



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



# **BONT Life**

## **Bywyd y Bont**

**Our Newsletter / Ein Cylchlythyr**  
**Autumn Term / Tymor Yr Hydref**

**2023**

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

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

## **Headteacher's Letter / Llythyr y Pennaeth**

Dear School Community,

This newsletter celebrates what pupils and staff can achieve together. This term started on a very positive note with outstanding GCSE results from last year's Year 11 pupils. They performed well above modelled expectations with 33% of pupils achieving 5 or more A\*/A grades and 87% achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades. More recently we were informed that Pontarddulais has the highest attendance rates in all Swansea secondary schools this term. The school was recently inspected by Estyn, we look forward to sharing the report with you when it is published in February.

Many of the school's extra-curricular opportunities are showcased within, though if you would like to know more, please see here:

<https://pontcomp.co.uk/extra-curricular-timetable/>

This is a chance to reflect on what dedicated, committed and talented pupils we are so fortunate to have at Pontarddulais Comprehensive School.

I hope you enjoy reading through this newsletter and you enjoy a healthy and Merry Christmas with your family and loved ones.

Festive wishes,

Mr. Rees

## Hot Chocolate Friday / Gwobr Gwener – Siocled Poeth

Congratulations to all the outstanding pupils who earned the well-deserved honour of Hot Chocolate Friday. Their hard work, positive attitude, and contributions to our school community have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for making a positive impact. ✨

**Isabelle Hatton-Ellis**



**Patrick Margison**



**Bushra Mirghany &  
Isabel Jander**



**Lola Blann**

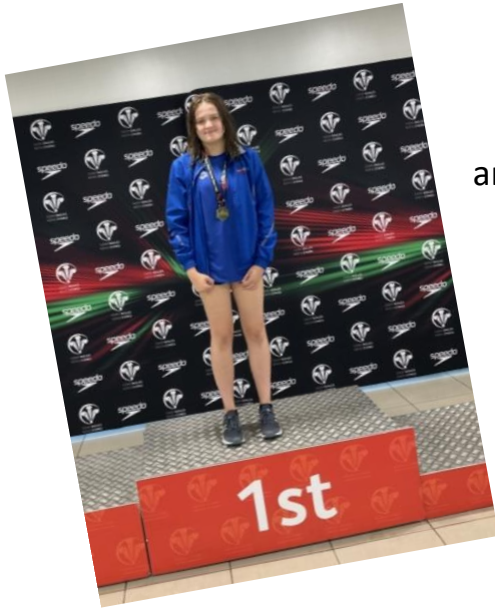


**Ayiana Nelmes-Palmer**





## Sport / Chwaraeon



Isabelle Hatton-Ellis recently showcased her swimming prowess at the British Summer Championships in Sheffield, securing 18th place in the 100m backstroke and 22nd place in the 50m backstroke. She also played a key role in two relays against top clubs nationwide. Despite a knee injury, Isabelle displayed remarkable resilience at the Welsh Summer Nationals, winning 2nd place in the 400m freestyle and a surprising 1st place in the 200m backstroke, defying expectations. Her achievements highlight her dedication and ability to excel even in challenging circumstances. ✨

Our Year 7s had a stellar start to their football season, securing wins of 5-2 and a tense 4-2 on penalties in their fixtures against Penyrheol. The boys have shown fantastic participation in extracurricular activities. ✨



Meanwhile, our Year 10s also triumphed in their Welsh Cup match at Maesydderwen, with a 3-3 draw and a thrilling 4-3 win on penalties. Congratulations to both teams on their impressive performances. ✨



Well done to the year 8/9 girls who represented the school at the URDD indoor cricket tournament in Sophia Gardens. They played extremely well and reached the semi final of the plate. ✨



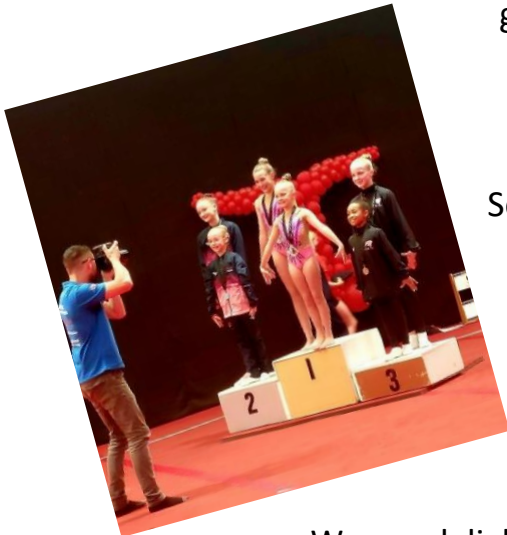
## Sport / Chwaraeon



A big congratulations to Alexia Pope and her partners for clinching gold at the Southampton Acro Gymnastics Competition.

Their team showcased exceptional skills, securing 1st place in both balance and dynamic floor routines, along with an impressive artistry score of 8.2 for the club. Additionally, the team earned a well-deserved silver at the British Acro

Gymnastics Championships. These accomplishments highlight their dedication and outstanding performances in the gymnastics arena. Well, done to the entire team. ✨



Congratulations to Kadaleine Pope for winning gold at Southampton Acro Gymnastics Competition! She and her partner secured 1<sup>st</sup> place in the competition's biggest category with a score of 25.800 and scored the highest technical score for their club, incredible achievement. ✨

We are delighted to highlight the remarkable achievements of three outstanding individuals who proudly represented Wales at the ICO World Championships in kickboxing. Daisy Harden secured two gold medals, Elaina Ayres displayed exceptional skill with an impressive three golds and a bronze, and Leo Wilkins showcased his talent by winning gold along with two silver medals. Congratulations to Daisy, Elaina, and Leo for their outstanding performances and for bringing such honour to our school and country. Your dedication and success are truly commendable. ✨





## Duke of Edinburgh / Dug Caeredin





This year's Duke of Edinburgh's expedition was an unforgettable adventure for our pupils as they navigated the picturesque Gower Peninsula. Trekking across the landscape, our teams enhanced crucial skills such as teamwork and navigation, planning their own routes from either Port-Eynon or Kittle. An overnight camp at Nicholston Farm added to the camaraderie and spirit of the journey. The journey proved quite eventful for



one group as they recalled 'getting lost up a mountain and seeing the path they were meant to be on 8000 feet below them.' Despite challenges, everyone crossed the finishing line with tired but smiling faces, showcasing incredible perseverance. This year's Duke of Edinburgh programme was a resounding success, with pupils not only conquering the Gower Peninsula but also completing the physical, volunteering, and skills sections, earning them well-deserved DofE Bronze awards.







23

Autumn

term

23



Autumn



term



has been



very



busy



for



us



in

the STF.



There



are

lots of



festivals



and



celebrations



a



this



time of



year



which



we



have



enjoyed



learning



about.



Diwali



sweets



Diwali



rangoli



patterns



Halloween



Thank you



to



Bec



the



bake



and



Canolfan



Y

Bont for

inviting



us



to

see



Santa



and



for



the



lovely



cakes,



drinks,



books



and



chocolates!



## Remembrance



## Respect



## Reflecting



Remembrance day is always an important part of the Autumn



term for the STF. We make our own Wreath and take it to



the Cenotaph. We will remember them.





## MAAT Pupils / Disgyblion MAAT

### Talk the Talk

Step right up and witness the transformation!

In a whirlwind of speeches and confidence-boosting exercises, 20 incredible pupils embarked on the Seren Project's "Talk the Talk" workshop, aimed at elevating their speaking skills.



From nervous whispers to confident roars, the room buzzed with energy as these brave souls stood tall and delivered speeches of various themes and lengths. But here's the scoop - before the workshop, only 7% were feeling the confidence flow. Fast forward to the end? A whopping 55% emerged feeling like true orators!



But wait, there's more! Not just confidence skyrocketed; learning and comprehension soared by a staggering 56%. And guess what? That progress translated into a solid 4-point improvement across the board!

The real magic happened in the breakthrough moments. Picture this: pupils breaking through their comfort zones, owning the stage, and unleashing their potential for all to see. It was a day of triumphs, where skills were polished, barriers shattered, and content delivery levels levelled up! 🗣️

Witnessing these pupils embrace their potential was nothing short of inspiring. The Seren Project's "Talk the Talk" didn't just enhance skills; it ignited a fire within each participant, leaving a trail of confident, articulate speakers in its wake. ✍️

From conquering nerves to perfecting delivery, this workshop was the playground where pupils transformed into masterful speakers. Here's to breaking barriers, embracing growth, and unleashing the power of the spoken word! 🌟 🎉





## Debate Club

"Seren Debate: Pupils' Journey through Debating Excellence!"

Eight dynamic pupils embarked on an educational adventure through the Seren debate journey, where they experienced the intellectual thrill of an overnight stay at Oxford University and a riveting day at Guildhall Council Chambers. This thrilling journey was made possible with the support of Governor Mr. David Bawden.

These pupils dived head-first into the art of debate, immersing themselves in discussions alongside peers from various schools. Their participation in 'Talk the Talk' amplified their confidence, enhancing their proficiency in the intricate world of debating techniques. 🧑

Participating in the ESU debate, our pupils engaged in debates with 6th formers and representatives from boarding schools. Although not advancing, they showcased incredible composure and adaptability. When called upon as a substitute team, they didn't just participate – they excelled! With quick thinking and after hours of preparation, they delivered captivating 7-minute speeches, leaving a lasting impression. Their dedication was commendable, and they enthusiastically shared their experience through videos with the Governors. 🏆

## Exciting BBC Studio Adventure for Year 8 Pupils

Year 8 pupils delved into the mesmerizing world of BBC Studios in Cardiff, enjoying a day filled with discovery and hands-on experiences.

They explored various studio tours, met the iconic Mr. Wyn Evans (aka the Go Compare man), and took part in interactive sessions with computers. Excitement peaked as they sat in the presenter's chair, stepping into the role of a presenter themselves!

From observing robot functions to mastering weather forecast presentations and getting a behind-the-scenes look at Match of the Day, their enthusiasm radiated throughout.



## Future Chef Competition / Cystadleuaeth Cogydd y Dyfodol



Evie Cruttenden, Lewys Catley, Seth Evans, and Carys Williams represented our school in the local heat of the Future Chef competition at Pibwrlwyd College in Carmarthen. Their culinary talents shone brightly, with the potential to progress to the national final. We commend their dedication and wish them the best in this prestigious competition.



Carys Williams and Evie Cruttenden have successfully advanced to the next round of the competition and will proudly represent our school in the regional finals in Cardiff on January 22nd.



Amidst strong competition from various schools, all participants showcased an impressive standard of food production and presentation. The challenge was to create two main course meals within an hour, with the added constraint of a cost not exceeding £5. We commend Carys and Evie for their achievement and wish them the best as they continue to showcase their culinary talents in the upcoming regional finals.

## Y Siarter Iaith Gymraeg

As a school our aim is to achieve the Wobr Efydd (Bronze Award) in the Siarter Iaith, during the academic year 2023/24.

The Siarter Iaith (Welsh Language Charter) is a project, introduced by the Welsh Assembly to promote the Welsh language and to develop a Welsh ethos in schools. Thus, encouraging all pupils, staff and the wider community to further develop their Welsh language skills and their awareness of Welsh culture and heritage.

As a school, we will be embracing opportunities to celebrate Welshness and look forward to seeing the return of the school Eisteddfod on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.





## Big Bocs Bwyd

Big Bocs Bwyd is a new initiative we are looking to start in school soon. The Bocs acts like a community shop where families can come in and purchase food but only pay what they feel they can afford. The project will involve pupils helping to run the shop and be involved in things like stock rotation.



## Maths Magic

This year, the annual Maths Magic event took place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October with all cluster primaries and comprehensives involved. It was an incredibly successful morning with plenty of competitive spirit from pupils in Year 1 all the way up to Year 7. This gave pupils the opportunity to interact, work and build relationships with pupils from cluster primary schools and other comprehensive schools in the area. A big thank you to all that competed as well as our Year 9s who expertly refereed all the games and kept the event running smoothly.

A huge well done to all the individual winners from each age group:

Years 1 and 2: Llangyfelach

Years 3 and 4: Penllergaer

Years 5 and 6: Pontlliw

Years 7: Gowerton

However, the overall school points competition is the one everyone wants to win. This is where all the points from every round are added up to get a grand total for each school to win the trophy!

For 2023 the winner for the primary schools was Penllergaer and the comprehensive school winner was Pontarddulais! A huge congratulations to both our winners!



## Music / Cerddoriaeth

Our peripatetic teachers have been busy actively involved in refining the pupils' musical skills. As they learn, it's clear they're not just picking up the technical aspects of music but also learning to love music more. These lessons are all about personal growth and making music together.

The school is committed to nurturing the musical talents of each pupil, ensuring that they find joy and fulfilment in their musical endeavours.



## Spanish / Sbaeneg

Our Year 11 Spanish GCSE class had a fantastic opportunity this term to have a live video call with a school in Spain. We met pupils from Felipe Solís Secondary School in Cabra, Andalucía and discussed topics such as school subjects, teachers and hobbies. We hope to meet again in the new year for more Spanish speaking practice!





## Winter Fayre/ Ffair y Gaeaf





## Christmas Concert / Cyngerdd Nadolig





## Christmas Jumper Day / Diwrnod siwmpwr Nadolig



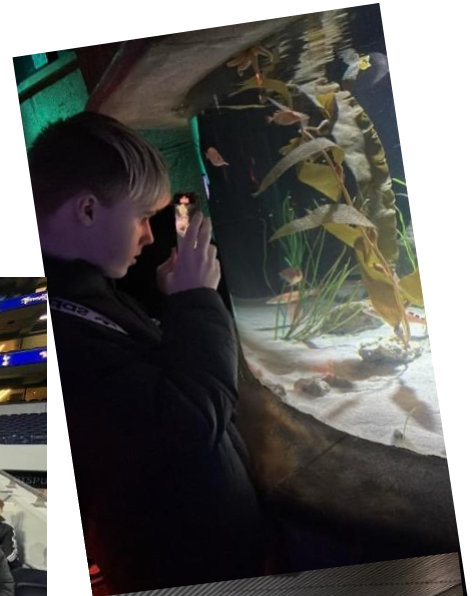
O dawel ddinas Bethlehem,  
o dan dy sêr di-ri',  
ac awel fwyn Jwdea'n dwyn  
ei miwsig atat ti:  
daw heno seren newydd, dlos  
i wenu uwch dy ben,  
a chlywir cân angylion glân  
yn llifo drwy y nen.

O quiet city of Bethlehem,  
under your countless stars,  
and the gentle breeze of Judea  
brings its music to thee:  
tonight a new, pretty star  
comes to smile above thy head,  
and the song of holy angels is  
heard flowing through the sky.





## Christmas Trips / Tripiau Nadolig







## **Term Dates / Dyddiadau'r Tymhorau** **2023/2024**

### **Spring Term / Tymor y Gwanwyn**

Term Begins Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Mid-Term Holiday Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Term Ends Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024
--	---	---

### **Summer Term / Tymor yr Haf**

Term Begins Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Mid-Term Holiday Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	Term Ends Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
--	---	--

## **INSET DAYS / DIWRNODAU HMS**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**