

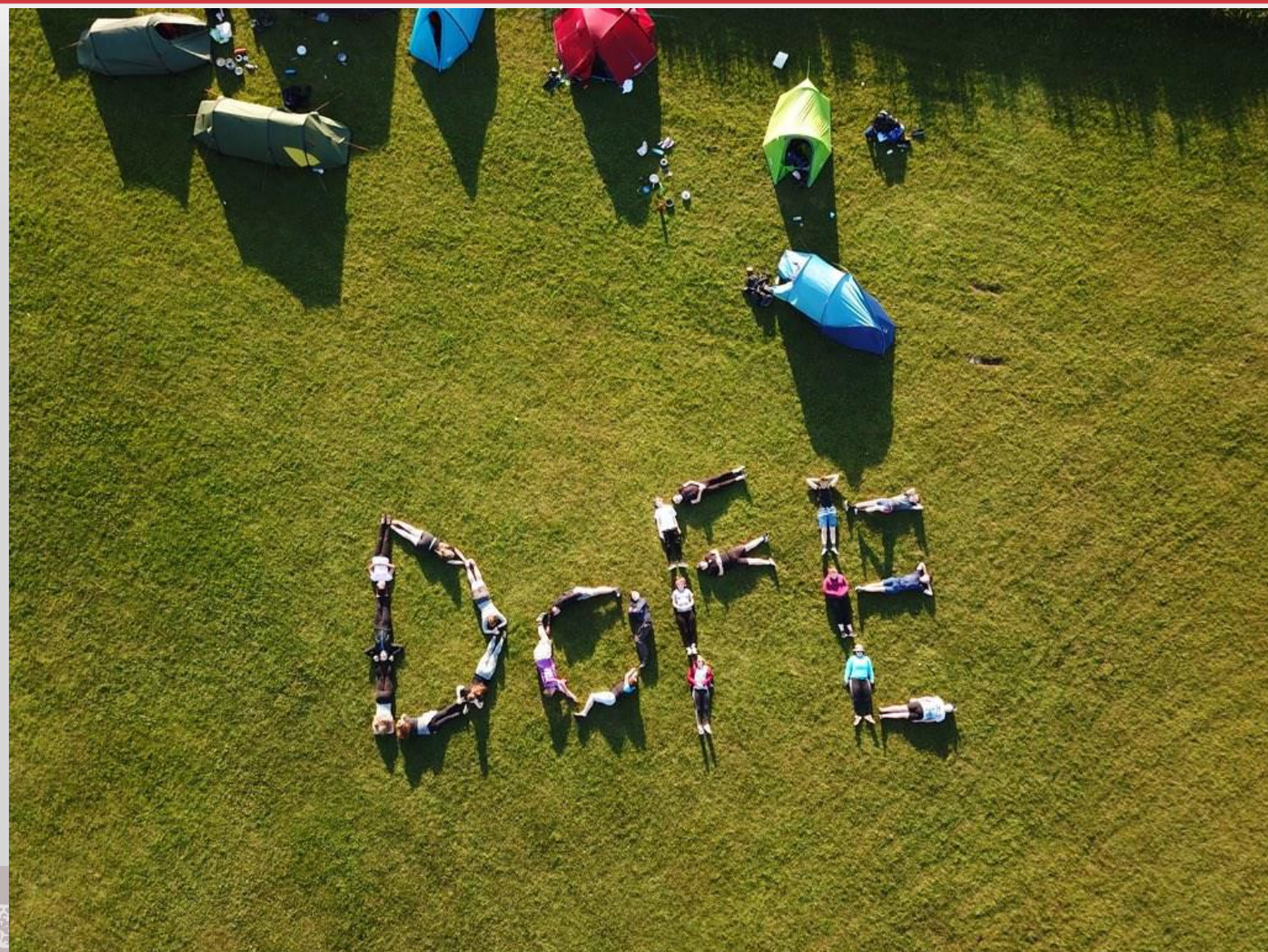
BONT*Life*



Y newyddion diweddara' o Ysgol Gyfun Pontarddulais

Summer Term 2018

Bringing you the latest news from Pontarddulais Comprehensive School



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

Headteacher's Address / Gair gan y Pennaeth

Dear Parent, Guardian and Staff,

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for the endless enthusiasm, support and commitment to the work of the school over the last year. When the school is running at its best, it has a partnership with pupils, parents and staff working together for the benefit of all our children.

This will be my final newsletter as headteacher. The next will be written by Mr Gareth Rees, who will become headteacher from September. In my last year as headteacher, staff and pupils have nominated me to be Headteacher of the Year and to receive an MBE. I am very proud to think my work has been valued by the school community and am delighted to celebrate the excellent work of the school in receiving these awards.

Thank you to Maisie Davies and Ryan Lenihan for creating this edition of the newsletter.

School closes at 1.00 pm on Tuesday July 24th. I wish you all a restful and safe summer holiday and best wishes for a successful 2018-2019.

School opens on Tuesday 4th September for pupils.

Many thanks,

J. Waldron

Congratulations/ LLongyfarchiadau

WELL DONE MISS WALDRON FOR WINNING THE BEST HEADTEACHER FOR WALES AWARD



TO US – YOU ARE THE BEST HEADTEACHER IN THE WORLD

Miss Jan Waldron won Headteacher of the Year award, a huge and well deserved honour for the success she has brought to Pontarddulais Comprehensive School. We are very excited to see if she becomes UK Headteacher of the Year.... watch this space!

Miss Waldron has also been recognised for her commitment to education by being nominated for a MBE. We are all so very proud of her being awarded this prestigious accolade.

Jan Waldron

*From hall to hall
You see her smile glisten
Voice soothing like a waterfall
You must stop to listen*

*Each day her determination doesn't falter
Though her goal often may alter
Her achievements are always brilliant
But if she fails she is resilient*

*Her mind transcends limitations
An impact, she's had on many generations,
With an aura of intelligence,
And a flawless elegance*

*Her warmth brightens any rooms
And kindness fills the air
For she shines through any gloom
And shows us lots of care*

*Now she'll have the time
To walk her dog more
It's been a long gruelling climb
Though it never seemed a chore*

*She'll continue to inspire
Long after she retires
Forever changed our point of view
We're so grateful to have met you*

Maisie Davies

A massive congratulations to Mr Dylan Lewis for winning the award for Best Use of Digital Learning and Mrs Hannah Hopkins for becoming a finalist for the Best Teacher of the Year award.

Staff and pupils are so very proud of their achievements and this recognition for all their hard work, passion and dedication to teaching and learning.

Girls P.E. / Ymarfer Corff y Merched



Congratulations to year 7, 8, 9 & 10 rounders teams who have won all their matches against Gwyr, Gowerton, Penyrheol and Llangatwg Comprehensive Schools



Yr 7, U13s & U15s Hockey Teams are unbeaten this current academic year. With wins over Gowerton (both indoor & outdoor), Penyrheol, Gwyr and Bae Baglan



Playing Hockey in Miami



Sports etiquette at its best

Girls P.E. / Ymarfer Corff y Merched

Florida Sports Tour 2018



Florida Sports Tour 2018 outside the Hard Rock Café.

Girls Rugby / Rygbi Merched

Over 60 Girls took part in weekly contact rugby festivals.

KS3 girls rugby has continued to grow with the girls training on a weekly basis in strong numbers.

This year we have had 20 year 7 girls and 20 year 8 girls take part in our contact rugby extra curricular.

It has been excellent to see girls transferring across to club rugby with the West Swansea Hawks at Gowerton.



Girls Rugby / Rygbi Merched



Our year 9 and 10s have continued to train and develop throughout the summer term with regular festivals, showing some of the most competitive rugby seen by our girls teams since we started.



Year 8 Boys Rugby Final/ Gem Rugby Terfynol Blwyddyn 8



Pontarddulais 25 - Olchfa 15

The boys flew out of the blocks and dominated the first half with tries from Kian Hier, Finley Edwards and Lewis Dyke we led 15-5 at half time.

Olchfa showed their strength in the second half and fought back to 15-15 with try saving tackles from Sam Smith and Rhys Chapman stopping Olchfa taking the lead.

Our boys fought back yet again showing excellent determination which allowed Kian Hire and Lewis Dyke to score yet again giving the boys a 25-15 point win.

Man of the match went to Kian Hire but a special mention has to be given to Finley Evans who was also outstanding on the day.

The boys have thoroughly deserved the trophy with their hard work and effort throughout the year and have showed huge progress in doing so. With many of them involved in the football final, we would like to wish them the best of luck and hope they can go on and win that also too.



Year 8 Boys Rugby Final/ Gem Rugby Terfynol Blwyddyn 8



Year 10 Boys Rugby Final/Gem Rugby Terfynol Blwyddyn 10

Pontarddulais 12 - Bryntawe 12

It was a tough physical encounter from the word go with both teams battling for possession. After some good build up play and tough work we took the lead 7-0 with a James Williams try and Mason Scannell conversion.

We battled on until just before half time when BrynTawe took an interception to level at 7-7 for half time.

The second half was much of the same until we took the lead again 12-7 through a Josh Hodge try.

BrynTawe scored almost immediately after to make it 12-12 and that's how it finished.

Although the boys were really unlucky not to score and win the game as the ref blew whilst we were on the BrynTawe line.

Fantastic game and effort all around.

Special mention must go to Owen Quirk for an outstanding contribution to the game.



Athletics/ Athletau

Outstanding Javelin throw by Rhys Piper
Fantastic



Congratulations to Lexi Allen, year 8, winning the
junior girls 100m



Amazing running from Joe Cadwallader,
year 10, well done



Da lawn Rebecca Pratt, year 7,
coming 3rd in the javelin.



Congratulations Tom Gorvett, year 7, 29m to
win the junior boys javelin event. Well
done.



STEM Challenge Projects/ Prosiectau her STEM

Mr. Adrian Smith, Leader of Learning, has run Faraday Challenges to promote STEM based subjects. The activity was a competition based around a task which utilises pupils' creative thinking, science and technology skills. They worked in teams, assuming various engineering roles in order to solve a given situation.

The winning teams of each class taking part were invited to the cluster finals, which took place in the comprehensive school. All pupils in Y7 also took part and had their own final.



Lighthouse Keeper Transfer Challenge - Heats

Pupils worked as a team to design a way of getting lighthouse keepers back to the mainland from a lighthouse based on a small island 200 metres from the nearest land. The design used a zip line to carry the keeper safely across the waves which were deemed high due to storms. Pupils had to design a way of getting the transfer system back to the lighthouse once it was safe enough for the keeper to return to the lighthouse so that it is available in the next storm.

Pupils needed to think about how to warn people the keeper was transferring to the mainland or that the transfer system was being returned to the lighthouse and how it could operate safely in dark and stormy conditions. Their prototype had to include at least one electric circuit.

Engineers usually build prototypes to test out their ideas first. The prototype was much smaller than the final product so would not be able to carry a person. To represent the keeper, they were given an egg to transfer safely across the distance and land on the mainland without it cracking or smashing.

Pupils had access to the Faraday shop and a budget of Faraday money. They needed to plan what resources to buy and manage and record their budget.

At the end of the challenge day students were asked to present their prototypes by demonstrating how their design could carry the lighthouse keeper (the egg) safely to the mainland.



Scholars Programme/ Rhaglen Ysgolheigion

A massive congratulations to our scholars programme pupils in Y7-9 for completing a challenging project aimed at pupils a whole key stage above.

They have worked closely with PhD students to research and produce a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) assignment on 'Precision Medicine' and 'Technology in Sports'.

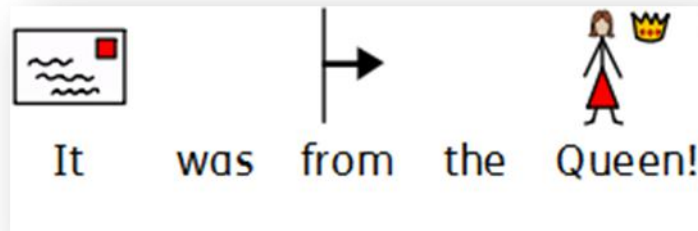
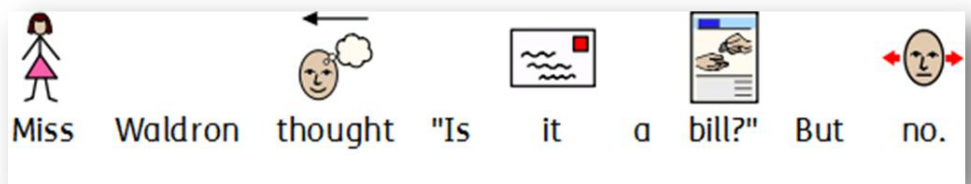
All pupils were successful with many achieving a 1st for their work, which they celebrated at a graduation ceremony in either Bristol or Cardiff university.



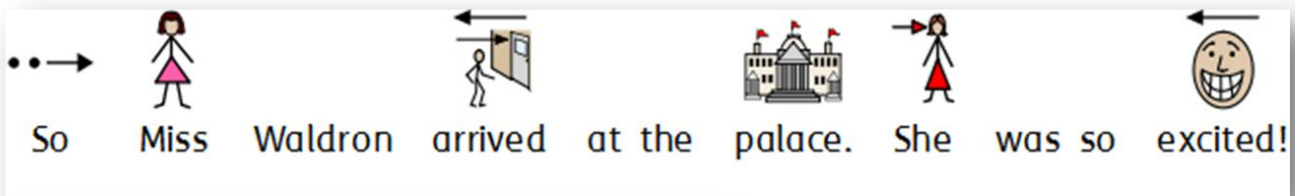
Well done to all involved, this is a huge achievement!

The Queen visited the STF to present Miss Waldron's MBE

A LETTER ARRIVED.....



PLEASE COME TO THE PALACE



WE CELEBRATED WITH A GARDEN PARTY





The year 10 boys participating in the ESS Mentoring program were invited down to Swansea Airport by former rugby player Ian Gough.

Pupils had the opportunity to look around the airfield and take a closer look at Ian Gough's plane.

The ESS mentoring program is aimed at inspiring the pupils to work hard and breaking their work down into more achievable goals.

The boys had a memorable experience.

YEAR 7 WOODLAND PROJECT

Here are some snaps from the year 7 woodland project. Pupils identified some trees, plants and wildlife and learnt how to calculate the age of a tree. They also conducted an environmental survey and created sketch maps of the area.



Sports Day / Diwrnod Chwaraeon



Sports Day 2018 was a fantastic day. The winners of each event then had the opportunity to represent the school at the athletics meet against the rest of the Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot schools.

Year 7 Results:

Winners: 7P

Runners Up: 7I

Year 8 Results:

Winners: 8I

Runners Up: 8P

Year 9 Results:

Winners: 9O

Runners Up: 9N

Well done to all those musicians who have passed ABRSM, Guildhall and County exams this term. This is an excellent achievement.

'A Night to Remember' concert was held on June 28th. It was a wonderful evening demonstrating the fantastic musical ability of not just musical students of Pontarddulais but all our partner primaries as well. Thank you to all that participated.

A huge thank you to all those musicians who performed at the Celebration of Excellence awards evening.

Dates to Remember:

- September 10th: Payment of deposit for music tour
- October 17th: Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama visit, letters will be given out 1st week back after the summer holidays.
- Saturday November 10th: Remembrance Community Concert
- December 6th: Christmas Concert
- July 11th 2019: Celebration of Excellence
- July 18th 2019: Paris Tour

Thank you all to the pupils who helped the peripatetic staff during Transition Week. You provided an excellent insight into the musical life of the school and the opportunities available at Pontarddulais. Also, thank you to all the peripatetic music staff who have supported the department over the last year. Your expertise is invaluable to the success of Pontarddulais music.

Mrs K Carter

War Horse



On a bright sunny Friday morning we set off from Pontarddulais to travel to the Welsh Millennium Centre in Cardiff to see War Horse. We had 45 excited pupils to see this fantastic production by the National Theatre. The theatre had upgraded our tickets at no extra cost and we had prime seats in the Grand Circle. The production was superb and brought a tear to quite a few eyes, and excellent pupil conduct meant a thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone. Roll on the next theatre visit!

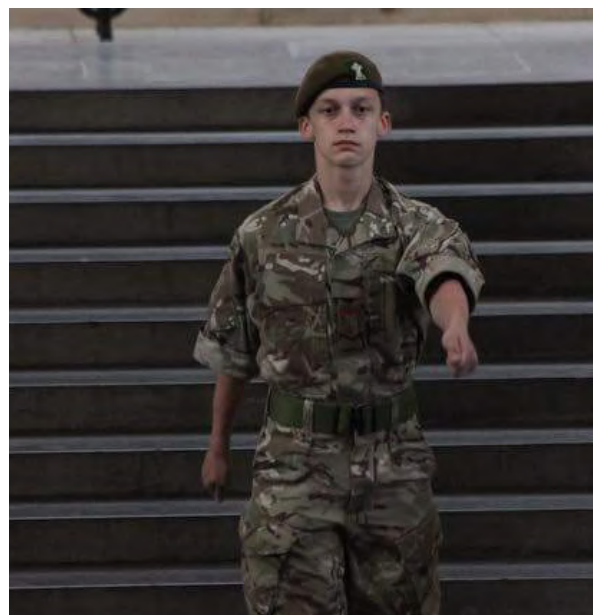
Mrs K Paton

Connor Marston - Army Cadets.

I was over the moon when I was chosen out of more than 40 cadets to visit Belgium last year to lay the wreath at Menin Gate. I felt really proud and honoured to have been picked in front of hundreds of people.

We also went around the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemeteries and looked at the graves of soldiers and learnt about the only nurse to be buried at one of the cemeteries.

As an Army Cadet I have learnt so much including First Aid, working as a team and making responsible decisions quickly & efficiently



Duke of Edinburgh / Gwobr Dug Caeredin

"I really enjoyed my experience, even getting licked by a cow!" - Ieuan Jones

This year we have been working towards our bronze DofE. We did this by volunteering, improving a skill and joining a sport. We also had to do our practice and final expeditions around the Gower peninsula.

In April, we did our practice walk from Kittle to Port Eynon over the course of two days. We thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful coastal views throughout our walk and we got to witness many interesting sites, such as ancient ruins. In fact, as we passed an old church we heard a choir, comprised of Swedish and Welsh singers, singing together. After a few wrong turns, we finally arrived at Port Eynon.

After we had passed our practice walk, we then had to complete our final in June. This time we walked from Port Eynon to Llanrhidian, camping in Llangennith overnight. Unfortunately, due to the scorching sun, we had to deal with overgrown pathways, lots of bugs and painful sunburns. We also had to conquer a field of angry cows who refused to let us pass. Nevertheless, we had lots of fun interacting with other, more docile animals, such as horses and sheep. Also, the beach was only a short walk from the campsite, so we got to experience the beautiful sunset. On the second day, we set off for Llanrhidian, walking through farmlands, forests, and rocky paths. After an exhausting 7 hour walk, we completed our final, happy that we had done it.

We learned many skills from DofE, such as map reading, cooking, pitching tents, and most importantly teamwork. It was a great experience and it has great rewards.



Bont Book Awards / Gwobrau Darllen y Bont

On Thursday 12th July, Pontarddulais Comprehensive hosted a book award for local comprehensive schools. Pupils completed a number of tasks centred on the books they read, giving them the chance to discuss and debate their favourite books. By the end of the session, pupils were given the opportunity to vote on their favourite book. 'After Tomorrow' by Gillian Cross won, it was highly recommended by all pupils and was described as fast paced and gripping.



Creating poppies



As a school we like to get involved in the local community. Canolfan y Bont have asked for our support to help make 5000 poppies to recognise 100 years from the first world war on remembrance Sunday the 11th of November. We used the old school jumpers and pupils cut them into poppies, the history department helped out by allowing children to do it in class. Fran Davies and Lisa Jones have organised the project. We look forward to seeing the displays in November.



We would like to say a massive thank you to Tesco for the donations of water and fruit for our recent 'Bont Book Award'.

All schools that attended thoroughly enjoyed the refreshments and a great day was had by all.



A massive thank you to Parents, Lloyds Pharmacy, Tesco. The school asked for hygiene products and we were delighted with the response.

We very much appreciate your generosity.

Already we have put the products to good use and also put some smiles on the pupils faces.



ands up for Down's

30th May 2018

Dear Miss J Waldron and the pupils and staff at Pontarddulais Comprehensive School

I am writing on behalf of Hands up for Downs to express our sincere thanks for your extremely kind gesture of donating £361.30 from your World Down Syndrome Day fundraising activities.

We are extremely grateful for your support and all money donated is put to good use by enabling us to provide much needed services such as Speech and Language therapy and Physiotherapy for the young children in our group, as well as providing a support and networking platform for their families. You really are making a huge difference to our members, and your contribution is so very much appreciated.

And, on behalf of all the parents and children that Hands up for Down's supports, thank you again for choosing to support us, as without such kindness and generosity we could not do what we do!

If you would like us to attend the school at any point to thank the pupils, or do a presentation please do not hesitate to let us know.

Kind Regards

Uniform

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents/guardians that the school uniform consists of:

- Sweatshirts: printed with the school badge.
- Polo shirt: white with school badge.
- Skirt: black. No straight skirts with slits or very tight skirts please.
- Trousers: black, tailored and plain and must have a clasp/button and fly – pinstripes, jeans or leggings will not be permitted.
- Shoes: black, sensible and safe please, no ugg style boots.
- Jackets: Sensible clothing please. Leather or denim jackets, zip up and over the head or hoodies are not allowed.

The following rules need to be stressed

- Shoes: black and polishable must be worn in school (no canvas or plimsolls). Trainers are not allowed.
- Trousers/skirt: must be PLAIN black or dark grey – no pinstripes or jeans.
- Polo shirt: is part of the school uniform and is required to be worn during the school day.
- Jewellery: no jewellery (e.g. loom bands, bracelets, face/body piercings etc) may be worn other than a plain stud earring and a wristwatch.
- Outdoor jackets: outdoor clothing may not be worn in lessons and they should not bear any logo which is either offensive or drug related.

To purchase school uniform please visit Bergoni either online www.bergoni.co.uk or in store, 8 Tower Court, Swansea Enterprise Zone, St. David's Road, Llansamlet, Swansea, SA6 8RU.

Staff have been instructed to take a firm line with regard to uniform.



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

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

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

Autumn Term Dates

Term Begins: Tuesday 4th September 2018

Half Term: Monday 29th October—Friday 2nd November 2018

Term Ends: Friday 21st December 2018

INSET DAYS

Monday 3rd September 2018



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