



PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
YSGOL GYFUN PONTARDDULAIS



BONT Life

Our Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

Learn to live...
live to learn

Byw I ddysgu...
dysgu byw



To all pupils, staff, parents, guardian and governors,

Congratulations to Mr. Gareth Rees on his success in being appointed as Headteacher of Pontarddulais. Mr. Rees has already shown his ability in leading and managing the school effectively.

As Deputy Headteacher, he worked with the Headship Team to improve outcomes for pupils and to support teachers to become the best they can be. As Acting Head he continued this work leading the school to build on this success.

In many parents evenings I have described the role of the Headteacher as the best job in the world.

Over the last 18 months I have been fortunate to work with other schools in Swansea. It has been through this work that I have been able to share the excellent practice found in all the schools I have been linked with and have created a strong network for Headteachers and Senior Leaders which I am sure will continue in the future.

It has been a busy term for Pontarddulais staff, there have been many visits from other schools in Wales to see what staff here are doing to improve teaching and learning. Our staff have been showing their excellent work in National conferences.

Year 11 of 2019 achieved excellent results in their external examinations. We are all really proud of them. Their results are a true reflection of the hard work of everyone who works with our pupils and of course the hard work of the pupils themselves.

Can I wish Mr. Rees continued success and enjoyment of this role in the future.

Have a restful holiday, Nadolig Llawen a Blwydden Newydd Dda to you all.

Best Wishes

Janet Waldron

Headteacher until December 31st 2019!

Humanities Department

The Humanities Area of Learning & Experience (AoLE) have been trialling a new approach to homework this Autumn Term.

Year 7 pupils were set a 3 stage, independent project at the start of the term; research a structure of your choice linked to your humanities lessons, create an instruction text outlining how you could build a model of your structure out of materials of your choice and then construct the model.

The response has been exceptionally positive, with pupils bringing in models made of everything from cake, to lego, to cardboard, clay and crochet! The AoLE would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and guardians for their support with this project approach, as we appreciate that an awful lot of time and effort has gone into this at home.

Some of the pupils' work can be seen in these photographs and a large display board is currently being put together in the Humanities block to celebrate our 'Humanities Heroes'. Well done Year 7.



Spanish Department

This term our year 10 Spanish class took part in an oracy workshop together with pupils from Pentrehafod Comprehensive.

We practised our GCSE speaking exam skills and had the opportunity to meet some new friends! Pupils commented that it was a fun experience that helped them "communicate confidently", practise formulating questions and that they enjoyed meeting new people". We hope to get the classes together again for another workshop in the future.



Welsh Department



Tachwedd 20fed



Ymweliad Bronwen Lewis i'r ysgol

Bronwen Lewis's visit to the school

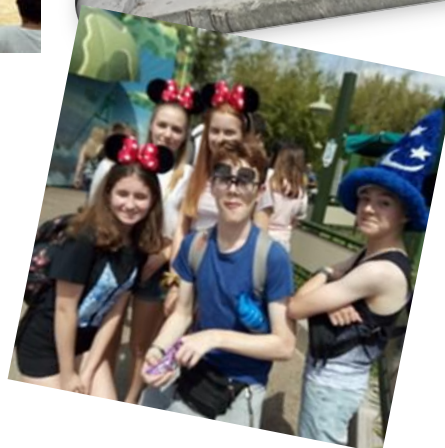
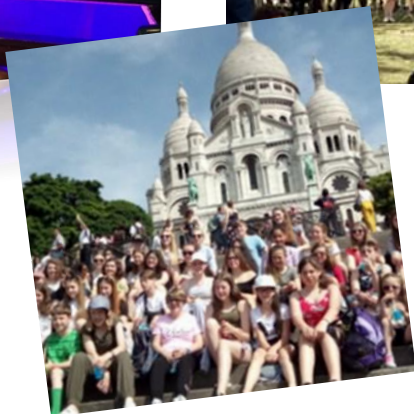
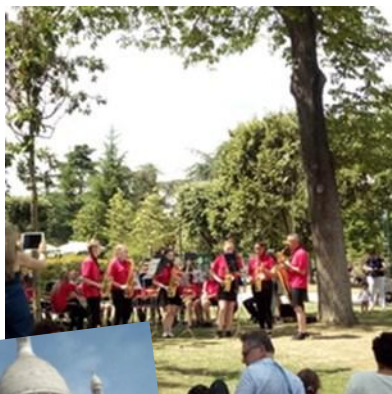
A fantastic morning was had when Bronwen Lewis visited the school in November. Year 8 [P & T] were invited to devise Welsh lyrics to the popular Ed Sheeran song: Castle on the Hill. All pupils took part with great enthusiasm and both Year 7 & 8 thoroughly enjoyed the gig performed by Bronwen in the Sports Hall later that morning. Diolch Bronwen



Music Department

Music Paris Tour

The Music Department had the most fantastic tour last summer performing at Euro Disney, Jardin Du Luxemburg and Jardin D'Acclimatation in Paris. Pupils performed to the highest standard and gained so much from the experience.



Outreach work with Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

On the 2nd December a group of RWCMD Opera post graduate students performed a fantastic modern version of an opera. The students had written it themselves and it was based around 3 Disney princesses and Prince Charming! KS3 and KS4 pupils from the school choir, music GCSE and Drama attended and were amazed to hear the quality of the voices and indeed to hear their first Opera! Some pupils also had the opportunity to sing for the students from the RWCMD.



Music Department

Christmas Concert

We had our Christmas Concert on 4th December. Once again the talent of our pupils shone from our year guitar ensemble, keyboard group, string ensemble, windband, soloists and brass ensemble. It was Fabulously Festive and a joy to be a part of.



The Choir have also performed at Goppa community carol concert and once again they were fantastic.

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



P.E. DEPARTMENT

Rugby

It's been an outstanding start to school life from our Year 7s! With nearly 40 boys representing the school and many of them new to the game, their development over the weeks has been outstanding. We have been extremely impressed with the attitude and commitment from the boys so far and are very excited to see them develop. They've gathered a few wins so far in the Swansea Cup and we'll hope to see them progress in the new year!

Our Year 8&9 boys have had a difficult year so far facing some very strong competition in the Ospreys cup. With more new faces again taking part, they've shown real character to keep bouncing back and two strong performances in their last outings we hope they will get more deserved success in the new year.

All year groups will take part in Swansea Cup fixtures in the new year before Finals day in April.



Football

Our success story of the term is certainly our Year 10 boys. They've gone unbeaten so far with one win coming on penalties and four more comfortable wins against Maesteg (2-1), Cefn Saeson (5-1), Morriston (5-0) and Bishop Vaughan (3-2). This run of excellent form will now mean they progress to the National round of the Welsh Cup. We hope they can continue this great form and go deep into the competition. Pwb lwc boys!

As well as the rugby, the commitment and hunger to represent the school has been clear from our Year 7s. It's been a frustrating half term across all year groups with the inclement weather with many Swansea Schools fixtures being cancelled. We have however set a new school record this half term: On 9 occasions we have had to postpone Year 7 football fixtures! We are open to water sport suggestions? Hopefully we will see an improvement in weather in the new year and the fixtures of all age groups will hopefully come thick and fast during the spring term.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



DofE Wales hosted an event at The Liberty Stadium to celebrate the new partnership with schools in Swansea that have taken out a DofE License and become a Directly Licensed Centre (DofE).

Our certificate was presented by Tori James, the first Welsh woman to climb Everest, to two of our silver award participants Alex Guernsey and Morgan Prosser. The school plaque was received by Mr. Rees, Headteacher and Mrs. Oulton, DofE Manager.





Remembrance Day



STF Department



remembering



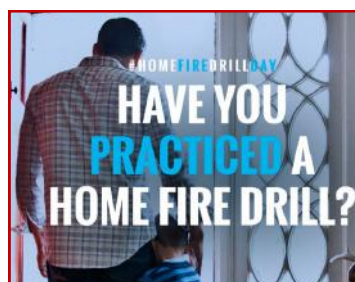
drama



Fire drill

Keeping safe is very important. We often have fire drills in school. It makes everyone more confident. We have equipment that helps us move down stairs. It can be a bit scary so practising is a good idea!

What would you do at home if there was a fire?



STF Department



Trying



new



sports



Rugby World Cup



We enjoyed learning about the countries that Wales played against in the World cup— especially as we cooked food from the different countries.



relax!



Zen



gardens

Ty Dysgu



I have joined bulldogs boxing programme, where I am learning to work as a team and focus on skills related to boxing.

I have been enjoying the transform programme. On this programme we complete bookwork at TY Dysgu before completing an exercise circuit at a local gym in Pontarddulais. In the afternoon we go to Many Tears which is a rescue shelter for animals where we walk and play with the dogs, which we enjoy!!

We go to Canolfan y Bont where we help in the charity shop and café. We also cook with the staff for us to gain better social skills and we also clean up the mess in the kitchen! We also sort out the clothes and put on hangers and we make sure the charity shop is kept nice and tidy. I enjoy doing fun activities such as carving pumpkins, cooking and maybe once in a while help pull out the weeds in the front and back of the garden, which I really enjoy. I prefer the gardening part most of all.

Ashley James



Ty Dysgu

In Ty Dysgu we do activities such as judo and cooking. This helps us to keep fit and healthy and keeps our mind active; we learn new skills and work together as a team.

Another activity is visiting Canolfan Y Bont. Here we do volunteering work and help them with the charity shop and in the café and we also help by making sure the place is clean and tidy.

Transform is my favourite work that I like to do because we go to different places. Also we work in the morning doing written work all about different topics. In the gym we do fitness work and Mr Holifield makes sure we are put to our pace, I'm always shattered coming out of the gym.

We went to the care homes to see elderly people, we played games with them and had a chat about their life during the war, this was very interesting. *By Ryan Polverino*

At Ty Dysgu I take part in a lot of activities such as judo on a Monday, transform on a Wednesday and bulldogs boxing on a Thursday. I enjoy all of these activities because they are active and I get to meet new people and learn new things.

I enjoy going to Ty Dysgu because we work in smaller groups and it's a more relaxing environment to work in. Some of the activities I've done in Ty Dysgu are cooking; I've made cawl, pancakes, Halloween cup-cakes and meals for us all at Ty Dysgu. As a group we have carved pumpkins and made display in Ty Dysgu which I enjoyed doing. *By Troy Cross*



When I go over the house as a reward for good work and behaving, we can go on the pool table. And when we go on transform it helps us to understand how to act in public. When we go to bulldogs it helps us to keep fit. We also get to learn about the skills needed to be a boxer, we are also completing our level one qualification in sport and fitness and I am really enjoying this.

Other activities that I have done at Ty Dysgu are cooking and clearing the gardens to make it nice and clear for us all. For Halloween we carved pumpkins with was fun. *By Spencer Wolf*



Pupil Parliament

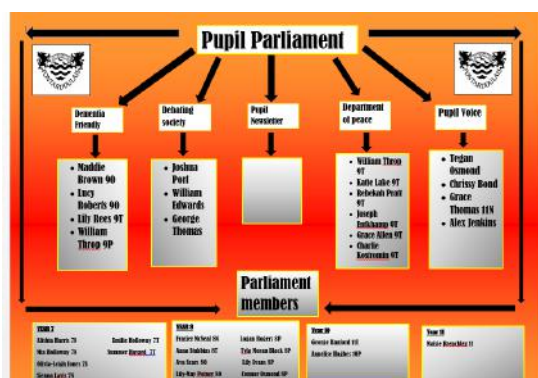
The 2019-2020 Pupil Parliament has started with a bang. Some new journeys have opened up for the school these last two years such as Dementia Friendly and Peace School.

The Pupil Parliament has now formed itself around several different departments, where members of the council represents the school and the schools interests. This includes:

- ◆ School Council members, who attend meeting and discuss improvements and projects in the school
- ◆ Pupil Governors, who have a key role in working with staff and Governors to give pupils a voice.
- ◆ Dementia Friendly – Pupils who continue to work and maintain our status as a Dementia Friendly School
- ◆ Debating Society – Representatives from KS4 and soon to be KS3 who compete around the UK in debate competitions
- ◆ Peace School – Pupils who help lead projects and school activities that led to us being awarded a level 1 Peace School
- ◆ Pupil Newsletter (in progress) – Led by senior pupils, a new easy read pupil newsletter that is written by the pupils, for the pupils.

It has been a great opportunity to have many keen year 7 pupils now join the school council with experiences from primary and fresh ideas.

“Since joining the school council, I have been able to get involved in many fun and important meetings. It’s a really great way to get your voice heard” Harrison William 7P



Dementia Friendly

After receiving the acknowledgement as the 1st Dementia Friendly School in Swansea at the end of last term, work has continued at Pontarddulais including Dementia Champion status for myself (Mr D Jones) leading to opportunities to make as many pupils and staff Dementia Friends. So far this year we have already showcased our work and intergenerational friendships to Julie Morgan (AM Deputy Minister) and Helena Herklots (Older People's Commissioner) on their visit to Swansea. This included an afternoon over The Hollies care home, reuniting with friends we had made the previous school year and sharing snacks and stories.



"This year, it's been great to see that we can maintain this bond with The Hollies. The event with Julie Morgan and Helena Herklots was a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new friends." William Year 9



Peace School

Newly awarded as a Level 1 Peace School, Pontarddulais Comprehensive School will look to continue projects and strive for Level 2. Mrs. Bennet's work with close to a dozen pupils was our lead project, this was a cross-curricular project; Art, Welsh and History, that was based on the conscientious objectors during the World Wars. A display of their work is visible in our main hall.



This year pupils were able to visit the Welsh Assembly and discuss and learn about peace in Wales and the World.

"The Peace conference was enlightening to show how people looked for peace, during and after WW1 and WW2. The visit was very interesting and a great opportunity for all of us"



First Give is a fully-resourced secondary school programme that gives children the opportunity to engage in a social action. First Give is beneficial to young people in terms of developing independence, organization, empathy and a sense of responsibility.

During our Welsh Bacc hours in year 9, we were given the chance to win and donate £1,000 to a charity of our choice with First Give. We worked in groups and researched social issues in our community and chose a charity that we felt was important to us, also year 9 were given assemblies on various charities. We then researched information about that charity and created a PowerPoint presentation.

Groups then presented their pitches to their Welsh Bacc teachers and they chose the best one out of each class. After that we then developed our presentations of our charities and were able to get in contact with them to learn more about their work and what the £1000 would go towards.

In addition to this we planned and delivered social action activities by putting up posters or other ways of awareness raising in support of the charity. Finally, on the evening of May 13th we were lucky enough to be in the school final, and all year 9 groups presented a pitch to a panel of judges to try and persuade them to choose their charity. Alyssa, Eve and Jess won the £1,000 for their charity 'Dementia Friendly Swansea'. *Grace Thomas.*

The Debating Society

The Debating Society has been continuing to compete around the UK in the last three years in competitions such as PIXL Up For Debate, ESU and WCIA debate competitions. With keen KS4 members who have worked tremendously since year 8, we are looking this year to train up our next teams of debaters as our members reach their GCSE years. This hasn't stopped them competing though, with tough competition in Bryntawe this term and just missing out on progressing to the next round, the team are still passionate and look forward to supporting and mentoring the new teams coming through.



"The Debate Society has helped improve confidence and especially our public speaking skills. It allows you to fully engage with the currently important issues while also questioning or defending the world we live in today.
Joshua Port Year 10.

Engineering Challenge

Year 9 pupils took part in an engineering challenge with the institution of civil engineers today. They were challenged to build water towers 1 metre high, which were then tested to see how much water they could hold.





EXTRA-CURRICULAR - SPORT

The school are very proud of William Shadrach, year 8, who got through to the Nations Cup in Cyprus.

Forename	Surname	Team	Played	Won	BD For	BD Against	Percent Wins	Points
JC 15 2019								
Reece	McCloskey	N Ireland U15 A	40	29	2	0	72.5	0
Will	Shadrach	Wales U15 A	37	25	0	0	67.57	0
Craig	Ingman	Wales U15 A	38	24	0	0	63.16	0
Anto	McAleer	Ireland U15 A	40	24	0	0	60	0
onstantinos	Demetriou	Cyprus U15 A	40	24	0	0	60	0
Matthias	Debono	Malta U15 A	37	22	0	0	59.46	0
Jason	Duddy	Ireland U15 A	40	21	0	0	52.5	0
Taylor	Baxter	N Ireland U15 A	40	21	0	0	52.5	0
Jake	Castaldi	Malta U15 A	37	20	0	1	54.05	0
Josh	Collett	Wales U15 A	38	20	0	0	52.63	0
Dylan	Kirwan	Ireland U15 A	40	20	0	0	50	0
Chaylon	Castaldi	Malta U15 A	33	14	0	1	42.42	0
Dion	Lynch	N Ireland U15 A	40	12	0	0	30	0
Andreas	Vaggas	Cyprus U15 A	40	10	0	0	25	0
Andreas	Athanasiou	Cyprus U15 A	40	9	0	0	22.5	0
Sven	Agius	Malta U15 A	13	4	0	0	30.77	0



William is now ranked 2nd in world at u15 and the stats show a very creditable win percentage of 67.57%



William was unlucky in the singles, he won his preliminary game 5-1 against Sven Agius of Malta but then came up against the eventual winner and friend Jason Duddy of Ireland. This time it was not meant to be and lost 5-2.

He continued to push hard with the team effort (at one point winning 13 out of 14 frames across 3 matches) and helped them get to the final with a great win over Ireland in the semi final.

They were then to face Malta in the final. However Malta were not to be beaten on the day and another runners up medal was the eventual outcome.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR - SPORT

Charlie Morgan - 7S

Charlie recently competed in the Kickboxing World Championship in Scotland as part of Team Wales.

Congratulations Charlie for receiving a Bronze medal in his individual fight and a silver in the team fight.



CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

- ⇒ Callum Lloyd who was selected for the U14 South Wales Hockey Team.
- ⇒ Ewan Lloyd who recently won a recent competition playing in Cornet Horn with Pontarddulais Youth Brass Band.
- ⇒ Casey Bolton who received his green belt in kickboxing.

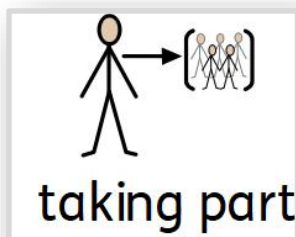
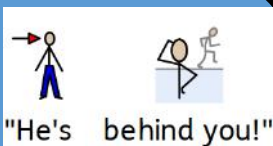
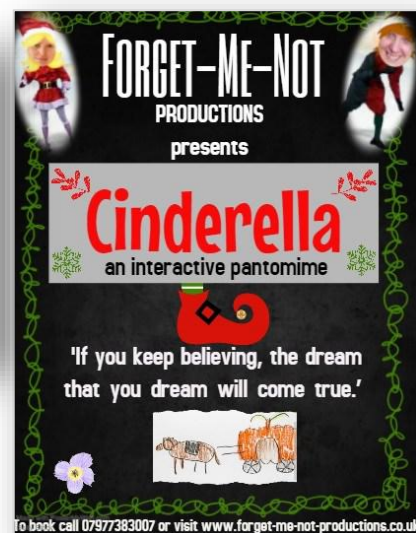
Welsh Baccalaureate—Winter Fayre



The annual Pontarddulais Comprehensive Winter Fayre was held on the 23rd November. Year 10 Welsh Baccalaureate pupils ran stalls selling food, decorations and games as part of their Enterprise Challenge. The Fayre was a huge success and we were even fortunate to be visited by Santa himself. Thank you all for who supported this event to make it such a great day.



STF Department



STF Department



Frankie
& Benny's

Thanks to Liam, Adam and Holly at Frankie and Benny's for a lovely welcome as always and a fantastic breakfast. It gave us lots of energy for the ice rink. See you next year!



Gwledd y Gaeaf ar y Glannau yn Abertawe
Swansea's Waterfront Winterland



DVLA Coding Challenge



Our Year 8 code club represented the school in the DVLA code championship. Their game which was designed to educate people on the importance of keeping things clean and tidy. The entry made it to the final of the competition where they faced fierce competition from schools across Wales. Unfortunately they did not win this time, however they did manage to get over £500 of prizes including Raspberry Pi kits and £750 for the school's IT department. Da iawn pawb!





Year 7

