



**PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**  
**YSGOL GYFUN PONTARDDULAIS**



# **BONT Life**

Our Newsletter

## **Summer Term 2021**

**Learn to live...**  
live to learn

**Byw I ddysgu...**  
dysgu byw

## Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

This newsletter is a celebration of the very best of what pupils and staff can achieve together, even under current Covid-19 restrictions! I am delighted to be able to share with the wider school community an insight into the rich variety of activities which our children experience at Pontarddulais Comprehensive School.

After a bleak winter of school closure and national lockdowns it is great to report that once again the school is gradually returning to normal. Since pupils returned to school they have enjoyed playing and socialising in the expansive school grounds. We have never seen so many pupils using the outside facilities, whether that is due the restrictions inside school, outside year group zones or a reaction to their winter 'hibernation' perhaps only time will tell! Whatever it is, pupils are enjoying the outdoors, which has to be great for their health and wellbeing. Daily lunchtime football matches have become a firm fixture, perhaps fuelled by the school's very own Joe Rodon in the recent Euro 2020 competition (read more inside).

Extra-curricular activities have also returned with high levels of participation. Please check the school's Twitter accounts to keep abreast of up to the minute news regarding the ever-growing array of opportunities.

For all key dates and information required for September 2021 please read the recent letter sent to parents/carers: <https://pontcomp.co.uk/2021/07/13/end-of-term-and-key-dates-for-the-academic-year-2021-22/>

The school year finishes bathed in sunshine, I hope you are all able to enjoy the summer holidays with the fine weather continuing. Looking ahead to next term, I wish to send a warm welcome to our new year 7 pupils who will start school at Pontarddulais on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September with all other pupils returning on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Best wishes,



Gareth Rees

Headteacher

## P.E Department



Evie Hughes in year 10 has been selected to play football for Wales and recently competed against England, unfortunately, losing 6-2. Evie is in the U15s but has also attended a training camp for the age group above.

An outstanding achievement. Well done Evie!



### Swansea Schools' Football Association

Hon. Secretary  
Mr. Rhodri Mugford



Chair  
Mr. Martin Evans

@SwanseaSFA

#### Swansea Schools' F. A. – U13s Boys Squad 2020/21

Jenson Allen	<b>Bishop Vaughan</b>	Kieron Williams	<b>Olchfa</b>
Kieran Jenkins	<b>Bishop Vaughan</b>	Kian McCarthy	<b>Pentrehafod</b>
Brogan Popham	<b>Bishop Vaughan</b>	Jenson Thomas	<b>Pentrehafod</b>
Jayden Blackmore	<b>Bryn Tawe</b>	Harvey Chapman	<b>Pontarddulais</b>
Callum Jones	<b>Bryn Tawe</b>	Tyler-Jay Evans	<b>Pontarddulais</b>
Harlie Jones	<b>Bryn Tawe</b>	Charlie Morgan	<b>Pontarddulais</b>
Oliver Williams	<b>Cefn Hengoed</b>	Ben Richards	<b>Pontarddulais</b>
Liam Diddams	<b>Gwyr</b>	Jack Smith	<b>Pontarddulais</b>
Ben Hole	<b>Olchfa</b>	Jamal Williams	<b>Pontarddulais</b>

Well done to Harvey Chapman, Tyler-Jay Evans, Charlie Morgan, Ben Richards, Jack Smith and Jamal Williams who have been selected for Swansea School's under 13s boys football squad.



Rugby training started back with 25+ year 9 and 10 boys! It was good to see them back in action.



## Hot Chocolate Friday



Bradley Burchell for successfully balancing his school and football commitments, he also exhibits the core values of the school. He is a great role model for others.

Charlie Ridgeway for being thoughtful and looking after the school environment.



Erin O'Brien for having a fantastic attitude towards school, a willing participant in all classroom discussions and is a great role model to her peers.

Seren Jones for her excellent effort and attitude and exhibiting independent learning skills.







Lewys Catley for being extremely helpful on several occasions during lunch time. He has helped to distribute the footballs fairly & has made sure they are all returned.



Cameron McAteer for helping a distressed member of the public by calling an ambulance and staying with the person until help arrived. We are all very proud of him for being kind and helping others.



Tomos Alun Davies for taking part in wellbeing sessions with the Swansea City Community Trust. He has worked well with others & made a positive contribution to classroom discussions and tasks.



Rhiannon Ford for exhibiting a growth mindset and resilience in all aspects of school life.

## Joe Rodon

Joe started at Pontarddulais Comprehensive School in 2009 and left in 2014.

And to say we are proud of Joe is an understatement!!

Mr. Bushnell, his PE teacher, knew Joe was a talented sportsman and he became a professional footballer with Swansea City Football Club in 2015.



His next move was joining Spurs in a dramatic late move on deadline day.

A great loss to Swansea City



### **Brave, strong and deceptively quick: the making of Joe Rodon**

Tottenham's 23-year-old centre back could feature against Arsenal on Sunday. Former teachers and managers knew he was destined for the top





What a great privilege it must have been for Joe to receive the captain's armband from Gareth Bale.



The article in the Telegraph said:

### Joe Rodon

Set the tone with a brilliant headed clearance early on and defended admirably for much of the match. A towering performance from the Tottenham defender, who is growing in stature. 8/10



Joe produced an heroic display as Wales booked their place in the knock-out rounds of Euro 2020 with a battling display against Italy, who went on to win the competition.

It was reported in Wales Online that *"Tottenham Hotspur man Rodon also excelled in the 2-0 win over Turkey - and was central to Wales' monumental defensive effort against the Azzurri"*.

## Baxter Project

The Baxter Project involves a trained therapy dog who helps pupils in a therapeutic way, and supports them with their social and emotional skills.

The therapy dog relieves anxiety to enable pupils to thrive and develop their self-confidence and self-esteem.

Some Year 7 pupils walked the dog to the cricket club and were able to give the dog treats and see his tricks. The dog made them feel really calm and it had been something to look forward to. The pupils really enjoyed their day with the dog and cannot wait to see him again.



**The Baxter Project**  
@Baxter\_Project

Today was our first day supporting pupils

@pontcompschool 🥰

Shame the weather was so bad, the grounds looked fab.

Thanks for the warm welcome from staff and pupils, we loved it at Ty Dysgu, see you next week 🙌

#TraumaInformed #ACEaware #WellbeingMatters  
#BreakTheMould @tagic



This is an article on their Twitter account

**Paw-fect support for pupils in the time of Covid**

South Wales Echo, Tuesday, April 6, 2021

**Coronavirus**

**THE BAXTER PROJECT**

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**Yasmin Marshall and Archie**

**Sam Haines and Roo**

**Sam Emrys and Trixie**

**YN DATLW 25 MLYNEDD O'R LOTERI GENEDLAETHOL**

**25 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL LOTTERY**

**Social Enterprise UK**

**Certified Member**

A recent article was published in Wales Online about the Baxter Project and how it helped pupils with their anxiety on their return to school.



## Ty Dysgu

Over the last year, the pupils in Ty Dysgu have adapted to the changes of their school day but have still enjoyed engaging in a range of activities. We have welcomed some new members to Ty Dysgu and have had to say goodbye to others as they leave us in Year 11.

Tyler and Georgia successfully completed their placements at the MPCT, both gaining 4 B GCSE equivalent qualifications. Amazing achievement!!

Troy, Logan and Georgia have attended the Bulldogs and have worked hard to complete a Level 1 qualification in Personal and Social Development.

Troy has also participated in the Ospreys TACKLE programme and has developed his Leadership skills and has enjoyed working as part of a team both in and out of the classroom.

Logan has been attending a bike maintenance course in Tycoch college and has been able to put his skills into practice and is making great progress!! Tyler and Kieran have also completed this course and really enjoyed developing their knowledge!

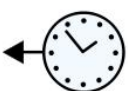



Tom, Liam, Troy and Logan have all worked with Yazmine and Frank from the Baxter project and have all engaged positively and have enjoyed walks with Frank...even in the rain!!

A big well done to Tyler, Georgia and Kieran for completing their education in Pontarddulais Comprehensive School and gaining some great results to take them onto the next stage of their learning. As staff, we are very proud of the effort they all made in Year 11 under such difficult circumstances. We have shared lots of fun times, and we wish them all lots of luck for their futures.



We are looking forward to engaging in some new activities in September 2021.



# STF

It's been a long, hard year.....

...so hello summertime!




Summer Festival of






Health and Wellbeing






wellie throwing






mud





partying

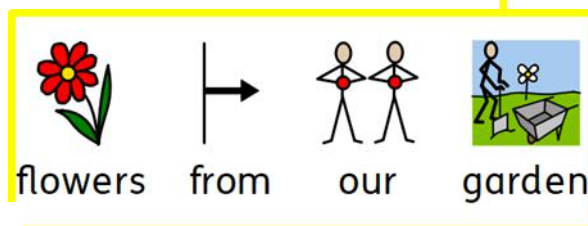
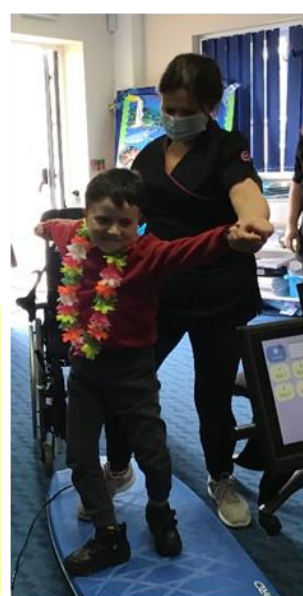




relaxing in the tent




the great outdoors!





## Census Project



The census project took place at the start of 2021 and people from Cambridge University approached us with an opportunity for Key Stage 3 pupils to get involved with an online workshop all to do with the census. In our first lesson we were introduced with what and how the census works.

The census happens every decade on the 1st year (2011, 2021, etc) and every household in the UK is required to give certain types of information. We can use the census to find out more about a certain area's history, and how people used to live using information that is held for a 100 years before it can be assessed and analysed.

We used links and websites that had information of past censuses, which people use to assess the growth or fall of population, education and more. We also thought about why this has happened; and how could we prevent future issues and help people in poor conditions to create a safe environment for all.

After that we all gathered questions for Kevin Schurer, a historian, Dr. Alice Reed, Sophy Arluanham and Dame Jill Matheson who were in charge of the 2011 census. On a Team's meeting we filmed a podcast asking these questions so that people all around the UK could listen and know about the census, what its about, while also answering any questions we had about the census and how its run.

**Holly Pitt 8I**

Please open the link below to listen to the Podcast. It really is worth listening to:

<https://pontcomp.co.uk/2021/04/26/cambridge-university-census-project/>





### Pupil Voice—Extra-Curricular

The school year of 2020-2021 has been one of resilience, teamwork and perseverance. This was embodied by our pupils in the different departments of extra curricular. Although losing the opportunity to meet in person, the Pupil Parliament have had a successful and promising year through the magic of Microsoft Teams. From year 7 to 11, pupils have been able to communicate through teams, attend meetings and discuss influential topics for the future of the school.

Our Year 10 Pupil Governors have made a fantastic start to their two year term with inclusion in governors meetings, working with outside support and supporting younger pupils.

"Even throughout these unprecedented times the pupil parliament have been working to make their mark, throughout the year we have focused on various different issues and found ways to tackle them, we've met on Teams calls for meetings and updates and we have a live chat that is regularly updated. It hasn't been the easiest of years but we've all adapted exceptionally well considering the circumstances. Myself and Lewis are extremely grateful for the opportunity we've been given as pupil governors and look forward to the year ahead to impose the changes we see for a better school life." (Madison Brown, Pupil Governor 10O)

"Last year myself and Maddison took on the role of the new year 10 Pupil Governors. Ever since we have both let our ideas and innovative suggestions heard. Myself and Maddison have both contributed to online Teams calls and pupil parliament conversations, as well as having a meeting with Local MP Tonia Antoniazzi. Recently, myself and Maddison agreed that we should both create an online voice recording to the Headship Team to suggest a new PSE proposal which we also adapted into an online whole school assembly. This year hasn't been the busiest for us due to Covid, but we are sure that we can both step up and make the school as exceptional as we can and are both looking forward to what's ahead." (Lewis Bennet, Pupil Governor, 10I)

Our younger members have taken the opportunity to get involved in all sort of schemes, such as; Mental health support and awareness, cleaning the litter around Pontarddulais, providing equal opportunity in sport and many more.

'I personally feel that joining the pupil parliament is a great experience as you get a say on the happenings of your own school. It's great having your opinions voiced and being a part of a team' (Lily Poiner, 9O)

An exciting year and on to the next, with the Pupil Parliament and Pupil Governors holding strong this year, we hope to see the debating society and Dementia Friendly get back to full strength in September. With the exciting inclusion of the ECO club.

"Eco club is important as it will encourage pupils to participate and become involved with important environmental activities and projects. The club will help influence others and it is rewarding for those involved when they can influence decisions and changes they want to see to improve the school environment."

(Daisy Squire, 8T)



ECO club



Debating Society  
Pontarddulais



Pupil Parliament -  
Pontarddulais Comprehensiv...

### Extra-Curricular Activities

PE Extra Curriculum: Please meet at the outdoor changing rooms; all sessions run from 3.00-4.00pm. You will need to make your own arrangements for transport home for all after school activities.

#### P.E. Week 1



Day	Activity	Year
Tuesday	Touch rugby	7 and 8
Tuesday	Rounders	7,8,9 and 10
Thursday	Touch rugby	9 and 10

#### P.E. Week 2

Day	Activity	Year
Tuesday	Touch rugby	7 and 8
Thursday	Touch rugby	9 and 10
Thursday	Rounders	7,8,9 and 10







**Art Club - Miss Middleton (3.00 - 4.00 pm)**

Day	Year	Room
Tuesday	7	22
Wednesday	8	22
Thursday	9	22

**Coding Club (ICT) (3.00 - 4.00 pm)**

Day	Year	Room
Wednesday	7	26 (Miss Buckley)
Thursday	8	26 (Miss Buckley)

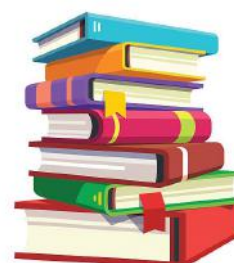


**Design Technology Club (3.00 - 4.00 pm)**



Day	Year	Room
Wednesday	7	23

**Reading Room Club - 4pm Start**



Day	Year	Room
Monday	All	Virtual – Via Teams ( <i>ask Mrs. E. Roberts to join</i> )

## Year 10 Geography Field Trip



It was so great to be able to enjoy some sunshine again, as Covid restrictions were lifting, to allow GCSE fieldwork to go ahead this year.

The pupils gathered a wealth of data ready to complete their coursework portfolios in the Autumn Term.







Mr Rees congratulated Emily on the completion of her Asdan Transition Challenge and awarded her certificate.

She was excited to also receive a Hot Chocolate Friday mug for her fantastic progress since joining the school.



***Congratulations to year 11  
leavers on their amazing provisional results.***

***We wish them all the very  
best in their future endeavours.***

