



PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
YSGOL GYFUN PONTARDDULAIS



BONT Life

Our Newsletter

Summer Term 2019

Learn to live...
live to learn

Byw I ddysgu...
dysgu byw

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 highlights in the newsletter give a flavour of the outstanding achievements and breadth of opportunities experienced over recent months. 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 fill me with a sense admiration and pride with their dedication, enthusiasm and energy.

This year our key stage 4 classes have made good progress and this bodes well for another great set of results in the Summer. Staff and pupils have all worked incredibly hard to make sure that they have been taught well, learned well and supported well to ensure that they achieve their very best. The dedication of staff, both in the school day 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 highly skilled and committed staff have contributed so much to the school both within and outside of the classroom and I am truly grateful for their endeavour and hard work.

Many thanks to all staff and pupils who have contributed to creating and producing this newsletter. I wish you all a restful holiday and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3rd September at the start of the new term.

Best Wishes,

G. Rees

Acting Headteacher

On Thursday 11th July, Pontarddulais School profiled their appreciation of pupil talent for the very first time at the Ffwrnes Theatre, Llanelli.



It was a fantastic evening with performances from the school choir, GCSE drama group, gymnasts and our very own Spice Girls!! We were lucky enough to have special guests, Rebecca Evans AM and ex-pupil Joe Rodon of Swansea City Football Club with us to present the Sports awards.





Llongyfarchiadau Callum, we are really proud of you!!

Wales Wheelchair Basketball Association



Mr.G.Rees
Pontarddulais Comprehensive School
Caecerrig Road
Pontarddulais
Swansea
SA4 8PD

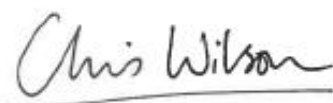
Date: 13th July 2019

Dear Mr.Rees,

On behalf of the Wales Wheelchair Basketball Association, we write to formally thank you and your school for the magnificent contribution to WWBA following **Callum Williams** selection for the Wales Wheelchair Basketball u18 squad at this year's National Championships to be held in Worcester this August.

To have a pupil in your school attain such an honour is a solid reflection on both the player and the school he represents. To play for your club is praise indeed; to represent your country is an achievement many dream about but few attain. Without your support and that of the PE department, these athletes wouldn't have the determination or motivation to put themselves up for trials and selection for their country.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Wilson

Chair – Wales Wheelchair Basketball Association

cc. Diane Williams

info@waleswheelchairbasketball.org.uk

www.waleswheelchairbasketball.org.uk

SPORTS AWARDS

Well done to all our pupils who have represented the School, County & Country

Athletics

Addam Bowling	Afan Nedd Athletics
Katie Lake	Afan Nedd Athletics
Harry Newton	Afan Nedd Athletics
Rebekah Pratt	Afan Nedd Athletics
James Llewelyn	Afan Nedd Athletics

Rugby

Kian Hire	Swansea School boys Under 15
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Polo

Abigail Davies	Representing Wales in Polo Cross
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Basketball

Eve Tzafos	Welsh International Basketball
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Cross Country

Nathaniel Roberts	Afan Nedd Cross Country
Callum Lloyd	Afan Nedd Cross Country
Aaron Mathias	Afan Nedd Cross Country

Cricket

Libby Thomas	Welsh Under 15s Cricket Captain
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Football

Evie Hughes	West Wales and welsh development Squad
Grace Tilley	West Wales
Jessica Lloyd	West Wales
Iwan Batcup	Welsh Schoolboys Under 13s
Brad Burchell	Swansea Schoolboys Under 13s
Jack Hughes	Swansea Schoolboys Under 15s
Aidan Hughes	Swansea Schoolboys Under 15s
Georgia Roberts	West Glam Under 16 Squad

Football, Hockey and Gymnastics

Emily Gurnsey	West Glamorgan Hockey/Football/ Welsh Champion Sports Acro
Mia Jenkins	Welsh International Sports Acro Gymnastics
Summer Painter	Welsh International Sports Acro Gymnastics
Emily Jones	British Schools Medalist Sports Acro Gymnastics
Cameron Rippon	British Schools Medalist Sports Acro Gymnastics
Charlotte Osborn	West Glamorgan Hockey, Welsh Champion Sports Acro Gymnastics

Sports Leaders - Congratulations to our pupils for achieving their sports leaders awards.



Year 7 athletics - Triangular match against Penyrheol and Gowerton



County Rounders Team

Congratulations to year 9 & year 10
rounder's teams who won the County
Tournament 2019.



Public Services Trips by Tom Davies year 10

Public Services is a subject you can choose as an option in year 10. I'm really glad I chose this option as we do lots of practical work and adventure training. This year we have been gorge walking, mountain biking, forces training and coast steering.

Gorge walking was great fun. We all jumped on the bus at school and Mr. Holifield (our public services teacher) drove us to a place called Glyneath in the Neath Valley. There we met Roger our instructor for the day. We got kitted out with wetsuits, helmets and buoyancy aids to keep us safe and warm. Off we went down to the raging river! Gorge walking involves swimming, climbing and scrambling up rivers, waterfalls and rocks. This is pretty difficult when the water is flowing down fiercely against you. It was very challenging and we had to work together to help each other up the river otherwise we could have been washed away. The first jump into the water was hard because the water was freezing but we soon warmed up when our wet suits kicked in. At the end of the walk was a canyon where we did some jumps, dives and back flips into a waterfall. The highest jump was about 25 feet and most of us plucked up the courage to JUMP!



In March the Public Services group went on a residential training trip. We left school early Friday morning and drove to our accommodation in Afan Argoed forest called Bryn Bettws Lodge. Mr. Holifield split us into 2 groups, one group did forces training the other went mountain biking. Forces training involved running and patrolling in various formations, carrying out searches, lots of physical team building challenges, emergency evacuations, escape and evasion and many more. It was very a challenging day but we all learned a lot about what they do in various forces. Friday afternoon after the activities we had a hot meal in the lodge and chilled out for the rest of the evening by a nice warm log fire.



Public Services

On day two (Saturday) both groups swapped activities. The mountain bike training was taken by Ant who works for Welsh cycling and coaches international mountain bikers. The bikes were provided and we were taught all the basics and let loose on some of the trails in Afan Argoed. Ant made the day challenging by showing us hard sections of track and having lots of mini races. All together it was a brilliant trip, going away with my friends and taking part in all the activities.



When I got home Saturday evening I slept all night and most of Sunday as well!



Our last adventure training day was in June and that was Coast Steering. Not many of us knew what it was about, but basically it's a combination of climbing and swimming around the coast jumping off rocks and exploring caves. We met Stuart our instructor in the car park by Rhosilli bay and we all got kitted out with wetsuits, buoyancy aids and helmets. Once kitted out we climbed down the rocks to the sea where we had a safety briefing and were shown the correct techniques for jumping. As the day went on the jumps got higher and higher. Swimming into a pitch black cave was a bit scary especially as Stuart said there maybe seals in there! Some of the jumps on our coast steering were pretty high and many of us had to confront our fears before jumping. We all had an amazing day, the weather was great and we had an hour of football and touch rugby in the sun before coming home.





In June of this year our cluster primary schools joined us for a fun filled afternoon in **Bont's Best Books**. After reading a selection of books and creating stalls to promote them, our pupils enjoyed hours of fun celebrating reading.



Year 9 Welsh Bacc Community Challenge

On 4th & 5th of July our pupils completed 10 hours of community work. Neighbourhood enhancement was carried out at local schools and Pembrey Country Park. Pupils also carried out coaching & mentoring in school as sports leaders and also in the Hollies Care Home delivering sessions on the use of technology.



Year 9 Welsh Bacc—First Give Charity Challenge

Over the last year some of our pupils have been learning about and raising awareness of local charities including Golau, Gofal and Dementia Friendly Swansea. The winning charity, Dementia Friendly Swansea received a £1,000 donation.





Hollies care home. During these visits, there would be a range of music, stories, refreshments and laughs shared.

Dementia Friendly

Pontarddulais Comprehensive School have been so fortunate this year to be a pilot school for the integration of Dementia Friendly Schools in Swansea. The opportunity has significantly impacted pupils and staff views on dementia awareness, through information sessions and whole school assemblies.

The first project we were involved in was a 'storytelling and talents' project, this was an opportunity to take 10 year 8 pupils to The

"I enjoyed the Dementia Friendly project because I was able to interact with people that I didn't think I would be able to" Lily Rees 8T

The project continued with support of the Dementia Friendly team and even led to 3 pupils presenting at an Adult Services event in Swansea.

"I really enjoyed the Dementia Friendly project as I was able to make new friends and connections. I think it's important to keep strong relationships with The Hollies for years to come" William Throp 8P

After the success of the project, opportunities to support people living with dementia has been embedded into the Welsh Baccalaureate. In year 9, pupils had the opportunity to win a £1000 donation to their chosen charity. We have now also included a visit to The Hollies as an option for pupils during their community challenge in Welsh Baccalaureate.

"I think helping at The Hollies was a great experience and I hope future year groups can get involved" Ryan Lewis 9N

We will continue this amazing work with our pupils and look into other opportunities that come our way! Mr. Dan Jones, Humanities





LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

I.E.S. FELIPE SOLÍS (SPAIN)

PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL (WALES)

This year pupils from our 9NT Spanish class took part in our first “eTwinning” Project which has resulted in us being awarded an “Introducing Internationalism” certificate from the British Council. The following letter is from our partner school in Spain and explains all about our project...

Hello from Andalusia!

My name is Juan Manuel Franco Sánchez and I am an English teacher at Felipe Solís Villechenous Secondary School in Cabra, a small town located in the South of Cordoba, right in the centre of Andalusia and surrounded by the stunning views of the nature reserve known as the *Geopark of the Subbeticas Mountains*.

This year, we have started a link with your school in which I'm taking part together with my students of 3º ESO (year 10). It all started with a message on eTwinning Live looking for a partner to develop an eTwinning project. Then, your teacher of Spanish, Miss Llewellyn, contacted me and since then she has always been most enthusiastic to develop the project and has made an effort to have her students work on the activities proposed.

The main goal of the our project, which we named “Let's Get to Know Each Other”, was for the students to have a real context of communication (mainly written) in the foreign language and increase their motivation towards the learning of languages. They really loved the Logo Contest as well as reading their pen pals introductions and emails with plans for a weekend in Cabra. We also used this correspondence for peer-assessment opportunities.





LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

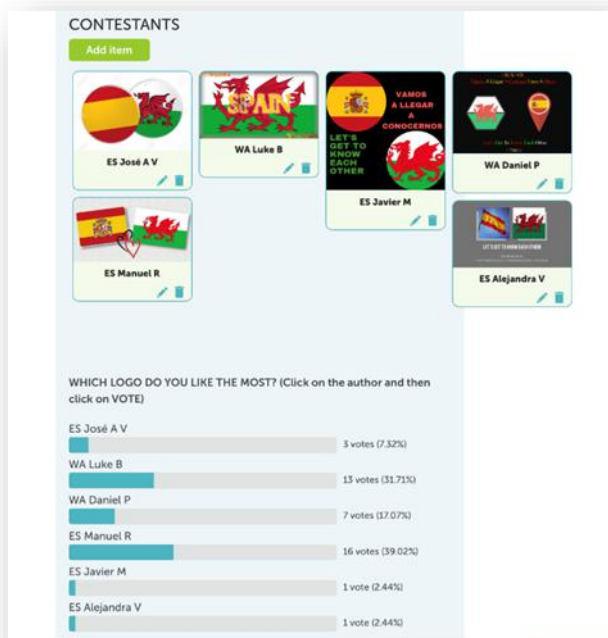
I.E.S. FELIPE SOLÍS (SPAIN)

PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL (WALES)

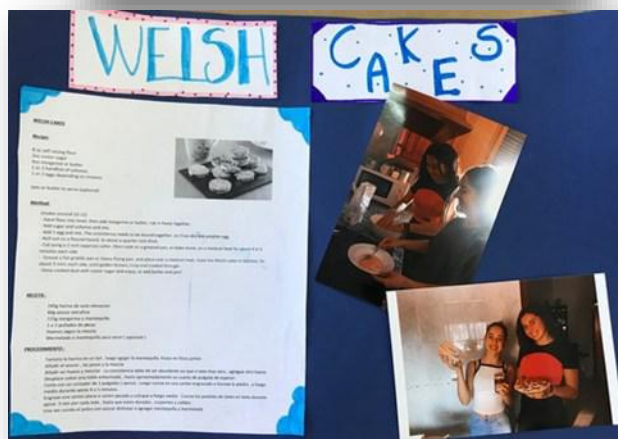
The students from Felipe Solís School have worked in pairs in the design of leaflets about European capital cities. However, for Spain and Wales we chose Cabra and Pontarddulais in order to know a little bit more about our partners' hometown. On the other hand, the students from Pontarddulais Comprehensive School have created their own newsletters about your school. Finally, we have shared all these documents on our Twinspace (a safe online platform where we could communicate), and we have also created posters that are displayed at our school hall.

As you can see, we are trying to build bridges to connect our school to other European countries. In this sense, we have found the collaboration with your school highly beneficial to our students' education and hope to continue collaborating next year with similar projects.

LOGO COMPETITION



BARA BRITH AND WELSH CAKES MADE BY THE SPANISH PUPILS

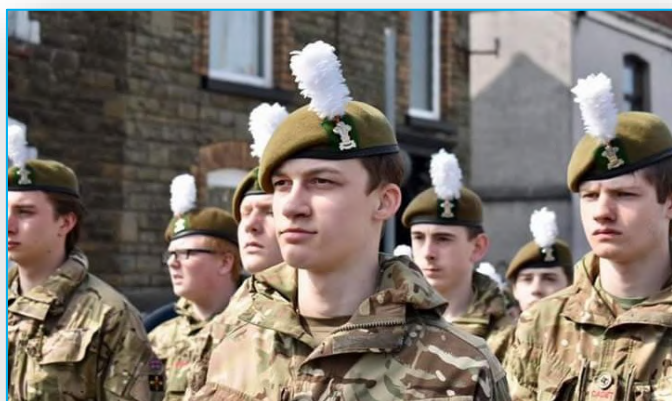




William Shadrach represented Wales against Ireland in the Celtic Challenge which was held in County Carlow Ireland on Saturday 22nd June 2019.



Connor Marston marched along with his cadets through Pontarddulais on Remembrance Sunday.



Hot Choc Friday

This year we have introduced 'Hot Choc Friday'. This is a weekly reward to those pupils who have been identified by staff for outstanding achievements or through exhibiting our school values and ethos. Examples include acts of kindness such as helping a fellow pupil through a difficult time or simply handing in money that has been found in a corridor. Showing high levels of resilience and determination to overcome challenges within subjects are another form of nomination received from staff throughout the year.

Mr. G Rees., Acting Headteacher.



Cookery Club

The after school cookery club is run by Ms. Davies and Mrs. Jones and is held every Wednesday. It provides a fun learning environment for pupils. The club is free of charge with the added bonus of allowing pupils to take home their culinary delights!

Pupils are provided with the opportunity not just to learn cookery and life skills but to enhance their numeracy and literacy skills, for example, costings, weighing, measuring and timing.

The club is run on a termly basis to allow as many pupils as possible to participate. It follows a seasonal approach as well as teaching the skills of resourcefulness and versatility. The feedback from pupils has been very positive and it continues to grow in popularity.

Miss F Davies.



Duke of Edinburgh

This year we had 3 amazing groups for DofE. Due to snow Bryn Betws was cancelled, but we managed a short walk in Bont instead. Finding a weekend when we could walk was a juggle around our footballers!

Practice expedition went well. Got a bit wet in the morning packing up but all finished on time.

For the final expedition we had glorious sunshine. Though it was hot they coped well in the heat. Lovely evening on the beach at Llangennith, the groups did struggle more on the hotter Sunday but everyone finished and we are pleased to announce they all passed their expedition section.

We look forward to presenting them with their full awards once their other sections are completed. Mrs. N Oulton, Duke of Edinburgh Manager





Ski Trip 2019

After a year off the Bont once again descended on the slopes of Whiteface, Lake Placid in the good old US of A, for a week of skiing and sightseeing in New York City during February half-term.

Mr Evans and Mrs Wilcox assisted by Miss Osborne, Miss Rees, Mr Lewis and Mr Venkiah took a group of just over 50 pupils away, these children were some of the most well behaved pupils ever taken on a school trip. Wherever they visited, people would comment on how polite the children were, they certainly were a credit to the school.

Whilst at Lake Placid there was an action packed itinerary of daily skiing lessons, every evening there would be apres ski activities. These included the cinema, tobogganing, souvenir hunting and ten pin Bowling, plenty of activities to tire them out and make them sleep all the way through the night! The evenings will forever be remembered for that time when someone (no names mentioned!) decided to put his tongue on a frozen lamppost. Watch Dumb and Dumber if you want an idea of what happened next.

It was fantastic to see all the children from beginners right through to budding Olympic down hill skiers get something out of their time on the slopes. All those who started out as beginners made tremendous progress, managing to move off the baby slope by the end of their time.

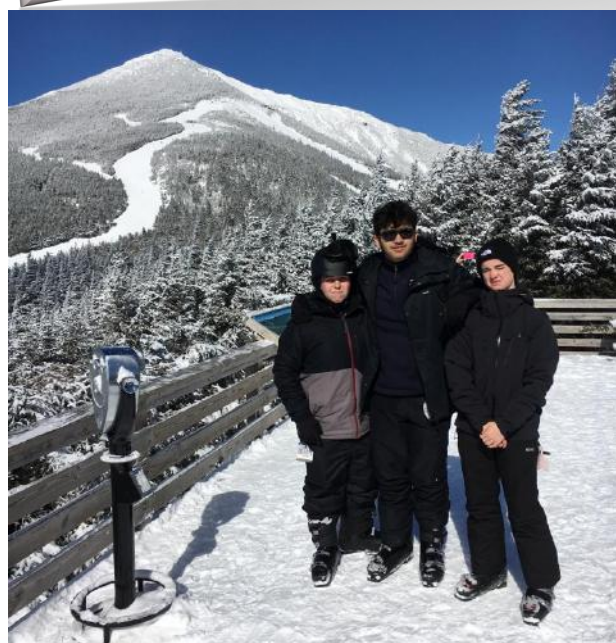
During our time in New York we had an amazing time taking in as much as we possibly could in the two days we were there. Our first evening was spent checking out Times Square with Mr Evans becoming the star of the street dance show. The following day there was a whistle stop tour of New York City visiting as many attractions as possible. The day started with an American breakfast in Sbarro's then some light shopping in Times Square. After that it was a walking tour of Manhattan from top to bottom all with the promise of a McDonalds at the end.

The afternoon was spent at the 9/11 Memorial Museum, again the pupils were a real credit to the school as they respected and experienced what happened in 2001 through the words and pictures of those that were there. After a trip to the top of One World Observatory, the tallest building in New York it was on to one of the highlights of the day, Ellen's Stardust Diner. At this unique diner budding Broadway stars are the servers and take it in turn to sing Broadway songs. Of course we had to have them sing our tour song of Bohemian Rhapsody, accompanied by some very dodgy Welsh singing, I think we left our mark on the place. To end the evening it was a trip to Madison Square Gardens to watch the New York Rangers Ice Hockey.

The last day started with a trip to the International House of Pancakes, we all left a couple of pound heavier than going in. Then it was time for everyone to blow all the last bit of money they had in the shopping mall.

In closing this was an amazing trip as the pupils were so well behaved, a big thank you to all those that came, you are a credit to the school and made it a trip to remember.

Mr. M. Evans, Trip Leader





"I really enjoyed Barcelona. I had lots of fun with my friends, I loved every minute of it, the best part was definitely spending the day in the water park! I will never forget the experience and if I could, I would do it all again" - Grace Thomas





“What a blast! I loved every second of it, we went to the waterpark and the Barcelona Centre to do some shopping. We also had chill time on the beach and by the pool, what an experience with all my mates, I will never forget it” - Kian Hire





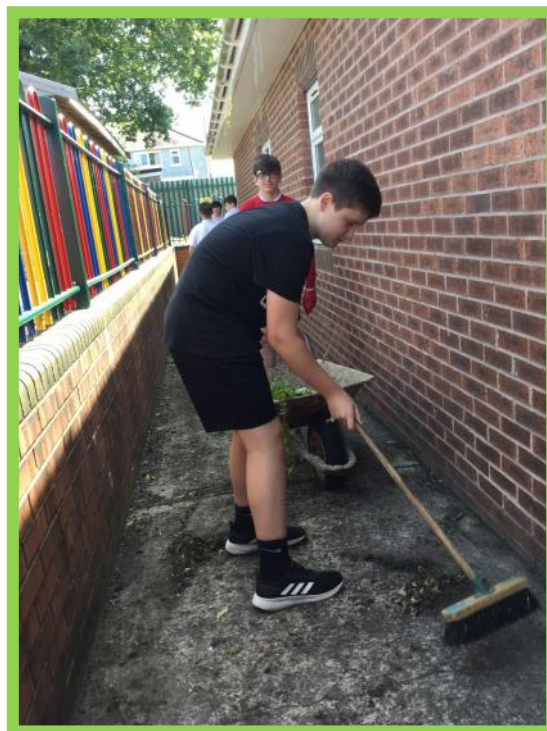
A group of Welsh Baccalaureate pupils worked in the STF garden, clearing, tidying, painting and planting to make it ready for the Autumn term .



Photography by Denis



Photography by Ryan



Photography by Abodi



STF Photo competition-

'Take an action photo for the newsletter'



Take a photo



basketball



LC2



Trying



new



sports



golf



rugby



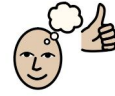
tennis



climbing



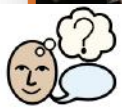
Learning with others



good thinking



fun



Guess who?



Good luck



in



your



new



schools

Year 11 Prom





Year 11 Prom

