neath Valley. While on these walks the pupils have done orienteering and map reading. Unfortunately, the weather has not been on the pupils' sides as it has been cold and wet however, that didn't stop the pupils from having a good time.

We wish all the pupils the best on the final expedition and we hope they enjoy!



Pupils in year 9 were offered an opportunity to participate in a history project about mining in World War 2 and tunnelling. The majority who were offered a place in the project were those who were opting to take History GCSE. The goal of the project was to create a documentary to compete in a competition and the winning prize would be money which would go to the History Department.

The first step in the History project was local research. The school invited ex-miners who had first-hand experience of working underground in the pits. We talked about different equipment used, including older tools and techniques. We then took part in trying on the equipment such as helmets, belt, etc. We also decided to try out what it would be like as a miner, crawling on our hands and knees, in a cramped space, with all of the heavy equipment. We pushed tables together to create a tunnel, and we tried it out, only for many of us to get stuck halfway through!

The second step was sorting out leadership and roles. Teams were formed for editing, film making, researching, voicing and the actual filming for the documentary. We then moved on to pitching the idea to the school's Headship Team and Miss. Waldron.

After our preparation we immediately got to work. We started off by gathering all of the information we had collected so far, and organized a trip to Big Pit, again to gain more key information.

Everyone involved in the History project agreed that the Big Pit was amazing. It gave such insight in to the miners experiences and stories, as well as the type of heavy-duty equipment used. It was truly helpful to see the local mines and personal stories of the miners, which were later part of our documentary.

With all this new information, photos and footage we were allocated a day off timetable to complete our project. With experienced film makers in our team, we used our ICT skills and resources to produce an interesting documentary.

The completed documentary was sent off and later we got the results back. We had won a prize from the Heritage Welsh School Initiatives. We were all delighted.



It has been a busy term in the R.E. department preparing for Year 11 exams. Pupils have been dedicated to their revision attending Easter revision sessions and even attending after school sessions on a Friday! They've been enjoying some fun revision techniques like quizzes on Kahoot and learning key words using a variety of games with ball pit balls.

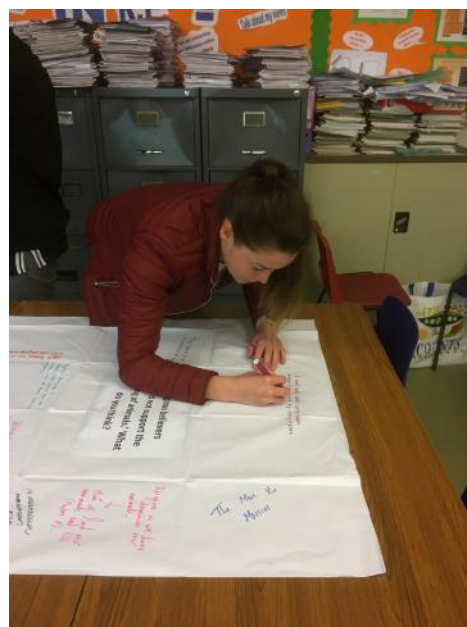
Both exams have now been sat and we look forward to the results in August! Especially as this is the first year the entire cohort had been entered for full course GCSE.

We also said goodbye to the AQA GCSE specification this year, and Miss Harris and the other teachers of R.E. are busy preparing for a new exam.

In other news the department benefitted from the input of PGCE teaching student Mr Harley Davies from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David this term. He taught many classes across all year groups and introduced pupils to some new and interesting ideas. We wish him every success in his future career.

R.E. continues to contribute to the Humanities Curriculum which is now moving into Year 8 as well as Year 7. Pupils will be learning about the impact of Judaism in Swansea and South Wales.

There has also been some diverse and inspiring R.E. work during Challenge and Transition week. This ranges from a lesson based around former racing driver and current para-cyclist Alex Zenardi to debate on natural disasters and the existence of God for year 7 and 8. Never a dull moment and always plenty to talk about!



It has been another successful year for the Welsh Baccalaureate. Pupils in Key Stage 4 have completed a number of challenges and developed a range of skills. Year 10 pupils have recently undertaken the community challenge carrying out activities both in school and at Pembrey Country Park. In school pupils have been improving the Outdoor Woodland Learning Area, working with the PE department to coach and mentor key stage 3 pupils in summer sports and supporting pupils in the STF.

It is a very exciting time for the Welsh Baccalaureate, as the skills are now going to be developed even further at key stage 3 with the introduction of a lesson a fortnight for year 9 pupils.

I would just like to thank all pupils, staff and the wider community for their continued support of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification in Pontarddulais, have a great summer.

Mr Mitchell



Welsh Bacc Community Challenge

On Thursday 29th & Friday 30th June all Year 9 pupils took part in an activity of their choice (sports coaching, trip to Pembrey Country Park, the Woodland Area and helping out in the STF and Pontarddulais Primary School) which contributes 15% towards their GCSE.

Sports Coaching

On Thursday & Friday the pupils had to teach Year 6 and Year 8 pupils about a sport of their choice. Pupils had the opportunity to teach primary pupils new skills and improve their knowledge of different sports. All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed and they would love to do it again!

Pembrey Country Park

In Pembrey the pupils did a lot of work over the span of two days! They helped by picking up rubbish across the park and the beach, they shovelled and swept sand from the public area and they trimmed bushes. It was very exhausting but none of the pupils complained and they all had a great time!

Outdoor Woodland Learning Area (OWL)

Some pupils stayed in school for the two days to work up the woodland area which is located at the back of the field. The pupils cut down trees, picked litter and cleared brambles & tree branches. It was a very educational experience for all the pupils.

Pontarddulais Primary

Pupils visited Pontarddulais Primary School to help the children from nursery up to Year 5. They assisted the pupils in numeracy, literacy and other tasks. It was a joyful experience as the pupils got to see the next generation of our local community use and learn new skills which would help them in the future.



Mr Steers Memorial Garden



On May 4th 2017 I was very proud to be able to ask Mr John Miles the Chair of the School Governing Body to open the Memorial Garden.

Richard was a very good friend to so many of the staff. I still miss him and think about him nearly every day. Now I can go to the garden and spend a minute or two thinking about the massive contribution Richard made to our lives.

Richard cared deeply about the wellbeing of all our pupils and gave his time to help countless pupils. He was passionate about helping them to achieve their potential and supported pupils to become the best they could be. Whether it was in their sporting lives, in their music endeavours or in their science or ICT lessons.

Many thanks to Dylan Jenkins for managing the project, and to Nicola Oulton for planting the flowers and to Mike Griffiths for doing the building work.

He would love the garden. He would be delighted to think that everyone thought so much of him that we wanted a lasting memorial of his life. Thanks goes to Jacob in Year 11 for setting up the funding page. The Richard Steer Memorial Garden has been funded from donations from past & present pupils, and staff.

It is now a beautiful and calm space for pupils and staff to use. They can take a minute from their busy lives to stop and reflect on what a special person Richard Steer was.



St Fagan's Trip

On 6th June, Year 7 pupils went to St Fagan's, to engage in a learning experience outside of the classroom. Pupils undertook a tour of the St Fagan's site, visiting and interacting with many different historical artefacts and buildings. They also had the opportunity to take part in a lesson as it would have taught to children a 100 years ago. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves, although some were extremely grateful that the cane is no longer in use.



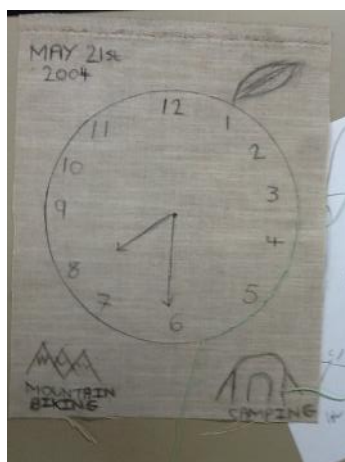
Well done to the Art Class that have been creating work on the subject of time this term. Miss Middleton has come up with lots of fun and engaging tasks, such as playing fun games based on their theme and making slime! They used their numeracy skills to measure their slime and time of flight.

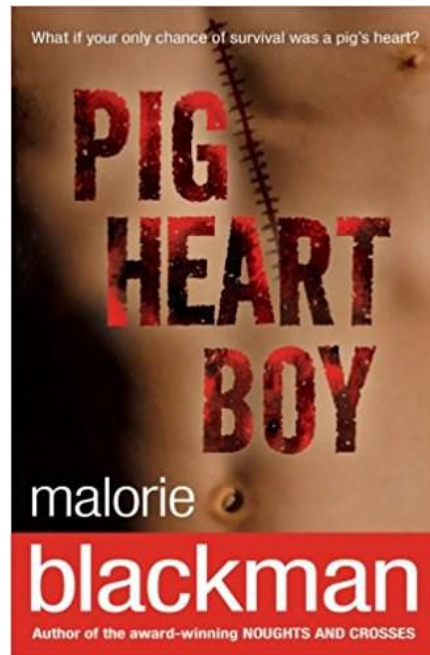


They also learned about the history of the Tudors, making great animations of the Tudor timeline and having a Tudor banquet.

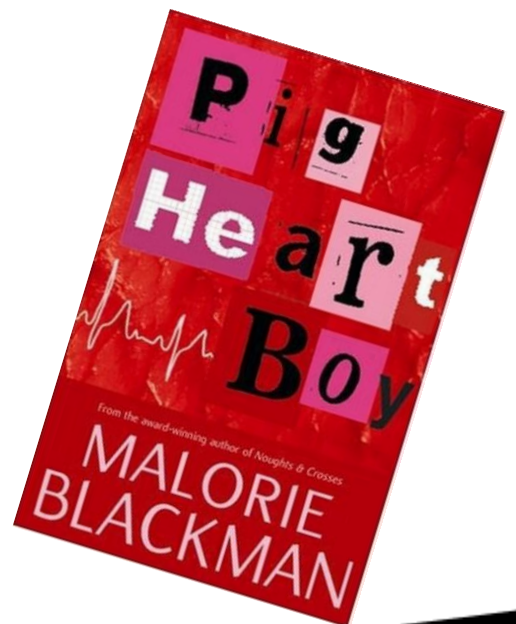
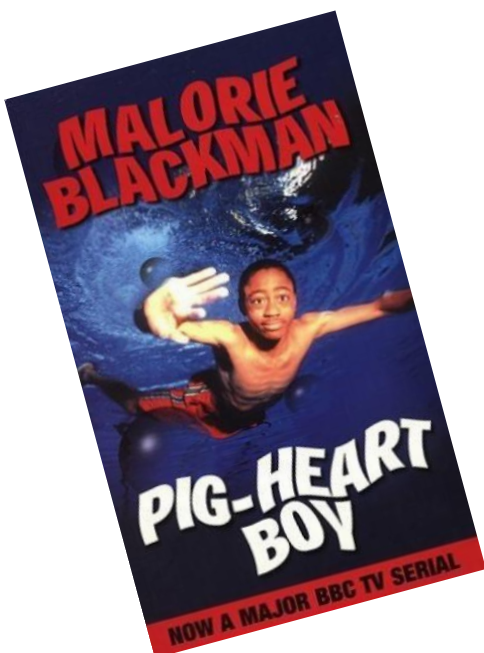


Finally, the hard working students produced excellent textile clocks of showing when they were born. Here's a good example:





The Bont Book Awards was a huge success and pupils across the cluster thoroughly enjoyed reading a variety of literature and discussing their thoughts on the books. Each key stage had six books for selected pupils to read and then had to vote on their favourite book in the category. Pupils completed a range of activities on the books throughout the morning and we even had a visit from the local MP Rebecca Evans to see what was going on! The winner of the KS3 category was Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman. Go and buy it or visit your local library and make it your summer read!



As one of the Lead Pioneer schools for the Future of Welsh Curriculum, Pontarddulais Comprehensive has embraced change and new opportunities for our pupils. We are contributing to the writing of the new curriculum on a national basis for the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and are excited at the prospect of an engaging and innovative curriculum.

The success of the Challenge Weeks in Year 8 that have taken place this year has been evident, with the number of parent visits and the products produced and enthusiasm shown by pupils across the year group. Each Area of Learning and Experience have led on a Challenge Week theme and encouraged independent learning opportunities for pupils in new topics. Following regular evaluation, Challenge Week has evolved and for this Challenge Week pupils have spent time with each Area of Learning and experience, completing tasks, independently, linked with the theme 'speed, distance, time'. It has also been rolled into Year 7, giving them an opportunity to experience a new way of learning.

Another successful introduction for this academic year is the teaching of History, Geography and Religious Education, which are now combined within the Humanities Department for Year 7. Pupil feedback tells us they are really enjoying the development of the new skills and can clearly see the links between the Humanities. The topics focus on local, national and global studies and all pupils have shown great progress, enthusiasm and motivation.

Geodome

This year we have an exciting new project to work on. A Geodome is being constructed in the school!

The dome is a cross curricular project and every subject is able to display their project and every department can display their subject on a panel. The pupils that have been involved have gained valuable experience and had lots of fun. The head of this project, Mr. Phil Jones, has worked extremely hard to make sure that a range of pupils are involved. I can speak on behalf of everyone that has been involved in saying that we are excited to see the finished project.



There has been a significant change to PSE in Pontarddulais Comprehensive School. After the success of the Key Stage 4 PSE mornings it was decided that all pupils would take part in a PSE morning focused on Learning to Learn. Pupils across both key stages were provided with a number of different learning experiences, delivered by staff in school and outside visitors, to enhance their understanding of how they can improve their learning. The PSE morning went very well with pupils learning and using a number of new strategies to assist them in their learning.

From September PSE will be delivered through PSE mornings, with each PSE morning having a clear focus linked to the Four Core Purposes of Successful Futures.

Have an enjoyable summer.

Mr Mitchell





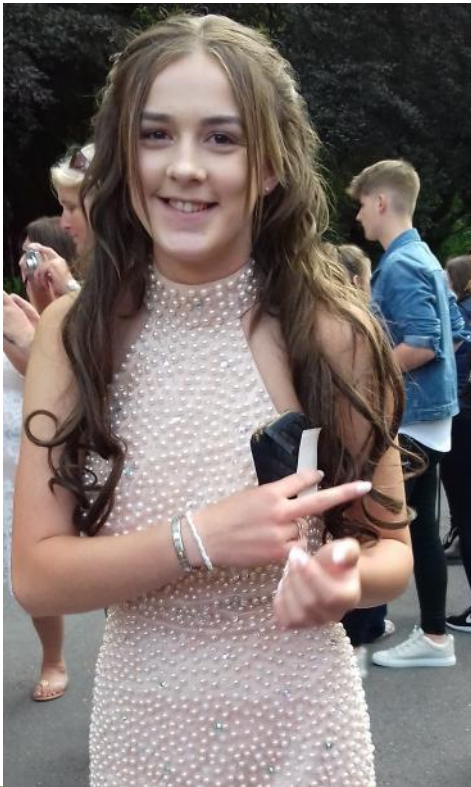
Hogwarts

Which house do you belong to?



2011

Year 11 Prom



Year 11 Prom

2011



**Byw i ddysgu...
...Dysgu byw**

Email: pontarddulais.comprehensive.school@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

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Autumn Term Dates

INSET Day: Monday 4th September 2017
School Begins: Tuesday 5th September 2017
Half Term: Monday 30th October—Friday 3rd November 2017
School Ends: Friday 22nd December 2017

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