



PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
YSGOL GYFUN PONTARDDULAIS



BONT Life

Our Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Learn to live...
live to learn

Byw I ddysgu...
dysgu byw

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It gives me great pleasure to celebrate the success of our pupils and staff through this newsletter. The class of 2018 achieved excellent results with 70% of pupils gaining at least five A*-C GCSE grades including English and Mathematics. This newsletter shows how rich the experiences of our pupils are, both in School as well as in their lives outside School. Whether it is through extra-curricular activities, sporting achievements, debating, trips and visits, Duke of Edinburgh or through raising money for charity, our pupils continue to show resilience, creativity and a great work ethic epitomising all that is to be admired of a Pontarddulais Comprehensive pupil.

Taking over as Headteacher from Miss Waldron is a privilege, however, I can reassure you that I understand the importance of protecting the core values and ethos of the School to ensure we collectively 'build on excellence'. It is with great pleasure to inform you that Miss Waldron has recently been appointed as a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours. She visited Buckingham Palace during November to receive her award and has been recognised by Her Majesty for Services to Education. Her outstanding contribution to our School improvement journey was rightfully recognised during the Summer Term by being awarded the Wales Headteacher of the Year Award for 2018, she was also a finalist for UK Headteacher of the year. In her seconded role it will be of no surprise to hear that she is now shaping the education of future generations at a regional and national level.

As a Lead Curriculum Pioneer School a new Year 7 curriculum model for 'Science & Technology' and 'Health & Wellbeing' was launched this term. Initial feedback from pupils is extremely positive. Year 7 form tutors are explicitly teaching 'organisation' and 'kindness' as important aspects of a Pupil Character Roadmap designed to equip pupils with the character required be successful.

The community Remembrance Concert was particularly poignant due to it commemorating a centenary after the end of the First World War. The concert, held at our School, saw our pupils performing alongside a range of choirs, Pontarddulais Town Brass Band and local primary Schools. Pupils also excelled within the recent Christmas Concert. Music and drama pieces were of the highest quality and special thanks must go to Kay Carter, Kay Paton and Jane Pearce for preparing our pupils with such care and commitment. Such is the success of our Saxophone Band they have been asked to perform alongside our School Choir at the annual Goppa Concert and will be raising money to help fund the musical educational visit to France next year.

During November we celebrated the excellent results of the year 11 cohort of 2017-2018 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 Abbie Jones who received the Community Award for her sustained contribution to supporting pupils in our STF. Also to Hannah Davies who achieved the remarkable feat of achieving 12 A* GCSE grades, winning the Academic Award.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support which makes everything in this newsletter possible.

May you all enjoy a peaceful and restful Christmas Holiday.

School commences on Monday 7th January 2019.



AWARDS FOR YEAR 11 CLASS 2018

<u>Award</u>	<u>Pupil</u>
Academic	Hannah Davies
Community	Abbie Jones
Most Improved	Rhys Thomas
English	Izzy Morgan
Maths	Nathan Beniamous
Science	Sophie Phillips
ICT	Laura Barnett
Performing Arts - Production	Tayla Hanrahan
Performing Arts - Acting	Olivia Morgan
Music	Sam Marshall
French	Amelia John
Spanish	Callum Thomas
R.E.	Ebony Burman
Geography	Lauren Morgan
Art	Amy Baker
History	Jacob Chiappa
WBQ	Megan Thomas
Business Studies	Maddie Bell
Home Economics	Emily Jenkins
Sportsman	Louie Walters
Sportswoman	Becky Martin
Graphic Product	Sion Paddison
Welsh	Alexandra Watkins

The following pupils received Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Joseph Anderson	Aimee Dunbar	Laura Morgan
Amy Baker	Thomas Haeney	Elen Murphy
Laura Bennett	Aliyah Islam	Sophie Phillips
Ebony Burman	Abbie Jones	Nancy Taylor
Hannah Davies	Eloise Lloyd-Howells	Izaak Williams

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

This September we welcomed a group of Spanish foreign exchange pupils to our School for the first time. The fourteen pupils arrived from Vigo in the north of Spain to experience three weeks of British education. They joined pupils in Year 9 and Year 10 classes and took part in all aspects of School life. Our pupils took this opportunity to improve their Spanish skills and also made some great new friends. We hope you all stay in touch!

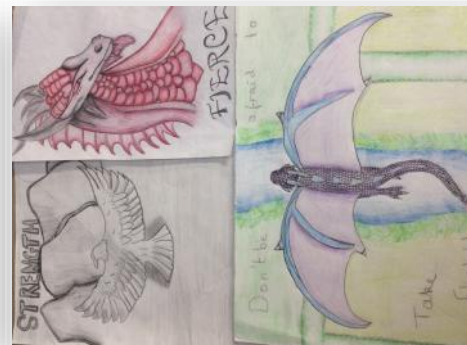


DRAMA DEPARTMENT

What a fantastic opportunity to kick off the Christmas Countdown with a shopping & theatre visit.

All had a fantastic seat in the Wales Millennium Centre and enjoyed a truly 'Wicked' time.





ART DEPARTMENT

Mr. G. Rees our Headteacher asked us to create a mural based on the School logo that would inspire us as we enter the School at the start of the School day.

Year 8 & 9 pupils were asked to design a piece of artwork to contribute to the mural.

Six year 9 pupils were selected to work with Mr. Rees to put their ideas in an inspirational design that reflected the ethos of the School.

They worked together incorporating inspirational words from pupils and staff. The aim was to put pupils in the right frame of mind to achieve as they enter the School at the start of the School day.

At least 40 pupils artwork and ideas were incorporated into the design.

The following pupils were tasked with creating the final mural:

Jacob Biddle, Callum Williams, Owen Phillips, Iona Windle, Lexi Allen and Julia Stepien.

Miss Middleton



MATHS MAGIC

This year, the annual Maths Magic event took place on Friday 30th November with all cluster primaries and comprehensives involved. It was an incredibly successful morning with plenty of competitive spirit from pupils in Year 1 all the way up to Year 7. A big thank you to all that competed as well as our Year 8s who expertly refereed all the games and kept the event running smoothly.

A huge well done to all the individual winners from each age group:

Years 1 and 2: Penllergaer
Years 3 and 4: Pontarddulais
Years 5 and 6: Pontlliw
Year 7: Pentrahafod

However, the overall School points competition is the one everyone wants to win. This is where all the points from every round are added up to get a grand total for each School to win the trophy!

For 2018, the winner for the primary Schools was Penllergaer and the comprehensive School winner was Pontarddulais (for the 3rd year running)! Well done!!

Again, a huge thank you to everyone who helped or competed on the day. A special shout out to Mr. Holmes who helps with the event every year! Everyone had smiles from ear to ear at the end of the event which shows what an enjoyable and successful morning it was. We will look forward to doing it all again next year!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On a cold Saturday in November the latest recruits for DofE came into School for a bit of Team Building and orienteering. Now they all work well with each other we look forward to taking them to Bryn Betws in February



RUGBY

We have made a busy start to the year with both our boys and girls rugby kicking off in September for the first time. Year 7 boys have made an excellent start to their rugby life in School with 37 pupils taking part in fixtures and festivals so far. They have made a strong start to their Swansea Cup campaign which will continue into the new year before the knock out stages begin in March which will also be followed by our Year 10 and 11 teams.

Year 8 and 9 boys have both been competing in a very difficult and competitive Ospreys cup competition. Although showing constant progression from their commitment to train and hard work, our year 8s have been unlucky with a few results just getting away from them and unfortunately didn't progress from the group stage. They have however continued to work hard and have given up their lunch times to prepare for the Swansea cup after Christmas.

Year 9 boys however became our first team to progress to the Semi Final of the Ospreys Cup. They were unfortunately beaten by last years winners Bryntawe, but it was an outstanding campaign none the less and one we are very proud of. They have come a long way and keep showing progress backed up by brushing aside strong Schools such as Cwmtawe, who we lost to at last years plate final, Morriston, Gowerton and Maes Y Dderwen. As they reached the Cup Semi Final this has also meant they've become our first team to progress to the National knock out tournament where the boys will travel across Wales to compete. Good luck boys!



Our girls have also shown outstanding commitment and hunger to play in the first term. With their rugby season not usually beginning until February the girls have started earlier and have trained almost every week since September. We haven't managed to find many Schools ready to hold fixtures against us in this busy half term, but the girls have come out on top in the ones they have played. We hope to see as many new faces in the new year to add further numbers to our girls teams.

FOOTBALL

This year as well as the Swansea Cup we have also entered the Welsh Cup which all years groups have competed in. With strong squad numbers we have played a number of fixtures against Schools with two teams in each year group competing at the same time to ensure all pupils have the opportunity to play.

Unfortunately our Year 8s are the only team to still be involved in the Welsh Cup after beating a very strong Bishop Vaughan Team 4-3 on penalties in the final regional round. They have been drawn away against Treorchy in the last 16 — Good luck boys.

Our Year 7s and 9s in particular have been involved in some excellent games but unfortunately both fell short in the last round. We are looking forward to seeing all teams pull together as they continue in the Swansea cup in the new year.

SWIMMING GALA

On Thursday 21st November, our School swim team competed in the URDD regional swimming gala at Neath pool. All swimmers competed to a high standard and it was a pleasure to watch them represent the School at a sport they train so hard for! We had a number of swimmers, who were successful in qualifying for the national swimming gala which will be held in January.

Congratulations to:

- ◆ Danielle Williams placing 3rd in the Freestyle and 2nd in the backstroke event
- ◆ Eve Fox placing 2nd in freestyle and 2nd place in butterfly
- ◆ Sophie Baylis placing 1st in the freestyle and 2nd in the butterfly
- ◆ Logan Rogers placing 2nd in the breaststroke

We would like to wish them the best of luck at the national URDD Schools competition.



CROSS COUNTRY



What an effort from our year 10 & year 11, especially our Boys A team who finished with the top finishers against strong runners. Also a superb effort from our year 7 teams. Da iawn.

Y Pantomeim Cymraeg

Aeth 13 o ddisgyblion (**pupils**) Blynnyddoedd 7 ac 8 i Theatr Ffwrnes, Llanelli, ddydd Iau Rhagfyr 13eg i weld y Pantomeim Cymraeg, Branwen.

Seiliwyd y Pantomeim ar stori Branwen, stori mwyaf adnabyddus (**well-known**) Pedair Cainc y Mabinogi (**The Four Branches of the Mabinogion**) a chafwyd llawer o hwyl wrth wyllo'r cymeriadau (**characters**) – y cawr, (**giant**) Bendigeidfran, ei chwaer hardd (**beautiful**) Branwen, ei hanner brawd cas, (**nasty**) Efnisien a Matholwch, brenin (**king**) Iwerddon.

Dysgwyd am ddaearyddiaeth (**geography**) y stori hefyd. Gwelwyd Bendigeidfran yn eistedd ar graig Harlech ac yn edrych dros y môr, Matholwch yn hwylio'r (**sailing**) Môr Celtaidd i chwilio am wraig, (**wife**) Llys Aberffraw yn cynnal y wledd briodas, (**marriage**) ymgyrch y Cymry yn Iwerddon a bedd (**grave**) Branwen ar lan afon Alaw ar Ynys Môn. Gwelwyd y cawr yn cerdded ar draws (**across**) y môr o Gymru i Iwerddon ac yn gorwedd ar draws afon er mwyn creu pont i'w fyddin (**army**) allu croesi. Gwelwyd hefyd drais (**violence**) Efnisien yn erbyn ceffylau Matholwch a'r driniaeth annheg (**unfair treatment**) a roddir i Branwen.

Llwyddwyd i ddod â'r stori'n fyw yn nychymyg (**imagination**) y gynulleidfa (**audience**) ac roedd disgyblion ein hysgol wrth eu bodd. Cawsant brofiad bythgofiadwy! (**an unforgettable experience**)



Pontarddulais



STF



Remembers

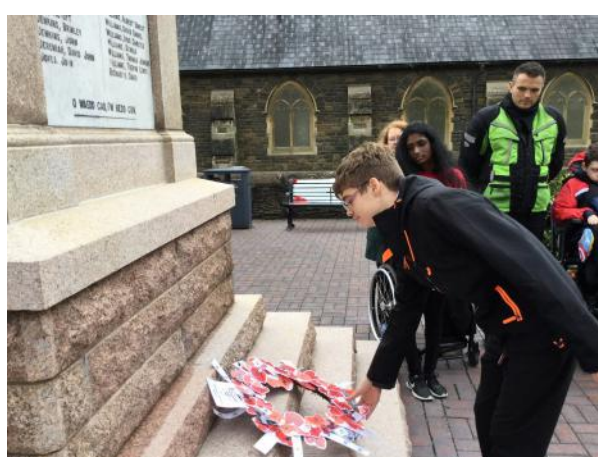
We took part in the community commemoration of 100 years since the end of World War 1. We made poppies to add to Community Poppy Cascade and to the exhibition.

We took our poppies to Canolfan y Bont.



We went to the Remembrance Garden. We thought about those who died or were injured in War. We listened to 'The Last Post', Deena read the 'Ode of Remembrance' and we had a minutes silence. Jacob laid a wreath.

We then visited the exhibition and learned about the people of Pontarddulais in war-time.





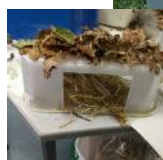
Hedgehogs



In the STF we have been finding out about wildlife.

We decided to make hedgehog houses to help the hedgehogs when the weather is cold. We designed our hedgehog homes and tested them as part of the project. We are hoping that hedgehogs will hibernate in them. We have put them in quiet places around the School.

We found out that we could feed hedgehogs cat or dog food, mealworms, chopped meat, unsalted peanuts and some peas!



Community trips are essential to our learning. This term they have included the Insport Event in Cardiff run by Disability Sport Wales; a Transition Roadshow to find out about opportunities for us when we leave this School and the lovely local library.



On a frosty Tuesday we went to the National Botanical Gardens of Wales.

We met the 'Mess Up The Mess' Drama team and watched the fun –filled panto on the revolving stage.

We also saw an amazing 'Owl Show' where the owls swooped over our heads. And we learned about owls and how they are endangered.

We then had a further treat of watching the amazing owl show .



Frankie & Benny's
NEW YORK ITALIAN RESTAURANT & BAR

Thank you, Chef



Thank you to Frankie and Benny's for our Annual Christmas brunch.

We **ALWAYS** have a friendly welcome. Everyone is kind, helpful and the food was lovely! It gave us energy for our Secret Santa shopping!



MUSIC NEWS

Outreach work with Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama - October 2018



During October pupils from Pontarddulais Comprehensive School visited the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. Pupils worked alongside undergraduate and postgraduate students from the RWCMD in two workshops. After a morning of work pupils watched a truly outstanding concert performed by the RWCMD Symphonic Windband.

A guitar workshop (pictured above) was led by Helen Sanderson, Professor of Guitar at RWCMD, and some of her postgraduate students. It was an outstanding experience for pupils who were enthused and encouraged in their studies.



The School windband had a master class with Roger Argente, Professor of Brass at the college.

Pupils performed Delilah and Harry Potter theme while being fully enthused by the students of the college and Roger Argente.

At the end of both sessions pupils had a tour of the college including its state of the art recording studios!

We look forward to further sessions working with the RWCMD!



MUSIC NEWS

We also had a visit from some RWCMD Opera postgraduate students who performed a fantastic modern version of the Magic Flute! KS3 Pupils from the School choir attended and were amazed to hear the quality of the voices and indeed to hear their first Opera!



November 10th Remembrance Concert

Saxophony and the School choir performed at the Festival of Remembrance Concert to commemorate the 100 years since the end of WW1. It was an outstanding concert with pupils performing to the highest of standards.

Well done!



CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2018

On 6th December we held our Christmas Concert. Once again the talent of our pupils shone from our year 7 guitar ensemble, keyboard group, string ensemble, windband, soloists, dance and brass ensemble to our senior Saxophone ensemble Saxophony!

It was Fabulously Festive



Pupils have also performed out in the community during the festive season. Concerts include the Goppa Christmas concert, performing for shoppers at Tesco and at a Christmas concert in Pontarddulais Library.

A huge well done and thank you to all those musicians who have contributed to the above events. It have been a very busy term and you have all been amazing!!



Random Acts of Kindness Club!

Have you got some great ideas about how we could spread some kindness at Bont Comp?

Then come along and join us every Wednesday lunchtime in H3



Random Acts of Kindness Club!

After being inspired by some assemblies I had seen in School and hearing about similar clubs set up in other Schools, I decided to start a *Random Acts of Kindness Club*.

I wanted it to be led by pupils, and give them the opportunity to develop ways that they could instil some more kindness into the School community.

We meet once a fortnight in Humanities 3, and from very small beginnings, with 5 year 9 pupils at the first meeting, the group has grown and now on average has about 20 pupils regularly attending. The group has come up with lots of ideas and ways in which to spread some kindness, both as a group and individually. Some of the ideas they are already starting to put into place include:

- *A kindness box in the foyer so anybody can post a message for someone (pupils/teachers/other staff) with a kind word ,some encouragement, a compliment or something they really appreciate about that person.*
- *Leaving positive notes and messages around the School.*
- *Joining the ECO litter troop who pick up rubbish around the School.*
- *Setting up a Breaktime Buddy Rota so if someone is alone at lunchtime they can go and sit with them and talk to them.*

Pupils are also taking their ideas outside of the School community and helping others when they see someone who needs it, for example one of the group helped someone who was struggling to take their shopping back to their car. It really has been heart warming to see their enthusiasm and willingness to be kind to others, and I very much look forward to seeing how the Club develops and the positive impact on everyone here at Bont!

Miss B. Harris



Congratulations to a former pupil, Cerys Jones, who has achieved the CJ Littlejohn's Medical Prize 2018. We are so very proud of her and all she has achieved. We know her College experience at Cardiff University will be exciting and rewarding! Keep up the good work Cerys and we look forward to hearing of your future academic and musical achievements.

Although I have only just started to study medicine at Cardiff University, my decision to become a Dr has been positively affirmed many times already.

Because of the passion I have always had for music and art, many of my friends and family believed that I would eventually chose a career that would enable me to use my abilities in these areas. It wasn't until I started studying for my GCSEs that I really began to enjoy the sciences and think of the opportunities they could bring. With my love of animals, I seriously considered becoming a vet for a number of years. I even attended a vet's practice for my work experience in year 10. Whilst this was a very enjoyable and fascinating experience, it did show me that I would prefer to have a greater amount of human interaction. It was at that point I decided to do everything possible to enable me to become a Doctor. A further week spent shadowing a GP, cemented this decision and so I selected GCSE and then A level subjects that would enable me to follow my chosen career.

It is natural to have a certain degree of worry while waiting for A level results over the summer. As a result of these concerns, I began to explore potential alternative careers as a backup in case my route to medicine was hindered. Regardless of how much time I spent researching, no other university course or career made me feel as inspired and excited to learn as medicine did. This experience of looking for alternatives gave me further confirmation that medicine was the perfect choice for me.

Whilst University life as a Medical student is already proving very demanding, I have still managed to set aside some time to indulge my love of music. I auditioned to join the University's competing A Cappella group and was fortunate to get into their mixed voices group. I have also found a brass band to play in, however my love of art, is only really being used to help me draw anatomical parts at the moment!

Cerys Jones



Mrs. Hopkins has been successful in securing a job as Assistant Headteacher n St. Julians, Newport.

We will all miss her terribly but we know St. Julians are lucky to have her!

Extra-curricular Timetable 2018/19

Morning			
Monday	Reading Club (Room 16A)		
Tuesday	Reading Club (Room 16A)	Choir (Room 20)	
Wednesday	Reading Club (Room 16A)	Brass Group (Room 20) 9.50 a.m.	
Thursday	Reading Club (Room 16A)		
Friday	Reading Club (Room 16A)	Choir (Room 20)	String Group (Room 20) 9.50 a.m.

Lunchtime						
Monday	Art Club (Art Workshop)	Game Club (Room 17)	Homework Club (Room 16A)	Windband (Room 20)		
Tuesday	Art Club (Art Workshop)	Game Club (Room 17)	Homework Club (Room 16A)	History Club (Room 40)	Saxophone Group (Room 20)	War Hammer (Room 23)
Wednesday	Art Club (Art Workshop)	Game Club (Room 17)	Homework Club (Room 16A)	Random Acts of Kindness Club (H3)	War Hammer (Room 23)	
Thursday	Art Club (Art Workshop)	Game Club (Room 17)	Homework Club (Room 16A)	STEM Science Club (Room 35) 2 nd half of lunch	Debate Soci- ety (H1)	
Friday	Game Club (Room 17)	Homework Club (Room 16A)				

After School					
Monday	Open Learning (ICT Suite)				
Tuesday	Open Learning (ICT Suite)	Art Club (Art Workshop)	Homework Club (Room 16A)	Maths GCSE (Additional Revision)	
Wednesday	Open Learning (ICT Suite)	Art Club (Art Workshop)			
Thursday	Open Learning (ICT Suite)	Art Club (Art Workshop)	Homework Club (Room 16A)	GCSE Music (Room 20)	Cookery Club
Friday	Open Learning (ICT Suite)	Art Club (Art Workshop)	D of E (Main Hall)		

PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
CAECERRIG ROAD
PONTARDDULAIS
SWANSEA
SA4 8PD
TEL: 01792 884556

Spring Term 2019

Term Begins: Tuesday 8th January 2019
Half Term: 25th February—1st March 2019
Term Ends: Friday 12th April 2019

Summer Term 2019

Term Begins: Monday 29th April 2019
Half Term: 27th—31st May 2019
Term Ends: Friday 19th July 2019

INSET Days

Monday 7th January 2019
Monday 3rd June 2019
Tuesday 4th June 2019
Monday 22nd July 2019