



PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
YSGOL GYFUN PONTARDDULAIS



BONT Life

Our Newsletter

Autumn Term 2022

Learn to live...
live to learn

Byw I ddysgu...
dysgu byw

Headteacher's Letter

Dear School Community,

This newsletter celebrates what the community, pupils and staff can achieve together. This term has witnessed the school truly bouncing back from the pandemic through an engaging and comprehensive extra-curricular offer to supplement the pupils' normal curriculum. Many of the school's extra-curricular opportunities are showcased within and the current offer can be found here: <https://pontcomp.co.uk/extra-curricular-timetable/>

The school's Christmas concert returned in style this week after the concert being limited to virtual versions for 2020 and 2021. Over 70 pupils were involved in this wonderful and eclectic mix of festive pupils' performances. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the commitment and dedication of Mrs. Radford, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Carter and Miss Tregembo who made this thoroughly entertaining evening possible. Likewise, the community Goppa Chapel Carol Concert was held on Sunday 11th December, pupils from our Chamber Choir sung beautifully alongside a host of local choirs and our local Pontarddulais Town Brass Band. It is reassuring to know that such a traditional community event has returned.

On an academic front Year 11 leavers performed exceptionally well achieving a very impressive set of GCSE and vocational results. The awards included in this newsletter reward those pupils that demonstrated resilience, perseverance and a growth mind-set over a sustained period of time; these are some of the values and virtues we strive to develop in all our pupils and ultimately is part of the vision of our school. By working together, I am confident we can continue to work towards that vision.

Thanks to all the staff and pupils who have contributed to the contents of this newsletter. Finally, I hope you enjoy a healthy and Merry Christmas with your family and loved ones.

Nadolig llawen,



Headteacher

Year 11 Leavers - Awards

We would like to congratulate all our Year 11 pupils, from last year, on their excellent results. Pupils came back to collect their certificates, in November, and the following pupils were recognised by departments for their effort and achievements in these areas.

Maths	William Throp
English	Ffion-Mae Lewis
Science	Leilah Williams
Sportsman	Rhys Honey-Jones
Sportswoman	Grace Tilley
Music	Rebecca Lakey
Art	Lauren Adams
Welsh	Caitlyn Ghillyer
French	Grace Allen
Spanish	Menna Emam
ICT	Ben Morgan
History	Alishia Lloyd
Geography	Ethan Lloyd
Food & Nutrition	Charlie Kostromin
Business Studies	Lewis Bennett
Public Services	Casey Prentice
Welsh Bacc	Rhys Lloyd
Community	Madison Brown
Most Improved	Rhys Watkins
Academic Award	Katie Lake
NCFE	Seren Jones

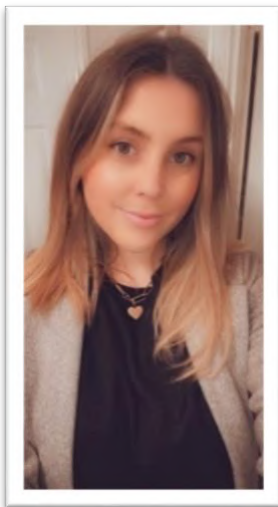
New Teachers

We are delighted to welcome new teachers to our school family. They are Dr. R. Tucker, Mr. R. Tyler and Mrs. C. Dorrell in the Science Department. Miss L. Johnson, Mr. P. McNeill and Miss M. Nicholas in the Maths Department. Miss K. Mills in the Welsh Department and Mrs. R. Tregembo in the Drama department.



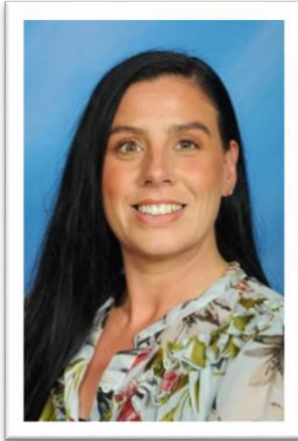
I am **Miss Johnson** and I am not only a teacher at Bont Comp, I am also an ex-pupil. This gives me great insight into how it feels from both sides of the coin. My favourite subject when I was in school was maths, and now I get to teach it every day!

My hobbies include listening to music and I support Arsenal football club. I also love pets, and I have two cats called Luna and Chino.



I am **Miss Dorrell** and I am one of the new Science teachers here at Pontarddulais School. I studied my degree in Chemistry at Bangor University 2015-2018 and have since completed my postgraduate studies in education with the Open University. The course was a great opportunity to be part of the first cohort in Wales to train under a new route into teaching, learning all about the new Curriculum being implemented in Wales.

Since joining the school, I have set up STEM club on a Monday lunchtime, which allows pupils to explore science further and try out lots of experiments that they may not do in class. I am always keen to see new faces so encourage anyone who has yet to join, please come and see me to sign up! I have met some fantastic pupils already this year and look forward to meeting many new faces in my time at the school.

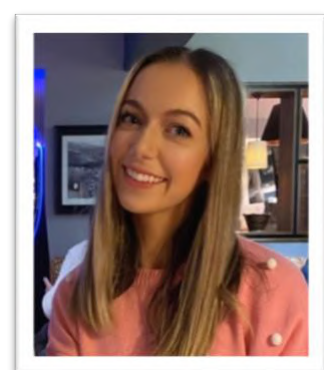


I am **Miss Mills**. Over the years I have covered in Pontarddulais Comprehensive on a number of occasions, I love the school ethos, so when I was asked to cover Mrs Matthews maternity leave starting in September I jumped at the chance. I started teaching Welsh in 2014. I chose to teach Welsh as I enjoyed Welsh lessons when I was a pupil. I thought if I can learn Welsh as a second language, I can teach others too and can empathise with pupils who struggle with the language. I always hope that the pupils enjoy Welsh lessons as much as I did in school. Cymru am byth!



I am **Mr. P McNeill** I have been living and teaching in Swansea for nearly 22 years having moved to South Wales to do my PGCE. In those years, spent in Morriston Comprehensive school and Ysgol Cwm Bromptil, I have gained wealth of experience in a wide range of roles. I am very much looking forward to using the skills I have gained to help children from our local community to develop into the knowledge and skills they need for employment, lifelong learning and to become active citizens in Wales. When I have spare time I very much enjoy running having trained for, and completed, several marathons and longer distance races raising money for local and national charities. When I am feeling less active I enjoy baking and much to the horror of my year 10 maths class I prefer reading to watching TV, none of those dancing in the jungle on ice programs for me. I am also afflicted with being a Leeds United fan but the less said about that the better ...MOT.

Dr. R. Tucker, Miss M. Nicholas and Mrs. R. Tregembo



New Pupil Governors

We are very proud of our new Pupil Governors and the way they represent the rest of the pupils. They are: **Isobel McNeill, Daisy Squire and Harrison Williams**

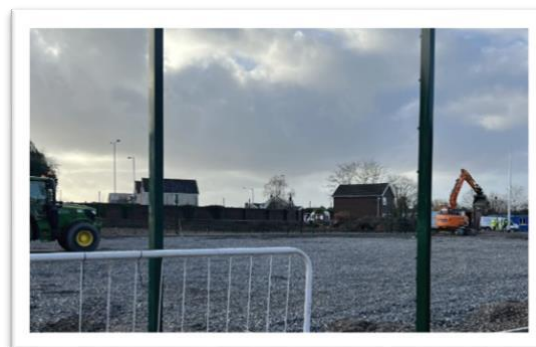
Harrison Williams Pupil Governor (10P)

My goal to become Pupil Governor began in Year 7 as I watched other pupils stand before me and pitch their case to be my representative. Being a Pupil Governor allows one to represent the pupils in the school and have a positive influence on the school environment. It is this ability to have a positive impact on the school which I believe to be the key reason behind me wanting to becoming Pupil Governor.

Since becoming Pupil Governor, I have attended multiple Governors' meetings. Speaking at one to talk about my meeting with the King. I have also continued the work I have done in the Pupil Parliament to improve the school.

2G Pitch

Both pupils and staff are looking forward to our new 2G Pitch which should be ready just in time for Easter. This will significantly benefit both the school and the community.



Charities

Food Bank



Pontarddulais Comprehensive collected 240Kg of food, which equates to 570 meals. What an amazing achievement. Well done all!

Ukraine Appeal



It was a real privilege to come together with all Swansea schools to collect money for the Ukraine appeal. Pupils in both primary and secondary schools wore blue & yellow to represent the Ukrainian flag, and also donated £1 to the Appeal. Nearly £20,000 was raised as a collective with Swansea Schools.

Children in Need



As always we supported Children in Need with a non-uniform day. We were grateful to every child who donated £1 towards this worthwhile charity.

Amnesty International



Pupils wore yellow to support Amnesty International and raised over £300.00. An exceptional effort for the last day of term.

Click on the link below to see all our supported charities: <https://pontcomp.co.uk/charitable-donations/>

Duke of Edinburgh

Our Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh participants completed their Bronze qualifying expedition on a cold weekend in October.

Despite overnight rain and 50mph winds, the tents stayed up and the pupils were dry. More than can be said for one member of staff!!

Spirits were high and all participants passed the expedition section.

I look forward to presenting them with their Bronze awards once they have completed all their other sections.

Well done everyone!



The sun shone on the beautifully assembled tents.



End of a tiring first day.

What a gorgeous sunrise!





Up early
breaking
Camp on
Saturday
morning.



Day Two

Where did that sky
come from?

Setting off on Day 2



...and we are done!!

Humanities



Harrison Turner did a fantastic job as a part of his humanities task for his Gwaith Cartref I Bawb project. The pupils were asked to make a church from any chosen medium. And here's what he came up with – an edible chocolate church – Heaven! What a creative and innovative approach. Well done!

Humanities Trip

With Covid restrictions lifted this year, the Humanities AoLE were excited to get back to exploring, and so we planned a brand-new trip to St Fagan's for our year 7 cohort. They have been learning about the mystery of the church on the marsh in Pontarddulais, there is a large graveyard close to the school but not a church in sight. The visit enriched their learning experience as they discovered where the church had disappeared to and why. Behaviour of all pupils was excellent and a lovely day out was had by all, exploring the entire heritage museum, playing in the park and buying old fashioned sweets from the traditional confectioner!

Room 2 – Hair & Beauty Salon

In the summer holiday Room 2 was converted to a Hair & Beauty Salon. Pupils can now have the salon experience at school and are thoroughly enjoying this new provision.



Music

It has been a very busy term for the music department. Here are some of our highlights!

African Workshop



Just before half term pupils in year 7 and GCSE music pupils had the privilege of attending an African workshop held at school.

Thank you to Dan Phelps for an amazing experience!



Outreach work

Royal College of Music and Drama

An inspirational visit by Roger Angente, Head of Brass Performance, and some of his students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.



Theatre Trips

Jersey Boys & Les Miserables

Amazing trips to see two outstanding musicals.





Thank you Mr. N Llewellyn for asking us. Choir members you were outstanding!!



Goppa Community Concert



Well done to the Acapella group for performing so beautifully at this Concert.

Christmas Concert



What an amazing night and well done to all! You have worked so hard over the past weeks and it was a pleasure to see you all perform and enjoy the evening.

Congratulations to all those musicians who have passed music exams this term.

TACKLE PROGRAMME

A group of year 9 pupils have been taking part this term in the TACKLE programme run by the Ospreys. It is an Employability Programme working with young people looking to develop leadership, softer skills and understanding of further education and the workplace. Using Rugby and Sports as a vehicle to engage, focussing on Personal Career Development with Ospreys players and Industry personnel as role models. The group take part in classroom based and practical activities and have also had a session delivered by the Navy. In the New Year the pupils are looking forward to a session with the Army, running a festival for primary school pupils and going out on an educational visit.



Premier League Inspires

Another group of pupils from year 9 have been involved in a health and wellbeing course run by the Premier league inspires.

They have taken part in class-based activities and practical sessions touching on sports, team building and wellbeing.

The Swans Foundation welcomed the pupils to their celebration event at the Swansea.com Stadium on Monday 19th December 2022. The day consisted of 3 workshops including a stadium tour, kit launch activity and a session delivered by Crime Stoppers. This was then followed by a celebration event. A different group of pupils will be starting the course next term.



PE Girls/Boys



Matthew Hines Indoor Athletics Event

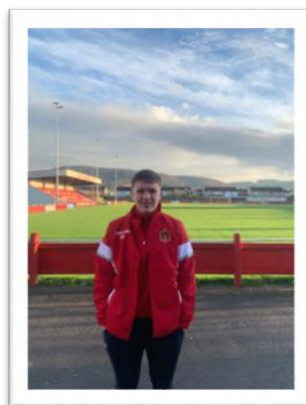
Matthew took part in the Welsh Athletics Junior Indoor Open at the National Indoor Athletics Centre, Cardiff. He entered the 200m and 300m U15 boys' events for Swansea Harriers.

22 boys took part in the 200m from West Wales, South Wales, East Wales and South West England. Matthew ran in 26.84 seconds. He won the **gold** medal for the 200m for the West Wales Region. He had the third fastest time of all the boys that ran for Welsh Athletics Clubs.

In the 300m he was awarded a **gold** medal for the West Wales Region.

Joshua Hughes

Joshua went to Boston in November to play football for Boys Club of Wales. They won 2-0 in both matches. Joshua also received a Cap playing for the club back in the summer.



Alexia Pope



Congratulations Alexia Pope for achieving a **GOLD** medal in Southampton. And a **GOLD** in Cardiff in the Welsh Championships in gymnastics.



Our Year 10 and Year 11 Girls who won the **BRONZE MEDAL** in the SSFA tournament winning all but one game. Top scorer was Bethan Plowman with 12 goals.



Girls rugby has been a big success and they have thoroughly enjoyed the weekly training sessions. These will continue next term where they will build on the skills they are developing.

Dance

Huge congratulations to Ruby Edwards, Ava Edwards (10I), Ava Edwards (7I), Ella Rowe, Darcy Bartlett-Mort & Ellie Johnston for qualifying for the Dance World Cup in Portugal 2023.



Girls from our school also participated in netball matches. And here are the results:



Year 8

Lost to Bishop Gore 15-3

Lost to Penyrheol 9-6

Year 9

Lost to Cefn Hengoed 10-5

Won against Bishop Gore 8-3

Won against Penyrheol 12-4

Year 10

Lost to Cefn Hengoed 8-3

Lost to Bishop Gore 10-3

Year 11

Won against Penyrheol 12-9





Our Year 7s have made a fantastic start to their rugby participation at Pontarddulais with over 25 boys representing the school. Their commitment has been excellent and they continue to improve every training session and fixture. They have participated in their first contact festival where they didn't lose a game. Moreover, during their first atomic touch festival they won every game! We are hoping that after Christmas more boys will feel confident enough to come and give it a go. Keep it up boys!



Our Year 8 and 9s have been competing in the Ospreys Cup this term. They have both had some excellent wins. The Year 8s winning convincingly against Pentrehafod. The Year 9s with big wins against Bryntawe and Morriston. Unfortunately, both teams were eliminated by very narrow defeats in the quarter final of the Bowl and Plate respectively.

Over 25 boys have represented our Year 10 rugby team in three tough fixtures. Their effort and commitment to training and fixtures has been excellent and they continue to improve. Unfortunately, their last fixture against Gowerton ended in a narrow defeat. But we are confident that the boys' hard work will bring brilliant results in the upcoming games.

All year groups will continue after Christmas in the Swansea Cup, before we move to Year 7s around February/March.

All the Sporting Results can be viewed here <https://pontcomp.co.uk/sporting-results/>

Languages

Year 9 Pupils have been taking part in Linking Languages workshops in association with Cardiff University's MFL Mentoring Scheme. Carol Wang from Swansea University has shared her passion for languages and journalism through these engaging sessions.



Congratulations to...

Mrs. Lisa Jones who won The Bulldogs Top Teacher of the Year 2022 award.



STF

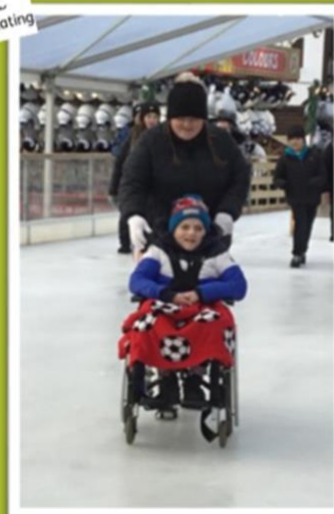
Here is a glimpse of what our wonderful pupils from the STF and their teachers have been up to recently.



This Autumn term has been a busy one. The two main highlights have been making our poppy wreath and laying it at the cenotaph. We are always very respectful and stay as quiet as we can for 2 minutes. The second highlight was the Shakespeare School festival. Along with Ysgol Crug Glas we rehearsed for many weeks before performing in the Taliesin theatre on a dark November evening. It was an incredible experience.



Christmas trip to Denny's and Ice Skating



Winter Fayre

We truly missed our annual Christmas Fayre and we were extra excited to see its return. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. There were over 100 stalls from pupils and the community, with face-painting to Christmas decorations, festive feasts and craft stalls. The star of the show though was Father Christmas, who treated us with a special visit. Safe to say we all had a blast!



Hot Chocolate Awards

These weekly awards are given to those pupils who demonstrate the core values of the school such as resilience, kindness and respect. Well done to all of this term's recipients.



Isaac Borthwick



Anna Stubbins



Dan Fletcher



Gwenna Wing



Jaden Evans



Lily Fowler



Alysha Ankrett



Public Services



Our Year 10 pupils have been busy covering the topic 'Understanding the importance of effective teamwork.'

They have completed a number of team building exercises and challenges including a very beneficial morning with the British Army who came into the school to put the pupils through various activities. They have also completed a number of tasks within our school that includes their most recent sports coaching challenge. The pupils were tasked with planning and preparing a sports session, which they then delivered to our Year 7 pupils. They loved the sessions! They will continue with this unit after Christmas before moving onto 'Adventurous activities.' We will begin with rock climbing.

Our Year 11 pupils have completed their adventurous activities unit, which ended with a very testing Gorge Walking excursion. Pupils were pushed outside of their comfort zones. They had to navigate a series of gorges through the river, jumps, climbs across and up various waterfalls. They showed outstanding teamwork and perseverance with some pushing themselves to overcome fear with tremendous courage. The instructors were extremely complimentary of our pupils. They were impressed with the pupils' attitude, respectfulness and determination.



Harrison Williams

Harrison had an opportunity to meet His Majesty the King and the Queen Consort on Friday 16th of September during the Presentation of the Motion of Condolence to His Majesty the King at the Senedd.

Twelve Welsh Youth Parliament members were chosen in a ballot to meet His Majesty, and Harrison was one of those. What an amazing opportunity!



Joe Rodon

Pontarddulais Comprehensive School were thrilled to support the Welsh Football Team at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. We were delighted to see our former pupil, Joe Rodon, being a part of the squad. Very proud indeed.



We are also grateful to Joe for signing and donating his shirt for the school. And, also, for spending some time with our pupils and for being such an inspiration to us all! What a legend!



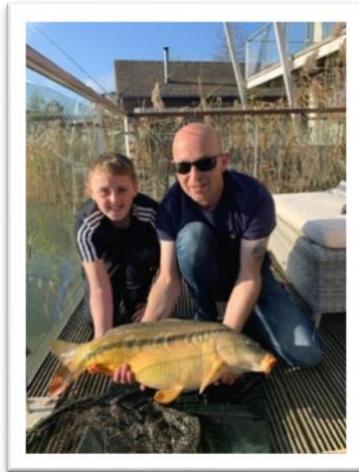
Elliot Bigg



Our former pupil, Elliot Bigg, received a top grade degree at Peninsula Medical School, Plymouth University. He received a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery with Distinction.

Elliot has taken up an appointment with at the University of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, where he is currently working as a member of the cardiovascular team.

Jacob Galloway



Wow what a whopper – first time fishing and Jacob landed a 16lbs carp in the Cotswolds with his uncle. Eat your hearts out, Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse!!

Callum Wassell and Leo Bonham



A very proud moment for Callum & Leo who represented Swansea Schools Rugby in September.

Mr X Presents

A massive thank you to all pupils who donated so many lovely presents. It is wonderful to see our pupils taking part in such an important initiative, and to see them wishing to brighten up a child's Christmas!



Christmas Trips



Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 enjoyed their Christmas trips on the 20th of December. Here are some highlights from Year 10 Day out. They thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas trip to the Waterfront Wonderland. The ice skating was a big hit. A good work out for all and a lot of resilience on display from the pupils.



Christmas Jumper Day



A massive thanks to Angie and her Little Helpers for the fabulous Christmas dinner.



Pupils and staff were resplendent in their festive wears!



Support Agencies

We would like to provide you with details of support agencies available to families and young people over the Christmas period.

Early Help Hub

01792 635700

The main point of contact for parents/carers seeking advice and support where they have worries about the wellbeing of children and young people

Swansea Women's Aid

01792 644683

Safety and support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

Kooth

www.kooth.com

A free, safe and anonymous mental health website accessible from any device.

Samaritans

116 123

Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. We're here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Exchange Counselling Service

www.exchange-counselling.com

For longer term counselling support based in schools around Swansea you can self-refer via their website

Platfform

01792 763350

connect@platfform.org

For longer term one to one support and projects to support young people's mental health you can self-refer via <https://forms.office.com/r/ik9XM7D5Pn>

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) will be holding a drop in morning on **Friday January 13th** at Canolfan Y Bont from 9am to 11am. This is open to parents and carers of pupils at Pontarddulais Comprehensive School. The session will be a chance to find out more about the service offered in Swansea and ask questions about supporting your child's emotional and mental well-being.